



**The Nature Conservancy's
Partnership with the
Department of Defense**

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Report Documentation Page

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DoD - TNC Collaboration

The Master Cooperative Agreement



Current version in effect thru April 05

Text Available on DENIX

Discussions on new, revised CA to begin
soon

Sustainable Ranges and Installations: The Role of the TNC-DoD Partnership

- Assistance with on base conservation programs
 - Fire management planning and execution
 - Vegetation mapping/species inventories
 - INRMP and other conservation planning
 - Implementing ITAM and other range management programs
- On-base partnerships build trust, help ensure access to test and training areas, and facilitate later work on encroachment issues

Sustainable Ranges and Installations: The Role of the TNC-DoD Partnership

- Preventing/abating encroachment
 - Preventing incompatible development through land conservation action - “2811” agreements
 - Incorporation of conservation planning in the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and other DoD programs
 - Integration of base conservation planning with other planning in the ecoregion
 - Possibilities for the future: habitat “banking” to allow more flexibility inside the fenceline

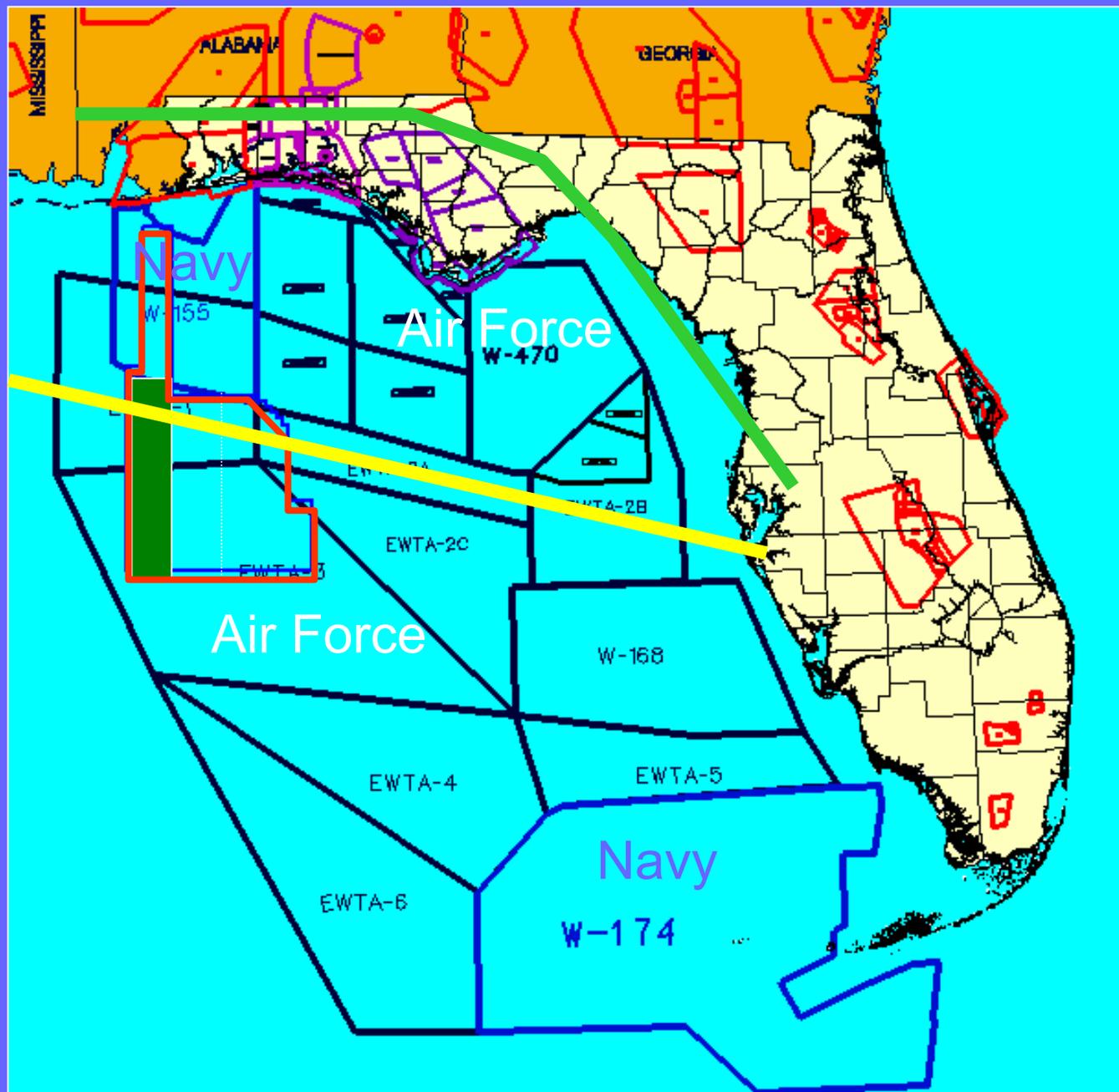
The Process

- Compare mission-essential objectives
 - DoD
 - TNC

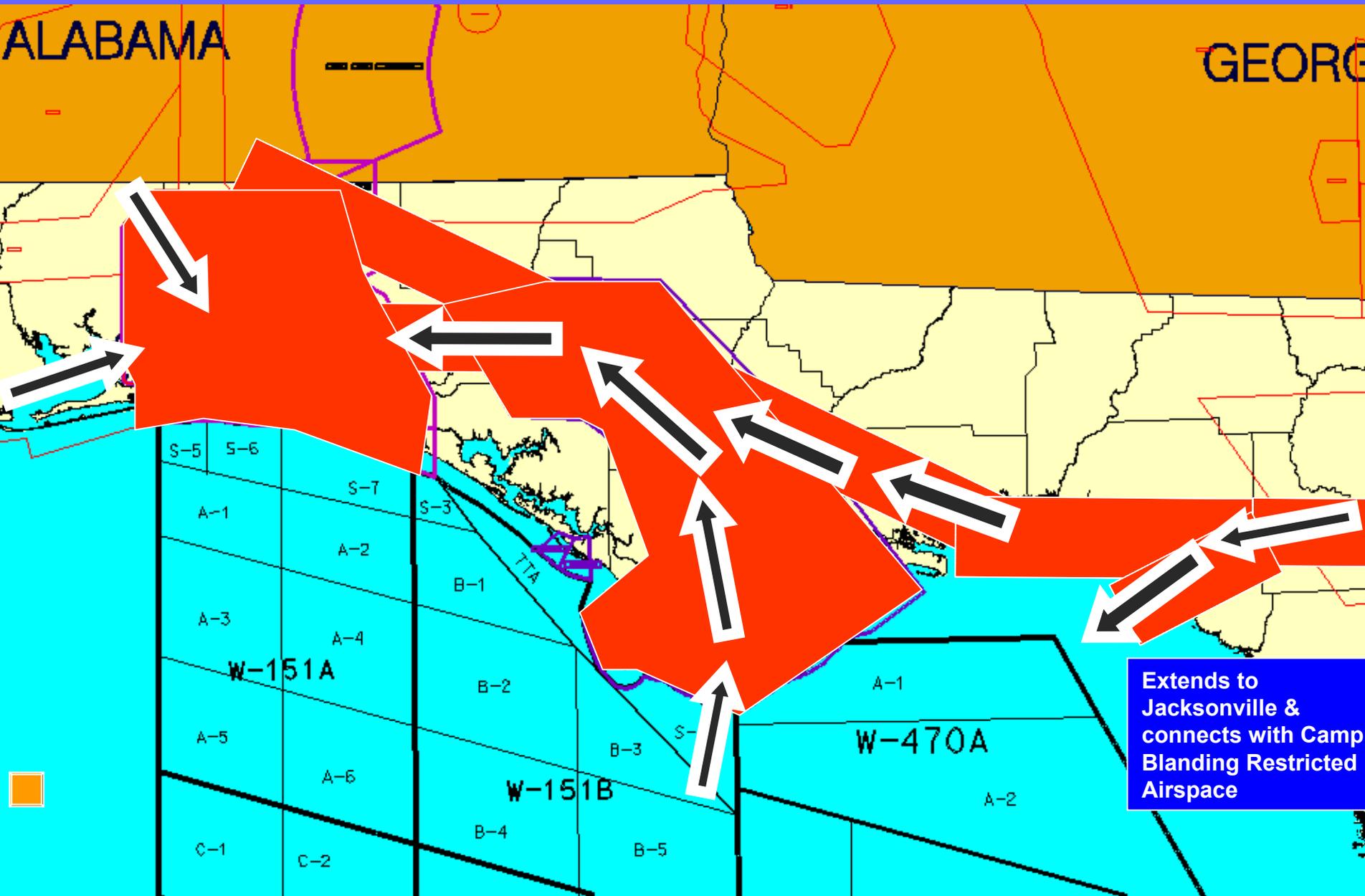
Example: GIS overlay of critical airspace with TNC conservation objectives, find matching goals

