



Compatible Land Use Planning and Stakeholder Engagement Implementation Process

05-279

Background:

DoD installation staff, local land conservation organizations, and local land use planning authorities are important partners in efforts that help ensure compatible land use around military installations. In many cases however, these parties have limited understanding as to who to reach out to and how the other organizations work. Land Trust Alliance (LTA), American Farmland Trust (AFT), National Associations of Counties (NACo), and International City/County Management Association (ICMA) have developed primers to help bridge the gap. The guidebooks serve to help these partners work together to solve natural resource and mission sustainability around installations and ranges. The next step in this process was to develop training using these materials to help further inject this information where it is needed most.

Objective:

NACo and The Conservation Fund (TCF) partnered to host The Compatible Land Use Planning Workshop and Range Tour on 11-12 December 2006 at Ft Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield in Hinesville, GA. The objective of the workshop was to provide training on compatible land use planning and conservation partnerships associated with military installations; to encourage stewardship of DoD controlled or managed air, land, and water resources; to protect significant biological systems and species including those contained in the federal Endangered Species List; and to discuss programs and available funding for the restoration and rehabilitation of altered or degraded habitats.

Workshop participants worked to identify obstacles and opportunities for implementing 2005 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) recommendations, develop a communications network, and institutionalize an effective ongoing communication process for Ft Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield and its surrounding counties. The workshop also worked to advance the ability of Ft Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield and the surrounding counties to develop and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for implementing JLUS recommendations.

Summary of Approach:

DoD, working with ICMA, LTA, NACo, and AFT partners as well as The Conservation Fund, translated the information in the primers into appropriate training materials. Part of this effort focused on identifying the most successful tools to use for training (i.e., classroom training, web-based training, etc). The approach for

developing the final product involved pilot testing the material at a local venue, and getting feedback from participants to ensure the material is accurate and effective. Local government officials; including land use planners, economic developers, county commissioners, mayors, and city managers; attended the workshop along with non-governmental organization representatives and Ft Stewart personnel.



Ft. Stewart Forestry Department explains the importance of prescribed burning to workshop participants before a live demonstration.

Benefit

Little, if any, training is available that targets conservation partnerships or compatible land use planning associated with DoD operations. This training equips installations and other relevant partners with the information they need to establish effective conservation partnerships and use the appropriate tools to create conservation zones to protect the natural resources vital to sustaining military testing and training.

Accomplishments:

The project engaged constituents of the surrounding communities and yielded recommendations for improving the JLUS process. The workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders to voice comments and concerns, and promoted collaboration. Participants left the workshop with a greater understanding of each other's issues, future needs, and current planning communities.

Contact:

Name: Janice Larkin
Title: Outreach Coordinator,
OSD Range Sustainment Initiative
Org: Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of
Defense (Installations and Environment)
Address: 1225 South Clark Street, Suite 1500
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: 703-604-1890
Email: janice.larkin@osd.mil