



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

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REPI Newsletter June 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.

Message from the Director

Dear REPI Partners and Stakeholders,

As we approach the halfway mark of 2022, I'd like to reflect on the important work the REPI office has accomplished this year and send a special thank you to our partners for their tireless effort in enhancing the REPI mission. By working with our partners to strengthen military readiness across the nation, we continue to leverage solutions mitigating climate change impacts, assisting with natural resource management, and ensuring the long-term resilience of military installations and their surrounding communities.

I'm thrilled to report that last month the REPI office had the distinct pleasure of facilitating a visit for the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair Brenda Mallory to the Avon Park Sentinel Landscape in Central Florida. The CEQ visit announced the

release of the America the Beautiful Challenge Request for Proposals and predominantly focused on land and species conservation achievements by landscape partners. During the visit, we had the opportunity to tour the I-4 wildlife crossing in Polk City, Florida, with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation. The CEQ visit to the Avon Park Sentinel Landscape emphasized the initiative'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.

This site visit provided an excellent opportunity to witness firsthand all the fantastic work our partners are accomplishing on the ground. Through the work of our partners' contributions to the REPI program and the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, we're truly able to protect our military mission.

Best,

Kristin Thomasgard
REPI Program Director

Read more about the [CEQ visit](#) and the America the Beautiful Challenge [here](#).

2022 REPI Challenge Project Spotlight and 2023 Request for Proposals



The poster is titled "REPI UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE 2022 REPI CHALLENGE RECIPIENTS". It features a map of the United States with nine numbered locations. To the left of the map, a text box states: "This year, the 2022 REPI Challenge will commit \$31.6 million in program funds to be awarded with more than \$60.3 million in partner contributions. These funds will help implement nine projects that limit incompatible development, enhance military installation resilience, and protect local habitats to preserve and improve key mission capabilities." Below the map are nine numbered project photos with captions: 1. Fort Huachuca, Arizona: Climate resilience projects to manage drought impacts. REPI Funds: \$2.2M. 2. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida: Climate resilience through energy and conservation. REPI Funds: \$1.5M. 3. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida: Climate resilience through energy and conservation. REPI Funds: \$1.5M. 4. Fort Belvoir, Montana: Climate resilience through forest and watershed protection. REPI Funds: \$1.5M. 5. Pensacola Training Area, Florida: Climate resilience through wildfire management. REPI Funds: \$2.5M. 6. Naval Base Kitsap, Washington: Climate resilience through wildfire management. REPI Funds: \$1.5M. 7. Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland: Long-term resilience and coastal restoration. REPI Funds: \$2.7M. 8. Fort Bragg, North Carolina: Climate resilience through energy and conservation. REPI Funds: \$1.5M. 9. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida: Climate resilience through energy and conservation. REPI Funds: \$1.5M. At the bottom, a small text box says: "For more information about the REPI program and opportunities to submit proposals, please visit www.mil.mre.mil."

On June 16, the REPI program committed **\$31.6 million** in program funds for the 2022 REPI Challenge. Partners across the country will undertake nine projects **benefitting 13 installations** and their neighboring communities, leveraging nearly **\$60.3 million in partner contributions**. The 2022 REPI Challenge focused on innovative projects that limit incompatible development, enhance military installation resilience, and relieve current or

anticipated environmental restrictions on military testing, training, or operations at locations hosting key mission capabilities.

Three of the selected projects are located in Hawaii and will help implement projects focusing on shared challenges on the islands of O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i. All three projects will strategically focus on improving coastal and forest resilience, which benefits long-term sustainability for local communities and the DoD mission. By allocating funding to projects in Hawaii, the REPI Challenge will contribute to initiatives advancing the military mission at Pacific Missile Range

Facility Barking Sands, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Pōhakuloa Training Area. Sentinel Landscapes also represent partnerships of strategic importance, and three of the selected projects are located within the Middle Chesapeake, Eastern North Carolina, and Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscapes and will contribute directly to the goals of the **Sentinel Landscapes Partnership**.

