



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Message from the Director](#)
- [2015 REPI Challenge Request for Proposals Coming Soon](#)
- [Longleaf Stewardship Fund 2015 Request for Proposals Now Available](#)
- [Longleaf Restoration Efforts Awarded \\$17M in USDA RCPP Projects](#)
- [Get to Know New REPI Buffer Projects Fort Indiantown Gap and NAS Lemoore](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Staff Spotlight on Ryan Orndorff](#)
- [REPI Holiday Bowling Event](#)
- [REPI in the News](#)

## IN OTHER NEWS

## Upcoming Events

US Conference of Mayors  
83rd Winter Meeting  
January 21-23, 2015 in  
Washington, DC

14th Annual New  
Partners for Smart  
Growth Conference  
January 29-31, 2015 in  
Baltimore, MD

National Association of  
Conservation Districts  
Annual Meeting  
February 1-4, 2015 in  
New Orleans, LA

National Association of  
State Departments of  
Agriculture Winter Policy  
Conference  
February 1-4, 2015 in  
Washington, DC

National Conference of  
Regions  
February 8-10, 2015 in  
Washington, DC

39th Annual Wild Turkey  
Federation Convention  
February 12-15, 2015 in  
Washington, DC

National Association of  
Counties 2015 Legislative  
Conference  
February 21-25, 2015 in  
Washington, DC

National Military Fish and  
Wildlife Association  
Annual Meeting  
March 8-13, 2015 in  
Omaha, NE

80th North American  
Wildlife and Natural  
Resources Conference  
March 8-13, 2015 in  
Omaha, NE

**Message from the Director**

Happy New Year from the REPI Office! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to 2015 just as much as I am.

This month, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership will announce new designations from among the impressive finalists of Avon Park Air Force Range (FL); Camp Ripley (MN); Eglin Air Force Base (FL); Fort Huachuca (AZ); Fort Stewart/Townsend Bombing Range (NC/GA) Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (NC); and Naval Air Station Patuxent River (MD). Each installation and their myriad partners have demonstrated what can be achieved with broad cooperation, engagement and creative thinking. Together, they have elevated the benchmark for what we should be trying to achieve in collaborative partnerships, and it has been rewarding for all of us to participate in their projects.

Additionally, in the coming weeks the 2015 REPI Challenge Request for Proposal will be released, and we are also anticipating the first installment of our 2015 REPI Webinar Series on January 28th. Between now and the release of our Spring Newsletter in April, we will also be busy finalizing the 2015 Report to Congress. The Report details REPI's achievements and progress both over the last fiscal year and since the beginning of the program.

Finally, I am so pleased to introduce the newest member of the REPI Team, Ryan Orndorff. Ryan brings many great years of experience in natural resources with the Marine Corps, and as the new Deputy Program Director he will be spearheading REPI's off-installation regulatory solutions, including gopher tortoise conservation and longleaf pine restoration in the Southeast. For a more complete introduction, please see the "Staff Spotlight" on Ryan later in the Newsletter. Welcome to the REPI Team, Ryan!

Best wishes for the New Year,  
Kristin Thomasgard-Spence

**2015 REPI Challenge Request for Proposals Coming Soon**

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities will soon release the 2015 REPI Challenge RFP available for download on their website at [www.usendowment.org](http://www.usendowment.org).

Since 2012, REPI has set aside a small portion of funds for the REPI Challenge, a competition to harness the creativity of the private sector to leverage unconventional sources of funding and take advantage of market-based approaches to secure the most land at the least cost around our installations. The winners of the first three cycles of the REPI Challenge produced and executed exceptional strategies to combat encroachment at a more holistic and larger scale. More information on these successes can be found in the **REPI Challenge fact sheet**.

As in 2014, the 2015 REPI Challenge will seek to advance DoD's Sentinel Landscapes Partnership with the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior. In 2015, the REPI Program is committing up to \$8 million for a two-tiered Challenge focused on Sentinel Landscapes identification and execution. The RFP will jointly seek proposals identifying and developing Sentinel Landscapes for designation as well as submissions requesting REPI Challenge funding to directly advance a Sentinel Landscape. No pre-proposals will be requested as a part of the process.

As an outcome of the 2015 Challenge, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership hopes to designate additional Sentinel Landscapes locations which will have increased consideration for future funding from the Partnership agencies.

Look for the announcement of the release of the 2015 REPI Challenge RFP and REPI Challenge Help Session webinar through the Friends of REPI distribution list and on [www.repi.mil](http://www.repi.mil) in the coming weeks.

Association of Defense  
Communities Installation  
Innovation Forum  
March 15-17, 2015 in  
Monterey, CA

Environmental Council of  
States Spring Meeting  
March 16-18, 2015 in  
Washington, DC

#### Did You Know?

- In 1858, six marble bathtubs were installed in the basement of the Capitol. Over the next few decades, the Senate baths became a popular space to socialize and prepare for speeches. In 1888, the Evening Star wrote: "[Members] write the speech, commit it to memory, take a bath, and then deliver it!"

