



REPI Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program

2014 REPI CHALLENGE FACT SHEET

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program allows the military Services to enter into unique cost-sharing partnerships with state and local governments and private conservation organizations to preserve compatible land uses around military installations and to conserve natural landscapes in support of military readiness. The REPI program has protected almost 315,000 acres of buffer land around 72 DoD installations in 27 states across the country.

Conserving the land necessary to adequately buffer military bases threatened by incompatible development requires DoD and its partners to “do more with less” and approach REPI partnerships with flexibility, creativity, and innovative thinking. To this end, in 2012 the REPI Program designed the **REPI Challenge**, an annual competition offering up to \$5 million to projects that protect large parcels of land and leverage greater partner cost-share to better benefit the military, the taxpayer, and the environment.

In particular, the goals of the REPI Challenge are to:

- **Cultivate projects** that conserve land at a greater scale and test promising ways to finance land protection.
- **Help the REPI Program** meet its ambitious goals with limited funding (projects must have at least a one-to-one funding match).
- **Demonstrate benefits** above and beyond normal requirements for REPI projects for important military missions and natural resources.
- **Harness the creativity** of the private sector to access and leverage unconventional sources of funding, philanthropic sources, and market-based approaches.

ABOUT THE WINNING 2014 PROJECTS

\$5M of REPI Program Funds leveraged with \$14.17M in partner funding to protect 8,159 acres.

Fort Huachuca, the Arizona Land and Water Trust, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are working together to reduce land and water development between the post and the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

- A REPI award of \$4 million is being leveraged more than 2:1 to permanently restrict development on 5,900 acres of rangeland. This buffer protects over 160,000 annual air operations and reduces proliferation of electromagnetic interference for 800 square miles of air space.
- Protecting these lands will prevent the development of up to 1,400 new wells, ensuring availability of scarce groundwater resources for the installation, the surrounding community, and the local native grassland habitat.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, the Chesapeake Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), USDA NRCS, the states of Maryland and Delaware, and the Conservation Fund are working to protect a corridor along the Nanticoke River to protect land under the Atlantic Test Range airspace heavily used by planes for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) missions.

- A REPI award of \$1 million will be leveraged more than 5:1 with contributions from this cohesive partnership to protect 2,259 acres of forests, wetlands, and farmland.
- Maintaining undeveloped areas around NAS Patuxent River reduces noise and safety concerns, and prevents costly restrictions and delays to training and testing.
- The parcels targeted by the NAS Patuxent River project are the last remaining unprotected areas within an 8,500-acre wildlife corridor area.

ABOUT THE WINNING INSTALLATIONS

Fort Huachuca is home to the premier restricted military airspace for unmanned aircraft system training in the Western U.S. and also supports personnel from the Air Force, Marine Corps, and U.S. Border Patrol. The post's location near the Sonoran Desert is perfect for its "Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance" mission.



A C-130 aircraft takes off during training with the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center, which takes advantage of Fort Huachuca's open and uncongested airspace also used for training with unmanned aircraft systems.

NAS Patuxent River is home to the Navy's premier aircraft RDT&E facility and relies on the land, air, and sea ranges of the Atlantic Test Range to conduct its mission. The Atlantic Test Range covers over 2,700 square miles of restricted airspace from surface up to 85,000 feet, spanning parts of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia.



F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter test aircraft perform a formation test flight, which includes a formation takeoff and landing and structural loads testing, in the Atlantic Test Range at NAS Patuxent River.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS REALIZED THROUGH THE REPI CHALLENGE

The opportunity to develop partnerships presented by the REPI Challenge is reflected in the quantity and quality of proposals received. In 2014, 11 proposals revealed over \$48 million in potential partner funding, at a greater than 1:1 match to REPI funding, to protect potentially over 140,000 acres across 9 states. Some other highlights and opportunities include:

- **Large Scale Protection:** Six proposals have the potential for protecting at least 5,000 acres each, including 100,000 acres adjacent to Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman, Oregon, and nearly 9,000 acres near Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.
- **Leveraging New Funding Sources:** The projects have the potential to leverage federal programs with a variety of funding sources, including from local and state governments, non-governmental organizations, private investment companies, and private foundations.
- **High Priority Landscapes:** All the proposals are anchored by high priority military installations located in ecologically important landscapes such as the Kansas Flint Hills tallgrass prairies, Northern Everglades, Chesapeake Watershed, and North Oahu.
- **Natural Resources Management:** In addition to protecting important landscapes and working lands, there exists the potential to directly benefit numerous threatened, endangered, or candidate species.

The 2014 REPI Challenge revealed a number of opportunities that also reflect the goals and spirit of the complementary Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. Launched in 2013 by DoD, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation's defense mission — places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes. For more information on the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership and Sentinel Landscapes finalists, please visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/08/01/sentinel-landscapes-where-conservation-working-lands-and-national-defense-interests->.