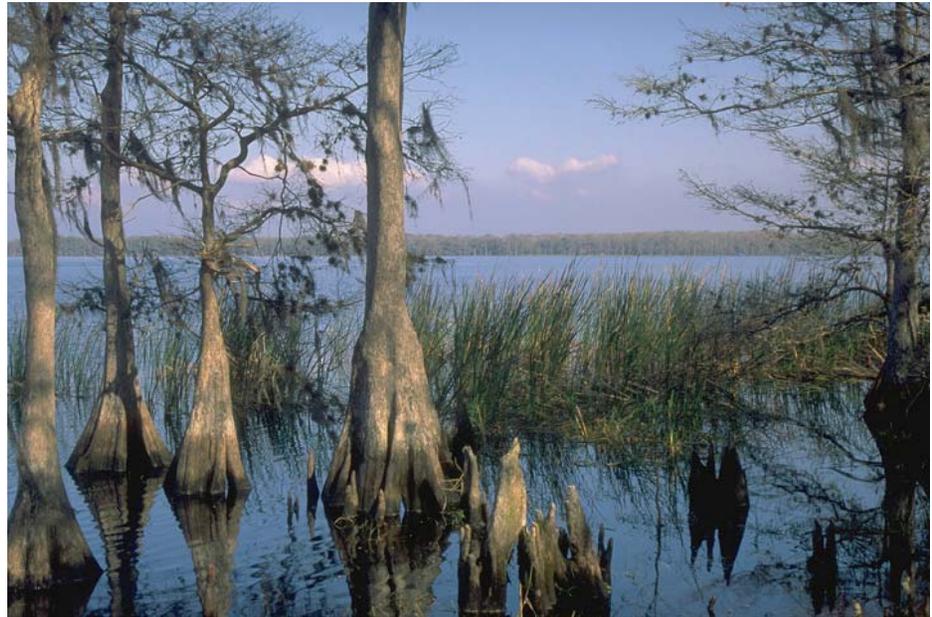




Deborah Keller  
Sr. Policy and Philanthropy Representative  
Florida Chapter



**Conservation and Military Base Buffering:**

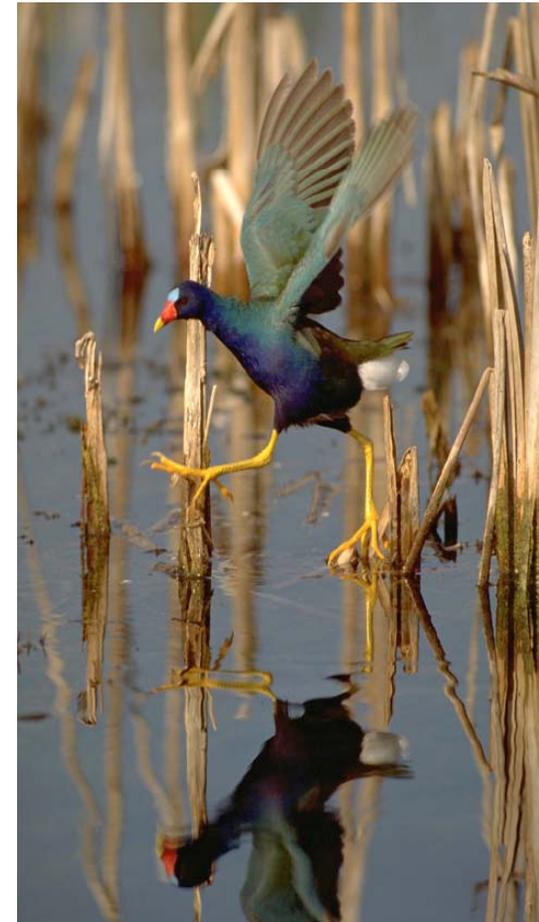
**Green Opportunities**

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to protect the Diversity of Life on Earth by Protecting the lands and waters they need to survive



## Common Interests with communities and military installations:

- Maintaining natural landscapes and ecosystem integrity
- Protecting species and natural resources



- The **leading conservation organization** working around the world
  - We've protected more than **119 million acres of land** and **5,000 miles of rivers** worldwide — and we operate more than **100 marine conservation projects** globally.

