



# WELCOME

## TO THE MARINE CORPS PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

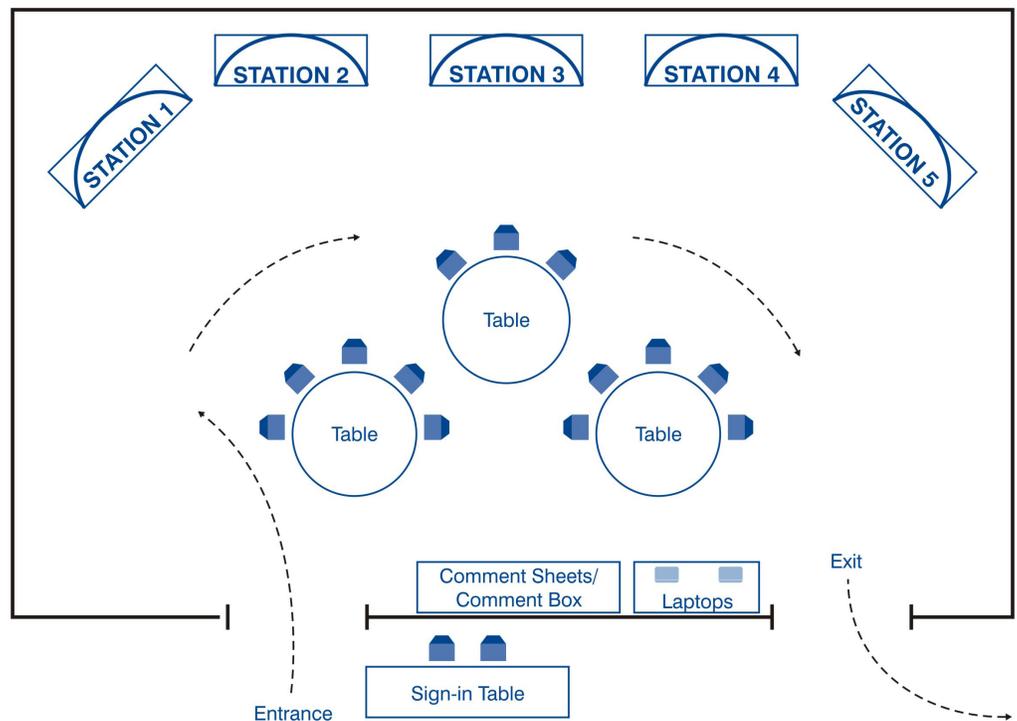
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Today's open information session is for the United States Marine Corps (USMC) to gather information for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), McIntosh County, Georgia. The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental effects of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of precision-guided weapons at TBR. Through the use of precision-guided weapons at TBR, the USMC can more efficiently meet current training requirements for pilots by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina.

The purpose of this scoping meeting is to inform you of the Proposed Action, to explain the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the associated environmental impact analysis, and to get your input and concerns related to the scope of the EIS.

USMC representatives are available to explain the Proposed Action and alternatives, answer your questions, and describe the environmental impact analysis process and related schedule. Areas in the meeting room have been designated to allow you the opportunity to submit your comments today or refer to page 3 for additional ways to provide comments.



The public scoping period ends on September 7, 2010. Please submit your comments by that date to ensure they are considered in the EIS analysis.

For future updates, please visit the project Web site at:

**[www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com)**

# FACT SHEET

## FOR THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE

### ***The National Environmental Policy Act and Public Involvement***

The National Environmental Policy Act is the federal law that requires all federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of any major actions they propose and to inform and involve the public in the decision-making process.

