



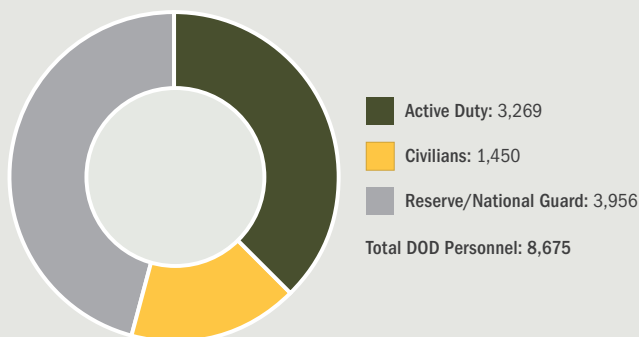
### OVERVIEW

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the state of Montana received approximately \$800 million 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.

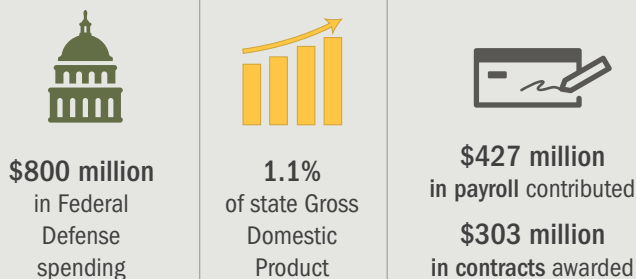
The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is a key tool used by DOD and its partners to protect the military's ability to train, test, and operate in the state. The Department created the REPI Program in response to the development of lands and loss of habitat in the vicinity 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 2016 through FY 2024, DOD and its partners have contributed over \$16.1 million to REPI projects supporting one installation in Montana.

### DOD IN MONTANA

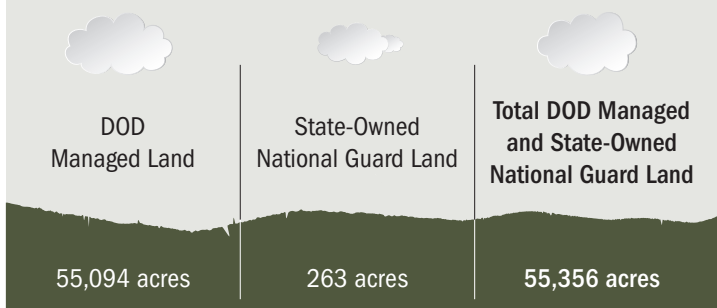
#### DOD Personnel (as of 30 Sep 2023)



#### Federal Defense Spending and Economic Impact (in FY 2023)

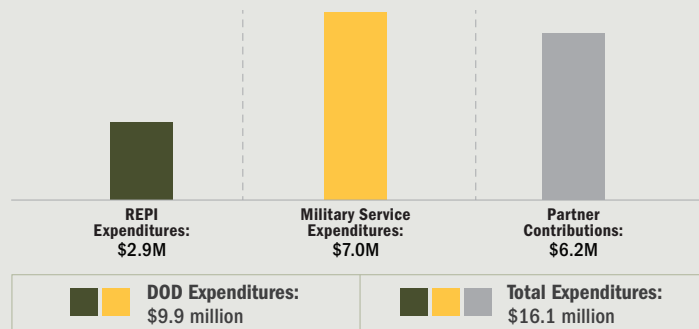


#### Acres of DOD Managed and State-Owned National Guard Land (as of 30 Sep 2023)



### REPI PROJECTS\* IN MONTANA

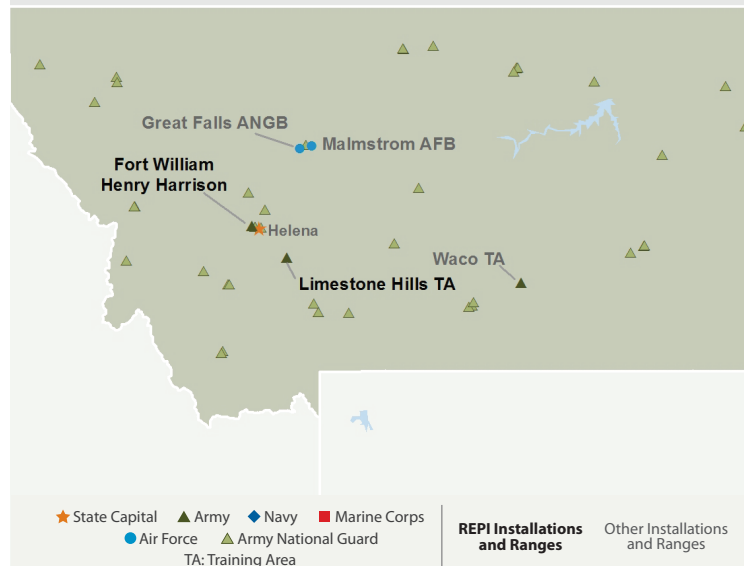
#### Funding Summary (from FY 2016 through FY 2024)



Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding.

\* 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. REPI projects involving the Army or Army National Guard are also termed Army REPI partnerships. Those involving the Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force, are also termed encroachment partnering agreements. Eligible entities include conservation organizations and state and local governments.