# The Nature Conservancy

- We have [more than 1 million members](#).
- We work in [all 50 states](#) and [more than 30 countries](#).
- We address **threats to conservation** involving [climate change](#), [fire](#), [fresh water](#), [forests](#), [invasive species](#), and [marine ecosystems](#).
- It's **how we work** that has made the Conservancy so successful
- We use a [science-based approach](#) — aided by [our more than 700 staff scientists](#).
- We pursue **non-confrontational, pragmatic solutions** to conservation challenges.
- We **partner** — with [indigenous communities](#), [businesses](#), [governments](#), multilateral institutions, other non-profits...and people such as yourself

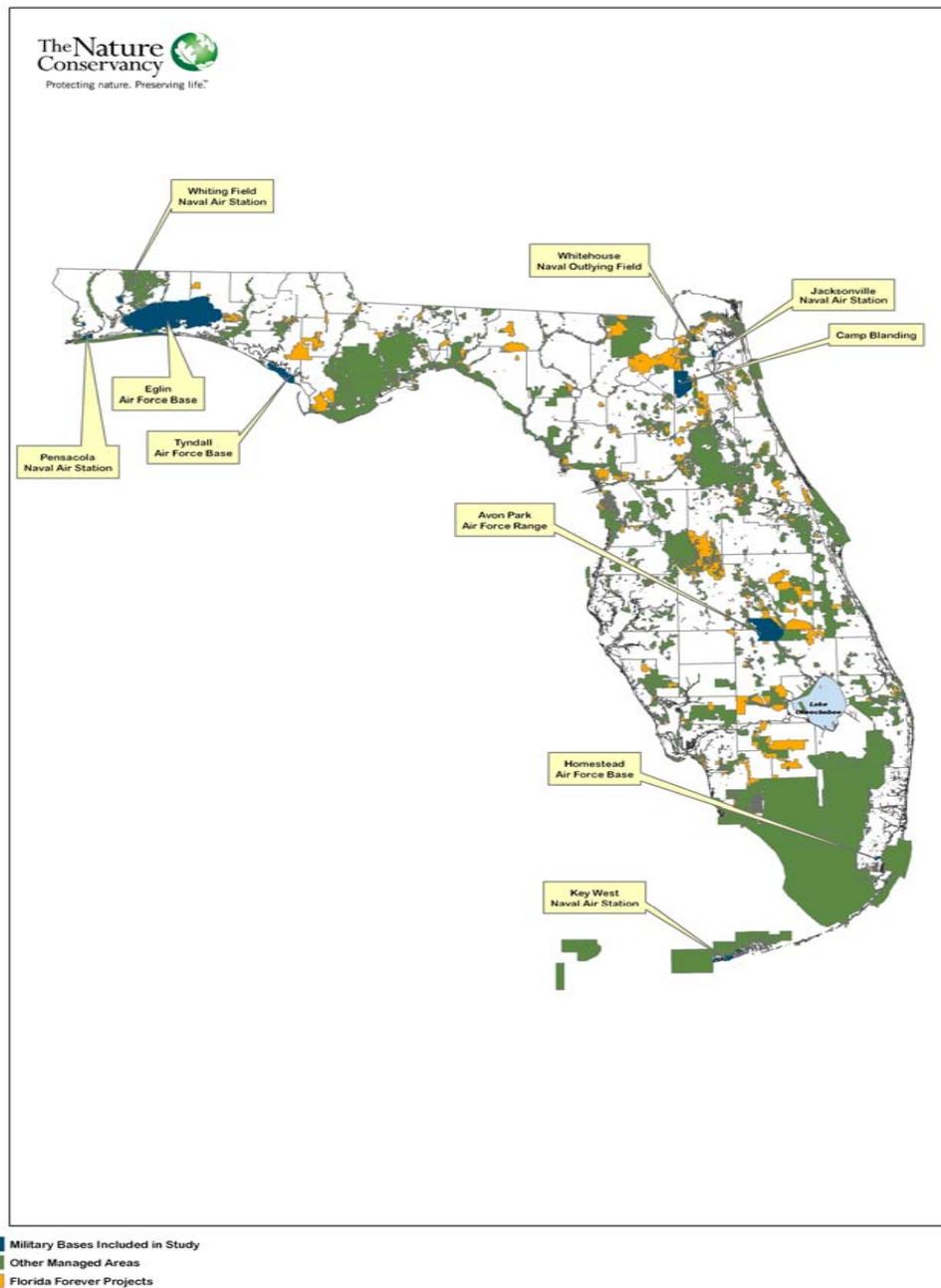
# Ecological Analysis of Potential Conservation Opportunities at 10 Florida Military Bases

- Commissioned by the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development with Enterprise Florida
- by The Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
- Completed April 2009



Straits Times via AFP-Getty Images

# The 10 Military Bases Studied



# Purpose:

- **Research, identify and prioritize** potential conservation opportunities around 10 key FL military installations.
- Prioritize opportunities for further work
- At each installation studies
- And state wide
  - at each base
  - and statewide



# Methodology:



- **Florida Forever program guidelines and criteria** employed by the state's Acquisition and Restoration Council :
- natural and hydrological resource criteria
- statewide GIS-based data sets
- **Data provided by the 10 bases**