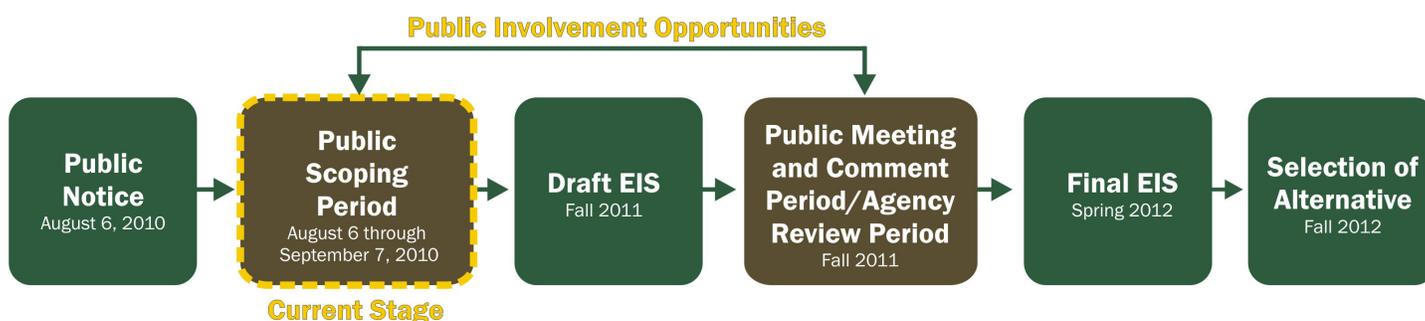
#### **Environmental Impact Statement**

An EIS is a detailed study that analyzes the potential effects, both positive and negative, that the Proposed Action and the associated alternatives may have on the environment and the local community.

The Marine Corps' EIS for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of TBR will include the following:

- Purpose of and need for the expansion and modernization of TBR;
- Description of the Proposed Action and alternatives;
- Presentation of existing/baseline conditions and evaluation of any potential impacts to the environment and the local community;
- Assessment of potential cumulative impacts when the proposal is considered along with other past, present, and future actions that have occurred or are occurring in the region; and
- Presentation of measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any impacts.

**Your involvement and feedback are essential to helping the Marine Corps make an informed decision on the Proposed Action.**



## Submit Your Comments

Your involvement and feedback are essential to helping the Marine Corps make an informed decision on the Proposed Action. There are four ways to provide your comments:

1. At today's public scoping meeting
2. Online at: [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com)
3. By mail to:

**Townsend EIS Project Manager  
P.O. Box 180458  
Tallahassee, FL 32318**

4. By email to: [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com)

**The public scoping period ends on September 7, 2010.**



## Scoping Meeting Dates and Locations

**Open House Meetings will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location Address</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> August 24, 2010	<b>City of Ludowici Meeting Room</b> City Hall 469 North Macon Street Ludowici, GA 31316
<b>Thursday</b> August 26, 2010	<b>Haynes Auditorium</b> Ida Hilton Public Library 1105 Northway Darien, GA 31305

# History and Mission

## History

TBR is a 5,183-acre facility located in McIntosh County, Georgia. The Range is under the jurisdiction of the Marine Corps and is part of the Georgia Air National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah, Georgia. The primary user of TBR is Marine Aircraft Group 31 (MAG 31), based at MCAS Beaufort. TBR serves as an important training facility for 19 users from five states.

TBR, formerly known as "Glynco Bombing Range," was first opened as an aerial gunnery range by the U.S. Navy in the early 1940s. The Range was closed in 1972 in conjunction with the closure of nearby Naval Air Station Glynco. The Marine Corps reopened the Range in 1981 as Townsend Bombing Range, a training facility for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, SC.

## Mission

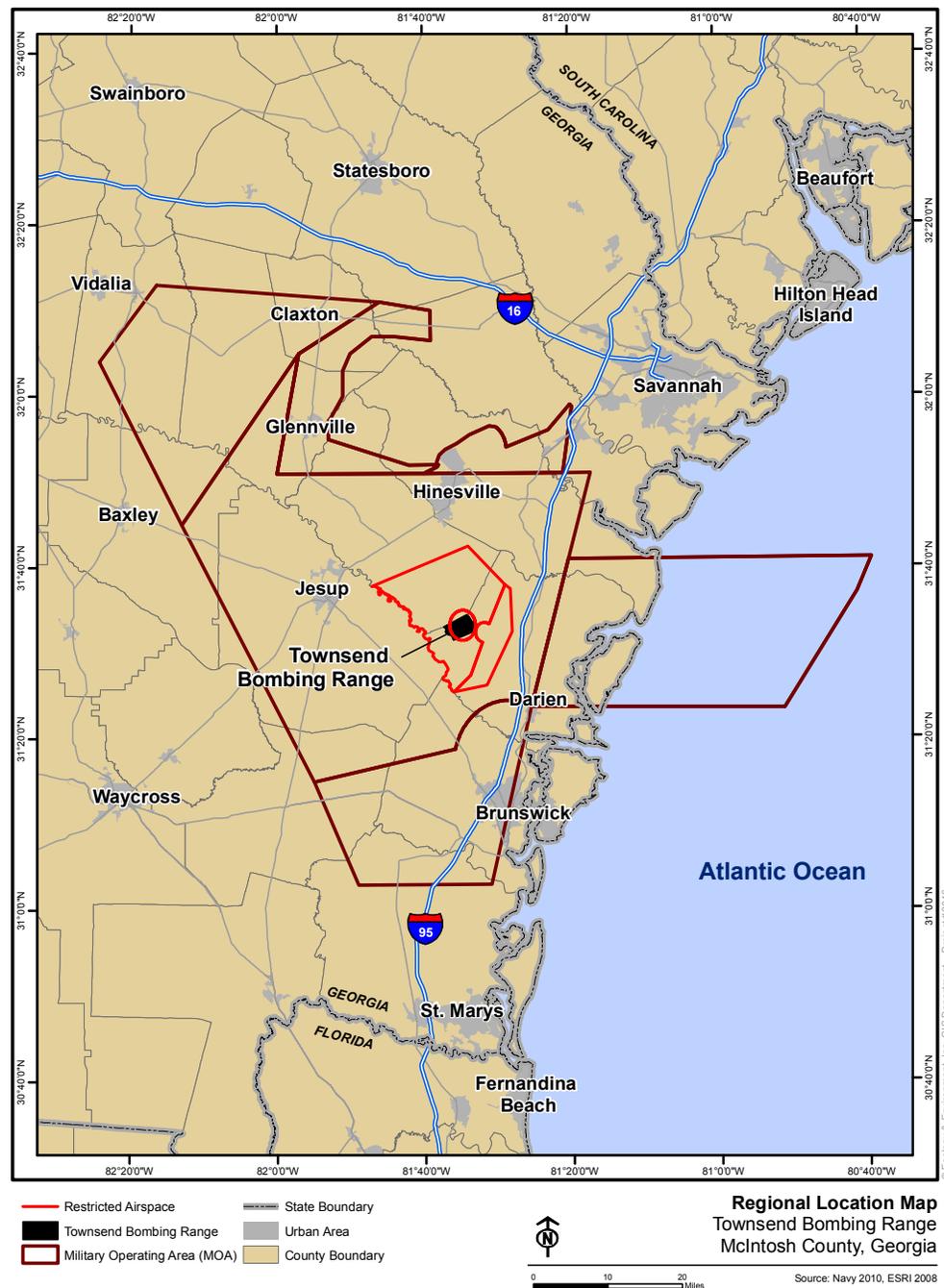
TBR's mission is to provide a realistic target and hostile threat environment to train combat aircrews from all services; to provide an environment for ground forces to conduct training; and to facilitate command and control, information, surveillance and reconnaissance training.

## Types of training that accomplish TBR's mission are:

- Air-to-Ground Training;
- Low-Angle Strafing Training;
- Close Air Support Training; and
- Electronic Warfare.

