

## 2023 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program Challenge

### Goal:

The Department of Defense's (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program may provide up to \$40 million in fiscal year (FY) 2023 funding for land conservation, improvement, or management activities that limit incompatible development in the vicinity of DoD installations and ranges; enhance military installation resilience to climate change or extreme weather events; or relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions in support of key mission capabilities of strategic importance. Additional consideration will be given to those projects that leverage multiple authorities to accomplish project goals. Selected projects will demonstrate their ability to preserve and/or enhance key mission capabilities of strategic importance to the Department of Defense. ***Once again, this year the REPI Program will divide the \$40 million in REPI Challenge funding to allocate up to \$25 million to projects that apply through the REPI Challenge process and up to \$15 million to projects that apply through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF); more information is included in this request for proposal.***

### Background:

Since 2003, the REPI Program has helped fund cost-sharing partnerships between the Military Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force), private conservation organizations, and state and local governments to incompatible development in the vicinity of DoD installations and ranges; enhance military installation resilience to climate change or extreme weather events; or relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions in support of key mission capabilities of strategic importance ([www.repi.mil](http://www.repi.mil)). REPI has a long and successful history of partnerships around the country. The challenges of protecting areas necessary to optimally conduct military missions, though, continues to be threatened by encroachment.

For this reason, the REPI Challenge was established in 2012 as a competitive process to seek projects that accelerate land conservation and military mission protection efforts through innovative partnerships and shared financing. Since 2012, REPI has offered up to

\$40 million each year for projects that incentivize new business practices, increase partner cost-share, and promote compatible land use around military installations and ranges at a larger scale. Eleven years of the REPI Challenge have resulted in more than \$120.6 million in REPI Program funds being leveraged with over \$382.5 million in partner contributions at 38 locations nationwide.

The REPI Program's primary mission is to remove or avoid land-use conflicts near installations, address regulatory restrictions, and improve resilience to current or projected climate change impacts that may inhibit military training, testing, and operations. The REPI Program once again anticipates an increased level of funding for the FY 2023 REPI Challenge and will be able to expand the focus on projects that will make key mission capabilities of strategic importance more resilient to climate change and severe weather events as well as continue to support projects that promote land conservation, improvement, or management activities that limit incompatible development in the vicinity of DoD installations and ranges. The REPI Program is a cost-effective tool available to DoD and our partners to protect the significant investments funded by taxpayer resources to ensure the viability of these key mission capabilities for decades into the future. **Key mission capabilities may include one or more of the following:**

- Hypersonics
- Fifth-generation aircraft training and development
- Nuclear modernization
- Space and cyberspace as warfighting domains, including space launch
- Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance
- Missile defense
- Advanced autonomous systems (e.g., testing of deployment of unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles)
- Capabilities hosted within or supporting missions across the Pacific region (e.g., Hawaii, Guam, Alaska, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)

REPI Challenge projects can leverage the following authorities:

- **Section 2684a of title 10, United States Code (10 U.S.C. § 2684a)** authorizes the Military Departments to enter into agreements with eligible entities to acquire real property interests or manage natural resources to: 1) prevent incompatible development; 2) preserve habitat; or 3) improve military installation resilience.
- **Section 670c-1 of title 16, United States Code (16 U.S.C. § 670c-1)**, the Sikes Act authority, authorizes the Military Departments to enter in cooperative agreements or interagency agreements to provide for the maintenance or improvement of natural resources. This authority may be leveraged to manage off-base natural resources to mitigate or remove current or anticipated

challenges that could impact military activities or maintain or improve natural infrastructure in support of military installation resilience.

- **Section 2679 of title 10, United States Code (10 U.S.C. § 2679)**, the Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) authority, authorizes the Military Departments to enter into agreements with eligible entities to provide, receive, or share installation-support services. Under REPI, this authority may be leveraged to fund state and local governments to conduct off-installation natural resource management or military installation resilience improvements that enhance mission effectiveness or create efficiencies.