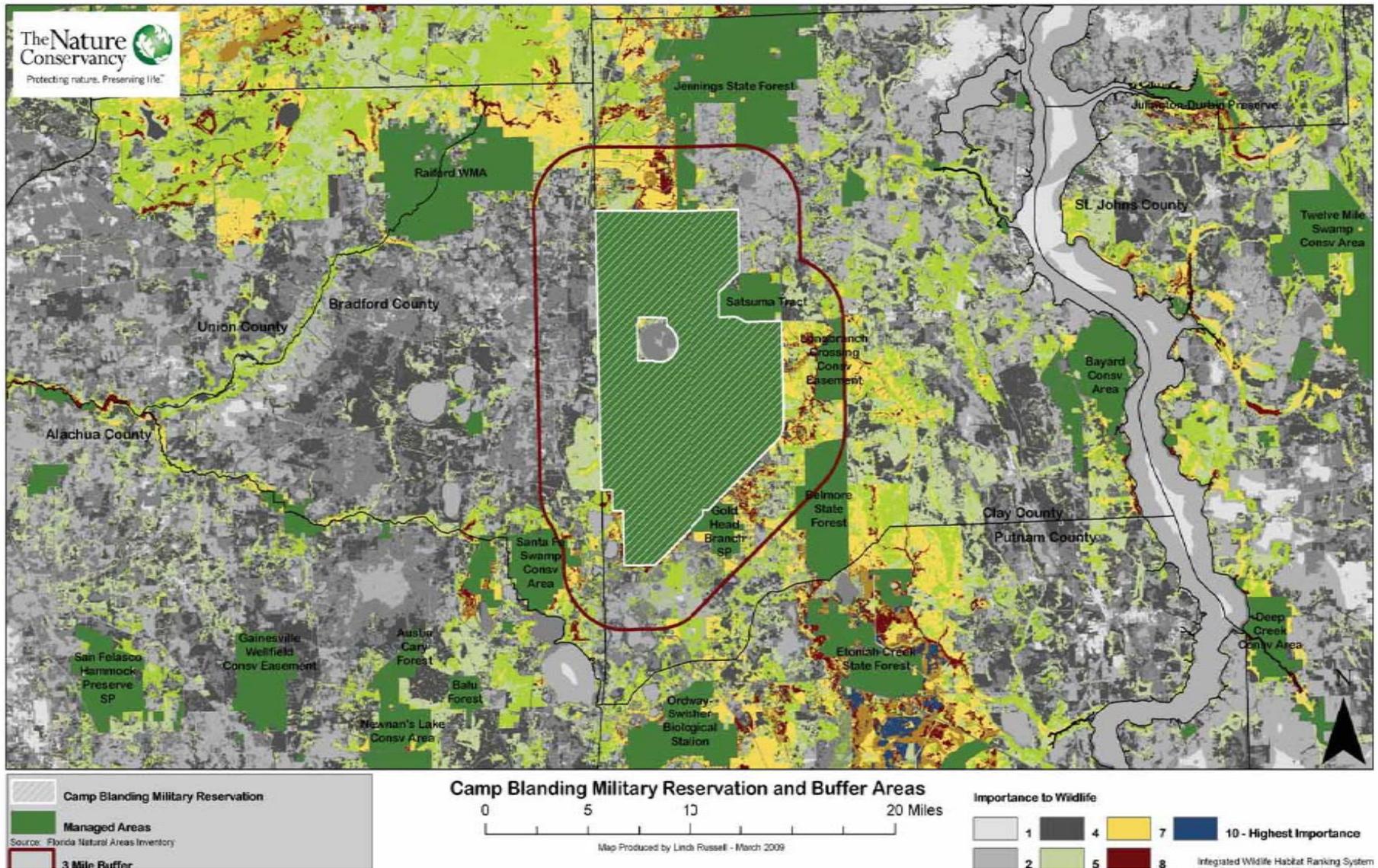
# Data Layers Analyzed

- MOA / AICUZ / ACUB / APZ data
- Existing conservation lands and active Florida Forever projects,
- Strategic habitat conservation areas,
- Priority areas for protection of rare species and rare natural communities,
- Significant landscapes, linkages and conservation corridors,
- Integrated wildlife habitat ranking systems,
- Wetlands, floodplain and surface water protection priorities,
- Sustainable forest management and forestland water recharge function,
- Fragile coastal areas, and
- Greenways and trails.

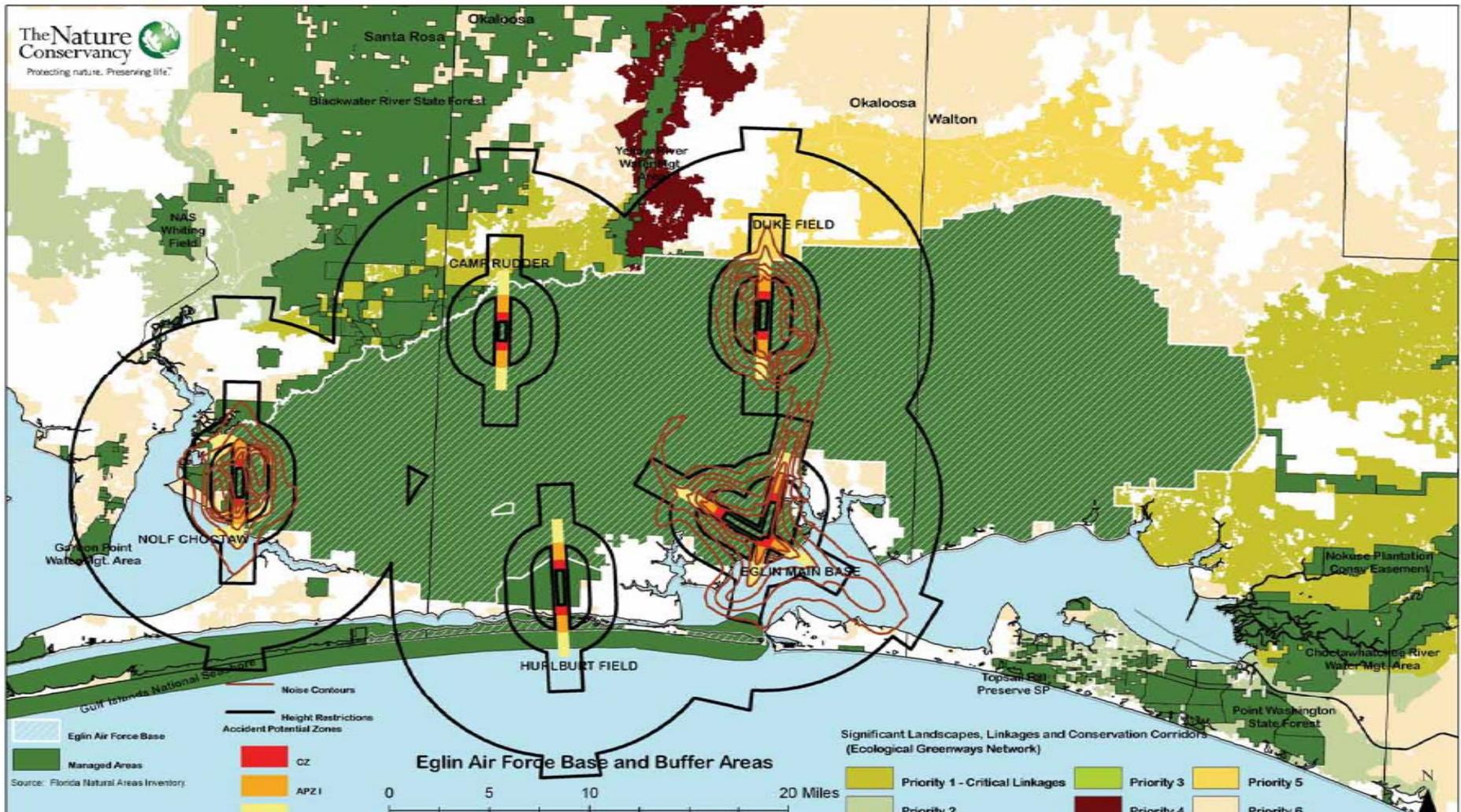
# Military & land uses



# Wildlife



# Landscape linkages



## Along with:

- on-the-ground knowledge of the region and natural resources,
- land ownership patterns and
- proximity to military installation boundaries



# Study Findings:

- Hundreds of thousands of identified, but not yet conserved, lands are in existing Florida Forever projects within the 10 mile buffers of the bases
- Additional conservation base buffering opportunities exist that are not currently Florida Forever projects.

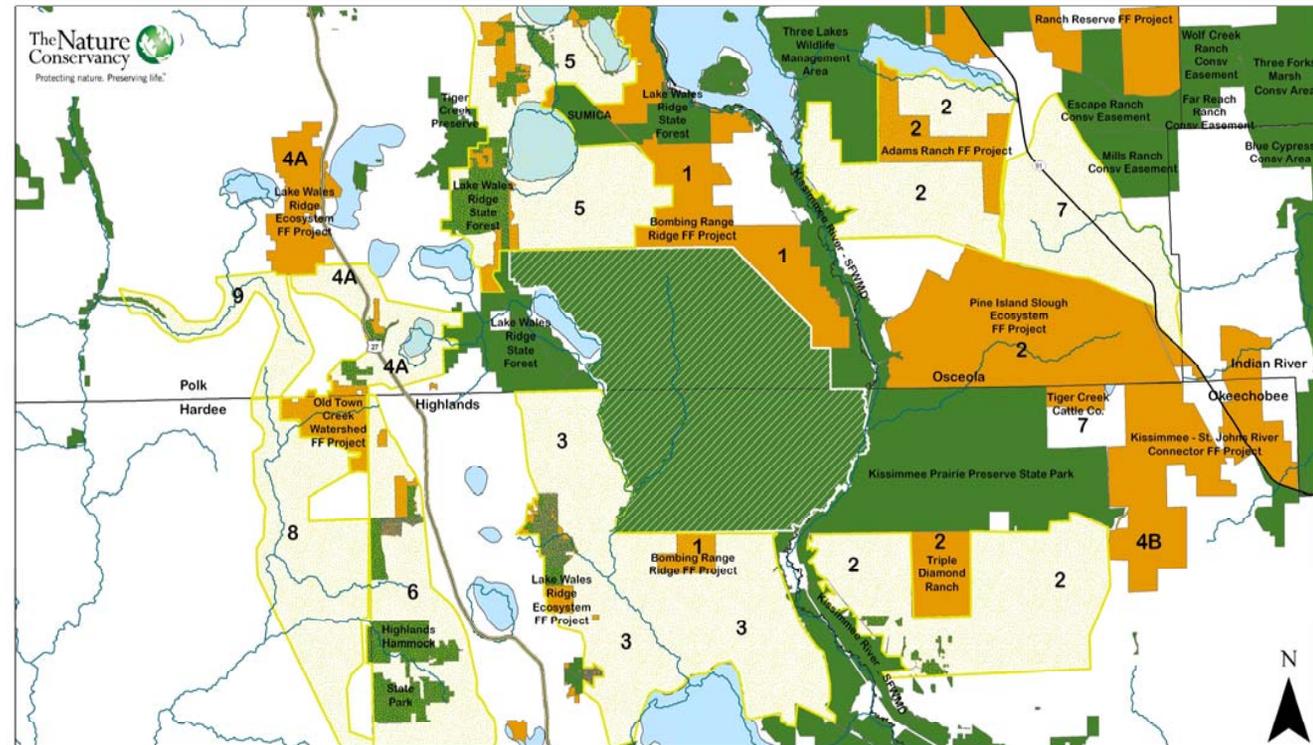


# Study Findings:

- Of the 24 Florida Forever projects identified in the buffer areas submitted, 17 are A-ranked and 7 are B-ranked Florida Forever projects.
- On the ground analysis is needed of non-Florida Forever project areas of interest
- Further evaluation needed with Base Commanders to confirm which areas should be prioritized for conservation and base buffering at each base
- A collective statewide prioritization by base commanders should also be attempted