## Training and Tactics Evolution

- **1970s and 1980s**
  - Low Altitude
  - Non-guided Weapons
- **1990s to Present:**
  - High Altitude
  - Precision-guided Weapons



# Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

## Proposed Action

The Marine Corps proposes to modernize and expand TBR in order to improve training and accommodate the use of non-explosive (inert, with a spotting charge) precision-guided weapons. In order to accomplish the Proposed Action, the Marine Corps proposes to:

- Acquire enough land adjacent to the existing Range to fully contain the safety zones resulting from the proposed training (discussed on page 6).
- Construct required facilities; and
- Improve available training opportunities at TBR in order to meet air-to-ground training requirements.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide an air-to-ground training range capable of accommodating a wider variety of air-to-ground operations, including use of non-explosive precision-guided weapons, to meet training requirements.

Precision-guided weapons training capability at TBR would enhance mission effectiveness for MAG 31 and other TBR users. The increase in the Range's boundaries would insure the safety of adjacent communities.

## Need

The need for the Proposed Action is to more efficiently meet current training requirements for Marine Corps pilots by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities at TBR. Presently, squadrons from MCAS Beaufort must use West Coast training ranges to satisfy precision-guided weapons training requirements. Having a nearby range available for this training would result in greater training efficiency.

## Infrastructure Construction

- Up to 10 new target areas total. Target locations will be determined based on the results of the environmental analysis.
- Additional facilities (e.g., scoring nodes and observation tower).
- Roads, fencing, and access points to target areas.