- Form partnership to pursue coincident objectives, bring other stakeholders on board, form action plan, implement

Joint Gulf Range Complex

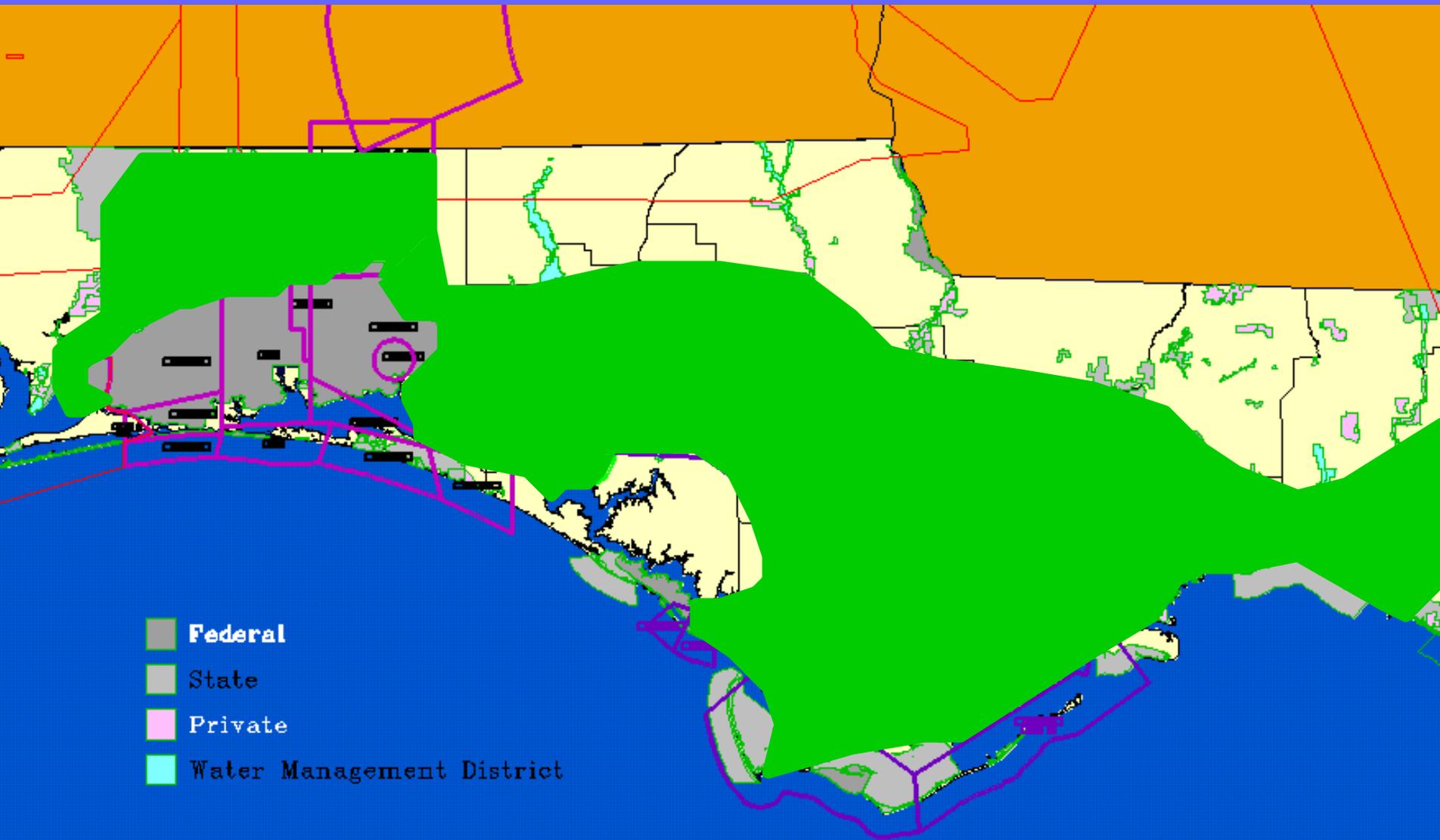


Joint Use Regional Airspace



Extends to Jacksonville & connects with Camp Blanding Restricted Airspace

Greenway General Study Area





Potential DoD Corridors

with Florida Forever and Managed Lands



Okaloosa
Economic
Development
Council



Air
Armament
Center



The Nature
Conservancy



Florida
Department of
Environmental
Protection



Leveraging Non-DoD Funding and Programs

- Other Federal Programs
 - Numerous federal programs provide funding for conservation and habitat restoration/protection
 - Federal land acquisition
 - Incentives to private landowners
- State Programs
 - Traditional State conservation programs
 - Prime examples: Florida and California
 - New programs and bond initiatives specifically targeted at protecting DoD bases
 - Recent examples: Pima County (Arizona) and North Carolina
 - Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies under the State Wildlife Grant Programs

Leveraging Non-DoD Funding and Programs

- Conservation NGOs like TNC can be key strategic partners in leveraging these non-DoD programs
 - We know the programs
 - We know the players at the local, state, regional, and national levels
- What we DONT know in detail is what DoD cares about, where, and in what priority
 - Perimeter buffers, noise/safety zones are fairly obvious and information is relatively available (JLUS, etc) - however -
