The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program works to promote compatible land use around military installations and build installation resilience to climate change in support of military training, testing, and operations.

Through the REPI Program, DOD supports cost-sharing agreements between the Military Services and private conservation organizations or state and local governments to support natural infrastructure projects or acquire easements from willing sellers near installations and ranges. By maintaining compatible land uses, preserving habitat, and increasing climate resilience where the military trains, REPI projects also provide benefits to working lands, wildlife habitats, and the surrounding communities.

REPI FUNDS ELIGIBLE TO MATCH FEDERAL CONSERVATION AND RESILIENCE GRANTS

10 U.S. Code § 2684a(h) allows the recipient of REPI funds to use such funds as the match or cost-sharing requirement for any conservation or resilience program of any federal agency. Examples of conservation and resilience programs include, but are not limited to, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program\(^1\), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Forest Legacy Program\(^2\), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Program\(^3\), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC)\(^4\). REPI partners can leverage 10 U.S. Code § 2684a(h) to facilitate interagency cooperation and promote actions that protect the environment, enhance military installation resilience, and ensure military readiness.

HOW IT WORKS:

- The REPI conservation partner must have an approved agreement with a military installation
  - Each installation has specific resource and mission needs to take into account when considering the appropriate matching grant program during the development of a project.
  - Only the military installation can submit a proposal requesting REPI funding for a project. The partner then submits an application to the appropriate NRCS, USFS, or USFWS grant program.

- The partner then submits an application to the appropriate grant program.
  - Applications should indicate that matching funds will come from the Department of Defense through the REPI Program and include information on whether the Military Service will be a co-grantee on the easement deed.

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\(^1\) For more information about NRCS’s easement program visit: [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/).


\(^3\) For more information about the NAWCA Program and the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program visit: [https://www.fws.gov/service/financial-assistance](https://www.fws.gov/service/financial-assistance).

Case Study: Compatible Working Lands

In Utah, NRCS and The Conservation Fund partnered with the REPI Program to protect roughly 400 acres of working agricultural lands near Camp Williams, just south of Salt Lake City, with NRCS contributing nearly 1.9 million. Population growth and urban sprawl encroaching close to the installation has threatened the training mission at Camp Williams. Protecting this land has persevered the viability of current and future operations at Camp Williams while also maintaining a migration corridor for mule deer and protecting the operational farmland of a local family.

Case Study: Protecting the Tanana River Watershed

In April 2020, NRCS committed $1.3 million to match $1.0 million in Air Force Funds and $300,000 committed by The Conservation Fund to a project at Eielson Air Force Base (AFB), near Fairbanks, Alaska. Eielson is home to 5th generation F-35A fighters, an essential element of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command power projection. Using project funding, The Conservation Fund will acquire conservation easements on critical wetland sites on private lands adjacent to Eielson AFB and the Tanana River. In a quickly urbanizing area, this land will be preserved in perpetuity, protecting Eielson from incompatible development and limiting non-point source pollution in the Tanana River watershed.

For more information about using REPI funds as cost-share, please contact your local installation, the REPI Program office, your NRCS State Conservationist, local USDA Service Center, or USFWS NAWCA or Coastal grant administrators.