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Upcoming Events

[American Water Resources Association Annual Conference](#)

November 3-6, 2014 in Tysons Corner, VA

[Association of Defense Communities Base Redevelopment Forum](#)

November 12-14, 2014 in San Francisco, CA

[19th SERPPAS Principals Meeting](#)

November 17-18, 2014 in Keesler AFB, MS

Message from the Director

In addition to bringing us football and pumpkin pie, fall marks the beginning of a busy season for the REPI Program office as we wrap up fiscal year 2014 activities and kick off fiscal year 2015. Over the next few months, we're looking forward to our annual buffer project proposal review process, hosting our final webinar of the calendar year, and advancing large landscape partnerships at the 10th Biennial Longleaf Conference and 19th SERPPAS Principals Meeting.

As we prepare to dive head first into these activities and more, I would like to reflect on all we accomplished during fiscal year 2014. We moved six potential Sentinel Landscapes forward, hosted ten informative webinars, and produced two exciting new primers and fact sheets. In the third year of the REPI Challenge, eleven proposals sought to protect over 140,000 acres and winning projects at Fort Huachuca and NAS Patuxent River are leveraging over \$14 million dollars in partner funding to ensure the compatibility of 8,159 acres. Across all of our activities, we continued to build rapport with new partners and strengthen REPI's relationships with our old friends. It was a productive year for us, but FY15 promises to be just as busy and exciting.

I am happy to announce that longtime REPI Program staff member Jaime Simon (formerly Uss) will be increasing her responsibilities as our new Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment in the REPI Program office. Many of you (and all of us here at the office) have benefitted from Jaime's hard work and REPI acumen for years. We are very excited to have her in this new role!

Happy Halloween!

Kristin Thomasgard-Spence

Military Services Request \$157 Million to Combat Encroachment in FY15

In fiscal year 2015, the Military Services are requesting a combined total of over \$157 million from the REPI Program to fund the expansion and creation of buffer zones. Requests for REPI Program funding have always dramatically outpaced our annual budget, but projects that are

American Wind Energy Association Fall Symposium

November 18-20, 2014 in San Diego, CA

DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators Annual Meeting

November 19-20, 2014 in Washington, DC

Western Governors Association Winter Meeting

December 6-7, 2014 in Las Vegas, NV

A Community on Ecosystem Services and Ecosystem Markets Conference

December 8-11, 2014 in Washington, DC

National Conference of State Legislatures Fall Forum

December 10-12, 2014 in Washington, DC

Did you know?

*The Pentagon was built in just 16 months and is the world's largest low-rise office building. It is twice the size of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, has more than twice the floor space of the Empire State Building, and the U.S. Capitol could fit into any one of its five wedge-shaped sections. It boasts nearly 17 and one half miles of corridor, yet due to the Pentagon's unique design, movement between any two opposite points takes as little as seven minutes.

*There are 19 escalators, 131 stairways, 284 restrooms, 691 water fountains and enough telephone wire in the Pentagon to wrap around the world four and one-half times!

granted funds thoroughly demonstrate that they are well-positioned to leverage partner funding and have a lasting impact on ensuring military readiness. 67 proposals – including 8 new proposals – were submitted from across the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force on September 30th, and are currently in review. These projects strategically seek to eliminate threats to training, testing, and operations on-base by protecting key off-base land from incompatible development or preventing critical habitat destruction.

The Western Regional Partnership Helps Advance the 2014 REPI Challenge Winner Fort Huachuca

Fort Huachuca, located in Southeastern Arizona, recently won the 2014 REPI Challenge. Fort Huachuca provides significant intelligence and unmanned aircraft systems training in a joint environment and is especially concerned with electromagnetic interference to its vast testing facilities. The \$4 million REPI award will leverage over \$9 million from the Arizona Land and Water Trust (ALWT) and other partners to permanently restrict development on 5,900 acres of rangeland, protecting the Fort's 160,000 annual air operations, reducing electromagnetic interference, and preventing the development of up to 1,475 new wells to protect scarce groundwater resources.

