



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

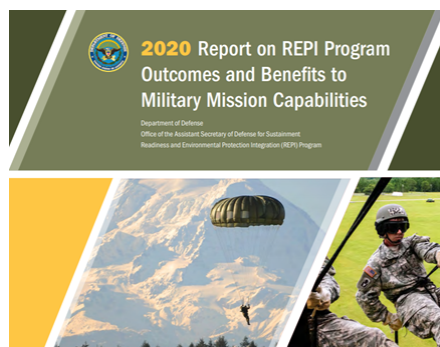
REPIREADINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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REPI Monthly Newsletter - November 2020 Edition

Please see below for exciting news and announcements relevant to the REPI community! If you would like to have an announcement or photo featured in next month's newsletter, please email us at osd.repi@mail.mil.

2020 REPI Metrics Report



The **2020 Report on REPI Program Outcomes and Benefits to Military Mission Capabilities** is now available. This report summarizes over 15 years of planning and execution data submitted by the Military Services to quantify the extent of known or potential land-use

conflicts, solutions to address these conflicts, and overall investments in and benefits to military capabilities.

The analysis demonstrates that lands near installations and training areas are increasingly at risk of converting to development incompatible with military activities. As the report shows, protecting such lands through the REPI program is more cost-effective than settling for test and training workarounds, replacing compromised and recently modernized assets with new construction or relocating missions.

Fortunately, the REPI program can create such significant value for the DoD mission because it benefits from the dedicated support and innovative solutions from so many partners. Together, we will continue to preserve and enhance mission capabilities in support of national defense.

REPI at the Land Trust Alliance Rally 2020

On Tuesday, October 6, REPI's session on "Enhancing Climate Resilience to Support National Defense" was held during the Land Trust Alliance's 2020 Rally. We discussed how installations and partners could leverage the REPI Program to enhance military installation resilience during this session. You can learn more about

this on our [website](#). If you registered for the event, the recording can be viewed [here](#). Otherwise, you can watch the recording of the practice session on the REPI website [here](#).

On Wednesday, October 7, REPI's session "the Sentinel Landscapes Documentary and Discussion" was also held during the Rally. The session included a screening of the Sentinel Landscapes documentary, which is also available on the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership website [here](#). There was also a discussion about the development of the **Interactive Landowner Resources Tool**, an online tool that has compiled federal and state voluntary assistance programs that help private landowners manage their land sustainably. If you registered for this event, the recording can be viewed [here](#).

If you have any remaining questions from these sessions, please send us an email, and we will do our best to provide an answer or direct you to where you can find more information.

Coastal Resilience Grants Announcement



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA today announced more than \$37 million in new grants from the National Coastal Resilience Fund that will support coastal resilience projects in 25 states and U.S. territories. The 46 grants announced today will generate \$55 million in matching contributions for a

total conservation impact of \$92 million. A portion of these funds will contribute to the protection and stabilization of shorelines at two coastal installations — Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Virginia — promoting installation and community resilience to storm surge and sea-level rise.

To view NFWF's full press release, click [here](#).

Innovation Opportunity Spotlight

Carbon Crediting – providing supplementary payment to forest and farmland owners.

Increasingly accessible sources of potential revenue for environmental protection projects are carbon credits and offsets. Carbon credits and offsets are representative documents symbolizing a volume of greenhouse gases. Carbon offsets refer to projects that store a volume of greenhouse gases and can be created through various efforts such as ecosystem restoration and then sold to individuals and companies seeking to offset their carbon footprint.

In the United States, there are two main markets for carbon offsets: regulatory compliance and voluntary. The regulatory compliance market exists to help companies meet their state's regulatory requirements. The voluntary market largely serves companies responding to stakeholder pressure, a sense of corporate responsibility, or a desire to reduce their carbon footprint. The voluntary carbon market has been in the news more frequently in the past year, with several Fortune 500 companies announcing plans to become "carbon neutral" or even, in some cases, "carbon negative." These companies are changing their operations to reduce their carbon emissions. They are purchasing carbon credits to offset the emissions they can't currently address with other practices, allowing them to get closer to carbon neutrality.

Those payments help fund a voluntary carbon market that creates a demand for other organizations that can reduce or store emissions. These organizations can sell their credits to the market in exchange for financial gains equivalent to the amount of carbon reduced or stored. With an increasing interest in the voluntary carbon market from large corporations and consumers, there has been an emergence of carbon crediting programs spread across different industries, each serving a different niche. In many cases, these programs serve the buyer of carbon credits as well as the landowners who are implementing practices on the ground to store or reduce carbon, thus generating the carbon credits.

