



REPI Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program

2015 REPI CHALLENGE FACT SHEET

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program allows the Military Services to enter into unique cost-sharing partnerships with state and local governments and private conservation organizations to preserve compatible land uses around military installations and to conserve natural landscapes in support of military readiness. The REPI program has protected over 362,000 acres of buffer land around 80 DoD installations in 28 states across the country.

Conserving the land necessary to adequately protect military bases threatened by incompatible development requires DoD and its partners to “do more with less” and approach REPI partnerships with flexibility, creativity, and innovative thinking. To this end, the REPI Program designed the REPI Challenge, an annual competition aiming 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, philanthropic sources, and market-based approaches.

ABOUT THE WINNING 2015 PROJECTS

\$6.2M of REPI Program Funds leveraging over \$21M in partner funding to protect 28,050 acres at 3 locations.

Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, Georgia
Department of Natural Resources, The Knobloch Family Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and U.S. Forest Service are protecting the most important available habitat, based on gopher tortoise counts, within Georgia.

A REPI award of \$2 million plus another \$2 million from the Army is leveraging more than \$12 million in partner contributions to protect 7,016 acres of habitat that contains approximately 1,877 gopher tortoises. This project aims to help preclude an Endangered Species Act listing that could impact maneuver areas for all types of tactical tracked and wheeled vehicles at installations across the region.

Naval Air Station Fallon, the
Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Nevada Conservation Districts Program, Bureau of Land Management, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are protecting three parcels of greater sage grouse habitat along the **Fallon Range Training Complex** military influence area.

A REPI award of over \$2 million will leverage more than \$4 million in partner funding to protect 11,306 acres of habitat from incompatible development to keep critical range training areas unrestricted. In addition to sustaining the mission, this is also part of a larger effort to reduce sagebrush habitat loss and fragmentation, restore prime habitat areas, and conduct biological research.

Naval Shipyard (NSY) Portsmouth Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) School, Trust for Public Land, Trout Unlimited, the Mountain Conservancy Collaborative, High Peaks Alliance, Maine Audubon Society, Mahoosuc Initiative, and NRCS are working together to preserve timberlands that maintain a realistic, remote environment for SERE School field training.

A REPI award of \$2 million is being leveraged more than 2:1 to permanently restrict development on 9,728 acres that will provide timber harvesting and wildlife habitat, and is part of a long-term plan to create a nationally renowned remote lands triathlon dedicated to veterans' rehabilitative services.

ABOUT THE WINNING INSTALLATIONS

Fort Benning and Fort Stewart are two of the Army's largest and most important installations. Fort Benning is home to the Maneuver Center of Excellence and the Armor School, and a typical training day sees over 9,000 soldiers trained in about 145 training missions. Fort Stewart is the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River and is home to the 3rd Infantry Division and the elite fighters of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Both installations also contain abundant longleaf pine habitat for the gopher tortoise and other species. Protecting these species on off-installation lands helps to support better species outcomes at a regional scale and increases mission flexibility.



The gopher tortoise is a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act and could have profound impacts on installations across the Southeast, including Fort Stewart and Fort Benning.

The Fallon Range Training Complex in the high desert of Nevada provides the most realistic strike and integrated air warfare training available to the Navy and Marine Corps, encompassing over 234,000 acres of land area and over 40,000 square miles of airspace with extensive instrumentation and target sets. Sagebrush habitat around the Fallon Range Training Complex offers opportunities for conserving the greater sage grouse and ensuring long-term compatible land uses that protect and sustain an irreplaceable training asset for the Department of Defense.



An F/A-18 Super Hornet carries bombs over the Fallon Range Complex, which contains sagebrush habitat vital to the viability of the greater sage-grouse, which may be listed as threatened or endangered across 11 states in the West.

NSY Portsmouth SERE School field training takes place in Redington Township, Maine, where the remote environment and harsh climate are essential to the effective execution of its training mission. Here, pilots, air crews, flight officers, and intelligence officers learn basic skills necessary for long-term land survival; effective rescue methods; evasion of capture by hostile forces; resistance to interrogation, indoctrination, and exploitation; and escape from detention when held by enemy forces.



The Navy's Reding Property in Maine provides a harsh, isolated winter environmental for personnel at-risk for capture to learn survival skills as part of SERE School field training exercises

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS REALIZED THROUGH THE REPI CHALLENGE

The quantity and quality of REPI Challenge proposals reflects a continued appetite for new partnership and innovative conservation opportunities. In 2015, 10 proposals revealed over \$95 million in potential partner funding, at a greater than 1:1 match to REPI funding, to protect nearly 180,000 acres across 9 states. Other highlights and opportunities include bringing in private foundations as new partners, large landscape projects that benefit multiple high-value military installations, providing for climate change and sea level rise resiliency, and direct benefits to numerous rare species.

The 2015 REPI Challenge revealed a number of opportunities that also reflect the goals and spirit of the complementary Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. Launched in 2013 by DoD, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation's defense mission — places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes.