



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**REPI**READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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**REPI Newsletter | June 2023 Edition**

Please see below for news and upcoming announcements relevant to the REPI community! If you would like to have an announcement featured in next month's newsletter or are interested in ways to partner with the REPI Program, connect with us at [osd.repi@mail.mil](mailto:osd.repi@mail.mil). For more information about the REPI Program and supportive Department of Defense (DOD) efforts, please visit [www.repi.mil](http://www.repi.mil).

If this message was forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe to our listserv, please [click here](#).

**Message from the Program Director**

Dear REPI Partners and Stakeholders,

We're thrilled that the 2023 DOD Climate Resilience Workshop is just under two weeks away! Hosted by the Offices of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, the workshop will be an excellent opportunity for our stakeholders and partners to explore the many facets of climate change, a national security threat that has tangible impacts to military readiness. In addition to the various plenary sessions, DOD personnel, partners, and stakeholders will be able to select from over 30 issue sessions, deep dives, and workshops focused on the Department's partnerships, strategic plans, and installation resilience case studies.

I'm also pleased to share that the REPI Program will host dedicated office hours during the Climate Resilience Workshop to meet our team and discuss current or potential installation resilience project plans. As the REPI Program continues to expand its reach and impact, so does the REPI team continue to grow to meet the program's demands. I'm thrilled to announce several new roles this year below:

## Meet the REPI Team

### **Mark Fox, INDOPACOM REPI Liaison**

Last month, the REPI Program welcomed Mark Fox as the NDOPACOM REPI Liaison based on O'ahu Island in Hawai'i. Mark Fox comes to the REPI Program from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), having served as a Fish and Wildlife Administrator for the Sustainable Fisheries Division at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office since 2020. Mark's extensive expertise and recognition throughout the Pacific as a trusted action officer in natural resource conservation and partnership building will enhance the REPI Program's initiative of promoting greater collaboration and expanding outreach between the DOD and its local, state, and non-governmental partners throughout the Pacific region.

### **Erica Rohr, DOD's Noise Program Director**

Earlier this year, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Real Property DASD(RP) hired Erica Rohr as DOD's Noise Program Director. Congress and local communities are intensely focused on noise generated by military operations, training, and testing while personnel and other resources for noise issues within the Military Departments. DASD(RP) created a noise position to address this issue and lead by example to accelerate policy revitalization, coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration, and use programs such as the REPI Program to expand cooperative compatible use.

in addition to highlighting our more tenured REPI team:

- **Andy Porth, Director for REPI Projects and Resources**
- **Jaime Simon, Director for External Affairs and Communications**
- **Rob Rule, Western US and Pacific Partnerships Coordinator**

We invite you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to connect with the REPI team at the DOD Climate Resilience Workshop. We look forward to seeing our partners in St. Louis!

Best,

Kristin Thomasgard  
REPI Program Director

**Save the Dates: Partner Funding Opportunities**



Explore the newly released REPI Resilience Project Funding Guide for a comprehensive program calendar. The guide provides a program calendar featuring key application opening dates and deadlines across all programs. Every program includes a summary of funding opportunities, eligibility requirements, and application information. To download the program calendar or learn more about program eligibility, [click here](#).

### **Featured Upcoming Opportunities:**

This month, NOAA is releasing a new Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge. This new program will provide approximately \$575 million in funding from the Inflation Reduction Act for investing in holistic, collaborative approaches to coastal resilience at regional scales. Eligible entities include coastal states, territories, Tribes, counties, cities, nonprofit organization, and academic institutes. There is no non-federal matching requirement for this funding opportunity, but applicants are encouraged to leverage NOAA funding with other funds or in-kind contributions from a broad range of other public and private funding sources.

Applicants will apply to one of two tracks in the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge. The first track is for projects that will support regional collaborative building and strategy development, with a focus on laying the groundwork for future resilience efforts. The second track will support implementation of resilience adaptation and actions, with a focus on implementing climate adaptation actions. There will be \$25 million allocated to the first track and \$550 million dedicated to the second track.

Interested applicants should submit a Climate Resilience Regional Challenge letter of intent (LOI) by Monday, August 21. The LOI should be no more than five pages and provide a concise description of the proposed work and its relevant to the program

priorities. NOAA will invite applicants to submit full proposals by Tuesday, February 13, 2024, if their LOI strongly aligns with the program priorities.

If you would like to learn more about the Challenge, you can join the virtual learning sessions on June 27 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM Eastern Time (ET), July 11 from 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET, or July 12 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM ET [Click here](#) for more information.

## **Land Trust Honors Nancy Schuster Natoli with Memorial Preserve**



This month, the Georgia Alabama Land Trust, Inc. (GALT) honored Nancy Schuster Natoli (1965 - 2013) with a memorial preserve in recognition of her tireless effort to conserve land for the benefit of all and especially for future generations. Nancy served in the Pentagon as the Program Director of the REPI Program and was dedicated to conserving land and open spaces, especially land surrounding military installations. The Nancy Schuster Natoli Memorial Preserve is five acres and is situated within the larger, eleven-hundred-acre Elbow Swamp property owned by GALT. In 2010, GALT acquired the Elbow Swamp property pursuant to Fort Stewart's Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program under the REPI Program. The REPI Program protected the Elbow Swamp from encroachment that otherwise would have likely occurred due to urban growth and development surrounding Fort Stewart. The property's protected open space conserves important training areas on Fort Stewart. And in turn, Fort Stewart's suitability for training is enhanced by the permanent protection of this eleven-hundred-acre property buffering the installation. Since GALT acquired the Elbow Swamp property over a decade ago, GALT has engaged in upland and wetland restoration. Notably, longleaf pine has been planted within the



Memorial Site and the surrounding uplands and is thriving. And, while much more restoration remains to be accomplished, this long-term project is symbolic of Nancy's career-long commitment to large-scale land conservation and is also a significant accomplishment toward meeting REPI Program's conservation goals – which Nancy played a significant role in both establishing and working toward.