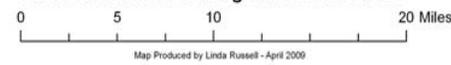
# Avon Park

## Air Force Range



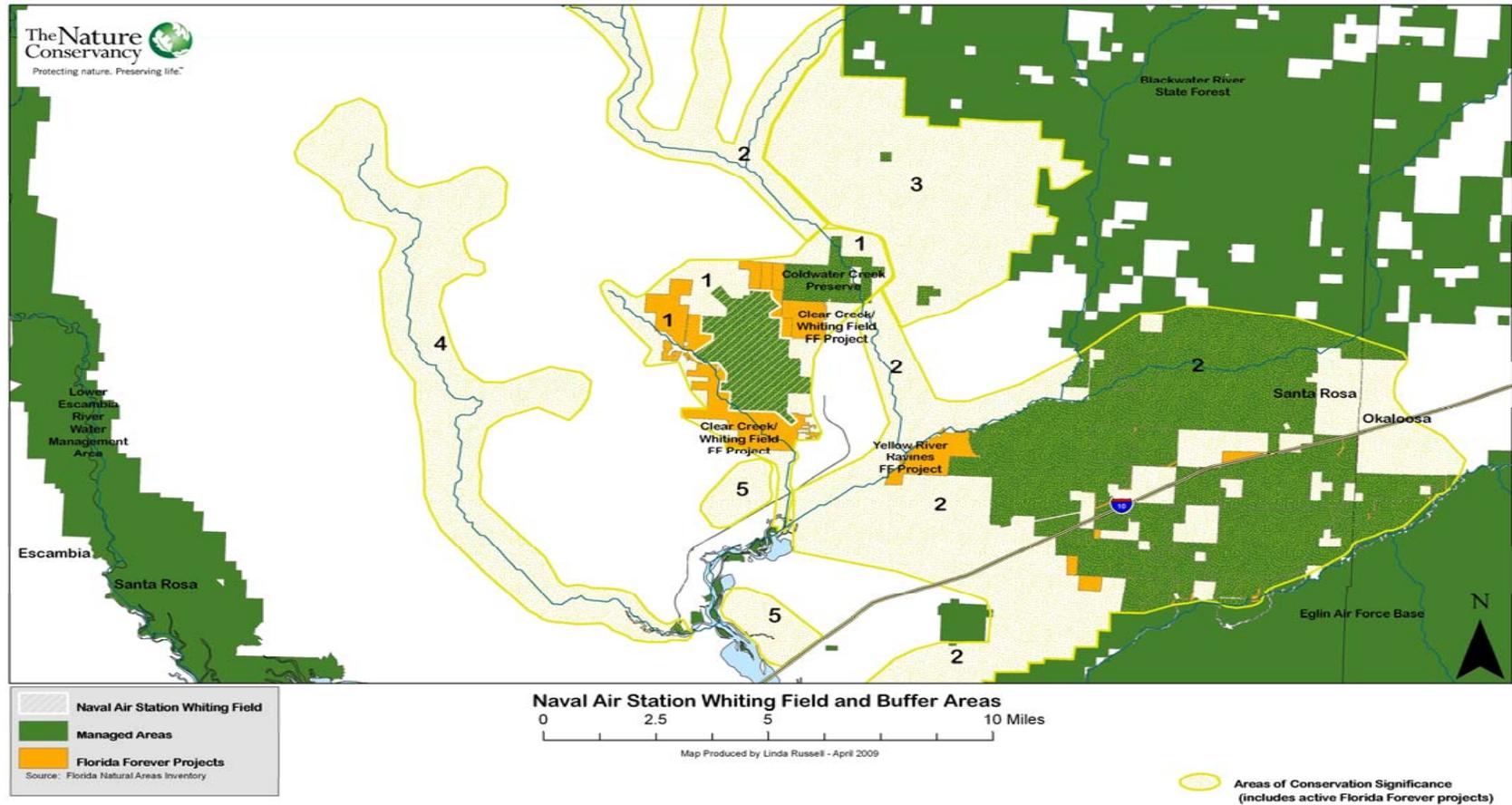
**Avon Park Air Force Range and Buffer Areas**

Avon Park Air Force Range  