Below are some examples of innovative voluntary carbon credit programs designed to help small- and large-scale landowners enter the carbon market and receive payments for sustainable land management practices instituted on their forest or farmland. **This additional income could serve as a funding source for a REPI Challenge project while further supporting the compatible land use goals of REPI and the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership.**



Longleaf pine forest. Photo courtesy of Randy Browning, USFWS.

1. Small-scale Forest Conservation Carbon Markets

Because of up-front costs, the carbon market is typically only accessible for large-scale landowners that have the ability to implement changes on thousands of acres. However, the natural carbon sequestration process in growing forests creates an opportunity for smaller-scale forest landowners to enter the carbon market without implementing major changes to their land. Additionally, the

use of available data, technology, and tools such as LIDAR, GIS, and remote sensing can further decrease the landowner's initial costs and increase their overall profit from the sale of their forestry conservation offsets.

Many different companies are available to help landowners through this process. One of these companies, **CORE Carbon**, targets landowners owning between 40 and 5,000 acres. There is no cost to landowners to participate in CORE Carbon, and they estimate the revenue to the landowner will range from \$10-20 per acre per year, but this will vary from project to project. To start a project, the landowner signs a 40-year contractual agreement with Finite Carbon with a 10-year payment guarantee.

CORE will be available for forestry conservation in Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina when it is launched in early 2021, with the goal of expanding nationwide over time. Conservation easements are not required to participate in CORE, and the presence of a conservation easement on a property does not preclude or guarantee a CORE Carbon project.

2. Sustainable Agricultural Practices Carbon Markets

Like forests, agricultural land can also store vast amounts of carbon in its soils and plant matter. Activities such as adding cover crops, reducing tillage, rotating crops, reducing inputs, incorporating livestock, or any activities that increase soil organic matter or reduce greenhouse gas emissions can remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. These activities also improve the soil's overall health and crop health, creating an added benefit to the farmer. Any farmer willing to implement one or more of these changes on their land could be eligible to enter the carbon market and get paid for the carbon being stored in their land.

Farmers are required to pay for the operational changes on their land. However, some federal funding opportunities could help in this process, such as the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** and **Conservation Stewardship Program**.

Many companies are also available and willing to sponsor the soil sampling and verification process for the landowners. One of these companies is called **Indigo Carbon**. Indigo offers a guaranteed minimum payment of \$10 per credit over 10 years and free access to the Indigo Carbon software platform, and free agronomic hotline support to farmers.

Indigo Carbon is currently active in 21 states (KS, NE, TX, MO, IA, AR, ND, SD, IN, IL, OK, OH, KY, NC, CO, MN, LA, TN, GA, MS, and SC) with more states showing interest as the program expands. Indigo recently announced eight major brands committed to purchasing Indigo Carbon Credits. Read more about their recent accomplishments [here](#) and learn about the landowner process [here](#).

3. Non-Traditional Agricultural Carbon Removal Marketplaces

In addition to traditional carbon credit generation, many companies provide similar financial benefits to landowners through different processes. These processes still require the landowner to pay for the carbon sequestration land management practices being placed on their land, which can be expensive. However, following the implementation, farmers can get paid in a variety of different ways. Because these companies aren't selling traditional carbon credits, they often use free tools, such as NRCS's **COMET-Planner** or **COMET-Farm** tool, instead of third-party verification to inform their process and estimate how much carbon has been removed.

These tools are free to use and have been developed by NRCS with farmers and ranchers in mind. For initial planning purposes, COMET-Planner provides generalized estimates of the greenhouse gas impacts of conservation practices. For a more in-depth analysis, farmers can use COMET-Farm as a carbon and greenhouse gas accounting system. It guides farmers through the process of describing current management practices and any future practices to generate a report that compares the differences in carbon and greenhouse gas emissions in current and future plans.

One company that uses both of these tools is called **Nori**. Nori is a carbon removal marketplace that allows citizens and businesses to buy carbon reduction units in the form of Nori Carbon Removal Tonnes (NRT), which are being sold by farmers and growers carrying out carbon removal practices on their land. Nori enrolls farmers who have recently adopted practices in the last 10 years and prioritizes projects of 1,000 or more acres. Because Nori isn't selling traditional carbon credits, their verification and selling process is different from the above programs.