#### Total Acres Protected (FY 2016 through FY 2024): 3,216



## MILITARY PRESENCE

- Helena County Commissioners recently combined the Fort Harrison Joint Land Use Study with the Helena Vally Area plan to minimize conflicts between Fort Harrison and the cities of Helena, Townsend, and Broadwater counties. Combining the plans will allow each county to accomplish its individual housing, land use, and economic goals while protecting Fort Harrison's mission capabilities.
- Fort Harrison provides facilities and ranges for the National Guard, Reserve, and active duty personnel supporting training for several types of helicopter flights as well as gunnery, maneuver, demolition, and live firing of weapons from small arms to tanks.
- Approximately 556 acres around Fort Harrison are currently being restored as open space in order to mitigate encroachment and provide access to the Ten Mile Creek in Helena through the Prickly Pear Land Trust and The Conservation Fund.
- Surrounding Fort Harrison is a pristine landscape within the Yellowstone-to-Yukon region where several animal species migrate between the U.S. and Canada.

## REPI PROJECTS

Installation	County	Congressional District
Fort Harrison, Limestone Hills	Lewis and Clark County	2nd

For all REPI Project Profiles visit: [www.repi.mil/BufferProjects/ProjectList.aspx](http://www.repi.mil/BufferProjects/ProjectList.aspx)



*Battalion Support Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) Soldiers climb a hill during snowmobile training at the Cherry Creek Training Area at Fort Harrison, Montana. Soldiers honed their skills in a variety of cold weather activities from this snowmobile training to live fire sniper and automatic weapon ranges.*



*A Special Forces Operator assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) fires a round at a target hundreds of meters away during sniper training at Limestone Hills Training Area at Fort Harrison, Montana. In addition to sharpening precision fire skills, soldiers with 10<sup>th</sup> SFG (A) honed their operational skills in ski and snowshoe movement across cold-weather terrain, and maintaining sustainment operations in an unimproved, austere environment.*

## Key REPI Partners

- Lewis and Clark County
- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, Parks
- Montana Land Reliance
- Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Prickly Pear Land Trust
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Trust for Public Land
- The Conservation Fund
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Data Sources

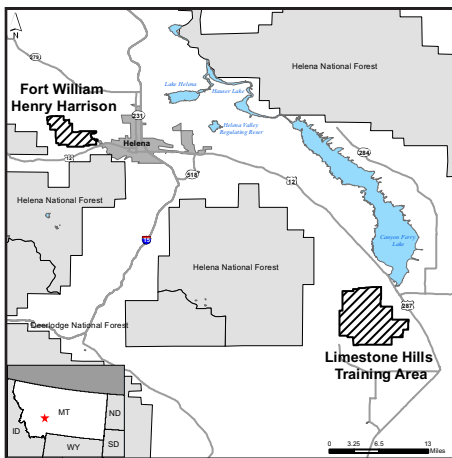
- **For Fort Harrison Information:**
  - General Information: [www.helenair.com/news/natural-resources/something-for-everyone-acres-near-fort-harrison-secured-as-open/article\\_2246644d-fa15-59af-98e5-13bc710c428a.html](http://www.helenair.com/news/natural-resources/something-for-everyone-acres-near-fort-harrison-secured-as-open/article_2246644d-fa15-59af-98e5-13bc710c428a.html)
  - JLUS information: [www.fortharrisonjlus.com/](http://www.fortharrisonjlus.com/)
- **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](http://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](http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports_to_Congress/REPI2025RTC.pdf)



## FORT HARRISON AND LIMESTONE HILLS TRAINING AREA

**Fort Harrison is a designated Maneuver Training Center-Light installation that provides training facilities and ranges for National Guard, Reserve, and active duty personnel from all four Services.**

Much of the installation's infrastructure, including ranges and training areas, has been specifically designed to support individual and collective training for Special Forces units up to Battalion in size. This has resulted in special operations units becoming a mainstay among Fort Harrison users. Fort Harrison and the Limestone Hills Training Area, 41 miles southeast of the main installation, support training for several types of helicopter flights and gunnery, maneuver, demolition, and live firing of weapons from small arms to tanks.



Fort Harrison is located just three miles west of the capital city of Helena, and is under constant pressure of development. Urban encroachment already causes conflicts and complaints from noise, vibrations, and dust from training activities. However, Fort Harrison's location also presents a conservation opportunity to its partners.

The area west and southwest of Fort Harrison is part of the Yellowstone-to-Yukon Initiative's Crown of the Continent ecosystem, the largest intact ecosystem in the U.S.

This pristine landscape is one of only two remaining areas within the Yellowstone-to-Yukon region where grizzly bears, wolverines, and other wide-ranging species can migrate between the U.S. and Canada. Conserving the rangelands and watershed around Fort Harrison and Limestone Hills serves to protect the Crown of the Continent from becoming an island ecosystem isolated from other conserved regions while helping to sustain national defense capabilities.

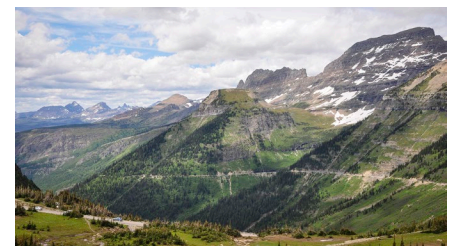
### BENEFIT SUMMARY

#### COMMUNITY

- Preserves the largest intact ecosystem in the U.S.
- Supports existing regional planning efforts
- Preserves working lands

#### MILITARY

- Preserves maneuver and live-fire training capabilities through the buffering of high-noise areas.
- Increases operational safety
- Prevents workarounds that would otherwise limit training capacity



*Marines provide security as their teams beach their Zodiac reconnaissance crafts during a patrol operation at Limestone Hills (top). REPI-protected lands will add to a local network of parks and trails that links to Glacier National Park and the rest of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem located along Fort Harrison's western boundary (bottom).*

### KEY PARTNERS

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- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, Parks
- Montana Land Reliance
- Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Prickly Pear Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service

### CONTACT

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE:**  
(406) 324-3009

### FAST FACTS FROM FY 2016 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	8	3,216	\$16.1 million

*Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding*