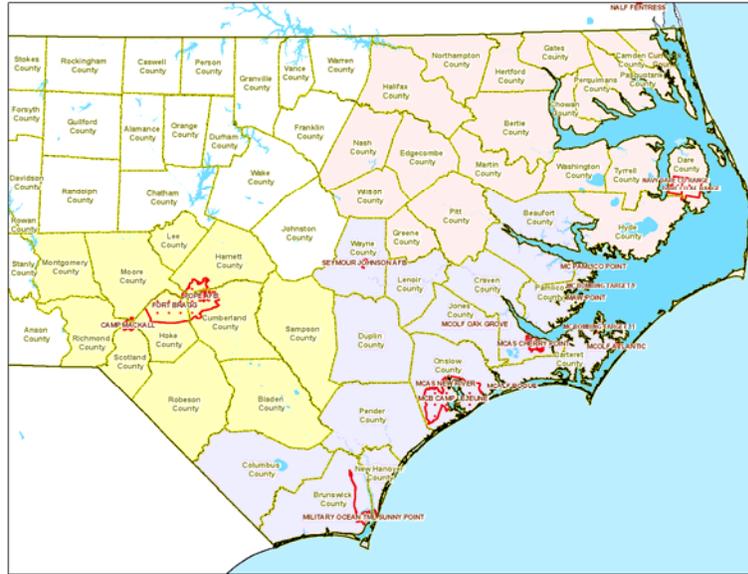


STRATEGIC LANDS INVENTORY

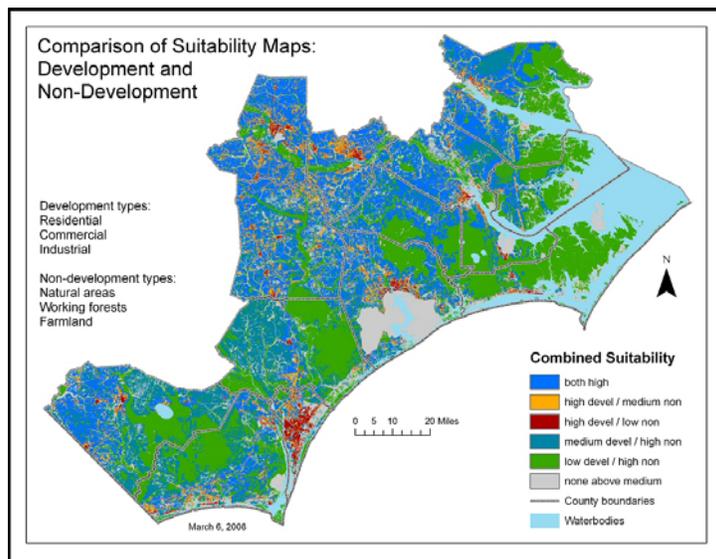
MAY 2008

Planning and Decision Support Tools for Achieving Sustainability in North Carolina

With funding from the NC Military Support Act grant program and additional resources provided by Marine Corps Installations East (MCIEAST) and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Strategic Lands Inventory project has developed compatible resource use suitability maps for a 13-county area of eastern North Carolina (purple on map at right) and is embarking on another 20 counties (pink). Based on modeling developed originally for the 11-county Sustainable Sandhills region (yellow), the Inventory will serve as a framework for the development of a parcel-based ranking and evaluation system for use by local/regional governments and other key stakeholders to identify easement purchase and other compatible use opportunities that promote economic development around military installations and within ranges and military airspace.



The Strategic Lands Inventory will document the mission “footprints” and requirements for an array of Federal, State, local, and private stakeholders, including military/national defense, economic,



environment, natural resources, and social/cultural. The products of the Strategic Lands Inventory include land use suitability maps for six land use types: residential, commercial, industrial, sustainable farmland, sustainable forestland, and natural resources. The suitability maps are validated using a stakeholder input process involving an array of Federal, State, regional, and local partners during the mapping process. Synthesis maps that illustrate competing values between land uses as the region grows and resources become scarcer also are being developed (see map at left).

These land use suitability maps help provide a decision support framework and a visualization of multiple benefits for local/regional governments, economic development partnerships, conservation organizations and other key stakeholders. The parcel-based ranking and evaluation system will help identify opportunities to support multiple mission requirements and avoid resource conflicts through a common information environment and collaborative decision making structure.

The Conservation Fund (the Fund) and the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) have served as the lead organizations in the development of the Strategic Lands Inventory suitability models and decision framework. Marstel-Day and ManTech SRS, through financial support from MCIEAST, OSD, and NC DENR, contributed significant support in the stakeholder involvement phase of the project for the 13-county area. Sustainable Sandhills, through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the initial suitability models that served as the foundation for the current effort.

The Strategic Lands Inventory is a key input into the broader regional efforts being undertaken by the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS - <http://www.serppas.org>), a partnership formed between OSD representatives, the four military services, Federal agencies, and environmental and natural resource agency officials of the southeastern United States (currently North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida). The strategic lands inventory is an integral part of SERPPAS efforts to develop an appropriate governance structure for handling regional compatible resource use and economic development holistically among an array of stakeholders and to ensure policy and science integration through regional strategies, projects, complementary efforts, and supporting actions. The SERPPAS mission is to seize opportunities and solve problems in value-adding ways that provide mutual and multiple benefits to the Partners, and that sustain the mission and secure the future for all the Partners, the region, and the nation. The SERPPAS and its mission exist to meet a common vision of a group of state, federal, and military partners tapping the power of an effective working relationship, partnership, innovation, leadership, teamwork, and networks to achieve the mission of the partnership.



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