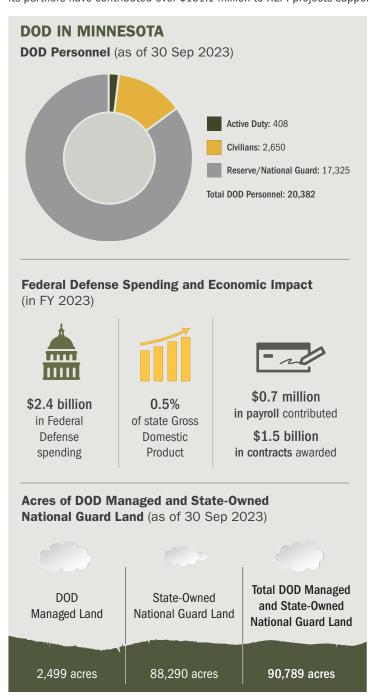
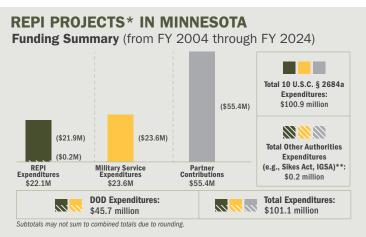


### **OVERVIEW**

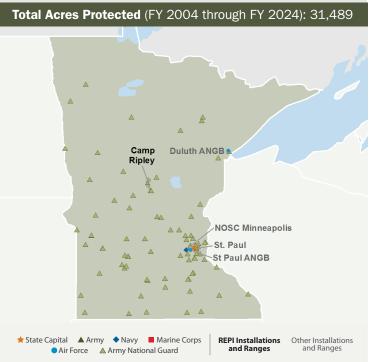
In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the state of Minnesota received \$2.4 billion in Defense spending, which provides direct funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) personnel salaries, defense contracts, and construction of military facilities in the state. This spending by DOD personnel, contractors, and their families creates significant economic activity, attracts related industries and investments, and generates important state and local government tax revenues.

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is a key tool used by DOD and its partners to protect the military's ability to train, test, and operate in the state. The Department created the REPI Program in response to the development of lands and loss of habitat in the vicinity of or affecting its installations, ranges, and airspace that can lead to restrictions or costly and inadequate training and testing alternatives. Through the REPI Program, DOD works with state and local governments, conservation organizations, and willing private landowners to address these challenges to the military mission and the viability of DOD installations and ranges. The REPI Program has benefited from broad bipartisan support both in the U.S. Congress and among groups representing state and local officials. From FY 2004 through FY 2024, DOD and its partners have contributed over \$101.1 million to REPI projects supporting one installation in Minnesota.





- \* REPI projects refer to any action authorized by 10 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 2684a to include the acquisition of real property interests in land from willing landowners to prevent incompatible development or improve military installation resilience.
- \*\* In addition to the real property transactions reported here, this project has expended REPI funds under authorities other than 10 U.S.C. § 2684a, including natural resources management activities under 10 U.S.C. § 2679, also known as Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA), or 16 U.S.C. § 670c-1, commonly referred to as the Sikes Act.



## **MILITARY PRESENCE**

- Minnesota is home to Camp Ripley, a 53,000-acre National Guard training center utilized by the military, federal, state, local, and civilian communities.
- Camp Ripley's environmental team received the National Guard Bureau Environmental Award for its work to grow and preserve the Sentinel Landscape in central Minnesota. Camp Ripley is the only National Guard facility to participate in this program which protects agricultural and recreational land surrounding military installations.
- Minnesota is home to the 55<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team, a 22-member group of full-time soldiers and airmen on call 24 hours a day in the event that a law enforcement agency needs specialized help in detecting, identifying, analyzing, or assisting when a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear hazard may be present.
- Camp Ripley is utilized by several agencies including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota State Patrol, Homeland Security Emergency Management, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. These agencies partner with the installation to conduct annual and academy events and annual driver training events, like snow plow training.
- With over 400,000 person-days of training in 2023, Camp Ripley is a world class training center for military and civilian personnel of all military branches, international military partners, and first responders worldwide.
- More funding has been spent to protect land around Camp Ripley than any other REPI project.

## **REPI PROJECTS**

Installation	County	Congressional District
Camp Ripley	Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison	7th

For all REPI Project Profiles visit: www.repi.mil/BufferProjects/ProjectList.aspx



Ground co-training at the Crow Wing River site at Camp Ripley supports ground vehicle maneuver training and live-fire artillery and bombing training..

# **Key REPI Partners**

- Cass County
- Cass Soil and Water Conservation District
- Crow Wing County
- Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District
- Ducks Unlimited
- Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

- Minnesota Land Trust
- Morrison County
- Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Parks and Trails Council
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Department of Agriculture— Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### **Data Sources**

- For Camp Ripley information: www.minnesotanationalguard.ng.mil/crtc/
- For Economic Impact Information: Minnesota National Guard 2023 Annual Report: www. ngmnpublic.azurewebsites.us/wp-content/ uploads/2024/01/2023\_Minnesota\_National\_ Guard\_Annual\_Report\_Web-1.pdf
- For Land Information: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Real Property, Business Systems & Information Directorate: "Base Structure Report — FY24 Baseline" (as of 30 Sept 2023)
- For Federal Spending and Personnel Information:
  Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation:
  "Defense Spending by State Fiscal Year 2023":
  www.oldcc.gov/dsbs-fy2023
- For REPI Projects Information:
  "2025 REPI Report to Congress": www.repi.mil/ Portals/44/Documents/Reports\_to\_Congress/ REPI2025RTC.pdf

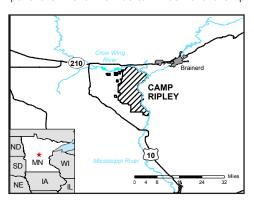


## **CAMP RIPLEY**

The primary U.S. winter training site for the National Guard, Camp Ripley is an Army National Guard post that supports ground vehicle maneuver training and live-fire artillery and bombing training, ranging from small arms to large caliber weaponry.

Camp Ripley also hosts training exercises of foreign units on a regular basis as well as for active duty components and civilian agencies. Located along the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers, the surrounding riverfront parcels are very desirable for residential development, which could cause complaints from training activities.

To prevent conflicts with residential development from the noise of its ranges, artillery, maneuver exercises, and airfields, Camp Ripley came together with various partners in the Prairies to Pines Partnership. Leveraging the REPI Program, the



partnership is creating buffers on private agricultural land and lands near the Little Nokasippi Wildlife Management Area to secure the installation's continued ability to train on its ranges.

In addition to protecting the military mission, the REPI program is helping to maintain working lands, provide the public with recreational opportunities, and protect a refuge for large game.





The Crow Wing River (bottom) has been a target for developers, which could interfere with the ability to conduct ground training (top).

#### **KEY PARTNERS**

- Cass County
- Cass Soil and Water Conservation District
- Crow Wing County
- Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District
- Ducks Unlimited
- Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Minnesota Deer Hunters Association
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Land Trust
- Morrison County
- Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Parks and Trails Council
- The Conservation Fund
- The Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### CONTACT

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE:** (320) 616-2784

# **BENEFIT SUMMARY**

# COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands and local character that benefit the economy
- Supports existing regional planning efforts
- Protects water supply and improves water quality

#### **MILITARY**

- Protects live-fire artillery, ground vehicle maneuver, and helicopter training that produces significant amounts of noise
- Protects night flying capability, which requires minimal levels of light pollution
- Prevents the use of less-realistic workarounds

FAST FACTS FROM FY 2004 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	306	31,489	\$101.0 million
Other (e.g., Sikes Act, IGSA)	_	_	\$0.2 million
TOTAL	306	31,489	\$101.2 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding