



EXECUTING INSTALLATION RESILIENCE PROJECTS THROUGH THE REPI PROGRAM

The Department of Defense (DOD) plays a critical role at the intersection of national security and conservation. Climate change and extreme weather events continue to alter the Department's training environments and create new constraints for the warfighter. To respond to the rapidly changing climate, DOD has developed strategic plans that outline requirements and lines of effort for reducing the adverse impacts of climate change on military operations. The **2021 DOD Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP)** serves as a key roadmap for DOD and the Military Services to enhance resilience across installations and their neighboring communities. The DOD CAP details five lines of effort DOD will support to ensure the Department can operate under changing climate conditions, including:

1. Promoting climate-informed decision-making
2. Training and equipping a climate-ready force
3. Creating resilient built and natural infrastructure
4. Ensuring supply chain resilience
5. Enhancing adaptation and resilience through collaboration

To create resilient natural infrastructure and enhance adaptation and resilience through collaboration, DOD leverages the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program. Through the REPI Program, military installations and ranges work with conservation partners to preserve compatible land uses, protect critical habitats for endangered species, and enhance installation resilience to climate change. Under **10 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 2684a**, the Military Services can plan, design, and implement nature-based solutions outside military installations and ranges to protect critical mission capabilities. These solutions are complementary to other activities eligible for funding through the REPI Program, including conserving natural habitats and safeguarding areas of cultural or historical importance.

CASE STUDIES FOR CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

To learn more about how installations are creating innovative solutions through the REPI Program, members of the REPI office interviewed installations with innovative ideas for protecting infrastructure, missions, and other assets from climatic conditions and landscape changes outside the installation.

THE THREE INSTALLATIONS SHOWCASED IN THIS SERIES INCLUDE:

- 1 Camp Williams, Utah
- 2 Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico
- 3 Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina

For each installation, the REPI office selected a specific authority, activity, or other creative project component to focus on for the interview. Interviewees then shared information on how they developed the project idea, any challenges they have overcome to date, and advice for other installations interested in creating similar REPI projects.





CAMP WILLIAMS

LEVERAGING STATE LEGISLATION AND MATCHING FUNDS

Interviewee: Paul Raymond, Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program and West Traverse Sentinel Landscape* Programs Manager, Utah Army National Guard

OVERVIEW

Camp Williams is a military training site located just 26 miles south of Salt Lake City. Operated by the Utah Army National Guard, Camp Williams consists of 24,000 acres of combat-training grounds that include small-arms-weapons firing ranges, artillery-firing points, demolition, grenade, and crew-served-weapon ranges. With the ability to support qualification and training of every type of individual weapon in the Army inventory, Camp Williams provides a high-quality training environment for Guard, Reserve, and Active-Duty soldiers. To learn more about REPI efforts at Camp Williams, view the project summary at www.repi.mil.

Q: Can you start by explaining any current threats to the installation's mission and training capabilities?

A: Camp Williams is home to one of the fastest-growing areas in Utah and faces a serious threat of increased development pressures. In recent years, the surrounding development and increasing land value have negatively impacted the installation's ability to carry out its mission. Camp William's geography and habitats provide a realistic training environment and open space for aviation training, but the installation is also at risk of intense wildfires that halt mission activities and threaten community safety. Camp Williams averages 27 days of no training each year due to high fire hazard risks. The installation is working closely with local, state, and federal partners to explore options for addressing the most urgent threats to missions.

Q: How has the installation worked with partners to address impacts from development and wildfires?

A: Camp Williams worked with neighboring local governments and the state to pass legislation protecting rural land around the installation from the risk of development. Utah House Bill 0257 created a state-level sentinel landscape called the "West Traverse Sentinel Landscape." Installation leadership has also been able to use state legislation to create a protective wildfire corridor around the installation, leveraging REPI Program funds and matching state funds to address the wildfire risk.

The area around Camp Williams that makes up the West Traverse Sentinel Landscape* protects open space and offers opportunities for recreation, including hiking trails. The landscape footprint was established through both legislation and conservation easements with willing landowners. The installation used REPI funding, State funding, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding, and USDA National Resources Conservation Service funds for land preservation efforts.

Q: Have you faced any challenges while pursuing conservation funding? If so, what have you learned from those challenges?

A: Coordinating funding from multiple federal and state programs can create a challenge for aligning timelines and ensuring enough funds to keep the project moving. Camp Williams has overcome funding challenges by working closely with surrounding communities to apply for funding from multiple federal sources outside the REPI Program. The installation is also paying close attention to surrounding development and is prepared to act swiftly with partners to conserve the land as quickly as possible.

* The West Traverse Sentinel Landscape has been recognized by the State of Utah in statute but is not a designated landscape under the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. To learn more about the 13 designated sentinel landscapes, please visit the sentinel landscapes website at: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/>.