This success was in large part the result of the Western Regional Partnership's (WRP's) Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico (SoAZ/NM) Project efforts. WRP, a partnership of federal, state, and tribal leadership within Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah, established its SoAZ/NM Project to identify areas with important ecological and military values, through GIS analysis with partner input. This careful analysis examined appropriate locations for conservation easements and other projects to enhance habitat, avoid potential habitat loss, and improve connectivity, while supporting the military mission.

The REPI Challenge award will be used in the SoAZ/NM project's top priority area to preserve key easements that support the mission of Fort Huachuca and preserve natural resources. For more information on WRP please see www.wrpinfo.org and [WRP Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico GIS Suitability Analysis Report](#); for more information on the Arizona Land and Water Trust please see www.alwt.org.

Veterans Invited to Gain Experience for a Career in Wildland Fire or Natural Resources Management

*The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership has a new website: <http://sentinellandscapes.org>.

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) invites veterans to take part in a Prescribed Fire Training Exchange on February 15-28, 2015 in North Carolina. Basic NWCG training is required for any job relating to wildland fire management and is a highly desired skill for many natural resource positions across the country. Participants will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and learn from wildland firefighters while utilizing existing leadership and team-building skills.

Applications will be accepted electronically through <http://nctrex.weebly.com/> until November 10. No experience is necessary to apply, but applicants are requested to note military branch and dates of service within application. For further information, please contact Mike Norris at mnorris@tnc.org.

Webinars

With the calendar year nearing its end, we have just one remaining REPI Webinar in 2014, so don't miss out!

Upcoming Webinars

2014 REPI Challenge Winners and Sentinel Landscape Partners

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](#).

Past Webinars

If you missed the most recent REPI webinars, "Mission Benefit Metrics" or "Exploring Off-Installation Regulatory Solutions," 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.

Mission Benefit Metrics

- To develop metrics related to the benefits of REPI, you need a good, qualitative assessment of encroachment issues and their impacts on an installation's training capacity, not necessarily an assessment of unit readiness.
- We are still struggling to capture why it matters that REPI has protected so many acres and we could do better capturing and organizing available data, so we encourage sharing ideas and existing methods and practices.

Exploring Off-Installation Regulatory Solutions

- Acting before a species is listed maximizes your options and provides a number of tools to engage other stakeholders and incentive private landowners to create large landscapes of protection.
- The tools and authorities exist to lessen the burden on DoD and better protect the mission, and landowners are ready to receive the support, in many cases without needing REPI easements.
- For more information or a copy of the slides with the suite of tools available, please [contact us](#).

2015 Webinar Topics

Do you enjoy the REPI webinars? Do you have a topic you would like to present or learn more about? Please [email](#) Girair Simon with your ideas; we'd love to hear from you. We'll be collecting your suggestions and developing the webinar schedule for 2015 soon, so be on the lookout!

REPI in the News

Inaugural Nancy Natoli Élan Award for Innovation in Land Conservation winners announced

The Nancy Natoli Élan Award for Innovation in Land Conservation recognizes individuals, teams, or organizations which, in Nancy's spirit, have taken existing, undersized land conservation opportunities and tweaked them for unexpected or outsized results, or identified and implemented new land conservation opportunities. The first annual Nancy Natoli Élan Award was jointly presented to Bob Barnes and the Townsend Bombing Range Encroachment Partnering Team. Barnes works the hallways of D.C., pressing the need for land conservation to help protect military readiness and training. The Townsend Team has helped conserve more than 30,000 acres essential for air training exercised for the Marines, Georgia Air National Guard, and America's allies. This award was given in memory of Nancy Natoli, who led the Pentagon's efforts to protect military test and training facilities from incompatible development as the Program Director of the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program at DoD.

Defense grant will protect +2,200 acres in Maryland's Eastern Shore

The Bay Journal (Chesapeake Bay Region) reports that the REPI Program awarded \$1 million to help protect 2,259 acres of forest, wetlands, and farmlands along the Nanticoke River in Maryland. Not only do the lands have a high diversity of plants and animals, but the area is also important to the Patuxent Naval Air Station because they are part of its Atlantic Test Range. Protecting the lands from development will reduce noise and safety concerns in the test range, as well as prevent future restrictions or delays in training and testing.

