



Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability Mapping Effort

Project #
05-278

Background:

The Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) was created in the summer of 2005 to:

- Promote cooperative conservation in partnership with Federal agencies, states, local governments, non-governmental organizations;
- Retain productive and viable lands to sustain agriculture and environmental quality while supporting compatible economic development; and
- Preserve, protect, conserve, and restore land, air, and water resources while maintaining access to critical military testing and training areas.

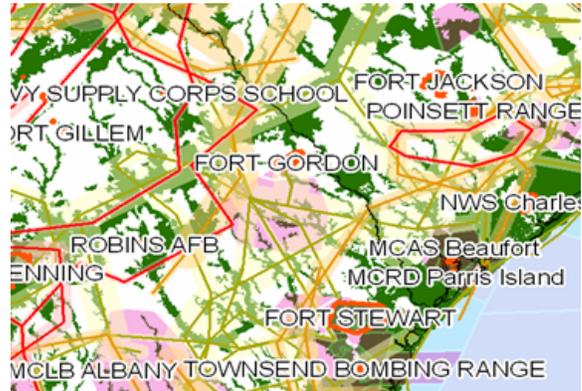
Environmental and natural resource officials from across the Southeastern United States formed a partnership that focuses on creating an effective working relationship using a good map for decision making. The Partnership, includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, the Office of Secretary of Defense and the military services, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. SERPPAS meets regularly to determine areas/issues of interest and discuss the best approaches for project implementation. There have been three Steering Committee meetings and one Principals meeting as of November 2006. At the second meeting, the strategic action plan for SERPPAS was solidified.

Objective:

The purpose of SERPPAS is to craft an effective working relationship between the partners that seizes opportunities and solves problems affecting the entire Southeast region. A key component to success is the centralized location of GIS data and a map of the regions resources and land/water/airspace use. The map will act as a tool to identify mutual interest areas of the partners.

Summary of Approach:

SERPPAS provided opportunity to compile a clearinghouse of GIS data on ecosystems, habitats that are important to threatened and endangered species, as well to identify areas important to the sustainment of military operations. By gathering GIS data from multiple sources, mapping these regions and analyzing areas of compatibility, the partnership can use the map as a tool to make informed regional planning decision.



Area of Southeast highlighting state/county boundaries, military installation boundaries and flight routes, conservation lands, and ecological frameworks

Benefit:

The developed GIS map illuminates overlap of military areas and key ecosystems in the Southeast. It identifies state/county boundaries, military installation boundaries and flight routes, conservation lands, and ecological frameworks. The map functions as a decision-making tool to encourage and facilitate partnerships among key stakeholders. Together, partners will identify and prioritize corridors between military areas including priority conservation lands and propose policies and resource management that benefits all partners.

Accomplishments:

Using the map as a tool, partners have identified projects that focus on key areas and issues. These projects work towards identifying potential stakeholders; examining policy and possible legislation to support maintaining working lands; promoting resource use that is compatible with and complimentary to military requirements; building working relationships between and among communities and the military; and promoting compatible use of military, agricultural, and forestry lands. The map has helped to identify critical red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise habitat within the longleaf pine ecosystem, working landscapes, and marine/coastal areas of interest.

Contact Information:

Janice Larkin
Outreach Coordinator
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Environment)
1225 South Clark Street, Suite 1500
Arlington, VA 22202
703-604-1890
janice.larkin@osd.mil