### **2022 REPI Challenge Outcomes:**

In 2022, the REPI Program provided more than \$31 million in program funding to be coupled with over \$60 million in partner contributions to implement nine projects that limit incompatible development, enhance military installation resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, and relieve current and anticipated environmental restrictions at locations that enhance key mission capabilities. By spreading funding across nine projects, the 2022 REPI Challenge will be able to contribute to initiatives benefitting 13 installations and their communities across the country. The locations and their associated REPI Challenge funding include:

- **Fort Huachuca, AZ.** Climate resilience projects to manage drought impacts. \$2.8M
- **Naval Observatory Flagstaff & Camp Navajo, AZ.** Climate resilience through wildfire mitigation; \$1.0M
- **Beale Air Force Base, CA.** Compatible land protection; \$3.6 million.
- **Pacific Mission Range Facility, Barking Sands, HI.** Climate resilience to mitigate flood impacts; \$1.9M
- **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI.** Climate resilience through forest and watershed protection; \$14.8M
- **Pōhakuloa Training Area, HI.** Climate resilience through wildfire management; \$2.4M
- **Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD.** Living shoreline construction and coastal stabilization; \$2.7 million.
- **Fort Bragg, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC.** Climate resilience through analysis and conservation easement; \$1.8 million.
- **Naval Base Kitsap, WA.** Species conservation and recovery; \$500K

Up to \$15 million in REPI Challenge funding will be provided to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) in 2022 to accelerate coastal resilience projects near DoD installations and ranges that also enhance habitats for fish and wildlife.

## 2023 Funding Criteria:

The primary focus of this year's REPI Challenge will be projects that will help make key mission capabilities of strategic importance to DoD more resilient to climate change and severe weather events (e.g., drought, increased wildfires, thawing permafrost). In addition to these climate resilient projects (**Focus Area A**), funding is available for projects that promote land conservation or management activities limiting incompatible development (**Focus Area B**) or relieving current or anticipated environmental restrictions (**Focus Area C**).

Competitive proposals will demonstrate actions that improve military readiness by protecting investments to assets and platforms in support of one or more of the key mission capabilities referenced on page 2 of this RFP. Projects that have received REPI Challenge funding previously may not be as competitive in 2023. Instead, these projects should coordinate with the installation to pursue follow-on funding through their Military Service's annual REPI request or other federal funding opportunities. New, innovative efforts to maximize results will be most competitive in the 2023 REPI Challenge.

**Focus Area A (Climate Resilience Projects):** The 2023 REPI Challenge will make investments in planning, design, and implementation of natural infrastructure improvements outside DoD installations and ranges that promote the resilience of military capabilities to impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, including wildfire, drought, and permafrost thawing. Such requests exclude projects addressing impacts from storm surge, flooding, or sea-level rise, which should be directed to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund (*see guidance below*). The REPI Program will seek climate resilience projects that request funding in one or more of the following phases:

- *Phase 1: Capacity building and planning* – proposed projects in this phase should include development of a plan that outlines how the partner has engaged with the installation(s) and other relevant partners and stakeholders; the proposed scope of the project, to include the geography(ies); and potential natural infrastructure solutions to be leveraged, including prioritization factors that may be considered in making project decisions.
- *Phase 2: Site assessment and design* – proposed projects in this phase have progressed beyond initial planning and should focus on site assessments and preliminary designs to help ensure successful implementation of natural infrastructure solutions to meet climate resilience goals. Projects in this phase will refine prioritized geography(ies) and proposed natural infrastructure solutions and should be ready for final design and permitting at the conclusion of the project.
- *Phase 3: Final design and permitting* – proposed projects in this phase should focus on finalizing designs and project plans including refined cost estimates and

any permitting requirements, as well as expand stakeholder engagement in order to be ready for implementation. At the conclusion of this phase projects should have completed (or be ready to complete) all compliance assessments (e.g., NEPA, state, etc.) and obtained (or ready to obtain) any required permits as their deliverables and be ready to pursue proposed natural solutions in the next phase.

- *Phase 4: Implementation and monitoring activities* – projects in this phase should have proposed actions prioritized, plans finalized, have required permits in hand, and be ready to move forward with implementation immediately upon funding receipt. Projects in this phase should also have a well-documented monitoring plan as a final deliverable in order to ensure successful implementation of the natural infrastructure solution.