 Managed Areas  
Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory



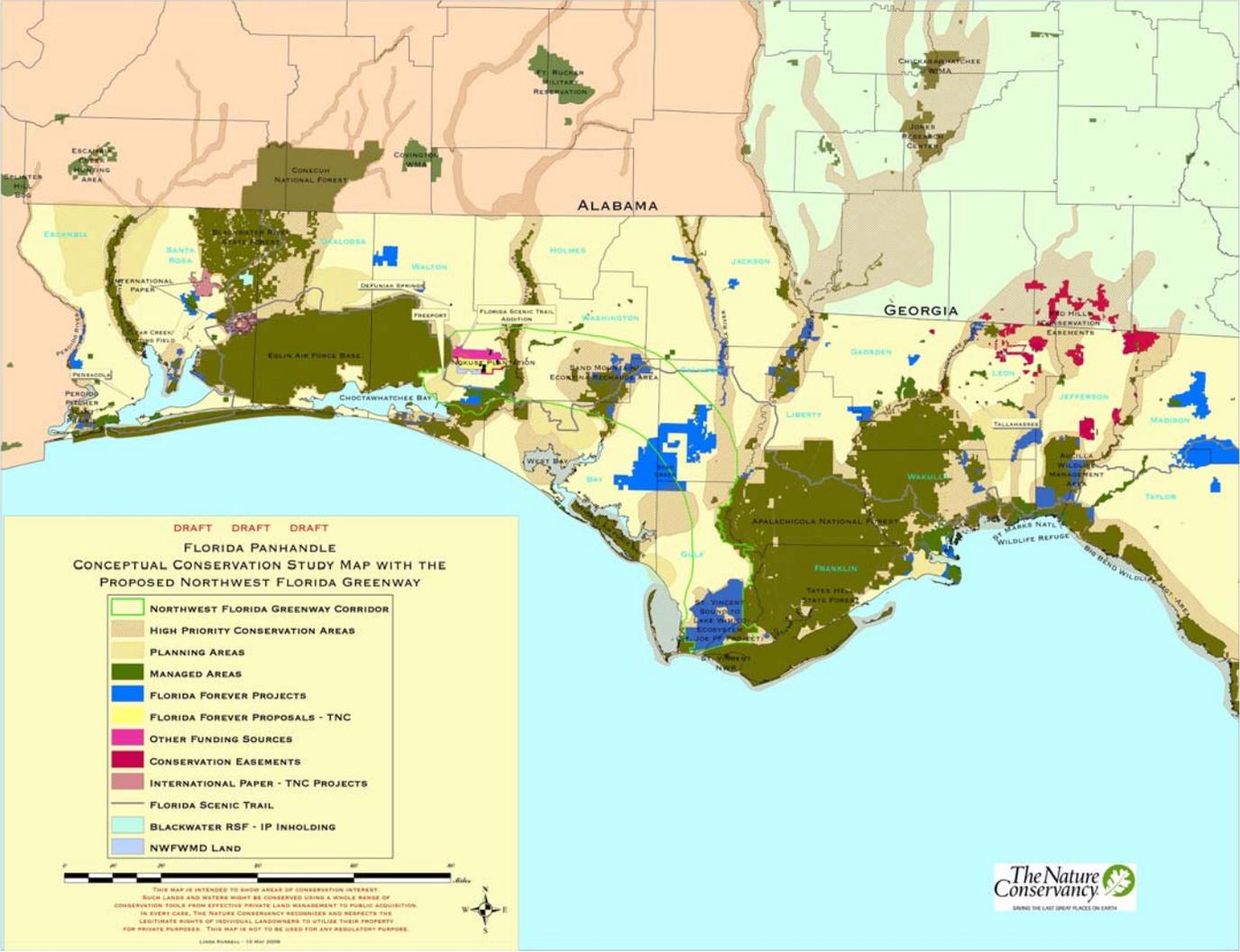
  Areas of Conservation Significance (includes active Florida Forever projects)

