



REPI Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program

BUFFER PARTNERSHIPS FACT SHEET

The Department of Defense's (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program protects the Nation's military readiness, enhances relationships with communities, and preserves the environment.

The REPI program funds cost-sharing partnerships for the military with state and local governments and private conservation organizations, as authorized by Congress in 2002 under section 2684a of title 10, United States Code. The partnerships obtain easements or other interests in land from willing sellers that preserve critical buffer areas near our military installations.

Since program inception, REPI buffer partnerships have protected **almost 315,000 acres of buffer land in 72 locations in 27 states**. Overseen by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and implemented by the military Services, these projects help to preserve vital missions at key installations.

Congress has raised REPI's original funding from \$12.5 million (FY 2005) to \$50.5 million (FY 2013). Thus far, for completed transactions, DoD's \$450 million investment in the program has attracted over \$440 million in partner contributions. With their ability to leverage other funding, REPI buffer partnerships have proven to be cost-effective tools in protecting mission capabilities that are at risk.

WHY THE NEED FOR REPI BUFFER PARTNERSHIPS?

DoD's ability to conduct realistic live-fire training and weapons system testing is vital to preparing warfighters and their equipment for real-world combat. However, these military activities are often incompatible with civilian land uses.

For example, lighting from nearby development can reduce the effectiveness of night vision training, while that same training causes noise, dust, and vibrations that impact neighbors. Also, DoD installations are often the last islands of protected open space for threatened and endangered species.

REPI partnerships protect open and natural spaces that buffer installations to avoid some of these land use conflicts and provide habitat for wildlife. REPI buffer partnerships also help sustain installation capabilities and avoid more expensive alternatives, such as the need for training workarounds or mission relocation.

Through buffer partnerships, DoD leverages its funds with outside organizations also interested in preserving land. The easements created through this cost-sharing approach allow the landowner — be it a private landowner or a partner from a non-federal agency or conservation organization — to maintain ownership of the land.

These protected lands are not owned by the military or used for military training or testing. For the military, they serve as compatible land use buffers, and can also reduce on-base habitat restriction requirements by protecting additional off-base species habitat. For the partner, the protected lands advance their missions in a host of ways, including as described below.

DELIVERING MULTIPLE BENEFITS

REPI buffer partnerships deliver multiple benefits and demonstrate the power of innovative collaboration in the following ways:

- **Enhanced military readiness** by limiting incompatible development near military installations
- **Protected valuable habitat** and provided opportunities for endangered species recovery
- **Preserved open space**, including working farms and forestland, that add value to surrounding communities
- **Strengthened military-community relationships** and forged partnerships with new allies
- **Spurred collaboration** with other federal land conservation programs and landscape-scale initiatives

REPI BUFFER PARTNERSHIPS AROUND THE COUNTRY



The map above shows REPI buffer partnerships through FY 2013 at 72 locations in 27 states across the country.

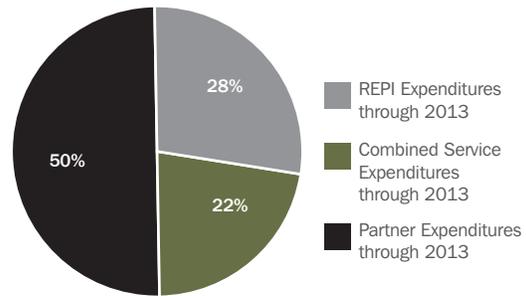
REQUISITES OF A REPI BUFFER PARTNERSHIP

- Agreement between the military and eligible entity — State or local government or private conservation organization
- Military and partner share the cost for partner to acquire a land interest or easement to protect the land
- Land owner enters into sale voluntarily and willingly
- Protected land ensures compatible land use or habitat preservation



Example Partnership: Located in the Mojave Desert, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, provides vital training before deployment to desert combat areas. However, these training requirements put a strain on sensitive desert natural resources on-base. In partnership with the Mojave Desert Land Trust, Twentynine Palms helped protect land adjacent to the popular Joshua Tree National Park, and provided habitat for the threatened desert tortoise.

REPI PROGRAM LEVERAGES PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS



Partner funds have covered almost half of the total costs to date. REPI partners and contributors have included:

- The Nature Conservancy
- The Conservation Fund
- Local and regional land trusts
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (including Forest Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (including Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program)
- State and local governments