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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Winter 2014

[National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting](#)  
February 2-5, 2014 in Anaheim, CA

[National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Winter Policy Conference](#)  
February 2-5, 2014 in Reston, VA

[Association of Defense Communities Installation Innovation Forum](#)  
February 10-12, 2014 in San Antonio, TX

## Winter 2013 Edition

### [REPI Program Newsletter](#)

## Message from the Director

**Holiday greetings from the REPI Program!** Now is the season to spend time with friends and family, watch old movies by the fireplace, cook homemade meals, and reflect on the past year. And what a year it has been, full of challenges and uncertainties across all levels of government: federal, state, and local. In this era of sequestration, decreasing budgets, and government shutdowns, we have all been operating in a constrained resource environment for several years now and anticipate those resources to become even more limited in the foreseeable future. Given this new reality, it's not surprising that we have seen our trusted REPI partners and communities step up to the challenge and help us increase our buying power by doing more with less.

In 2013, we expanded our REPI Challenge to all states across the country to incentivize new business practices that lead to big action and even bigger ideas if we work at a larger scale, harness market forces, and look for non-traditional funding sources and financing techniques. Between both winning projects at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Eglin Air Force Base, we were able to turn \$5.25 million of REPI Program Funds into \$30.75 million to protect 23,518 acres of lands near missions critical to DoD. At JBLM, we partnered with the Center for Natural Lands Management, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Thurston County, the state of Washington, and private landowners to preserve critical prairie habitat and establish a stewardship endowment fund to restore and manage the land. At Eglin Air Force Base, the state of Florida and Trust for Public Land worked together with a private landowner to preserve a significant landscape of open space and habitat as part of the largest REPI transaction in the history of the program.

2013 also marked the 10th anniversary of the REPI Program, a significant milestone for any program. In 10 exciting years, we've protected 306,000 acres of important habitat, working lands, and other land uses that are compatible with our military's test and training activities at 70 installations in 26 states. All of this has been

accomplished with more than half of total transaction costs coming from outside DoD. Our 2014 REPI Report to Congress will be available in the late spring to effectively communicate these results to key decision-makers. Please continue to visit [www.repi.mil](http://www.repi.mil) for program updates, fact sheets, and news items of successful partnership actions.

Of course, DoD cannot accomplish our goals alone; partnership is fundamental to our program and is required in our authority. In 2013, we reached further into the innovation toolbox by partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Interior to identify and advance Sentinel Landscapes as a new way to leverage funding and accelerate results across lands that demonstrate a benefit to natural resources conservation, working lands, and national defense. We also continue to realize benefits across multiple states with our Western Regional Partnership and Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability. We are engaging with environmental and natural resources organizations and reaching out to the agricultural and forestry stakeholders. We have cooperative agreements with several organizations, including the U.S. Endowment for Forests and Communities, Land Trust Alliance, National Conference of State Legislatures, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. All of these strategic engagements and agreements are essential for expanding REPI in the years to come.

Finally, I want to take a moment to honor Nancy Natoli. As most of you are aware, Nancy passed away on September 17 after a difficult battle with a tremendously aggressive cancer. The loss of Nancy has left a void that will never completely be filled. Nancy was a friend, a colleague, a mentor, and an all-around incredible person who positively impacted everyone she touched. She is deeply missed; however, her vision, excitement, and passion about this great work lives on in all of us. The greatest honor we can pay her is to "keep moving forward, and getting to work." Nancy also believed that "more communication is better than less communication." It is my commitment, and intention with this quarterly newsletter, that we will do just that.

Thank you for your endless passion, constant professionalism, and dedicated commitment to our partnerships. I look forward to more success, collaboration, and innovation in 2014.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Thomasgard

## **USDA, DOI, and DoD Sign MOU to Advance Sentinel Landscapes**

On December 13, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of the Interior (DOI), and Department of Defense (DoD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to advance Sentinel Landscapes across the country. The purpose of this MOU is to

establish a mutually beneficial partnership between the agencies to coordinate delivery of Federal programs to optimize the benefits of Federal assistance to landowners whose working and natural lands also serve to protect the military mission. The MOU establishes a Sentinel Landscapes Coordinating Committee to determine needs and identify opportunities for collaboration, jointly designate Sentinel Landscapes for action, promote successful tools and approaches, and facilitate coordination among the partners.

Sentinel Landscapes are places where preserving the working and rural character of our private lands is important for both national defense and conservation priorities. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership will focus on overlapping priority areas near military installations to help landowners make improvements to the land that benefit their operations, enhance wildlife habitat, and enable DoD's training missions to continue.