# Naval Air Station Whiting Field

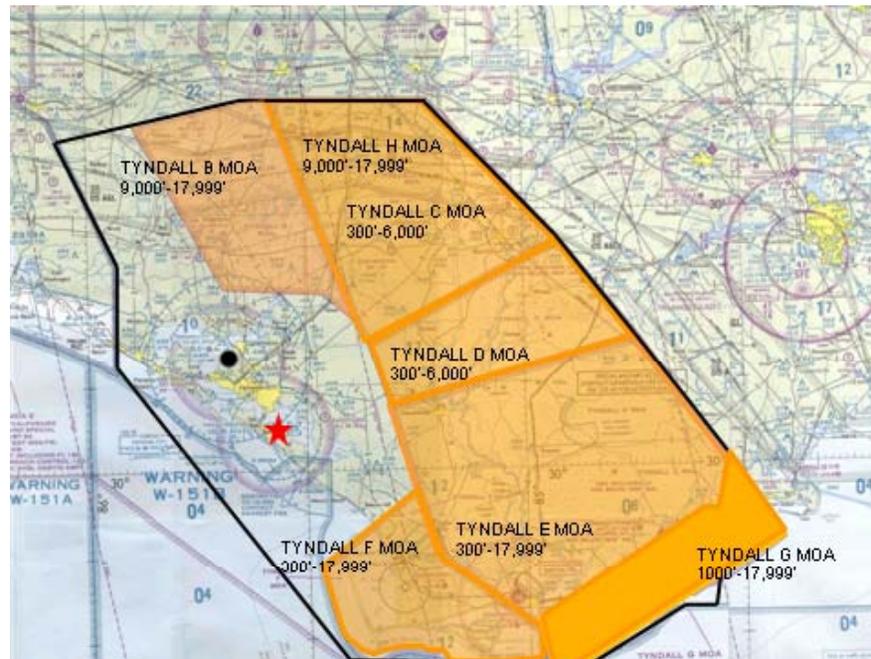




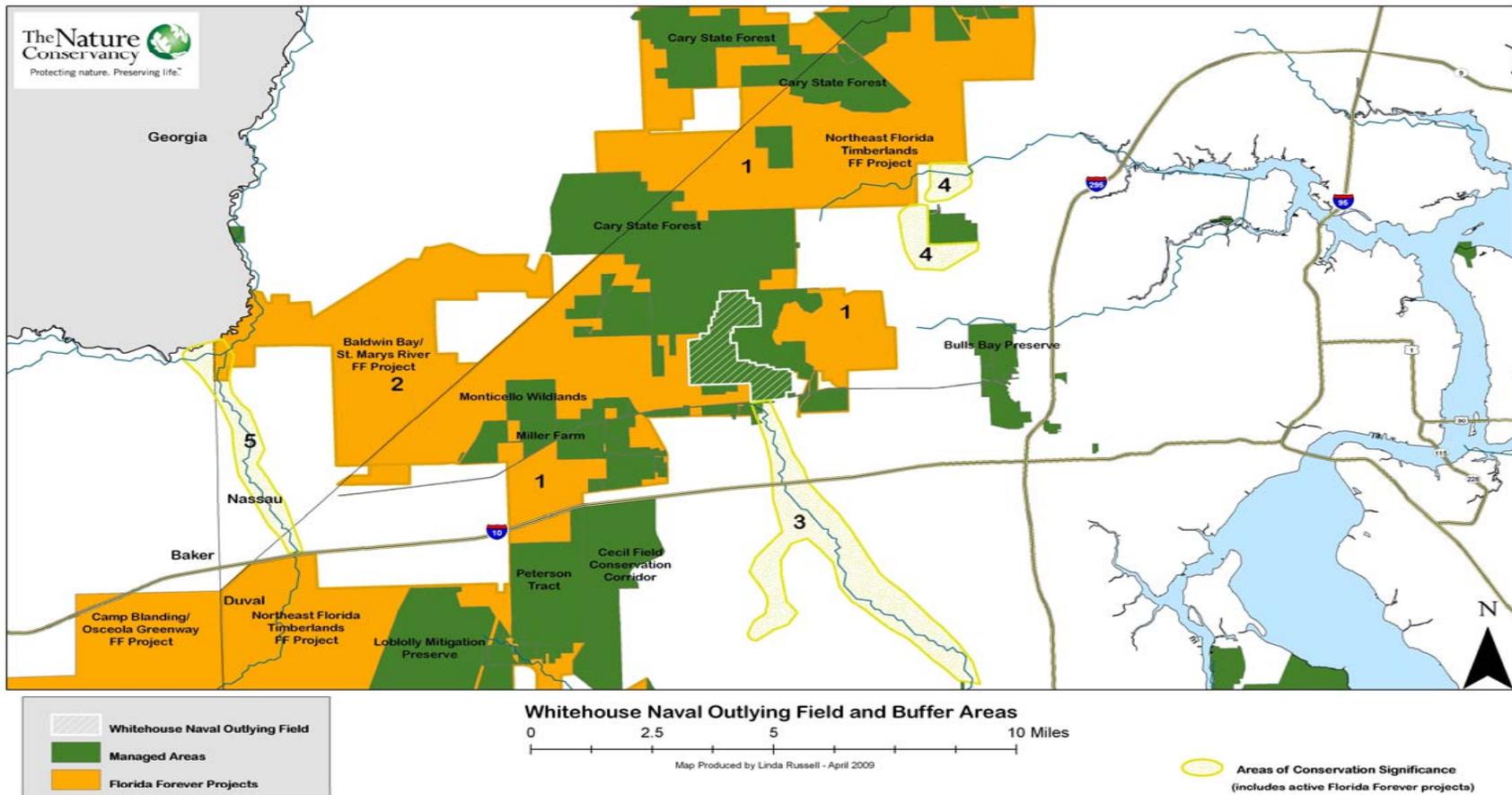
# NW FL Greenway Project



# Tyndall Air Force Base



# Whitehouse Naval Base



# Florida Forever

- Florida Forever is the nation's premiere land conservation program - implemented in 2000 to replace the Preservation 2000 conservation program.

**\$300 million per year for conservation acquisitions and conservation easements**

- In 2006 FL Legislature amended Florida Forever Statute to include military base buffering as a criteria for project ranking

# Florida Forever

- Under Florida Forever and Preservation 2000, Florida has protected more than 2.4 million acres of land, including.....



- Over a **half million acres of conservation land** that is adjacent to a Florida military installation or under an active Military Operation Areas.



# Economic Benefits

- 20 military installations 3 command centers
- 7.5% gross state product – \$56 Billion/ year making it the third largest economic driver in the state.
- Advances state conservation goals
  - Military Buffer zones account for 550,000 acres of conservation land, totaling \$919,000,000
- Preserves green infrastructure and protects ecosystem services
- Protects Defense test and support services that enable the warfighter to put the right weapon on the right target at the right time”

# Funding

- State and local land acquisition programs: Florida Forever
- Federal programs: REPI, US Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife
- FL Defense Alliance /Defense grants
- Farm Bill – Wetlands Protection
- Mitigation: Transportation, Energy
- Climate Change Adaptation funds
- Ecoregional Partnerships – GCPEP
- Planning



# In Conclusion

- Defendable need and way forward
- Large landholdings
- Willing Sellers
- Multiple partners and Community Support
- Funding
- Ongoing Management





“*For nature* to have a reasonable chance of continuing to function as the *source of all wealth and life* for man, and all other species, then our conservation planning and execution must be on the *landscape and ecosystem level*.

This can be accomplished by drawing upon the skills of the *entrepreneur*, the power of the *government* and the passion of the *individual*, with all directed by the knowledge of *science*.”

*M.C. Davis, landowner*

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The Nature Conservancy's DOD Partnerships are made possible through the charitable support from companies, foundations and

people like you

who like what we do.

Please join today at

[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

Thank you.

