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UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring 2014

[NatureServe Conservation and Natural Heritage Conference](#)
April 6-10, 2014 in New Orleans, LA

[Environmental Council of the States Spring Meeting](#)
April 7-9, 2014 in San Juan, Puerto Rico

[Longleaf Partnership Council Spring Meeting](#)
April 7-8, 2014 in Biloxi, MS

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Annual Stewardship Partners Meeting](#)
April 8-10, 2014 in Biloxi, MS

[Urban Land Institute Spring Council Forum](#)
April 9-11, 2014 in Vancouver, BC

Spring 2014 Edition

[REPI Program Newsletter](#)

Message from the Director

It's not unusual for a program director to be asked, "What makes your program special?" I happen to think of this question often, as I reflect on the time I've spent in the REPI office. For me, the answer is easy. The key to REPI's special nature lies in the three aspects of its distinctive personality: the partners with whom we work, the creation of cost-sharing ideas, and its commitment to protecting the military mission. This commitment is what drives us and our program every day, in everything we do.

Exciting news:

- We've released our annual REPI Report to Congress, which highlights accomplishments and successes across the nation. For more information, please see the "Report to Congress" article, below.
- The REPI Program is again holding the REPI Challenge; this year we set aside funding for large-scale projects that advance the concept of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership among the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and the Interior. We will announce the winning project in mid to late June.
- This year marks the 5th anniversary of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI). During that time, the ARLI helped restore 1.38 million acres of longleaf pine, reversing a decades-long trend of continued net loss of habitat.

I want to thank you for your continued support for the REPI Program. Each of you in your own way does something to help protect the military mission. I look forward to working with you in the coming year to ensure the sustainability of our military's training, testing, and operations capabilities by protecting land around installations and ranges.

Happy spring and hope you enjoy the sunshine,
Kristin

Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference
April 13-15, 2014 in Portland, ME

SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting
April 24, 2014 in Atlanta, GA

American Planning Association National Planning Conference
April 26-30, 2014 in Atlanta, GA

National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting
May 1-3, 2014 in Baltimore, MD

American Wind Energy Association Windpower Conference
May 5-8, 2014 in Las Vegas, NV

National Mitigation & Ecosystem Banking Conference
May 6-9, 2014 in Denver, CO

Southeast Land Trust Alliance Meeting
May 12-13, 2014 in Mobile, AL

Southern Group of State Foresters Annual Meeting
May 19-22, 2014 in New Orleans, LA

SERPPAS Principals Meeting
May 21-22, 2014 in Savannah, GA

National Association of Counties Western Interstate Region Conference
May 21-23, 2014 in Anchorage, AK

Oscar-style Selfie



An Oscar-style selfie of the REPI Program. Unfortunately, Ellen DeGeneres and Brad Pitt were unavailable to join the photo.

(L to R: Shani Arbel, Jamie Uss Simon, Kristin Thomasgard, George Gay, Girair Simon, Mike Shaw)

REPI Report to Congress

The REPI Program recently released its eighth annual REPI Report to Congress, now available on the [website](#). The 2014 Report to Congress summarizes REPI Program accomplishments through FY 2013 and describes new initiatives and innovations undertaken by the REPI Program in the last year, such as the pilot Sentinel Landscapes project at Joint-Base Lewis McChord. In 11 years since its inception, REPI has protected nearly 315,000 acres at 72 locations in 27 states.

Read the Report for additional information on the Program's past successes, illustrating how the REPI Program helps avoid, remove, and mitigate restrictions to testing, training, and operations, and the future direction of the Program. Please feel free to download and distribute the 2014 REPI Report to Congress as appropriate.

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership presents states and the federal government with an unparalleled opportunity to capitalize on the previously undervalued linkage between national defense, conservation and working lands. The partnership members are the

National Conference of State Legislatures Executive Committee Spring Meeting
May 29-31, 2014 in Anchorage, AK

Did You Know?

*DoD's 28 million acres of land contain the highest density of threatened and endangered species of any federal agency.

*The U.S. loses more than one million acres of farmland each year to development, with losses in every state.

*The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a unique collaboration between federal agencies and other stakeholders to protect agricultural land, wildlife habitat, and military training areas from incompatible development.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), and U.S. Department of the Interior.

These agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December 2013. The agreement establishes a Federal Coordinating Committee to oversee the delivery of federal programs in support of Sentinel Landscapes and identify opportunities for future projects. The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program Director is designated as DoD's representative to the Committee.

The inaugural meeting of the Sentinel Landscapes Federal Coordinating Committee was convened on February 11-12, 2014 in Washington, DC, in conjunction with a listening session of invited government and non-governmental organization leaders. The purpose of the workshop was to explore how best to engage and incentivize private landowners and other interested partners in support of Sentinel Landscapes. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership will help to:

- focus federal attention,
- optimize delivery of federal program to landowners, and
- attract state and private capital interest and investments.

Maintaining landscapes in the vicinity of military bases as farms, ranches, forestlands, or simply open space will not only benefit the people and wildlife that depend on them, but also serve as a valuable buffer from the kind of development that puts military testing and training activities at risk.

Webinars

REPI Help Session for FY 2015

Summary: A special session to learn about changes to the REPI Guide for FY14, highlight successful project write-ups, and get answers to your questions about the updated proposal criteria and REPI policy guidelines.

When: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 1:00 PM ET
Please click [here](#) for instructions to join the webinar.

The REPI End Game II: Defining Priority Areas, End States and Using GIS

Summary: Hear about the different prioritization schemes or methodologies used by various installations and Services, in working with their partners, to develop their REPI buffer priority areas and the defined End State goals for protecting those areas. One important tool for End State planning is GIS mapping: case studies will highlight the use of GIS for REPI and regional planning.

When: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 1:00 PM ET
Please click [here](#) for instructions to join the webinar.

If you missed the most recent REPI webinars, [Beyond REPI Buffers: Holistic Planning](#) or [Due Diligence and Transactional Details of a REPI Project](#), please visit the [REPI website](#) to view the webinar recordings or [contact us](#) for more information. Below is a sampling of some key points and lessons learned from the recent webinars.

Beyond REPI Buffers: Holistic Planning

- Before beginning a REPI project, it's essential to know the end state you are trying to achieve. What is the installation's targeted level of protection necessary to maintain the current mission without undue restrictions? Or, how do you know when you are successful?
- Truly being engaged in local development—not just through public notices, but showing up at public meetings—will pay dividends. Calling local planning directors and staff a couple of times per month and monitoring meeting agendas online will help ensure you don't miss important issues that pop up.

Due Diligence and Transactional Details of a REPI Project

- If you are dealing with a publicly traded company, it is critical to stick to the closing date you scheduled because they reported the upcoming sale to stockholders.
- Be realistic about your partners' other commitments. Send documents well in advance because every partner has its own procedures that will take time.
- Consider putting a signed option agreement in place before finishing your due diligence in contracting for a survey, environmental site assessment, and title work. Doing so ensures that the organization won't waste money if a deal falls through.

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

REPI in the News

Fort Campbell Receives REPI Program Funds

The Fort Campbell Courier (Fort Campbell, KY) reports that the Army's Fort Campbell is scheduled to receive \$3 million through the REPI Program because it ranked first in the annual competition. The installation's REPI proposal highlighted the importance of Campbell Army Airfield: the airfield is the installation's primary airfield and deployment platform. The REPI funding will secure conservation easements around the airfield that will help prevent incompatible development within flight approaches and designated high noise areas. It is part of an ongoing strategy to protect the long-term capabilities of the airfield.

Newly protected lands buffer Bangor operating range

The Kitsap Sun (Bremerton, WA) reports on the Naval Base Kitsap

REPI project, which enabled the Navy to expand buffer lands around the Bangor submarine base and its operations ranges. Capt. Tom Zwolfer, Naval Base Kitsap commander, is quoted in the article: “We have buffered the Navy operating ranges that are vital to our national security mission while ensuring that sustainable timber production and environmental conservation, which are good for the local economy and compatible with Navy activities, are supported along the Hood Canal.”

Polk gets aid to buffer AP Range

The Ledger (Lakeland, FL) and The News-Sun (Sebring, FL) ran the same article on Polk County receiving funding to aid in ongoing work to buffer Avon Park Air Force Range from encroachment by surrounding development. A State Representative highlighted the benefits of this type of partnership when he said, “The successful partnership between Enterprise Florida, the military, and the local economic development council is a paragon of effective cooperation that supports the defense industry of Florida and the economic benefits that follow.”

Whiting Field Secures 490 New Acres

The Pensacola News Journal (Pensacola, FL) reports that Naval Air Station Whiting Field recently secured more than 490 acres to use in their efforts to preserve the installation’s mission. The Navy collaborated with Santa Rosa County to secure the land through the REPI Program and the Santa Rosa County Defense Infrastructure Grant Funds.

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