More information on the 2022 REPI Challenge funding recipients can be found on the **REPI.mil website**.

The REPI Office is also excited to launch the 2023 REPI Challenge process. The primary focus of the 2023 REPI Challenge is to advance projects that preserve key mission capabilities of strategic importance to DoD and enhance installation and range resilience to climate change and severe weather events (e.g., drought, increased wildfires, thawing permafrost). The request for proposals and the pre-proposal form can be found on the **U.S. Endowment's website**. Pre-proposals are due no later than Monday, July 25, 2022.

Sentinel Landscapes Partnership: Eastern North Carolina Spotlight



The Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape (ENCSL) recently hired Dr. Christopher Baillie as the new resilience and climate adaptation coordinator. Dr. Baillie's position is part of a three-year pilot project to add sentinel landscape coordinators with resilience-focused experience to each landscape. The pilot project aligns with the recently updated Sentinel Landscapes Memorandum of Understanding, which places a greater focus on building resilience to climate change. Dr. Baillie is developing a strategic resilience plan for ENCSL that will identify recommendations for addressing the landscape's resilience and climate adaptation challenges and lessons learned for how other sentinel landscapes might benefit from resilience and climate adaptation coordinators.

Learn about upcoming designation cycles, events, and other opportunities to support the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership at

REPI Partner Highlights



Kristin Thomasgard, REPI Program Director, presenting at NACo's Annual WIR Conference in Anchorage, AK. (Above)

Kristin Thomasgard, REPI Program Director, presenting at the SERPPAS Principals Meeting in Beaufort, NC. (Left)

NACo Western Interstate Region Conference

In May, the National Association of Counties (NACo) held its annual Western Interstate Region Conference, bringing together county officials from the nation's fifteen Western states to focus on pressing issues facing counties and our residents. The conference convened county leaders from military installation counties and DoD officials. Kristin Thomasgard, REPI Program Director, presented during a session on how counties can work with local military installations to support community development, natural resources management, and installation resilience. The session highlighted successful ongoing work at the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape and explained how Cochise County plays a critical role in supporting the landscape's initiatives.

Join NACo and the REPI program for the 2022 Annual Conference on July 21-24 in Adams County, Colorado. The REPI program will participate in a conference session, Connecting Counties & Military Installations: Supporting National Defense & Strengthening Local Communities. The session will bring together county leaders from military installation counties for an interactive and informative session focusing on opportunities, resources, and ideas to foster and strengthen county-military partnerships. For more information, visit [2022 NACo Annual Conference & Exposition](#).

Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) Principals Meeting

The Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) recently hosted a Principals Meeting in Beaufort, North Carolina, to review current partnership activities and progress on the

2021 Strategic Plan. The meeting included discussions on DoD's climate adaptation goals, opportunities with the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, America the Beautiful Challenge, and Sentinel Landscapes Partnership updates. The SERPPAS Principals supported the creation of a workshop to review available federal funding opportunities and the addition of stakeholders to the SERPPAS community, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and NACo.

The National Wildlife Federation and the Hoke County Community Forest Project

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is working with Hoke County in North Carolina and other partners on a ground-breaking forestry project that will benefit wildlife, forests, and the citizens of Hoke County. Located a mile south of Fort Bragg, the 532-acre property results from a unique public-private partnership that includes the county, state, federal governments, and community groups. County Commissioners are teaming up with non-profit conservation groups, forestry and wildlife experts, and local landowner groups to break ground and begin a multi-year plan to breathe new life into the forest. According to the NFW, the forest will provide numerous benefits to wildlife, contribute to clean air and water and aid military readiness by serving as a protected property near the base.

