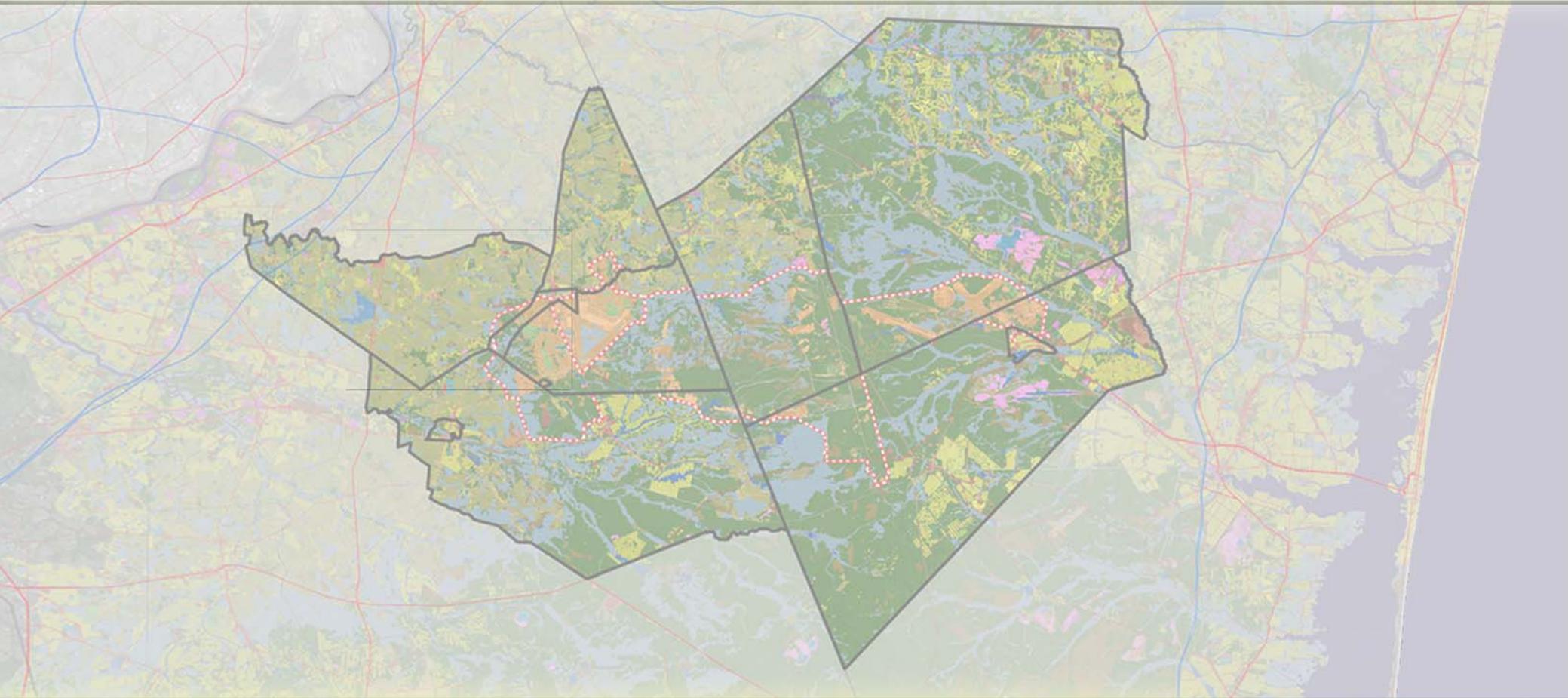


# *Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Joint Land Use Study for Counties of Ocean and Burlington*



## Section 11 - Existing Land Protection Strategies

The Joint Base is fortunate to be located proximate to significant areas of state protected open space (Colliers Mills to the northeast and Lebanon State Forest to the south). These preserved lands serve as a natural buffer to the Base.

Further land preservation around the Joint Base has been a cooperative effort. Ocean and Burlington County have been working with the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), the Pinelands Commission, NAES Lakehurst, McGuire AFB and the local municipalities to preserve lands around the Joint Base.

In 2008, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst won the New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Award. The Joint Base along with state, county, regional, and local officials have been working together to identify emerging land use conflicts before they manifest and to secure land use preservation around the Joint Base. This effort began in 2007 and 246 acres of lands were successfully preserved the same year. Lakehurst Base signed a 5 year memorandum of agreement with Ocean County that allows the base to provide up to 50% funding for land preservation actions, providing the balance is made up with county or state dollars.

As part of the Joint Base program, McGuire Air Force Base applied for a federal grant in 2008 and received \$1 million that was awarded to Burlington County for farmland preservation. Burlington County has already preserved 6,673 acres of farmland in the 2-mile JLUS study area and is hoping to preserve an additional 26,000 acres of farmland within the study area. In 2008, the effort had over \$3 million in DoD funds and more than \$9 million in partner funds. In February of 2009, Burlington County auctioned off eight preserved farms in six towns, raising \$3.5 million for future farmland preservation. Some of the parcels were located in North Hanover, Pemberton, and Springfield Townships near Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The County purchased the farms for \$16 million, then restricted the deeds to allow only agricultural use and provided the transfer of the lands to local farmers for agricultural use.

The Pinelands Commission, using monies from the Pinelands Conservation Fund, has also targeted 100,000 acres of land for protection within their management areas. The Pinelands

Conservation Fund was created in 2004 as part of an agreement with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to permit the construction and upgrade of an electric transmission line through eastern portions of the Pinelands. Under the agreement, the special fund was established to further the Pinelands protection program and ensure a greater level of protection of the unique resources of the Pinelands Area. The utility that built the transmission lines, Atlantic City Electric (formerly Conectiv), provided \$13 million to establish the Fund. The Fund is dedicated to three types of projects: \$6 million for permanent land protection (\$4.2 million of which has been allocated); \$3.5 million for conservation planning and research projects; and \$3.5 million to support community planning and design initiatives. The Pinelands program works in partnership with local governments and nonprofit organizations to preserve lands.

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