 - Information about and priorities for key areas of DoD concern NOT in the immediate vicinity of the fenceline is not readily available

INFORMATION IS THE KEY

- The Georgia pilot project
 - Compilation of areas in Georgia of concern to DoD
 - Overlay with private, state, and non-DoD federal conservation and open space preservation programs
 - Lead NGO is The Conservation Fund
- Formal tasking to the Defense Installation Spatial Data Infrastructure (DISDI) to gather data from installations in Georgia - possible extension country-wide?
- Possible incorporation of data into Georgia's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Off-base wetland mitigation banking
 - New authority for DoD to participate in wetland mitigation banking in connection with on-base construction projects
- Off-base habitat banking
 - Not clearly authorized now
 - Would allow increased flexibility on installations
- Authority to exchange environmentally sensitive DoD lands for new training land adjacent to base
 - Would need legislation to authorize
 - General authority?
 - Case by case?
 - Possible example: Avon Park

THE TAKEAWAYS

- The Nature Conservancy and other conservancy organizations think of DoD as a key partner, and view DoD installations and ranges as extremely valuable and well-managed areas
- Achieving sustainable ranges is in our interest as well as yours - we are natural allies
- We can function as “portals” to private, state, and non-DoD federal land protection programs and funding
- The essential element is comprehensive, detailed, and accurate information about areas of concern to DoD “outside the fenceline”- and the key to that may well be DISDI