Conserving prairies and protecting military training

Ag Weekly (Great Falls, MT) reports that the Sentinel Landscape pilot project at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) will study the impacts of managed grazing on native prairie plant communities in western Washington. The goal of this project is to preserve agricultural lands, while restoring and protecting more than 2,600 acres of public and private prairies. At the same time, the project will reduce restrictions to military training activities on JBLM lands.

Nearly 200 acres of St. Mary's land preserved

The Gazette (Gaithersburg, MD) reports that three forested properties totaling almost 200 acres were preserved south of Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Each of the three properties is protected by a permanent conservation easement that prohibits development. The Navy, through the REPI Program, contributed to the deal. The goal is to prevent encroachment on the base by protecting lands near the installation and beneath essential airspace where a variety of vital test and training operations occur.

DoD Announces Readiness, Environmental Protection Awards

Defense Department officials today announced the 2014 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge award winners, in which 11 finalists competed to help to sustain military readiness and protect critical test, training, and operational missions. Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland best demonstrated the spirit of the program to promote innovative land conservation solutions that benefit military readiness, neighboring communities, and the environment while helping installations reduce and avoid restrictions. These projects go above and beyond in providing significant benefit to the military, the taxpayer, and the environment. "DoD's ability to conduct realistic live-fire training and weapons system testing is vital to preparing warfighters and their equipment for real-world combat," REPI Program Director Kristin Thomasgard-Spence said. "There is a direct relationship between realistic training and success on the battlefield."

DoD Grants Protect Groundwater, Forests, Farmlands, and Wetlands

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities issued a press release stating that the 2014 REPI Challenge Program's two new grant awards protect military readiness in Arizona and the Chesapeake Bay Region. The grant awards will help protect compatible land uses around military installations and conserve at-risk species and natural resources in support of military readiness. "The REPI team galvanizes an impressive array of contributors and partners and supports projects that provide great benefits to natural resources, the military, and taxpayers" said Peter Stangel, Senior Vice President at the Endowment.

MCAS Cherry Point Uses REPI Program Funds to Protect its Mission

The Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS) reports that MCAS Cherry Point makes great use of REPI Program funding to benefit the country and Eastern North Carolina by continuing to provide the American warfighter with critical training capabilities, and through the effective management of environmentally important land.

Longleaf Pine Making Comeback in Northwest Florida

The Foster Folly News (Washington County, Florida) reports that the Longleaf Stewardship Fund is providing grants to local projects that will help restore native longleaf pine and help protected wildlife. The announcement was made as part of a five-year anniversary celebration for America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative held in Washington, D.C. The grants include two projects in Northwest Florida: one will benefit the gopher tortoise, protect native wildlife, and support the natural resources and encroachment protection goals of Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City; and the other will support the natural resources and encroachment protection goals of Eglin Air Force Base by expanding potential off-base habitat for protected species, including the flatwoods salamander.

\$3.38 Million in Grants to Further Restore Longleaf Ecosystem

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Southern Company announced \$3.38 million in grants to further restore the longleaf pine ecosystem as part of a five-year anniversary celebration for America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative. Fifteen projects across eight states will receive funding for projects that will ultimately restore more than 11,800 acres and enhance over 116,000 additional acres of longleaf pine habitat, while leveraging over \$3.8 million in additional funds from grant partners. "DoD supports longleaf stewardship because it helps maintain important buffers around our bases and affords us greater flexibility to carry out critical military training. In other words, when we protect and restore longleaf pine forests near our bases, we enhance military readiness," said John Conger, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations & Environment." This year, DoD funds will be leveraged 8 to 1 and result in more than 92,000 acres of restored or enhanced longleaf pine habitat. I appreciate the contributions of the NFWF to this important national security requirement and am happy to partner with them to preserve and restore longleaf pine forests around our bases."

Staff Spotlight





REPI team members (and friends!) enjoying a Saturday in the Shenandoah Mountains.

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REPI Program
Office of the Deputy Under
Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Environment)
E-mail: osd.repi@mail.mil