Highly evaluated proposals will leverage other federal, state, and non-profit resilience programs that help build capacity and implement natural infrastructure solutions. For example, significant opportunities exist to leverage FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program.

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>)

**Important guidance for projects addressing storm surge, flooding, or sea-level rise:**

The REPI Program is partnering with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) on their National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) to accelerate coastal resilience projects near DoD installations and ranges <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund>). The REPI Program will provide up to \$15 million in REPI Challenge funding to NFWF for this effort. Coastal resilience projects that meet the criteria of the NCRF (e.g., climate resilience that also enhances habitat for fish and wildlife) are required to apply through this fund versus REPI Challenge.

*For state and local governments that are interested in requesting funding for Phases 1-3 above, but cannot meet the 50 percent cost share requirement of the REPI Challenge, we encourage you to explore the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) Military Installation Resilience program (<https://oldcc.gov/our-programs/military-installation-sustainability>), which only requires a 10 percent cost share).*

**Focus Area B (Incompatible Development Projects) and Focus Area C (Habitat Conservation Projects):** The 2023 REPI Challenge will make investments for projects that limit incompatible development in the vicinity of DoD installations and ranges or relieve current or anticipated environmental species restrictions in support of key mission capabilities of strategic importance. The REPI Program will seek projects that leverage greater economies of scale by protecting large parcels of land or habitat in priority areas already targeted by DoD installations in a manner that benefits the mission of the installation by protecting, sustaining, enhancing, or facilitating optimum range and installation operations.

**Other Considerations:** All proposals also will be evaluated based on the following REPI Challenge criteria:

- Attract at least a 50 percent partner cost share, with preference given to higher ratios, to include other federal, state, local, or private funds, in-kind contributions, bargain sales, technical assistance, land management and restoration activities, outreach and engagement, planning, etc.
- Attract multiple and diverse partners who bring financial support and an increased constituency for REPI, including federal and state resources and assistance programs.
- Coordinate with multiple levels of government to foster effective delivery of local, state, and federal initiatives or programs focused on maintaining compatible land use, land or habitat management or conservation, sustainable management of working lands, or other such interests.
- Model promising strategies to finance conservation, including market-based incentives, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revolving funds, and partnerships with private investors and landowners that could be extended to other locations.
- Leverage land protection or conservation programs managed by the Departments of Agriculture (primarily NRCS and USFS) and the Interior (primarily USFWS) to achieve large-scale land protection with significant conservation and working lands benefits to support the goals and objectives of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership.
- Leverage multiple DoD authorities to address encroachment impacts on military training, testing, and operations.

*Priority consideration will be given to proposals contributing to identified goals and outcomes within designated Sentinel Landscapes. More information on Sentinel Landscapes can be found at: [www.sentinellandscapes.org](http://www.sentinellandscapes.org).*

### **Who May Apply:**

The 2023 REPI Challenge is open to any state government, political subdivision of a state, or private entity whose organizational purpose or goal is conservation, restoration or preservation of land and natural resources. See additional information in the “Eligibility” section below.

### **Geography:**

The 2023 REPI Challenge is open to projects supporting U.S. state and territory military installations hosting one or more of the key capabilities identified under the Funding Criteria on pages 3-6, particularly those within geographies of significant importance to DoD. Early and close coordination with your local installation/range is critical to ensure

alignment of project objectives and strategic mission benefits. If you need additional information or suggestions about suitable locations, refer to the Contacts listed on page 8.

*Priority consideration will be given to proposals within geographies of strategic importance to DoD, including locations across the Pacific region (e.g., Hawaii, Guam, Alaska, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).*

**Process:**

The first step in the 2023 REPI Challenge application process is to complete a pre-proposal. The purpose of the pre-proposal is to allow the 2023 REPI Challenge review team the opportunity to evaluate viable project concepts and provide feedback to applicants earlier in the application process. Applicants submitting the most promising projects in their pre-proposals will be invited to complete full proposals.

An essential part of the pre-proposal process is for the applicant to coordinate with the appropriate Military Services contact for the installation or range associated with your proposed project (see Service contacts on page 8). The contacts may provide installation-specific information regarding mission capabilities, priority lands, incompatible development concerns, and natural resource management needs to better inform partners for potential projects. Pre-proposals that present projects not coordinated with the appropriate Military Service contact will not be considered.