## Training Improvements

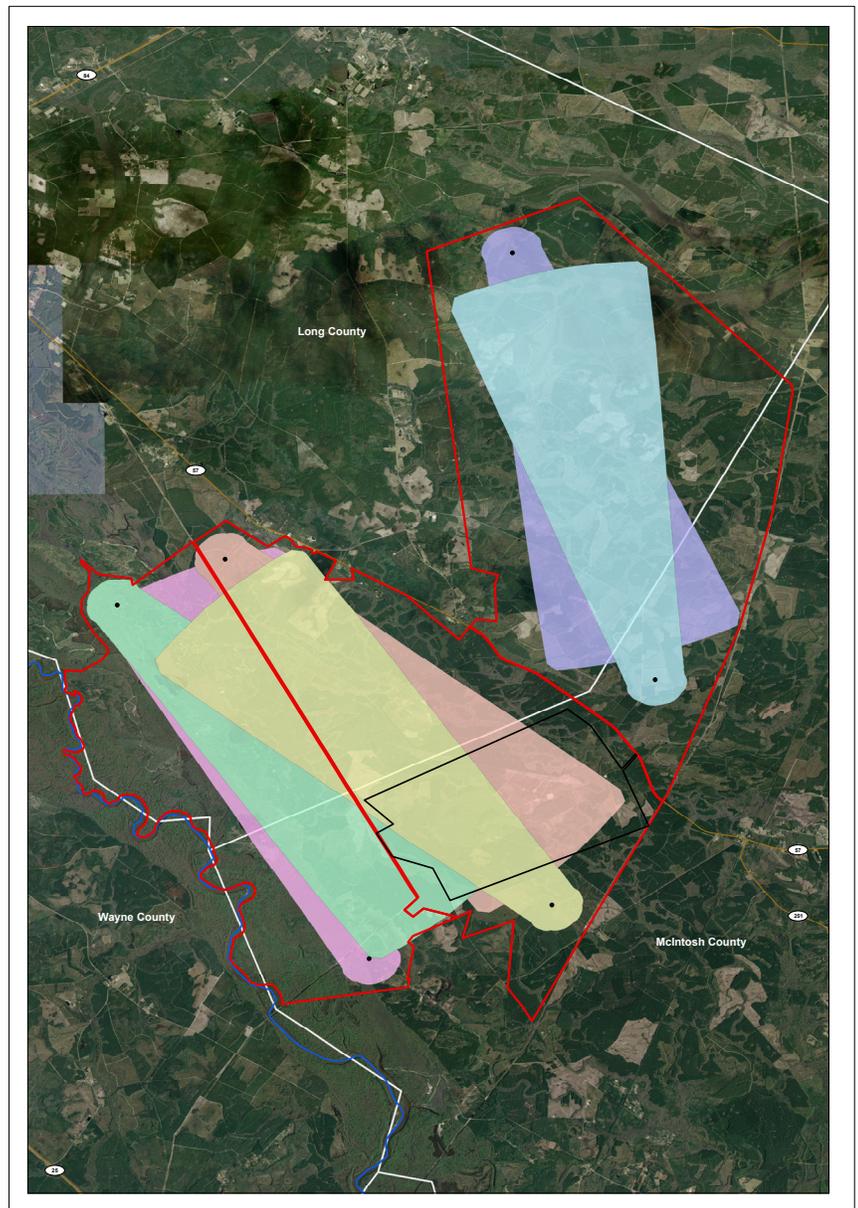
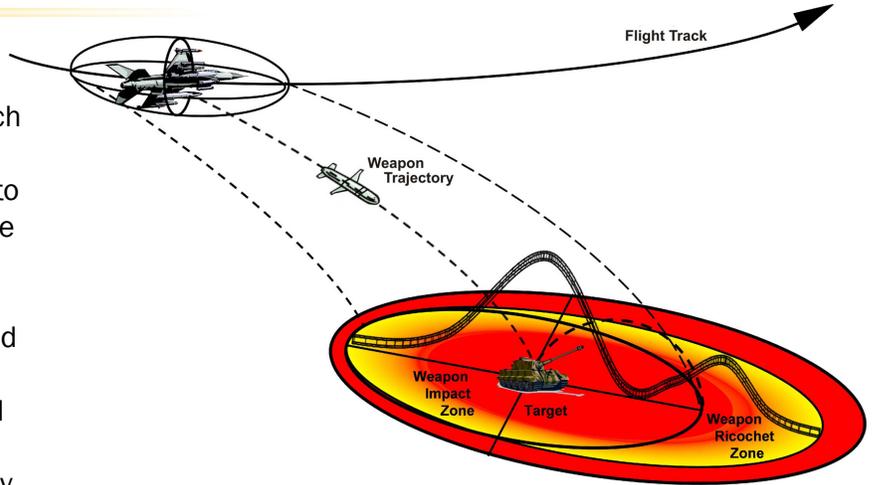
- Marines must train as they fight. Realistic training prepares Marines to succeed in their mission and helps bring them home safely from combat.
- Currently, Marine Corps pilots can accomplish less than half of the air-to-ground training requirements at TBR.
- The Proposed Action would allow Marine Corps pilots to complete nearly all of their air-to-ground training requirements.



# Safety Zones

The Marine Corps used modeling software to develop safety zones, which in turn were used to identify potential land acquisition scenarios necessary to accommodate the use of non-explosive precision-guided weapons at TBR.

Precision-guided weapons are released from higher altitudes and greater range from the target than non-guided weapons. Though precision-guided weapons are more accurate, the safety zone requirements are much larger because it must contain the area in which the weapon may impact the ground should the guidance system fail.



- Acquisition Area
- Existing Range
- County Boundary
- Altamaha River
- Proposed Target Location

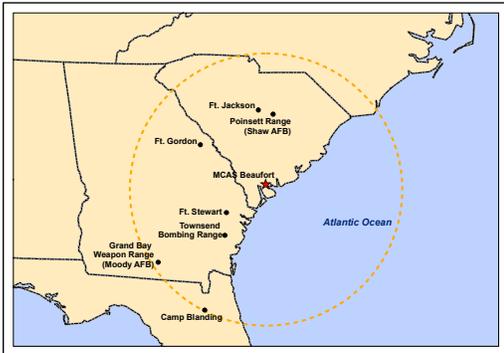
**Weapon Danger Zones**  
Townsend Bombing Range  
McIntosh County, Georgia  
Source: BingMaps 2009, US Navy 2009

# Alternatives

Before selecting TBR, the Marine Corps considered several possible locations based on the following criteria:

- Must be within 165 nautical miles of MCAS Beaufort.
- Must not currently host conflicting uses.
- Must have available restricted airspace.
- Must have the capability to meet the air-to-ground training requirements.

**TBR is the only location able to meet all of these criteria.**

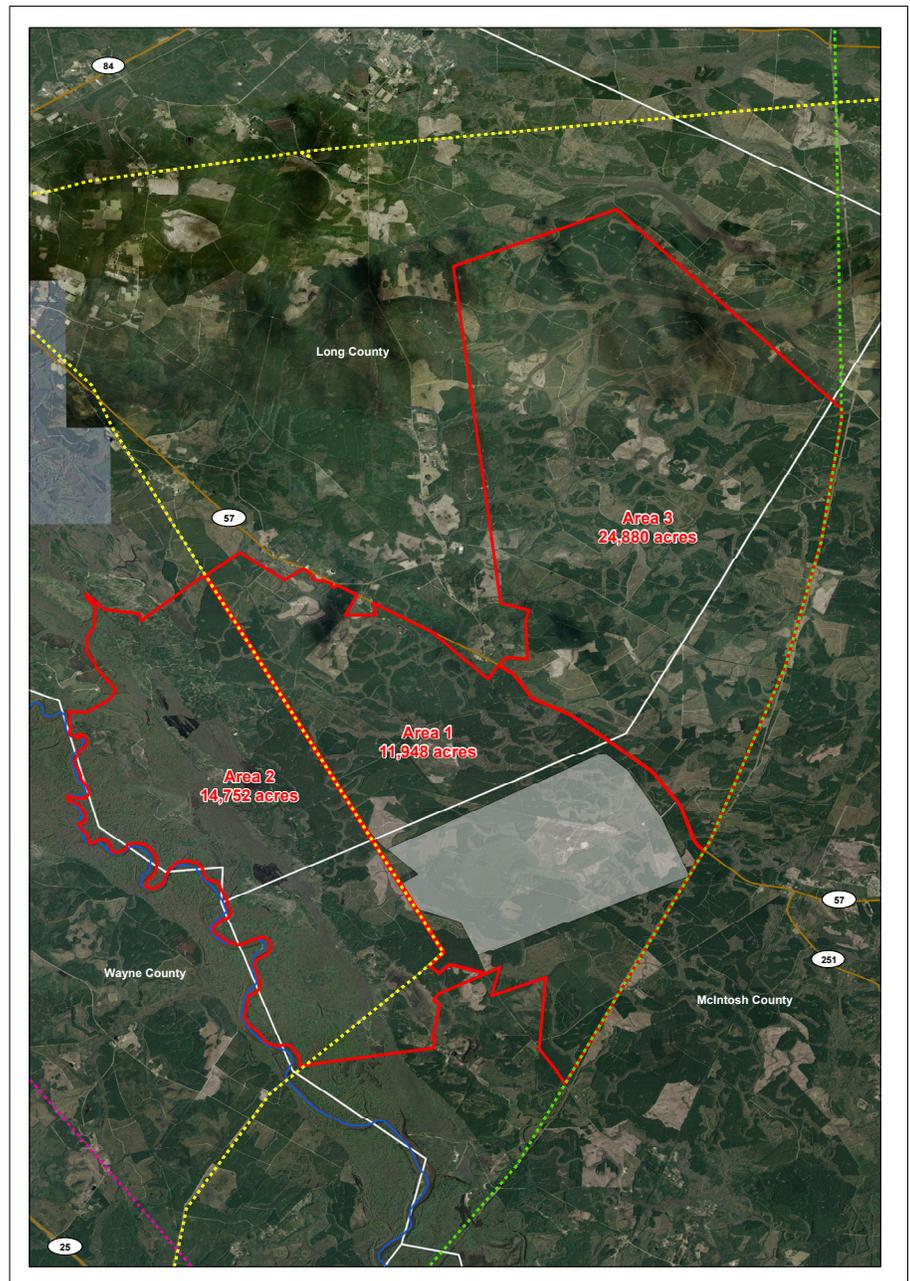


MCAS Beaufort 165 Nautical Mile Radius  
**Modernization and Expansion Alternatives within 165 Nautical Miles of MCAS Beaufort**

