



# REPI Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program

## 2016 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 over **437,000 acres** of land around **88 DoD installations** in **30 states** across the country.

Conserving the land necessary to adequately protect 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, the REPI Program designed the REPI Challenge, an annual competition aiming to:



**Cultivate projects** that conserve land at a greater scale and test promising ways to finance land protection.

# 1:1

**Help the REPI Program** meet its ambitious goals with limited funding—projects must exceed a one-to-one funding match.



**Demonstrate benefits** above and beyond normal REPI project requirements 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.

### REPI CHALLENGE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

Five years of the REPI Challenge have resulted in the following benefits at **9 locations**:

# \$29M

of REPI funds

# \$85M

in cash contributions and bargain sale value

# 73,164

protected acres of working lands, habitat, and open spaces

# 73%

partner cost share

### NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS REALIZED THROUGH THE 2016 REPI CHALLENGE

The quantity and quality of REPI Challenge proposals reflects a continued appetite for new partnership and innovative conservation opportunities. Funds in excess of \$32 million were requested in the 2016 REPI Challenge proposals by 8 finalists to be leveraged with over \$61 million in potential partner funding to protect over 55,600 acres across 7 states. Other highlights and opportunities outlined in these proposals include engaging private foundations as new partners, developing large landscape projects that benefit multiple high-value military installations, providing for climate change and sea level rise resiliency, and delivering direct benefits to numerous rare species.

These numbers demonstrate the incredible capacity of local partners to protect military missions, conserve natural resources, and benefit local communities. The first three awards in the 2016 REPI Challenge cycle will tap into this enthusiasm, collaboration, and creativity. Awards at Fort Huachuca, Fort Hood, and NAS Patuxent River will leverage \$5.2 million in REPI funds with over \$20 million in partner funding to advance protection of 7,929 acres in Arizona, Texas, and Maryland.

## THE 2016 REPI CHALLENGE PROJECT AWARDS

**\$1.5M**

REPI Program Funds

**\$2.2M**

Partner Funding

**1,015**

Protected Acres

**59%**

Partner Cost Share

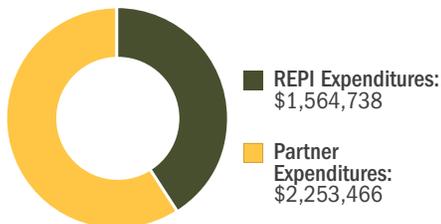


### FORT HOOD

Fort Hood, the Compatible Lands Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Earth Day Texas, and multiple other state and non-profit partners, together with local landowners, will protect over 1,000 acres directly adjacent to the installation's western border where heavy maneuver training and live-fire exercises take place. These lands within Fort Hood's highest priority area allow the installation's heavy battalion task force to continue to perform multiple and intensive scenarios over several weeks at a time across 67,000 acres of vital training area. Suburban sprawl and the growth of high density housing near training lands and under flight paths threaten the ability of Fort Hood to train effectively due to complaints about noise, dust, and vibrations.

In addition to decreasing the threat of encroachment and training restrictions due to residential development, this partnership will result in job training and employment opportunities for Veterans through compatible "green manufacturing" and Veterans-to-Farmers programs. The project lands also fall within key migration routes and breeding grounds for the Monarch Butterfly, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently considering for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Protection of these properties also prevent the loss and fragmentation of habitat for the Federally listed Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo.

Figure 1 Funding



### Partners

- Compatible Lands Foundation
- Department of Defense
- Be Housing
- Colorado River Land Trust
- Earth Day Texas
- Farmer Veteran Coalition
- Texas Center Point Veterans Services
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- U.S. Department of Agriculture — Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Labor — Veterans Employment & Training Services

The 2016 REPI Challenge revealed a number of opportunities that also reflect the goals and spirit of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. The Fort Hood Private Lands Conservation Initiative is a partnership to preserve grazing lands, protect wildlife habitat for such species as the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Monarch Butterfly, and enhance water quality and quantity in the Trinity Aquifer by the conservation of important recharge lands. Given the strong connection between military, working lands, and conservation, NRCS awarded \$700,000 in Regional Conservation Partnership Program funds and \$159,000 in Agricultural Conservation Easement Program funds toward the project. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership continues to explore and support new places where preserving the rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects significant test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes.

## THE 2016 REPI CHALLENGE PROJECT AWARDS

**\$2.6M**

REPI Program Funds

**\$10.3M**

Partner Funding

**3,500**

Protected Acres

**80%**

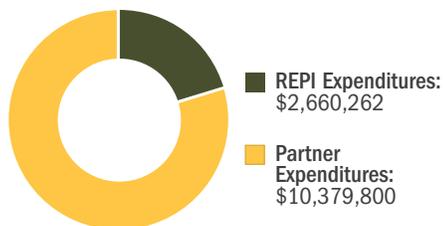
Partner Cost Share



### FORT HUACHUCA

Fort Huachuca is working with the Arizona Land and Water Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and State of Arizona to permanently restrict development on 3,500 acres of historic working ranch lands under the R2303 Military Airspace and Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range. Protection of these lands will reduce proliferation of electromagnetic interference with electronic testing and support the installation's 160,000 annual air operations, including flight patterns used by A-10 and F-16 training aircraft.

Figure 1 Funding



In addition to maintaining an unrestricted military mission environment, the REPI Challenge project will prevent degradation of water resources within the San Pedro River watershed relied on by the installation, Soldiers and families stationed there, and the community. The ranch lands also contain existing or proposed critical habitat for several species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the native semi-desert and plains grasslands, including the Chiricahua Leopard Frog, Gila Chub, Jaguar, Huachuca water-umbel, Northern Mexican gartersnake, and Western yellow-billed cuckoo. Proactively working to protect and restore this landscape will benefit landowners and their agricultural operations by decreasing the need for future ESA listings and help to recover populations from further decline.



### Partners

- Arizona Land and Water Trust
- Department of Defense
- Arizona Antelope Foundation
- Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
- Arizona Department of Game and Fish
- Arizona State Forestry Division
- Borderlands Restoration
- Bureau of Land Management
- Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Sky Island Alliance
- U.S. Department of Agriculture — Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

The 2016 REPI Challenge revealed a number of opportunities that also reflect the goals and spirit of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. Designated a Sentinel Landscape in 2015, the Fort Huachuca partnership will leverage this REPI Challenge award with \$5.9 million from the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Together, the Sentinel Landscape partners continue to demonstrate their commitment to preserving the rural economy, wildlife habitat, and military mission across the important Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape.

## THE 2016 REPI CHALLENGE PROJECT AWARDS

**\$1M**

REPI Program Funds

**\$7.8M**

Partner Funding

**3,414**

Protected Acres

**89%**

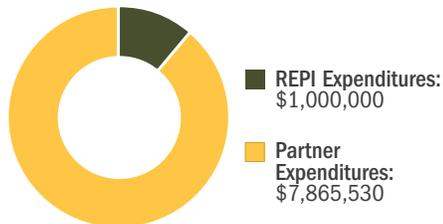
Partner Cost Share



### NAS PATUXENT RIVER AND ATLANTIC TEST RANGES

Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River and the Atlantic Test Ranges, Chesapeake Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, St. Mary's County, Lower Shore Land Trust, and the State of Maryland, together with local landowners, are working to protect 28 parcels under Special Use Airspace and helicopter operating areas from incompatible development due to proximity to the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. These areas are heavily used by aircraft for supersonic flight training missions, field carrier landing practice, and Naval research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E). Protection of these properties will support approximately 150,000 annual operations at NAS Patuxent River and over 2,000 test events at the Atlantic Test Ranges.

Figure 1 Funding



This project hopes to leverage funding to conserve lands currently in agricultural use and high quality wildlife habitat, which are compatible with the Navy's airspace training and testing mission. The properties will connect existing public lands and easements to create larger conservation corridors, home to several Federal threatened and endangered species, which will allow for habitat migration in the face of sea level rise. In addition to military readiness and environmental benefits, the project supports a rich diversity of cultural assets, including maintaining the natural vista from the Harriet Tubman National Monument, preserving the legacy of the Nanticoke Tribe, and providing new public access sites along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake and Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trails.



### Partners

- Chesapeake Conservancy
- Department of Defense
- Calvert County
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- Lower Shore Land Trust
- Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.
- St. Mary's County
- State of Maryland
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Department of Agriculture — Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The 2016 REPI Challenge revealed a number of opportunities that also reflect the goals and spirit of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. Designated a Sentinel Landscape in 2015, the NAS Patuxent River partners are strategically aligning the Navy's land preservation goals with other Federal and state agencies. Partners hope to leverage this REPI Challenge award with over \$1 million from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Wetlands Conservation Act program to protect properties in the Nanticoke River corridor. Together, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and State of Maryland are working to increase protection within the Sentinel Landscape by identifying areas in the Nanticoke watershed as a priority area within each of the agencies.