



# REPI

READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM



## REPI Program Fiscal Year 2025 REPI Challenge Request for Proposals

### Goal:

The Department of Defense's (DOD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program may provide up to \$30 million in fiscal year (FY) 2025 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 DOD. The FY 2025 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 FY 2025 REPI Challenge.

### Background:

Since FY 2003, the REPI Program has helped fund cost-sharing partnerships between the Military Services, private conservation organizations, and state and local governments to promote compatible land use 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 on military testing, training, or operations in areas of strategic importance. The REPI Program 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. From its pilot project in FY 2012, the REPI Program designed the REPI Challenge for partners and installations to cultivate innovative projects that harness creativity and protect critical testing and training capabilities. Since its inception, the REPI Program has distributed over \$169 million to REPI Challenge projects in 62 locations. REPI Challenge projects have leveraged more than \$474 million in partner contributions.

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:**

- Hypersonic
- Fifth-generation aircraft training and development
- Nuclear modernization
- Space and cyberspace as warfighting domains, including space launch
- Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance
- Missile defense



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- 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., Hawai'i, 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.

## FY 2024 REPI Challenge Outcomes:

In FY 2024, the REPI Program provided nearly \$24 million in funds, coupled with more than \$36 million in partner contributions, to advance 18 innovative REPI Challenge projects that benefit 22 installations and their communities across the country. The FY2024 REPI Challenge project locations and their associated REPI Challenge funding are:

- Pōhakuloa Training Area, HI. Parker Ranch Mauna Kea Reforestation Project; \$1.3M
- U.S. Army Garrison–Hawai'i, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Schofield Barracks, Makua Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area, Dillingham Military Reservation, Kaena Point Space Force Tracking Station, HI. Invasive Species Early Detection, Control, and Eradication-Verification Near Military Installations; \$0.4M
- Pacific Missile Range Facility, PMRF Barking Sands, HI. Innovative Enhancement of Endangered Species Populations at Makauwahi Cave Reserve; \$2.3M
- U.S. Army Garrison–Hawai'i Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI. I Ulu mai ka Ulu Lā'au (That the Forest Will Grow); \$2.2M
- Air Force Maui Optical & Supercomputing Site, HI. Maui Mauka-to-Makai Stewardship Project; \$1.5M
- Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, HI. Waikalua Fishponds Complex Perpetual Conservation Easement; \$1.0M



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- Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, U.S. Army Garrison–Hawai'i, Pōhakuoa Training Area, HI. Detection and Management of High-Impact Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species in Hawai'i; \$1.5M
- Fort Huachuca, AZ. Land Protection and Climate Resilience, Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Partnership; \$2.0M
- F.E. Warren, WY. Mission Assurance Through Drought Resilient Working Grasslands; \$2.0M
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. Preparing Military Missions for New Climate Regimes; \$2.2M
- Scott Air Force Base, IL. Restoring Historical Hydrology of Silver Creek to Reduce Flooding; \$0.2M
- Avon Park Air Force Range, FL. Fire Management for Enhanced Resilience in the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape; \$0.7M
- Hill Air Force Base, UT. The Weber Basin Aquifer Resiliency and Protection Initiative; \$0.1M
- Joint Region Marianas, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas, Naval Base Guam, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Evaluating Watershed Management and Restoration Success; \$0.5M
- Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas, Naval Base Guam, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Creating Protocols for Safeguarding Ecosystem Services Post-Disturbances; \$0.7M
- Fort Wainwright, AK. Sustaining Strategic Operations in the Arctic Theatre; \$0.2M
- Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station, CO. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Wildfire Mitigation; \$0.4M
- Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC. Conservation of Gregorie Neck Property; \$6.0M

## **FY 2025 Funding Criteria:**

The primary focus of this year's REPI Challenge will be projects that 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) (**Focus Area A**). Funding is also available for projects that limit incompatible development (**Focus Area B**) or preserve habitat that relieves 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 1 of this RFP**. Projects that have previously received REPI Challenge funding may not be as competitive in FY 2025. 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 FY 2025 REPI Challenge. Proposals seeking funding to improve military readiness at an installation not currently part of the REPI Program are required to coordinate with the respective Military Service lead *prior* to submission of their proposal. Contact information is provided on page 9 of this RFP.