To learn more about the legacy of Nancy Natoli's conservation work or to request access to the memorial preserve, [click here](#).

## Sentinel Landscapes Partnership



### Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Site Visit

This month, the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape hosted a site visit attended by military installation commanding staff, landscape coordinators and partners, Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC) representatives, and REPI Program staff. The Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape covers over 805,000 acres of land along the northern stretch of the Mississippi River. It is anchored by the main National Guard Training Center for Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois units. The sentinel landscape also encompasses 40 minor watersheds, 50 miles of the Mississippi River, 49,000 acres of water bodies, the Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and 42,000 acres of public land. Since 2015, Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape partners have pursued innovative, grassroots projects that protect agricultural and recreational land around the installation. As a result, the sentinel landscape has improved water quality entering the Mississippi River, preserved critical habitat corridors, bolstered local agricultural economies, and enabled Camp Ripley to conduct year-round training activities with limited restrictions. To kick off the site visit, Adjutant General MG Shawn Manke welcomed the group, facilitated discussions that included installation staff and partners, and focused on the program's history, cultural resource management, community engagement, and climate resilience initiatives. During the site visit, partners

attended field visits to engage with landowners and highlight ongoing projects, partnerships, and recent successes within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape. The workshop closed with a strategic planning discussion focused on enhancing landscape partnership capacity and funding, building metrics to measure mission impact, and expanding climate resilience project implementation.

### **2024 Designation Cycle Now Open**

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership has officially launched a 2024 designation cycle! Apply today to become part of an innovative community working to strengthen military readiness, conserve natural resources, bolster agricultural and forestry economies, and increase climate change resilience. Information on this exciting opportunity can be found on the partnership's website.

All parties interested in applying for a sentinel landscape designation must submit an expression of interest to **[FCC@sentinellandscapes.org](mailto:FCC@sentinellandscapes.org)** by 11:59 PM in your local time zone on July 27.

### **NFWF Announces Record \$18 Million in Conservation Grants to Restore Iconic Longleaf Pine Ecosystem**



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has announced \$18 million in new conservation grants from the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund (LLSF) to restore, enhance, and protect longleaf pine forests in nine southern states. This year's grant slate, the largest in the program's history, will leverage over \$14.7 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of \$32.7 million. Longleaf pine forests are some of the most biodiverse in the world, providing habitat for 29 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act while also providing clean water, outdoor recreational opportunities, and forest jobs. The forests also support our national defense by

maintaining natural landscapes around military installations and providing realistic training environments. The LLSF is guided by and provides key financial support for on-the-ground public and private partners working to implement projects that contribute to the larger America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI).

The LLSF exemplifies the power of collaboration, bringing together different funders to support landscape-scale conservation, including DOD. For every dollar DOD invests, approximately \$14 in matching partner funds will help establish more than 4,200 acres of new longleaf pine, implement prescribed fire on more than 200,000 acres, and enhance an additional 15,000 acres of existing longleaf pine through management treatments. Altogether, seven military installations in the Southeast will directly benefit from LLSF projects.

"The Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund continues to be a valuable partner with the Department of Defense, supporting sustainable military readiness. This collaborative conservation effort benefits longleaf pine ecosystems while also sustaining the operations of military installations and test and training activities in the Southeast important to our national defense," said Mr. Michael McGhee, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment and Energy Resilience. "Working with partners to restore the longleaf pine ecosystem supports national defense by enhancing landscape resilience, promoting compatible land uses near our military installations, mitigating wildfire risk, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing carbon sequestration through land management practices. We are proud to be a part of these endeavors and continue to support the protection, creation, and enhancement of longleaf pine forests through these collective efforts."

To read NFWF's full press release, [click here](#).

## Upcoming REPI Program Events

### REPI Program Webinar: Connecting Counties & Military Installations

Counties neighboring installations play a critical role in sustaining training and testing space required for carrying out vital military missions. Recognizing the central role local communities play in supporting military operations, DOD works collaboratively with state and local partners to protect valuable habitats and avoid land-use conflicts near our nation's military installations. Join us on August 9, 2023, to learn about



the resources and opportunities available to counties that foster and strengthen military and county partnerships.

For detailed webinar descriptions and connection instructions, visit [www.repi.mil](http://www.repi.mil).

## REPI News Roundup



### **Conservation Florida, NRCS Permanently Protect 527-Acre XL Ranch Lightsey Cove within Florida Wildlife Corridor**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (Sebring, Florida) reported that Conservation Florida, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has permanently protected 527 acres within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. In collaboration with the NRCS and the Lightsey family, the land conservancy purchased a conservation easement on XL Ranch Lightsey Cove. A conservation easement will safeguard the property's incredible habitat for Florida's rare and endangered species. XL Ranch Lightsey Cove was deemed a Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (GSS) in Florida under the NRCS' Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, one of the first of its kind. In addition to being a part of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, XL Ranch Lightsey Cove also lies within the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) Sentinel Landscape. The APAFR Sentinel Landscape covers almost 1.7 million acres of land and is known for its rich biodiversity and abundance of private ranches. It's anchored by the Air Force's largest primary air-to-ground training range east of the Mississippi River, which is used by every Armed Forces branch.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary  
of Defense  
(Energy, Installations, and  
Environment)  
E-mail: [osd.repi@mail.mil](mailto:osd.repi@mail.mil)