



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Summer 2014 Edition
- Message from the Director
- 2014 REPI Challenge Updates
- A Celebration of Progress and Promise: America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative
- New Primer: Commander's Guide to Understanding and Supporting Working Forests
- Webinars
- REPI in the News

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer 2014

[Conference of Western Attorneys General Annual Meeting](#) July 20-23, 2014 in Park City, UT

[Western States Land Commissioners Association Summer Conference](#) July 20-24, 2014 in Bismarck, ND

[Longleaf 5-Year Anniversary Panel Discussion, Awards Ceremony and Reception](#) July 22, 2014 in Washington, DC

[National Lieutenant Governors Association Annual Meeting](#) July 23-25, 2014 in Girdwood, AK

Summer 2014 Edition

[REPI Program Newsletter](#)

Message from the Director

Now that summer is in full swing, I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather and sunshine. While the pace of life may slow down a bit during the summer season as everyone heads off on vacation, the REPI Program remains hard at work gearing up to commemorate anniversaries and accomplishments, expand and develop new initiatives, and prepare for the upcoming end of the government's fiscal year.

Between BBQs, weddings, and weekends spent lounging by the pool, my REPI Program staff and I have been busy supporting the 2014 REPI Challenge; preparing for the 5th anniversary of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative; planning new and exciting webinars for the remainder of the year; and developing a new primer (#13) in our REPI Program Primer Series.

I'm also honored to announce the creation of The Nancy Natoli Élan Award for Innovation in Land Conservation. This annual award was developed in partnership with a number of REPI Program colleagues to memorialize Nancy's spirit, achievements, and impact on the land conservation community. For more information on this award and to access the nomination form, please visit the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities website [here](#).

Happy summer!
Kristin

2014 REPI Challenge Updates

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 project requirements with flexibility, creativity, and innovative thinking. Recognizing that the REPI project requirements identified by the Services far exceed available funding, the REPI Program designed the REPI Challenge, an annual

Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Meeting August 4, 2014 in Wenatchee, WA

National Association of Conservation Districts South Central Region Meeting August 4-6, 2014 in Lafayette, LA

40th American Legislative Exchange Council Annual Meeting August 7-9, 2014 in Chicago, IL

National Association of Conservation Districts Southeast Region Meeting August 11-13 in Savannah, GA

Southern Governors' Association Annual Meeting August 15-17, 2014 in Little Rock, AR

National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit August 19-22, 2014 in Minneapolis, MN

Did You Know?

*DoD manages over 500 installations in the United States and overseas, comprising nearly 300,000 buildings covering 2.3 billion square feet of building space.

*The REPI Program has averaged 33,000 acres protected per year and our growth rate has increased every year since 2007!

*August 2014 has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. This only

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.

The REPI Challenge award provides funds for those projects that best leverage partner contributions, harness the creativity of the private sector to access unconventional sources of funding and market-based approaches, and deliver large-scale land protection that demonstrate benefits above and beyond normal requirements for REPI projects for important military missions and natural resources.

In 2014, the REPI Challenge sought proposals that advance and promote the spirit and intent of Sentinel Landscapes. The 11 finalists revealed over \$48 million in potential partner funding, at a greater than 1:1 match to REPI funding, to potentially protect over 140,000 acres across 9 states. All the proposals are anchored by high priority military installations in key landscapes, where preserving the working and rural character of the lands strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests and benefits habitat and natural resources.

The 11 REPI Challenge finalists are: Avon Park AFR, FL; Ellsworth AFB, SD; Fort Huachuca, AZ; Fort Indiantown Gap, PA; MCAS Cherry Point-Piney Island Bombing Range, NC; NAS Patuxent River-Atlantic Test Range, MD; NAS Whiting Field, FL; NSF Indian Head, MD; NWSTF Boardman, OR; U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii; and Vandenberg AFB, CA.

In addition to selecting a winner of the 2014 REPI Challenge, the REPI program will explore opportunities to advance each of these innovative proposals over the next year and will also select the next designated Sentinel Landscape(s) from among the 2014 REPI Challenge finalists and from other on-going high potential projects. Stay tuned for future updates and an announcement on the REPI Challenge winner in the coming weeks!

A Celebration of Progress and Promise: America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Please join the REPI Program in congratulating America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) on five years of restoration progress for longleaf pine forests. The outstanding public-private partnership has halted the century-long decline of longleaf pine, which once covered 90 million acres from Virginia to Texas, but plummeted to roughly 3 million acres by the late 1990s. As a result of this coalition effort, longleaf pine forests have actually increased over the past decade! ALRI is more than half-way toward meeting its ambitious goal to increase longleaf pine forests to 8 million acres and substantially improve the conditions of existing longleaf pine forests. There is truly much to celebrate!

happens once every 823 years.

Did you know that military testing and training in the Southeastern United States is critically linked to the preservation of longleaf pine habitat? Longleaf forest restoration can enhance military readiness by: sustaining off-installation compatible land use, providing natural buffers to DoD facilities, increasing flexibility under the Endangered Species Act by protecting key habitats off-post, and expanding habitat for the region's 29 threatened and endangered species. Because of this link between longleaf pine and military readiness, DoD and the REPI Program have played active roles in leveraging resources and maximizing on-the-ground results.