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**Focus Area A (Climate Resilience Projects):** The FY 2025 REPI Challenge will make investments in planning, design, and implementation of nature-based solutions 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 NFWF NCRF. 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 nature-based 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 nature-based solutions to meet climate resilience goals. Projects in this phase will refine prioritized geography(ies) and proposed nature-based 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 to be ready for implementation. At the conclusion of this phase, projects should have completed (or be ready to complete) all environmental planning and conservation law requirements (e.g., NEPA, state permits, etc.) and obtained (or ready to obtain) any required permits as their deliverables and be ready to pursue proposed nature-based solutions in the next phase.
- *Phase 4: Implementation and monitoring activities* – projects in this phase should have proposed actions prioritized, plans finalized, all environmental planning and conservation law requirements completed, 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 to ensure successful implementation of the nature-based solution. If a proposal is submitting a request for funding in this phase, the proposal must upload permitting and/or due diligence documents with the application. If this documentation is not available, the proposal must include a detailed timeline of when required permits are expected. See the Process section of this RFP on page 7 for more information.



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Highly evaluated proposals will leverage other Federal, state, and non-profit resilience programs that help build capacity and implement nature-based solutions. For example, significant opportunities exist to leverage FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. For additional information on the BRIC program, please visit [www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities](http://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities).

**Focus Area B (Limiting Incompatible Development Projects):**

The FY 2025 REPI Challenge will make investments in projects that limit incompatible development in the vicinity of DOD installations and ranges. The FY 2025 REPI Challenge will seek projects that leverage greater economies of scale by protecting large parcels of land in a manner that benefits the mission of the installation and protect, sustain, enhance, or facilitate optimum range and installation operations.

**Focus Area C (Habitat Preservation Projects):** The FY 2025 REPI Challenge will make investments in projects that relieve current or anticipated restrictions from threatened and endangered species in support of key mission capabilities of strategic importance. The REPI Program will prioritize investments that protect 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 will also be evaluated based on the following REPI Challenge criteria:

- Have a minimum of 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. In-kind services are services rendered by a non-DOD partner that advance the goals of a project and otherwise would not have occurred in the absence of the project. Examples include, but are not limited to, appraisals, title searches, easement or other document drafting, other real estate transaction services or real property, baseline resource assessments, real property interests, legal services, or other natural resource-related services or land improvement activities.
- 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.

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/installation-resilience>), which only requires a 10 percent cost share).



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- 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 other Federal programs such as 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. **Projects with a recreation benefit (e.g., parks, trails, fishing, hunting) are strongly encouraged to apply to REPI and DOI’s Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Partnership Program at <https://www.repi.mil/Resilience/Complementary-Federal-Programs/Readiness-and-Recreation-Initiative/>; REPI and LWCF funds can satisfy each other’s matching requirements. If a REPI Challenge project is seeking funding through other Federal programs, that proposal must upload a PDF copy of the final proposal or any additional documentation they plan to submit for that application.**
- Leverage multiple DOD authorities to address encroachment impacts on military training, testing, and operations.

## Geography:

The FY 2025 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 key mission capabilities on page 1, 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 9.

Priority consideration will be given to proposals within geographies of strategic importance to DOD, including locations across the Pacific region (e.g., Hawai’i, Guam, Alaska, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands); as well as to proposals contributing to identified goals and outcomes within designated Sentinel Landscapes. More information on Sentinel Landscapes can be found at: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/>.

## Process:

The REPI Program will host a REPI Challenge webinar on May 15, 2024, from 3:00 – 4:00 PM Eastern Time (ET). This webinar will cover the REPI Challenge proposal process, requirements, and deadlines, and will include a question-and-answer session. A recording of this webinar will be available at: [www.repi.mil/Resources/Webinars/](http://www.repi.mil/Resources/Webinars/).

The first step in the FY 2025 REPI Challenge application process is to complete a pre-proposal. The purpose of the pre-proposal is to allow the 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.



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An essential part of the pre-proposal process is for the applicant to coordinate with the appropriate Military Services contact for the installation(s) or range(s) associated with your proposed project (see Military Service contacts on page 9). 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. Applicants should clearly explain any support needed by the lead Military Service to assist with completing all necessary permitting, environmental analysis, and cultural and historic property consultations, particularly for Focus Area A projects. For the pre-proposal, applicants should provide the contact information (name, organization, email, and phone number) of the installation personnel who are part of the project team and support the proposed project efforts. Pre-proposals that present projects not coordinated with the appropriate Military Service contact will not be considered.

If a project is invited to submit a full REPI Challenge proposal, the applicant will be required to submit an endorsement letter from the Military Service with the existing or new cooperative agreement or similar arrangement with the partner that affirms support for the proposed activities.