- The Washington Monument sways about .125th of an inch in hours of 30 miles per hour.

- It takes 570 gallons of paint to cover the exterior surface of the White House.

## Longleaf Stewardship Fund 2015 Request for Proposals Now Available

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is soliciting proposals to expand and enhance longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and management across longleaf pine's historical range. The Longleaf Stewardship Fund is a landmark public-private partnership supported with Federal funding from the USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Defense, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and private funding from Southern Company, International Paper's Forestland Stewards Initiative and Altria Group. Please closely **review the RFP** for funding priorities, competitive criteria, and eligibility guidelines.

Proposals must be submitted by 11:59pm (Eastern Time) on Thursday, February 5, 2015 via NFWF's online application system in order to be considered.

Interested applicants may contact Suzanne Sessine at [suzanne.sessine@nfwf.org](mailto:suzanne.sessine@nfwf.org), or Jon Scott at [jonathan.scott@nfwf.org](mailto:jonathan.scott@nfwf.org), with any questions and to discuss project ideas. The RFP announcement is also located on the **America's Longleaf website**.

## Longleaf Restoration Efforts Awarded \$17M in USDA RCPP Projects

As a part of the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), 115 projects selected from 600 pre-proposals will receive funding for conservation activities across the United States. Of the \$370 million in available FY15 funding, a combined \$17 million will go towards two projects led by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and The Conservation Fund for efforts focusing on longleaf pine conservation, restoration, and military buffering in the Southeast. Read the **full press release** from USDA.

## Get to Know New REPI Buffer Projects Fort Indiantown Gap and NAS Lemoore

This winter, we wanted to start highlighting exceptional new REPI projects around the country. As the REPI Program has evolved over the past decade, project strategies have also changed. In introducing a selection of buffer projects periodically through the Newsletter, we hope to facilitate idea and information sharing.

### Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania

**Mission:** Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center is one of the busiest National Guard training sites in the country with over 100,000 troops training there annually. Its range complex supports essential training tasks for full-spectrum operations – simultaneous offensive, defensive, and civil support operations – to prepare soldiers for any operational environment.

**Encroachment Threat:** Residential development around nearby cities Harrisburg and Lebanon are putting pressure on Fort Indiantown Gap's training mission, and conservation easements will not only avoid noise and night-lighting conflicts but help fund repairs and upgrades for Dehart Dam Reservoir, a source of drinking water for Harrisburg.

**Key Partners:** The Conservation Fund, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The Manada Conservancy, Audubon Pennsylvania, The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, The Lebanon Valley Conservancy, The Kittatinny Ridge Coalition

**Fact Sheet:** Find more information about the **Fort Indiantown Gap project** on the REPI website.

### NAS Lemoore, California

**Mission:** Naval Air Station Lemoore is the West Coast Master Jet Base home to the Pacific Strike Fighter Wing. This installation averages about 210,000 annual flight operations and contains four low-altitude Ground Control Approach corridors that support over 9,000 annual flight operations (training and actual).

**Encroachment threat:** Residential development of over 1,950 acres of farmland and operational areas within the installations Military Influence Area could attract over 7,000 residents to the area.

**Key Partners:** West Hills Community College District, Sequoia River Lands Trust, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, Kings County

**Fact Sheet:** Find out more information about the **NAS Lemoore project** on the REPI website.

## Webinars

Our **2015 REPI Webinar Schedule** is now available for download on the website. We're very excited to continue our series of informative and interactive discussions with you in 2015.

#### Upcoming Webinars

##### Conservation Finance Strategies Survey

**Summary:** This webinar is designed to help you and your partners enhance their organizational readiness and to introduce them to conservation finance tools and techniques - from borrowing funds to finding new sources of capital and revenue for your REPI deals. This session will walk through the range of conservation finance strategies while emphasizing the systems and internal know-how that need to be in place to use them.

**When:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 1:00 PM ET.  
For instructions to join the webinar, [please click here](#).

##### REPI Challenge Help Session

Stay tuned for details!

##### JLUS – What Happens After?

**Summary:** So you and your community have completed a Joint Land Use Study, but what comes next? Learn how to leverage and implement your JLUS recommendations and build them into your encroachment management efforts.

**When:** Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 1:00 PM ET.  
For instructions to join the webinar, [please click here](#).

##### REPI Buffer Help Session

**Summary:** Our annual special session to learn about changes to the REPI process for FY 2015, highlighting successful buffer proposal write-ups and answering your questions about the updated proposal criteria, REPI policy guidelines, and changes to the REPI Program Guide for Buffer Partnerships.

**When:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 1:00 PM ET.  
For instructions to join the webinar, [please click here](#).

#### Past Webinars

If you missed the most recent REPI webinar, "2014 REPI Challenge Winners and Sentinel Landscape Partners," 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 webinar.

