



REPI Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program

2013 REPI CHALLENGE FACT SHEET

The **Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program** allows the military Services to enter into cost-sharing partnerships with state and local governments and private conservation organizations to preserve compatible land uses and conserve natural landscapes in support of military readiness. The REPI program has protected 264,000 acres of buffer land at 66 locations in 24 states across the country.

Conserving the acreage necessary to adequately buffer military bases threatened by incompatible development requires innovating thinking. DoD and its partners must do more with less—and before current windows of opportunity close—to accomplish our mutual goals. So DoD designed **the REPI Challenge** to incentivize new business practices that lead to big action and even bigger ideas.

The first REPI Challenge initiated in 2012 and offered up to \$5 million for a land transaction to limit incompatible development or relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions at an eligible military base in Florida or Georgia. In particular, the goals of the REPI Challenge were to:

- Cultivate projects that conserve land at a greater scale and test promising ways to finance land protection.
- Help the REPI program meet its ambitious goals with limited funding (projects must have at least a one-to-one funding match).
- Demonstrate benefits above and beyond normal requirements for REPI projects for important military missions and natural resources.
- Harness the creativity of the private sector to access and leverage unconventional sources of funding, attract philanthropic sources, and take advantage of market-based approaches.



The winning 2013 REPI Challenge project at Joint Base Lewis-McChord protects important prairie habitat.

THE 2013 REPI CHALLENGE

About the Winning 2013 Projects: \$5.25M of REPI Program Funds turned into \$30.75M and 23,518 Acres

- **Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM)**, the Center for Natural Lands Management, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Thurston County, the state of Washington, and private landowners are working together to preserve, restore, and manage critical prairie habitat.
- A REPI award of \$3.5 million is being leveraged almost 2½:1 to ensure land protection and establish a stewardship endowment fund. This project is the culmination of years of coordination between the multiple partners.
- The JBLM project advances an exciting new federal agency partnership. Complete details about the valuable benefits of this unique multi-agency alliance will be available in the coming weeks on www.REPI.mil.
- **Eglin Air Force Base (AFB)**, the state of Florida and Trust for Public Land worked together with a private landowner to preserve a significant landscape of open space and habitat—the largest ever REPI transaction.
- A REPI award of only \$1.75 million was leveraged 10:1 to acquire land valued at \$19.5 million.
- The Eglin project adds to the Northwest Florida Greenway/Flyway and protects F-35 Joint Strike Fighter flight routes and access to the eastern Eglin Range.
- Habitat for the gopher tortoise and species relocation efforts may help preclude the need for listing the tortoise as threatened in its eastern range, benefiting Eglin AFB and multiple other DoD installations. The project also supports more than two dozen jobs related to natural resources management.

About the Winning Installations

Joint Base Lewis-McChord is the third largest installation in the Army and is home to 43,000 soldiers and airmen. JBLM combines an artillery and maneuver training mission, including for Stryker armored combat vehicle teams, with operational airlift missions carrying personnel, vehicles, supplies, and materials directly to areas of conflict.

Eglin AFB is the Air Force's largest installation at over 463,000 acres and also includes extensive special use airspace to allow the base to carry out its test and evaluation mission. That mission includes supporting low-level flight training for all the Services using the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

ADVANCES AND OPPORTUNITIES REALIZED THROUGH THE REPI CHALLENGE PROCESS

In its second year, the 2013 REPI Challenge revealed over \$117 million of new partner funding for over 158,000 total acres of executable land acquisition opportunities at a total cost of over \$206 million around 19 installations in 16 states. As the 2013 proposals showed, the REPI Challenge is helping to change the scale and practices of land conservation supported by the REPI program.



Eglin Air Force Base supports training for the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

As a result, the REPI program will continue to look for ways to take advantage of the exciting opportunities and innovations submitted by all the REPI Challenge proposal locations. Some examples include, but not limited to:

- **Large Scale:** In addition to the 20,850-acre parcel at Eglin AFB, other opportunities include 12,836 acres around Avon Park Air Force Range, FL and 6,400 acres near Fort Benning, GA.
- **New Partners:** The projects bring a variety of new partners, such as the Walton Family Foundation and Arizona Land and Water Trust, who are interested in supporting new approaches to protecting water in Arizona.
- **High Priority Location:** All proposals covered high priority military installations for test and training missions located in high priority landscapes, including opportunities to expand the Navy's efforts in the Chesapeake Bay region within Maryland and now Delaware.
- **Innovative Funding:** The projects offer new funding sources such as corporate donations and an opportunity to pilot an effort at creating carbon credits with investment from EKO Asset Management Partners and Compatible Lands Foundation at Camp Shelby, MS.
- **Efficiencies:** Opportunities exist for collaboration among DoD, NRCS, and USFWS to provide financial and technical assistance to landowners of first-ever designated "Sentinel Landscapes"—lands that enhance national defense, working lands, local economies, and conservation priorities.
- **Natural Resources Management:** USFWS is working with DoD at multiple locations on alleviating restrictions and providing regulatory certainty through conservation credits, including Camp Pendleton, CA and its partner Escondido Creek Conservancy.

In short, the REPI Challenge has revealed a high level of interest and capacity from our partners to find funding to conserve land quickly and at scale. With greater levels of funding available, our partners have shown an appetite for increasing the capabilities of the REPI program to innovate and deliver multiple high priority benefits.