The Military Services, where they are serving as the Action Proponent, are responsible for ensuring timely compliance with applicable environmental planning and conservation law requirements, including those under the environmental laws (National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act). The Military Services should refer to DoD, Military Department, and Service specific policies in carrying out environmental planning and compliance requirements. Military Services should coordinate with their partners to ensure they have identified the full scope of planning and compliance requirements that may affect the project execution timeline. The Military Services should work with partners to adjust timelines and budget to account for these requirements.

Interested applicants are required to request an account to complete their FY 2025 REPI Challenge pre-proposal in the program's REPI Challenge Online Portal, available at: <https://repi.osd.mil>. Existing users are not required to request a new account in the Online Portal. A user guide is available in the REPI Challenge Online Portal to navigate the proposal process. In addition, applications can find a REPI Challenge Frequently Asked Questions document in the Online Portal that provides answers to common questions. For substantive proposal questions and technical issues in the new Online Portal, users may request office hours with the REPI Contract Support staff in the following time slots:

- Friday, May 10: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET
- Tuesday, May 14: 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET
- Thursday, May 16: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM ET
- Friday, May 17: 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM ET
- Wednesday, May 22: 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM ET
- Thursday, May 30: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM ET



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To request a 30-minute time slot, email Matthew Stovall ([matthew.k.stovall3.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.k.stovall3.ctr@mail.mil)), Grace Barnhill ([grace.m.barnhill2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:grace.m.barnhill2.ctr@mail.mil)), and Garrett Powers ([garrett.powers@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:garrett.powers@ag.tamu.edu)) with your name, partner organization, and requested time.

## Timing:

For interested partners, the following estimated milestones apply:

- June 10, 2024: Pre-proposals are due by 8:00 PM ET. Pre-proposals are required to be submitted via the REPI Challenge Online Portal.
- July 2, 2024: All pre-proposal applicants will be notified regarding the status of their pre-proposal.
- August 12, 2024: Full proposals are due by 8:00 PM ET.
- November 2024: DOD notifies partner organizations of final decisions on REPI Challenge full proposals.
- January - February 2025: 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 3-4 years.

## Eligibility:

The FY 2025 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. 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.

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 FY 2025 REPI Challenge application.





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## Funding:

The REPI Challenge attempts to fund projects up to a total of \$30 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 nature-based solutions 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 development concerns, and natural resource conservation needs should be directed to the appropriate Military Service contact below:

- Army: Lorri Schwartz and Steve Sekscienski ([lorri.a.schwartz.civ@army.mil](mailto:lorri.a.schwartz.civ@army.mil), [steven.w.sekscienski.civ@army.mil](mailto:steven.w.sekscienski.civ@army.mil))
- Marine Corps: Ryan Catlett ([ryan.w.catlett@usmc.mil](mailto:ryan.w.catlett@usmc.mil))
- Navy: Tony Danesi, Girair Simon, and Jennifer Oelke-Farley ([anthony.j.danesi.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:anthony.j.danesi.civ@us.navy.mil), [girair.l.simon.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:girair.l.simon.civ@us.navy.mil), [jennifer.l.oelkefarley.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:jennifer.l.oelkefarley.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 proposal process should be directed to:

- Andrew Porth, Director of REPI Projects and Resources ([andrew.m.porth.civ@mail.mil](mailto:andrew.m.porth.civ@mail.mil))
- Matthew Stovall, REPI Contract Support ([matthew.k.stovall3.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.k.stovall3.ctr@mail.mil)) and Grace Barnhill, REPI Contract Support ([grace.m.barnhill2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:grace.m.barnhill2.ctr@mail.mil))

## Resources:

- REPI Program website: [www.repi.mil](http://www.repi.mil)
- REPI Challenge Online Portal: <https://repi.osd.mil>
- FY 2024 REPI Challenge Story Map and Historical Fact Sheets: [www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge/](http://www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge/)
- REPI Climate Resilience Primer: <http://repiprimers.org/resilience/>
- REPI Resilience Program Funding Guide: [www.repi.mil/Resilience/Resilience-Resources/](http://www.repi.mil/Resilience/Resilience-Resources/)
- Sentinel Landscapes Partnership website: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/>
- REPI Webinar recordings archive: [www.repi.mil/Resources/Webinars.aspx](http://www.repi.mil/Resources/Webinars.aspx)