



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
REPI READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM



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REPI Newsletter | December 2022 Edition

Please see below for exciting news and announcements relevant to the REPI community! If you would like to have an announcement featured in next month's newsletter or are interested in ways to partner with the REPI Program, connect with us at osd.repi@mail.mil. For more information about the REPI Program and supportive DOD efforts, please visit www.repi.mil.

If this message was forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe to our listserv, please [click here](#).

Message from the Director



Dear REPI Partners and Stakeholders,

As we near the end of 2022, the REPI Office has had a particularly busy fall season. Between actively reviewing proposal reviews from the Military Services for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 funding cycle, hosting multiple informative webinars, and making the pivotal transition from virtual events to re-engaging with our partners at in-person stakeholder engagements, we're continuing to find innovative ways to support our partners and protect the military mission across the country. A key component of the success of REPI projects over the years is a result of the

continuous engagement with new and existing stakeholders. Over the past few months, the REPI Program has had the privilege of participating in several partner events with the Land Trust Alliance, the Association of Defense Communities, and the Conservation Finance Network.

The REPI Program provides these partners and the Military Services with a unique opportunity to promote conservation across their communities in support of national security priorities. For several years now, the DOD has deemed current and future risks from climate change to be a national security threat that can cause severe disruptions to military training and testing operations. In the recently released 2022 National Defense Strategy (NDS), DOD sets the Department's strategic direction and priorities, refining and focusing its commitments to the climate and Indo-Pacific region. More information on the NDS can be found further below or at www.defense.gov/National-Defense-Strategy.

The REPI Program works with the DOD to address such climate vulnerabilities. Through preserving and engaging in large-scale conservation projects to support climate resilience efforts and natural resource protection, the REPI Program is committed to supporting critical stewardship work. An example of such a partnership is with several key stakeholders in Hawai'i, all working together to conserve natural resources, bolster agricultural and forestry economies, increase climate change resiliency and strengthen military readiness. In October, the REPI Program hosted a series of workshops on collaborative resource management, joined by various federal, state, and Hawai'i-based organizations.

The REPI Hawai'i Workshops served as an opportunity for federal partners to learn from local entities regarding the challenges faced by farmers, watershed preservation organizations, and forestry conservationists in preserving natural resources on the islands. In this collaborative platform, DOD officials learned more about Hawai'i-based issues and discussed avenues for continued teamwork to develop meaningful solutions. The REPI Hawai'i Workshop underscored the critical role Hawai'i-based organizations such as the Trust for Public Land, the Nature Conservancy, Watershed Partnerships, and various grassroots organizations play in building long-lasting connections with the community and fostering teamwork with the DOD and other federal agencies.

This is just one of the many examples of exciting, ongoing, and innovative partnerships at installations across the country. I hope you'll continue reading as we're eager to share Program updates, including a highlight of FY23 REPI Proposals, upcoming partner funding opportunities, recent stakeholder engagements, and the latest REPI events and news.

If you're looking to get involved or interested in learning more about the REPI Program, the REPI Program's natural infrastructure projects, or the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, visit www.repi.mil or www.sentinellandscapes.org to stay connected.

Best,

Kristin Thomasgard
REPI Program Director

REPI Program Launches FY23 Proposal Evaluation



The REPI Office is excited to have received 73 REPI proposals requesting \$308 million in FY23 REPI funding, an additional \$36.2 million requested from FY22. These projects are leveraging the REPI Program to safeguard critical installation missions for the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Army alike. The FY23 proposals are looking to protect, manage, or improve over 506,000 acres and are planning to leverage over \$317 million in partner funds. The REPI Office will evaluate FY23 project proposals through the end of the month.

More information on REPI proposals, or on engaging with other federal or state agencies, can be directed to the REPI Program at osd.repi@mail.mil or by visiting www.repi.mil.

DOD Releases 2022 National Defense Strategy

In October, DOD released the unclassified version of the 2022 National Defense Strategy (NDS). In addition to the NDS, DOD released the public versions of the Nuclear Posture Review and the Missile Defense Review for the first time. Producing the

documents together, said Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, ensured tight linkages between DOD strategy and resources. "By weaving these documents together, we help ensure that the entire department is moving forward together, matching our resources to our goals," Austin said. "The strength and combat credibility of the joint force remains central to integrated deterrence."

The 2022 NDS sets the Department's strategic direction and priorities for the Joint Force, identifying how the U.S. military will meet growing threats to national security interests and a stable and open international system. The 2022 NDS identifies four top-level defense priorities that the Department must pursue to strengthen deterrence, including defending the homeland; deterring strategic attacks against the United States, Allies, and partners; deterring aggression; and building a resilient Joint Force and defense ecosystem. The NDS also identifies three ways in which the Department will achieve its priorities – integrated deterrence, campaigning, and building enduring advantage. The Department is also working with industry partners to strengthen supply chains within the defense industrial base and tackle climate change's dangers, including ensuring that the military can continue to operate in hotter and harsher environments. As changes in global climate transform the context in which DOD operates, the 2022 NDS reaffirms its commitment to addressing climate vulnerabilities. By working with industry partners to strengthen supply chains within the defense industrial base and tackling the dangers of climate change, DOD can ensure that the military can continue to operate within these environments.

For information on the strategic reviews or to download a copy of the 2022 NDS visit www.defense.gov/National-Defense-Strategy.

2022 America the Beautiful Challenge Recipients Announced



On November 10, the National Fish and Wild Life Foundation (NFWF) announced the 2022 America the Beautiful Challenge recipients. Administered by NFWF, the America the Beautiful Challenge is a partnership between NFWF and DOD, the U.S. Department of the Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Forest Service, and Native Americans in Philanthropy.

NFWF announced nearly \$91 million in grants through the new America the Beautiful Challenge. The 55 grants will support landscape-scale conservation projects in 42 states and three U.S. territories, leveraging \$50.7 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of about \$141.7 million. Of the \$91 million in grants, the REPI Program contributed \$1.5 million in funding towards two projects in the Georgia Sentinel Landscape and Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape in Arizona. Both projects align with the core focal areas for the America the Beautiful Challenge by protecting open, natural landscapes outside installations and improving installation resilience to climate change through prescribed burns, hazardous fuels reduction, and other wildfire mitigation practices.

The REPI Program will commit up to \$5 million per fiscal year over the next five years, subject to the availability of funds to the \$1 billion in total funding that has been committed by other partner organizations to the America the Beautiful Challenge.

Visit www.repi.mil to download the attached materials and additional resources from NFWF's press release.

SERDP FY24 Federal Call for Proposals

The REPI Program continually works with federal partners to promote funding for projects that seek to preserve military