Funding for this project is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of North Carolina and a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund, which includes funding from the REPI Program, Altria Group, USDA's NRCS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

To learn more about this project visit the [**National Wildlife Federation's website here.**](#)

Upcoming Partner Funding Opportunities

America the Beautiful Challenge 2022 Request for Proposals

On May 4, 2022, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the 2022 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the America the Beautiful Challenge, a public-private grant program designed to support locally led, voluntary ecosystem restoration projects. Approximately \$85 million in grant funding is available. Applicants are encouraged to develop large-scale, cross-jurisdictional projects that advance existing conservation plans or are informed by Indigenous Traditional Knowledge. This new program will invest in restoring watersheds, forests, and grasslands while also working toward other goals consistent with the America the Beautiful Initiative, including strengthened resilience, equitable access to the outdoors, workforce development, migration corridors, habitat connectivity, and collaborative conservation. In the first year of the America the Beautiful initiative, NFWF anticipates awarding \$85 million nationwide

funding to develop large-scale, locally led projects connecting and restoring public and private lands, waters, and wildlife.

America the Beautiful Challenge Full Proposals for the 2022 RFP are due July 21, 2022, and funding will be awarded in November 2022. For additional information about the America the Beautiful Challenge, [click here](#).

OLDCC DCIP Grant Applications Accepted Through July 18

The Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) is now accepting grant applications for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) for fiscal year 2022. DCIP addresses community infrastructure deficiencies and supports a military installation to enhance military value, installation resilience, and military family quality of life. Congress appropriated \$90 million for the program to be distributed by the end of September.

Complete proposals must be submitted through Grants.gov by July 18, 2022.

For information, please see the [Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation Grantee Guide](#) or download the [DCIP Program Fact Sheet](#).

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Project Selections

On May 18, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the status of the Fiscal Year 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program subapplications. FEMA received 788 subapplications from every state and territory requesting \$4.16 billion in funding. After a month of technical reviews, 316 subapplications have been selected for further review totaling \$65.7 million. This announcement also included awards for the twenty communities that will receive BRIC non-financial Direct Technical Assistance. These communities will receive assistance from FEMA for up to 36 months to support both project and application-specific needs.

To view a complete list of the BRIC subapplications, visit the [FEMA BRIC page](#).

Upcoming REPI Events

Landowner Assistance Opportunities

During this webinar, participants will learn about voluntary assistance programs that help private landowners manage their land sustainably. By using



sustainable practices, a landowner can increase profitability, reduce climate vulnerabilities, and support ecosystem health.

Please join us for this webinar at **1:00 PM ET, Wednesday, July 13, 2022**. For detailed webinar descriptions and connection instructions, visit the [REPI website](#).

2022 Sentinel Landscapes Achievements

During this webinar, participants will learn about the accomplishments of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership over the past year. This will include an analysis of reported data, the 2021 designation cycle, and case studies highlighting the success of the individual landscapes and the Partnership as a whole.

Please join us for this webinar at **1:00 PM ET, Wednesday, August 24, 2022**. For detailed webinar descriptions and connection instructions, visit the [REPI website](#).

Download the [2022 Webinar Series Schedule](#) to view all upcoming webinars!

REPI in the News



How the Military Works with Local Communities to Combat Climate Change

The Pew Charitable Trusts' (Washington, DC) latest **"After the Fact" podcast episode, entitled "Ocean, People, Planet: A Wildlife Refuge On The Brink,"**

explores how a changing climate is threatening the economic livelihood, biodiversity, and cultural heritage of the area as Harriet Tubman's ancestral home. The episode is centered on Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, highlighting the inspiring story of a successful partnership for climate resilience among leaders working to protect coastal habitats and oceans, the intersection with national defense, and the legacy of Harriet Tubman. In addition to the podcast, Pew released a **Q&A interview with Kristin Thomasgard**, the program director for the Defense Department's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program, about the Department's role at the intersection of national security and conservation.

Unlocking Partnership, Opening Paths: Inside the REPI Program

Conservation Finance Network (New Haven, CT) reports that two parcels of land within a one-mile buffer around Fort Harrison were protected from development through strong partnerships that included the REPI program, Fort Harrison, and the Prickly Pear Land Trust. These spaces became two parks that provide access to the outdoors in various ways. The REPI program is a tool used by the Department of Defense to protect land around military bases. Through Fiscal Year

2021, the Department of Defense protected almost 830,000 acres of land, leveraging a total of \$1.18 billion, including partner contributions.

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