Currently, one NRT is worth \$15 plus one NORI token, a cryptocurrency that fluctuates in value. Until the end of 2020, Nori is allowing growers to sell up to five years of carbon removal from previous years, after which they will only issue credits for ongoing carbon removal.

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program



A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program has been posted. The REPI

program is pleased to support the BRIC program as they provide financial assistance to states, local communities, tribes, and territories for pre-disaster mitigation activities. For fiscal year (FY) 2020, FEMA

will distribute up to \$500 million through the BRIC grant program and anticipates funding projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to partnerships, such as shared funding mechanisms.

The REPI program acknowledges that collaboration among government agencies is critical to enhancing and preserving military readiness. The BRIC program provides an excellent opportunity for installations and partners to plan and execute projects designed to increase military installation resilience. Like the REPI program's military installation resilience efforts, the BRIC program incentivizes projects that incorporate nature-based solutions. These mitigation projects must be cost-effective and designed to increase resilience and public safety.

The application period to apply for FY 2020 BRIC funding opened on September 30, 2020, and closes on January 29, 2021, at 3:00 PM.

California Executive Order N-82-20

On October 7, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order (EO) N-82-20 to deploy a number of strategies to store carbon in the state's natural and working lands, thereby removing it from the atmosphere and reducing the state's carbon footprint and increasing environmental resiliency. The EO places a heavy focus on clean water and air as well as defending California's unique biodiversity. State efforts are directed towards healthy soil management, wetlands restoration to protect coastal areas, active forest management, and enhanced green infrastructure.

This EO encourages federal partnerships to accomplish these goals. Such partnerships could include REPI and the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership and help further the installation resilience and broader REPI efforts in California.

Click [here](#) for more information.

REPI Resilience Series



To showcase new and existing military installation resilience efforts, the REPI Program has supported several virtual engagements this Fall. The 2020 Resilience Webinar Series Flyer highlights the diverse range of workshops and webinars hosted by REPI, the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability, and the Western Regional Partnership. Throughout this series, we engaged with installations, partners, and resilience leaders across the country to discuss how installation resilience can enhance military readiness.

If you missed our October resilience webinar, you can view the recording [here](#).

If you missed our most recent resilience webinar, you can view the recording [here](#). The other webinar recordings are available on the REPI website [here](#).

To view the full Resilience Webinar Series Flyer, click [here](#).

Webinars

2020 REPI Challenge Winners

*This webinar will replace the previously scheduled Species Crediting webinar, which will be rescheduled in 2021.

Description: We will dive deeper into some of the 2020 REPI Challenge winning projects during this webinar. Learn more about how these projects limit incompatible development, enhance military installation resilience, and relieve current and anticipated environmental restrictions on installations that host key capabilities identified in the National Defense Strategy.

When: Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 1 PM ET

For detailed instructions of how to register for and join this webinar, click [here](#).

REPI in the News

JRM Partners with Local and Federal Agencies, Invests in Habitat Conservation on Guam. (08 October 2020)

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (Asan, Guam) reports that the REPI program made \$2 million in funding available for a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Guam Department of Agriculture, and the Joint Region Marianas (JRM). JRM will protect natural habitats that benefit both the military and the greater community. This is the largest award that has been received for habitat management and conservation work on GovGuam lands.



New Jersey Pine Barrens at Jake's Branch County Park in Beachwood. Photo courtesy of Asbury Park Press.

Whiting, Joint Base to be Protected from Wildfires by Five-Mile Firebreak. (21 October 2020)

Asbury Park Press (Manchester, NJ) reports that \$380,000 of the \$1.9 million in REPI funds supporting the base is being dedicated to establishing a five-mile long firebreak in the forest between Roosevelt

City and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. This forest lies within the Pine Barrens, the most fire-prone environment on the East Coast. The firebreak will protect both the local township and joint base from potential fire hazards.



Pax River, ATR Receive \$3 Million Grant for Eastern Shore Land Protection. (05 November 2020)

Naval Air Station Patuxent River Tester (Annapolis, MD) reports that the REPI program awarded Atlantic Test Ranges and Naval Air Station Patuxent River \$3 million to protect Maryland's Eastern Shore through 4,000 acres of land easements. These funds stem from the 2020 REPI Challenge and the partnership of the U.S. Navy, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and more. The funding will be used to protect Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore which makes up over 75% of Maryland's remaining tidal wetlands while protecting the abilities of the testing range.

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