



FY 2024 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) 2024 funding for land conservation, improvement, or management activities that promote compatible 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. **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 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 (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. Twelve years of the REPI Challenge have resulted in more than \$144 million in REPI Program funds being leveraged with over \$417 million in partner contributions at 51 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



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inhibit military training, testing, and operations. The REPI Program once again anticipates an increased level of funding for the FY 2024 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:**

- Hypersonic
- 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., 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.



2023 REPI Challenge Outcomes:

In 2023, the REPI Program provided \$24 million in funds, coupled with \$50 million in partner contributions, to advance innovative projects that limit development pressures, enhance military installation resilience, and relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions on military testing, training, or operations. By distributing funds across 13 projects, the REPI Challenge contributed to initiatives benefiting 26 installations and their communities across the country. The locations and their associated REPI Challenge funding include:

- Naval Observatory Flagstaff & Camp Navajo, AZ. Northern Arizona Fuels and Wildfire Risk Reduction; \$1.0M
- U.S. Army Garrison HAWAII, Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, HI. Increasing Resilience of Endangered Wildlife Found on Critical Landscapes; \$2.9M
- U.S. Army Garrison–Hawai'i, Pōhakuloa Training Area, HI. Nāpu'u Natural Resource Protection: Mitigating Rare Plant Impacts; \$1.3M
- U.S. Army Garrison–Hawai'i: Makua Military Reservation, Schofield Barracks, Kahuku Training Area, Poamoho Training Area, HI. Ecosystem Restoration and Rare Plant and Animal Preservation on O'ahu; \$2.7M
- Fort Huachuca, AZ. Land Protection and Climate Resilience, Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Partnership; \$1.3M
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. Advancing Sentinel Landscape Priorities to Build Prairie and Working Landscape Resilience; \$2.4M
- Joint Region Marianas: Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Andersen Air Force Base, GU. Landscape Scale Feral Pig Control in Northern Guam; \$1.2M
- Joint Region Marianas: Naval Base Guam, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Andersen Air Force Base, GU. Guam Native Plant Nursery Upgrades for Island-Wide Habitat Enhancement; \$1.9M
- Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Warren Grove Range, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Sea Girt National Guard Training Facility, AEGIS Combat System Engineering Site, NJ. Infrastructure Resilience and Natural Resource Enhancement; \$995K
- Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Pōhakuloa Training Area, HI. Detection and Management of High-Impact Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species; \$3.1M
- Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Naval Base Coronado, Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, CA. West Coast Beach Breeding Bird Conservation Fund; \$75K
- Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA. Resilience Improvements Planning; \$286K
- Joint Base San Antonio Camp Bullis, TX. Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape; \$5.1M

Up to \$15 million in REPI Challenge funding will be provided to the NFWF NCRF in 2024 to accelerate coastal resilience projects near DOD installations and ranges that also enhance habitats for fish and wildlife.



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2024 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 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 2 of this RFP. Projects that have received REPI Challenge funding previously may not be as competitive in 2024. 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 2024 REPI Challenge.

Focus Area A (Climate Resilience Projects): The FY 2024 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 (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 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 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 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 compliance assessments 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.

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. (<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 NFWF on their 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 additional information on the NCRF, please visit https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Resilience/Complementary%20Programs/REPI_NFWF%20NCRF_Partnership_FactSheet_20221201.pdf

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).

Focus Area B (Incompatible Development Projects): The FY 2024 REPI Challenge will make investments in projects that limit incompatible development in the vicinity of DOD installations and ranges. The FY 2024 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 2024 REPI Challenge will also make investments for projects that relieve current or anticipated environmental species restrictions 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:

- 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



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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.
- 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. **Projects with a recreation benefit (e.g., parks, trails, fishing, hunting) are also strongly encouraged to apply to REPI and DOI's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Partnership Program at www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=347006; REPI and LWCF funds can satisfy each other's matching requirements.**
- 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: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/>.

Who May Apply:

The FY 2024 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 FY 2024 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 2,



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).

Process:

The REPI Program will host a REPI Challenge webinar on May 10, 2023, at 11 AM EDT. 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: <https://www.repi.mil/Resources/Webinars/>.

The first step in the FY 2024 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. 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 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. Pre-proposals that present projects not coordinated with the appropriate Military Service contact will not be considered.

Interested applicants are required to request an account to complete their FY 2024 REPI Challenge pre-proposal in the program's new REPI Challenge Online Portal, available at: <https://repi.osd.mil>. A user guide is available in the REPI Challenge Online Portal to navigate the proposal process. 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:

- Thursday, May 4: 9 AM - 1 PM EDT
- Tuesday, May 9: 12 PM - 2:30 PM EDT
- Thursday, May 11: 9 AM - 12 PM EDT
- Friday, May 12: 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM EDT
- Wednesday, May 17: 9 AM - 12 PM EDT
- Thursday, May 18: 11 AM – 2:30 PM EDT



To request a 30-minute time slot, email Amy Caramanica (amy.h.caramanica.ctr@mail.mil) and Matthew Stovall (matthew.k.stovall3.ctr@mail.mil) with your name, partner organization, and requested time.

Timing:

For interested partners, the following estimated milestones apply:

- June 12, 2023: Pre-proposals are due by 8pm EDT. Pre-proposals are required to be submitted via the REPI Challenge Database.
- **July 7, 2023**: All pre-proposal applicants will be notified regarding the status of their pre-proposal.
- **August 14, 2023**: Full proposals are due by 8pm EDT.
- January - February 2024: 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:

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 FY 2024 REPI Challenge application.

The FY 2024 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 2024 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 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 use threats, and natural resource conservation needs should be directed to the appropriate Military Service contact below:

- Army: John Housein and Lorri Schwartz (lorri.a.schwartz.civ@army.mil, john.g.housein.civ@army.mil)
- Marine Corps: Ryan Catlett (ryan.w.catlett@usmc.mil)
- Navy: Tony Danesi and Jennifer Oelke-Farley (anthony.j.danesi.civ@us.navy.mil, jennifer.l.oelkefarley.civ@us.navy.mil)
- Air Force: Shawn Rose (shawn.rose.2@us.af.mil)

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

Amy Caramanica, REPI Contract Support (amy.h.caramanica.ctr@mail.mil)

Matthew Stovall, REPI Contract Support (matthew.k.stovall3.ctr@mail.mil)

General questions on the FY 2024 REPI Challenge, or on engaging with other federal or state agencies, should be directed to osd.repi@mail.mil

Resources:

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