The Marine Corps will consider the following land acquisition alternatives:

Alternative	Area	Acreage
1	1	11,948
2	1 + 3	36,828
3	3	24,880
4	1 + 2	26,700
5	1 + 2 + 3	51,580

The Environmental Impact Statement will also evaluate a No Action Alternative that proposes no land expansion and no changes to operations at TBR



Existing Range      Natural Gas Line  
 Acquisition Area      Power Line  
 Counties      Shared Power Line & Natural Gas ROW  
 Altamaha River

**Land Expansion Areas**  
 Townsend Bombing Range  
 McIntosh County, Georgia  
Source: BingMaps 2009, US Navy 2009

# Environmental Analysis

## Environmental Compliance

The EIS Process will involve permitting and consultation, such as:

- National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)
- Government-to-government with federally recognized Native American Indian tribes
- Endangered Species Act (Section 7)
- Federal and State of Georgia Clean Water Acts
- State of Georgia Coastal Consistency Determination

## Examining Potential Impacts

The EIS will evaluate potential effects on the environment and the local community that are associated with the Proposed Action.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Safety             | • Air Quality           |
| • Socioeconomics     | • Water Resources       |
| • Recreation         | • Cultural Resources    |
| • Natural Resources  | • Land Use              |
| • Forestry Resources | • Environmental Justice |
| • Noise              | • Airspace/Air Traffic  |

### Natural Resources

- Approximately 38% of the potential expansion area is classified as wetlands.
- Rare, threatened, and, endangered species are known to occur on TBR and in the proposed expansion area.

### Recreation

Recreational use of land will possibly be affected.

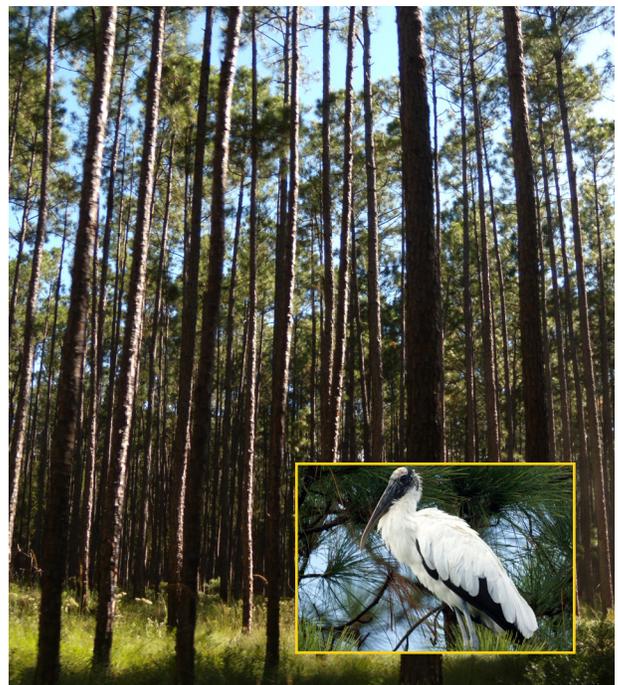
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Camping

### Land Use

- Some land may be converted from forest land to target area.

### Socioeconomics

- The EIS will study and evaluate potential changes in employment and economic activity.



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**Thank you for your participation in today's scoping meeting. The public scoping period ends on September 7, 2010. Please submit your comments by that date to ensure they are considered in the EIS analysis.**