



Longleaf pine forest in the gap between Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall.
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Red-cockaded woodpecker.
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Gray Eagle.
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PRESERVING LONGLEAF PINE FOREST, PROTECTING FORT BRAGG, PROVIDING PUBLIC LANDS FOR ALL TO ENJOY

The Nature Conservancy and the Army have worked together over the past two decades to protect more than 23,000 acres near Fort Bragg. This conservation is great for the environment – longleaf pine forest is one of the world’s most significant habitats. It is also important for national security. Keeping longleaf pine forest development-free ensures that training at the world’s largest military base facility can continue unimpeded by incompatible development on adjoining land.

This effort has also added to public lands in the Sandhills for all to enjoy. To date, the Conservancy transferred 7,495 acres to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to become state game lands and another 4,107 acres were transferred to the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation to become Carvers Creek State Park. The Conservancy also owns and manages a number of preserves in the region. Today hunters, hikers, and nature lovers are reaping the benefits of this conservation. The Department of Defense provides significant funding for land conservation, but those federal dollars require a local match.

More than 18 miles of base boundary have been protected through this effort. But, there is still critical work to be done. Today, as the military increases its use of large unmanned drones, the Conservancy and the Department of Defense are focusing on land that lies between Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall. Conserving property in that gap will ensure that the Army can fly its Gray Eagle drone from Camp Mackall, where it is stored, to Fort Bragg. There are several large tracts of land in this area. Keeping them free of development will preserve the flight path for the Gray Eagle and protect habitat for the federally endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker and a variety of other plants and animals. It will also add land to Sandhills Game Land. The Conservancy estimates that it will cost about \$19 million to purchase this land, with the Army providing about half of the cost. With the current funding of the North Carolina Land and Water Fund, it would take years to complete this project. In the meantime, this land could be sold and developed – hurting nature and the military’s mission.