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities will administer the 2023 REPI Challenge application process. The 2023 REPI Challenge pre-proposal form will be available at: [https://www.usendowment.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2023-repi-preproposal\\_060122\\_form.pdf](https://www.usendowment.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2023-repi-preproposal_060122_form.pdf).

**Timing:**

For interested partners, the following estimated milestones apply:

- July 25, 2022: Pre-proposals are due by 8pm EDT. Pre-proposals are required to be submitted via email to Peter Stangel at: [peter@usendowment.org](mailto:peter@usendowment.org).
- August 15, 2022: All pre-proposal applicants will be notified regarding the status of their pre-proposal.
- September 12, 2022: Full proposals are due by 8pm EDT.
- December 2022-January 2023: DoD announces REPI Challenge funding recipients and processes obligations subject to annual Congressional appropriations and the availability of funding.

Ideally, selected projects will be initiated within six months after funds are obligated to the successful applicant, and expended within five years.

## **Eligibility:**

Proposals may be submitted by eligible entities. Eligible entities vary depending on the authority being leveraged for a REPI project:

- Eligible entities under 10 U.S.C. § 2684a may include a state or political subdivision of a state; or a private entity that has as its stated principal organizational purpose or goal the conservation, restoration, or preservation of land and natural resources, or a similar purpose or goal, as determined by the Secretary concerned.
- Eligible entities under 16 U.S.C. § 670c-1 may include states, local governments, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals through cooperative agreements, as well as heads of federal departments and agencies through interagency agreements.
- Eligible entities under 10 U.S.C. § 2679 may include a state or local government through an intergovernmental support agreement.

**Note:** Eligible entities that are not currently REPI Program partners should be aware that if you are selected to submit a full proposal, you must begin negotiations with the appropriate Military Service to become a REPI Program partner while your full proposal is being reviewed. This will include negotiating a cooperative agreement or similar arrangement once you are selected to submit a full proposal. You will begin this negotiation without knowing the outcome of your 2023 REPI Challenge application.

The 2023 REPI Challenge is designed to encourage conservation at a greater scale and to promote the use of new and diverse sources of funding. Innovative partnerships that bring new ideas to the REPI process are strongly encouraged. State and local governments, corporations, private investors, and conservation groups are welcome to participate in the 2023 REPI Challenge.

## **Funding:**

The REPI Challenge attempts to fund projects up to a total of \$40 million. Funding is contingent upon the availability of appropriations. Funds will be consistent with existing partnership agreements and support the purchase of conservation or other restrictive easements, fee interests in land, and/or natural resource management or natural infrastructure improvements where such actions can be shown to benefit military mission activities. If appropriate projects are not forthcoming, potential funding will be redirected to other priorities.

## **Contacts:**

Installation-specific questions on mission capabilities, priority lands, agreement areas, incompatible use threats, and natural resource conservation needs should be directed to the appropriate Military Service contact below:

- Army: John Housein, john.g.housein.civ@army.mil
- Marine Corps: Ryan Catlett, [ryan.w.catlett@usmc.mil](mailto:ryan.w.catlett@usmc.mil)
- Navy: Erica Rohr, erica.s.rohr.civ@us.navy.mil
- Air Force: Shawn Rose, [shawn.rose.2@us.af.mil](mailto:shawn.rose.2@us.af.mil)

Questions on the REPI Challenge application process should be directed to:

Peter Stangel, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities;  
[peter@usendowment.org](mailto:peter@usendowment.org); 404-915-2763

General questions on the 2023 REPI Challenge, or on engaging with other federal or state agencies, should be directed to [osd.repi@mail.mil](mailto:osd.repi@mail.mil).

**Resources:**

- REPI Program website: [www.repi.mil](http://www.repi.mil)
- REPI Challenge fact sheets: <http://www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge/>
- REPI Climate Resilience Primer: <http://repiprimers.org/resilience/>
- Sentinel Landscapes Partnership website: [www.sentinellandscapes.org](http://www.sentinellandscapes.org)
- REPI Webinar recordings archive:  
<http://www.repi.mil/Resources/Webinars.aspx>