We hope you will join us for this exciting occasion to celebrate ALRI's five year anniversary! A series of events will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 in Washington, DC at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Details on the event are as follows:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC
3:45–4:45 pm – *Moderated Panel Discussion*
5:00-7:00 pm – *Reception and Awards Ceremony*

To attend the panel, reception, and awards ceremony, please **RSVP [here](#)**.

New Primer: Commander's Guide to Understanding and Supporting Working Forests

In partnership with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the REPI Program is pleased to announce the newest addition to the primer series: "Commander's Guide to Understanding and Supporting Working Forests." The purpose of this primer is to describe the economic and environmental benefits of working forests, identify tools and techniques to ensure their continued utility to military installations, and provide resources for further information.

Over the past two decades, changes in the forest sector resulted in more and more working forests sold and converted to other uses. Protecting working forests adjacent to military installations can safeguard buffer zones, which enhance flexibility in military testing and training. Working forests also provide habitat for protected and at-risk species, protect drinking water supplies, and support the local economy.

An electronic version of the primer is available online [here](#). For more information about the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, please click [here](#).

Webinars

Due to the July 4th holiday, we revised the REPI webinar series schedule through the end of 2014. Please visit the [REPI website](#) to view the new webinar schedule and to download our [webinar schedule flyer](#). We hope to see you on our three remaining webinars this year:

Mission Benefit Metrics

Summary: The Marine Corps will brief on metrics they developed to measure the benefit to the military mission of installations' REPI efforts. Case study will include an examination of metrics developed at Camp Pendleton to measure the impact of endangered species encroachment on the training.

When: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 1:00 PM ET.
For instructions to join the webinar, please click [here](#).

Exploring Off-Installation Regulatory Solutions

Summary: Learn about various ecosystem markets and opportunities to create extra value with your REPI projects by exploring off-installation regulatory solutions. Case studies will highlight ongoing efforts working with USFWS to provide regulatory relief to training, testing, and operations.

When: Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 1:00 PM ET.
For instructions to join the webinar, please click [here](#).

Sentinel Landscapes

Summary: One year ago, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment standing up the Sentinel Landscapes Coordinating Committee. Learn about the efforts advancing this partnership, including the two 2014 REPI Challenge winning projects and other locations nominated as finalists for Sentinel Landscape designation.

When: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 1:00 PM ET.
For instructions to join the webinar, please click [here](#).

If you missed the most recent REPI webinars, the "FY15 REPI Program Buffer Partnership Help Session" or "REPI End Game II: Defining Priority Areas, End States and Using GIS," 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, courtesy of Mary Burke and our partners at the Land Trust Alliance.

FY15 REPI Program Buffer Partnership Help Session

- The Help Session webinar provided detailed information about changes to the FY 2015 REPI buffer proposal process. Above all, installations are advised to tell the story of their projects: why is your project important, what is the value to the Department of Defense? How does it protect your mission? And why is it a good investment of

limited REPI resources? All applicants should read the Guide thoroughly and refer to the webinar recording for additional information, or feel free to contact the REPI office or your Service headquarters.

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

- The sad truth is that you can't protect everything, so how do you make sure you protect the most important parcels in your buffer region? GIS mapping provides an easy way for planners to quickly identify the most critical properties for protection.
- For example, NAS Patuxent River uses GIS to map encroachment threats, mission critical areas, ecologically important areas, and places of interest to conservation partners. According to environmental scientist Lindsay Tempinson, "this process will also help us refine our desired end state into a quantitative and achievable goal which will aid in tracking progress and effectively utilizing REPI funds."
- Interested in setting up your own GIS map? The South Carolina National Guard has developed a standard methodology to enable non-GIS users to run models in multiple ways. If you can check a box, you can use the system - it's even customizable. For more information or to obtain a copy of the program, contact Dr. Tara Plewa, plewat@tag.scmd.state.nc.us.

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

REPI in the News

Land Purchase Will Benefit Regional Water Resources

WCTV in Tallahassee, FL, reports that the REPI program helped to fund the purchase of a 344 acre tract of land in Bradford County. The tract will establish a necessary buffer for Camp Blanding and allow the local Water Management District to construct a multi-purpose project that will provide flood protection and benefit regional aquifer levels.

Conservation near NAS Whiting Field

The Pensacola News Journal (Pensacola, FL) reports that Santa Rosa County is working with conservation groups and the REPI Program to possibly secure another 10,000 acres northeast of Naval Air Station Whiting Field. The purchase would help to protect Whiting Field's mission from encroachment.

New York State Governor Announces Funding to Protect the Integrity of Fort Drum

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced \$1 million in funding to protect the area around Fort Drum. The governor's press release

reports that the state will work with the U.S. Army to establish buffer areas around Fort Drum by acquiring easements on farms to prevent development outside the base that could impede training. "The land around Fort Drum is vital to the training of our nation's military as well as the economy of North County, which is why New York is dedicated to protecting the base," Governor Cuomo said. "We are proud to partner with the federal government to support the expansion and preservation of the buffer zones so that Fort Drum can continue to conduct critical military exercises and provide stable, good paying jobs for thousands of New Yorkers in the North Country."

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