##### 2014 REPI Challenge Winners and Sentinel Landscape Projects

- Sentinel Landscapes are defined by the intrinsic link between the surrounding landscape and the military mission but require a multiple-tool approach to benefitting all partners.
- Patience and flexibility are vital: both the Arizona Land and Water Trust and the Chesapeake Conservancy strengthened their proposals and expanded their opportunities after multiple years of submissions.
- While the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership involved meeting missions of Federal agencies, state engagement is equally important; Minnesota is developing legislation to further build and define a Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape area.

#### Staff Spotlight on Ryan Orndorff

Ryan Orndorff joined the REPI Team as Deputy Program Director on December 15. Prior to joining REPI, Ryan served as a Natural Resources Specialist at Headquarters Marine Corps, Marine Corps Installations Command. He will leverage his expertise and relationships to advance the goals and objectives of REPI's large landscape partnerships and off-base regulatory solution efforts, specifically SERPPAS, WRP, gopher tortoise strategies and longleaf pine restoration work in the Southeast.



Ryan, pictured above with his children, is originally from West Virginia and currently lives in Vienna, VA with his wife, Rachel, and their children, Avenelle (9) and Charlie (7). He graduated from Penn State with a M.S. in Forestry and Watershed Management and Shepherd College where he received a B.S. in Environmental Studies and Resource Management. Ryan is an avid whitewater kayaker, fly fisherman, and golfer. At the end of his first week, Ryan soundly beat the rest of the REPI team – twice – at bowling during our holiday party.

Please feel free to reach out to Ryan with your questions or words of welcome at [ryan.b.orndorff.civ@mail.mil](mailto:ryan.b.orndorff.civ@mail.mil).

### REPI Holiday Bowling Event



REPI team members got into the holiday spirit while bowling in Arlington, VA. We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season!

### REPI in the News

#### Working to Prevent Encroachment Near Robins AFB

The Telegraph (Macon, GA) reports that Robins Air Force Base is making progress in the fight against encroachment. With funding from a REPI Program grant, the state is working to prevent encroachment around the base. Robins officials worry encroachment could hurt the base's prospects in the next round of the base realignment and closure process.

#### Conservation Partnership Purchases Acres on Chesapeake Bay

Southern Maryland Online reports that The Conservation Fund, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and St. Mary's County, purchased 212 acres on Chesapeake Bay that will provide opportunities for historical interpretation and recreational access along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, while buffering Patuxent River Naval Air Station from land uses that threaten the mission of the base. In addition, the Navy acquired a conservation easement on the property as part of the REPI Program that will limit incompatible use and protect the rural character of the landscape within the Atlantic Test Range of the Patuxent River NAS.

#### Land to be Preserved as Wildlife Habitat, Buffer between Training and Development

The Daily News (Jacksonville, NC) reports that nearly 1,800 acres of undeveloped land in Onslow County will be preserved in its natural state, thereby protecting wildlife habitat and creating a natural buffer between military training at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and surrounding development.

#### REPI Grant Expands Eglin AFB Buffer

The NWF Daily News (Fort Walton Beach, FL) reports that Okaloosa County will purchase 961 acres of land that protects Eglin Air Force Base with funding from the REPI Program and Defense Infrastructure grants. "This is another example of where we have worked together with our brothers and sisters at Eglin and what we have is a win-win," Jeff Littrell, director of water and sewer for the county, said. "If it wasn't a win-win, we wouldn't be doing it, and neither would they."

#### REPI Protects Lands Outside Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

The Messenger-Press (Princeton, NJ) reports that the REPI Program, with the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Program, helped to purchase and preserve open space that falls within the five mile buffer of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The preservation of these lands helps the environment, preserves open space, and protects operations on the base from encroachment.

#### Avon Park Air Force Range Receives Funding to Protect Buffer Lands

The Ledger (Lakeland, FL) reports that the Avon Park Air Force Range received another grant to protect the public from activities at the Range and to protect the Range from the encroachment of development. Florida State Rep. Ben Albritton said, "...there is going to be growth in Florida for the next 20 years. We know that. If we can get the threat of development encroachment with the range off the table now, it will

save problems in the future and protect this important defense installation.”

**Camp Ripley ACUB Project Wins Award**

The Brainerd Dispatch (Brainerd, MN) reports that the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program (ACUB) at Camp Ripley received the 2014 Lake Friendly Award. The award is in recognition of lake friendly activities by citizens and collaborations of organizations to protect the area’s water resources.

**Avon Park Air Force Range Receives Another Grant to Buffer the Installation**

The News Chief (Lakeland, FL) reports that Avon Park Air Force Range received another grant to purchase property to buffer the military installation. The Florida Defense Support Task Force has given Polk County \$500,000 to purchase land and development rights to prevent incompatible development near the base. This grant supplements a REPI Program project.

**Townsend Bombing Range Encroachment Partnering Team and Bob Barnes Win Nancy Natoli Elan Award**

The Townsend Bombing Range Encroachment Partnering Team and Bob Barnes won the inaugural Nancy Natoli Elan Award for Innovation in Land Conservation. The Team and Barnes helped to conserve more than 30,000 acres essential for air training exercises.

You’re receiving this announcement because you expressed interest in the REPI Program.

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

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