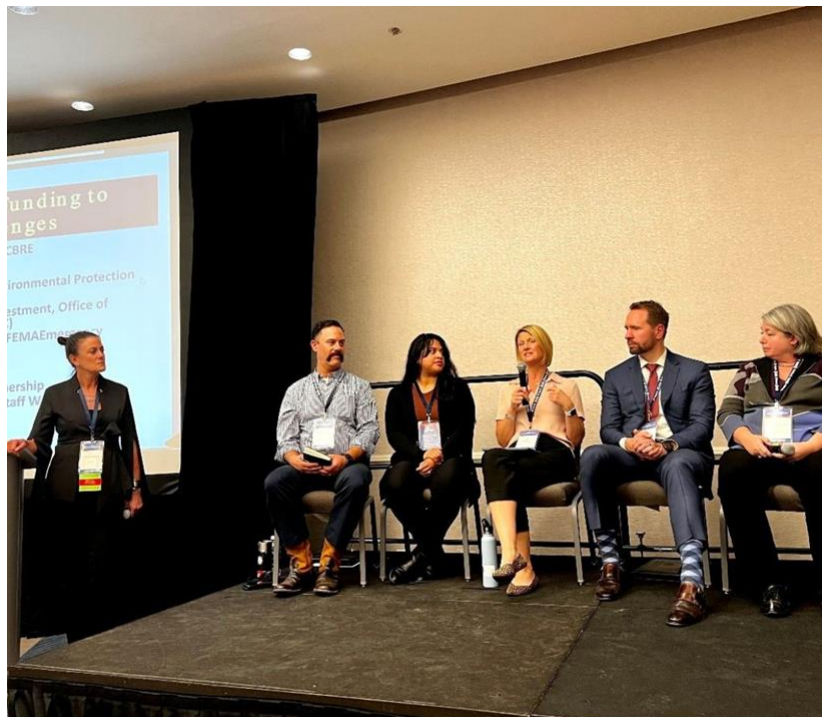


missions, enhance habitats, increase climate resilience, and ensure military readiness at installations and ranges. On November 3, the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) issued two requests for proposals from federal organizations for funding in FY24. DOD's SERDP seeks to fund environmental research and development in the Resource Conservation and Resiliency program area. SERDP invests across the broad spectrum of basic and applied research, as well as advanced technology development. The development and application of innovative environmental technologies will reduce the costs, environmental risks, and time required to resolve environmental problems while, at the same time, enhancing and sustaining military readiness. SERDP is requesting proposals that respond to the following focused Statements of Need (SONs) in Resource Conservation and Resiliency:

- Advanced Understanding and Methods of Invasive Species Control
- Innovative Approaches to Resolving Sea-Level Related Data and Datum Gaps Worldwide

Projects are led by researchers from industry, academia, and government labs. Annual solicitations are released in the form of Calls for Proposals for Federal organizations. All Federal organizations responding to the SERDP Core solicitation will submit pre-proposals directly to SERDP. There are no limits on the number of pre-proposals an organization can submit. Proposals responding to the FY24 SON will be selected through a competitive process. All pre-proposals are due to SERDP by January 10, 2023, by 2:00 PM Eastern Time. For more information about the SERDP funding process, [download the fact sheet here](#).

REPI Partner Highlights



Kristin Thomasgard, REPI Program Director, participating on a panel at the ADC Installation Innovation Forum, alongside representatives from OLDCC, FEMA, and other industry and local partners.

As we've returned to hosting in-person events again, the REPI Program has seen the immense value of re-engaging with partners and stakeholders during various meetings and conferences. For example, this fall, the REPI Office partnered with the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) for its annual Rally, the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) for the Installation Innovation Forum, and participated in the Conservation Finance Network (CFN)'s annual Conservation Finance Roundtable.

At the 2022 LTA Rally in New Orleans, Louisiana, the REPI Office engaged with several installations and partners during multiple

educational sessions focused on land conservation topics. During Rally, the REPI Program hosted a session, titled Joining Forces with the Military to Combat Climate Change Threats, and hosted an informational breakfast for new and existing REPI partners as well as a productive REPI Working Group Meeting and a Sentinel Landscapes Coordinators meetings. The REPI Program looks forward to continuing partnering with LTA and other public agencies to advance land conservation and natural resources management to ensure military readiness across the country.

In October, ADC hosted the Installation Innovation Forum (IIF) in Phoenix, Arizona. The 2022 IIF featured over 50 sessions and provided a professional development forum for leaders from installations, communities, and industry. The REPI Program Director, Kristin Thomasgard, presented on a sentinel landscapes panel highlighting past success stories and ongoing actions across the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape and Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape. Additionally, Ms. Thomasgard participated on a panel alongside representatives from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other industry and local partners, detailing how attendees can leverage programmatic and agency funding to increase military installation resilience to climate change.

Most recently, CFN hosted its annual Conservation Finance Roundtable in Durham, North Carolina. CFN's Roundtable is a cross-sector dialogue that brings together leading market development practitioners to address common obstacles and advance new conservation finance tools, to improve environmental performance and conservation outcomes. The Roundtable included two days of panel discussions on conservation finance topics by representatives from conservation non-government organizations (NGOs), federal agencies, forestry and agribusiness companies, academia, philanthropy, and investing. Ms. Kristin Thomasgard discussed the REPI Program and Sentinel Landscapes Partnership on a federal agency policy updates panel alongside representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the United States Forest Service. The Roundtable provided an opportunity to reach new conservation funding partners interested in collaborating with the REPI Program in priority landscapes to preserve compatible land uses and promote climate resilience efforts that protect military installations and critical infrastructure.

Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Updates



The Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Steering Committee hosted a site visit of their landscape in Sierra Vista, Arizona. The Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape site visit hosted a range of stakeholders including the REPI Program Director, the Deputy to the Commanding General at Fort Huachuca, members of the Sentinel Landscapes Federal Coordinating Committee from USDA and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the sentinel landscape coordinators, and local partners, including NGOs and local government. During the visit, partners had the opportunity to discuss governance structures for sentinel landscapes and new approaches for funding and financing projects. The site visit included a visit to Elquen Ranch, where attendees learned how ranchers in the sentinel landscape work with the REPI Program and land trusts to protect their working lands from development. Additionally, participants also visited a stormwater recharge and flood control project near Sierra Vista and a wildfire fuels treatment and habitat restoration project in the Coronado National Forest.

The Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape site visit emphasized the partnership's goal to make funding more accessible to local partners, including to advance efforts that directly benefit military readiness and capabilities through DOD's contributions to the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. Through the work of the Sentinel Landscape Partnership and REPI partners, the site visit provided an excellent opportunity to witness firsthand all the critical work our partners are accomplishing on the ground.

Interested in receiving regular updates from the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership? The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Federal Coordinating Committee recently launched its quarterly newsletter! The newsletter shares success stories, announcements, and opportunities with the sentinel landscapes network and the public.

To read the inaugural newsletter, [click here](#)! Subscribe to the Sentinel Landscapes listserv to receive the latest updates, news, and announcements straight to your inbox. [Click here](#) to subscribe!

Upcoming REPI Events

Legal and Fiscal Challenges: Case Studies Webinar



Don't miss the next REPI Program webinar, Legal and Fiscal Challenges: Case Studies, **Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 1:00 PM Eastern Time.**

During this webinar, participants will learn about legal challenges REPI partners have encountered while developing or executing projects and the solutions they used to overcome them.

If you missed the most recent REPI webinar, Managing Community Interests and Concerns, or would like to view a past webinar, please visit the [REPI website](#) to view the 2022 Webinar Series and past webinar recordings.

Interested in a specific topic for the 2023 REPI Webinar Series? Email the REPI Office at osd.repi@mail.mil.

REPI News Roundup



ISA Partners With Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape to Boost Conservation Efforts

Agrinews (Indiana) reports that the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape has partnered with the Indiana

Soybean Alliance (ISA) to help landowners in Hoosier, Indiana, apply new conservation practices across the state. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that work with willing landowners to advance sustainable land management practices around military installations and ranges. ISA Chair Jim Douglas, a farmer from Flat Rock, stated, "We are very happy to work with the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape to offer financial and technical assistance to landowners who want to adopt new conservation practices."

Conservation Along Altamaha River Improves Military Readiness at Fort Stewart

The Conservation Fund (Georgia) reports that Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield and the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust recently announced the protection of 3,800 acres along the Altamaha River that will preserve a corridor of undeveloped land within Fort Stewart's Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB). A working forest conservation easement funded by the Department of Defense's REPI Program ensures that the property will remain protected from any development that could hinder training operations while supporting sustainable timber harvesting and providing wildlife habitat, recreation, and climate benefits. Larry Carlile, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield's ACUB Program Manager shared, "Incompatible development is a real threat to the ability of many military installations to training to standard. Fortunately, we have strong partnerships that ensure our borders and neighbors' adjacent lands are in harmony with the military mission. We could never have protected Beards Creek Forest without the support of REPI funds and funding provided by our partners."

Meet the Military Personnel Who Defend Endangered Animals

Popular Mechanics (New York) reports that military installations across the country are working to protect endangered species. Military installations are home to some of the largest and most pristine tracts of native habitat left in the United States. Over 500 threatened and endangered species make their home on the nation's military installations; 60 live only on land managed by DOD. In 1960, Congress passed the Sikes Act, which requires the military to preserve and enhance its natural resources while maintaining the conditions needed to train soldiers for combat. The article features endangered species from Avon Park Air Force Range, Naval Base Coronado, Fort Hood, and Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

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