The REPI Program Director is designated as DoD's principal contact for the MOU. The MOU will be in effect until January 1, 2019.

## **NCSL Report: "Preparing for Duty: State Policy Options in Sustaining Military Installations"**

This report – produced by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) with support from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) – aims to provide state legislatures with an overview of state responsibilities and related policy options concerning military affairs and state and local relationships with military installations. The report is a synthesis of original, in-depth legal and legislative research; interviews with state legislators, legislative staff, and other key state officials; and other research. The focus throughout the report is on state-level activities – especially those created through statute, regulation, or legislation – to ensure a suitable environment for military installations to carry out their missions and sustain the presence of U.S. forces at home and abroad. Topics covered include:

- Military advisory bodies
- Commander's Councils
- Land use planning
- The role of adjutants general
- Grant programs
- Light pollution and noise
- Land conservation
- Notification policies

To read the full report, please click [here](#).

## **Webinars**

### **Special Regional Coordination Series III: REPI In the Southeast - Midlands Area Joint Installation Consortium (MAJIC) and Gulf Regional Airspace Strategic Initiative (GRASI)**

**Summary:** The third in a special series of webinars on DoD coordination on regional land-water-airspace issues. Learn about and discuss the issues and projects encountered in the Southeast, including the coordinated efforts of the Midlands Area Joint Installation Consortium (MAJIC) in South Carolina and the Gulf Regional Airspace Strategic Initiative (GRASI) in Florida.

**When:** Wednesday, December 11, 2013

To view a recording of this webinar, click [here](#).

### **Due Diligence and Transactional Details of a REPI Project**

**Summary:** Case studies will review experiences with common issues arising during due diligence of a REPI transaction, such as environmental reviews and appraisal requirements.

**When: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 1:00 PM ET**

Instructions to join the webinar:

1. Please click the link [here](#).
2. Select "Enter as a Guest" and type your name.
3. Upon entering the program, you will be prompted to join the audio conference.
4. Select "Dial-out [Receive a call from the meeting]" and enter your phone number. You will be called automatically by the system into the audio conference.

If you have never attended an Adobe Connect meeting before:

- Test your connection [here](#).
- Get a quick overview, click [here](#).

### **Beyond REPI Buffers: Holistic Planning**

**Summary:** REPI buffers are a valuable tool for protecting the military mission from encroachment due to incompatible development and loss of habitat, but it's also not a panacea. Holistic coordinated planning and actions, including zoning and other regulations or ordinances can be just as valuable. Case studies will present on how installations have used other planning tools and working with local communities to complement REPI efforts at limiting encroachment.

**When:** Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 1:00 PM ET

**To join the webinar:** please click [here](#) and follow the instructions above.

For more information about all our upcoming REPI webinars, please visit the [REPI website](#).

## **REPI In the News**

### **New York State Contributes to Fort Drum's Land-Buffer Program**

New York State contributed \$500,000 to help purchase buffer lands outside Fort Drum. The state money, combined with federal funds, gives the Fort Drum partnership \$4.5 million to purchase the development rights on land the Army deems of concern to its operations.

### **Support to Buffer the Avon Park Bombing Range**

The Highlands County, FL commissioners approved a conservation easement program to create a buffer around the Avon Park Bombing Range. Partners include the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the Range.

### **Florida Department of Environmental Protection Adds to Buffer Zone for Eglin Air Force Base**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection completed a \$12.5 million acquisition of a conservation easement on 20,800 acres to buffer Eglin Air Force Base. "Collectively, via the REPI initiative, this partnership recognized the importance of protecting Eglin and its missions and the value of protecting the natural resources within the state of Florida." This deal represents the culmination of Eglin AFB's 2013 REPI Challenge-winning project.

### **City of Niceville Awarded Grant to Prevent Development Around Eglin Air Force Base**

The City of Niceville, FL received a \$25,000 grant from the Florida Defense Support Task Force to help prevent future development from impeding missions at nearby Eglin Air Force Base. The city will use the money to upgrade its mapping capability to stave off encroachment problems.

### **Op-Ed in Support of Buffer Lands to Protect Fort Huachuca**

Cochise County, AZ and the City of Sierra Vista agreed to take ownership of more than 400 acres of land that has the potential to secure a long-term future for Fort Huachuca and helps recharge the local aquifer. The Army secured the funds for this transaction, which is "great news for everyone who has a vested interest in the long-term economic security of the region."

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