

REPI

READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INITIATIVE

FACT SHEET



The Department of Defense's (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) protects the Nation's military readiness, enhances relationships with communities, and preserves the environment.

REPI funds cost-sharing partnerships for the military with state and local governments and private conservation organizations, as authorized by Congress in 2002 under section 2684a of title 10, United States Code. The partnerships obtain easements or other interests in land from willing sellers that preserve critical buffer areas near our military installations.

Since program inception, REPI has protected **almost 250,000 acres of buffer land in 66 locations in 24 states**. Overseen by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and implemented by the military Services, REPI projects help to preserve vital missions at key installations.

Congress has raised REPI's original funding from \$12.5 million (FY 2005) to \$100 million (FY 2011). Thus far, for completed transactions, DoD's \$305.8 million investment in the program has attracted over \$327 million in partner contributions. With its ability to leverage other funding, REPI has proven to be a cost-effective tool in protecting mission capabilities that are at risk.

WHY THE NEED FOR REPI?

DoD's ability to conduct realistic live-fire training and weapons system testing is vital to preparing troops and their equipment for real-world combat. However, incompatible land use threatens these operations.

New development and increasing competition for land, airspace, and water access continue to constrain training, testing, and other military activities. For example, nearby development can incorporate lighting that reduces the effectiveness of night vision training, or it can drive threatened and endangered species onto an installation, limiting on-base operations.

Given the growing potential for land use conflicts, the Department's best option for sustaining the capabilities of our installations is to preserve key land that will help prevent further development from impacting operations. REPI helps avoid more expensive current and future costs, such as the need for training workarounds.

REPI gives DoD the ability to effectively leverage its funds with outside organizations also interested in preserving land. The easements created through this cost-sharing approach allow the landowner – be it a private landowner or a REPI partner from a non-federal agency or conservation organization – to maintain ownership of the land.

These protected lands are not owned by the military for the purposes of military training or testing. For the military, they serve as compatible land use buffers, and can also reduce on-base habitat restriction requirements by protecting additional off-base species habitat. For the partner, the protected lands support their missions in a host of ways, including as described in the below.

DELIVERING MULTIPLE BENEFITS

REPI projects have delivered multiple benefits and shown the power of innovative partnerships in the following ways:

- **Enhanced military readiness** by limiting incompatible development near military installations
- **Protected valuable habitat** and provided opportunities for endangered species recovery
- **Preserved open space**, including working farms and forestland, that add value to surrounding communities
- **Strengthened military-community relationships** and forged partnerships with new allies
- **Spurred collaboration** with other federal land conservation programs and landscape-scale initiatives

REPI delivers results to support our Nation's long-term military readiness.

REPI PROJECTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

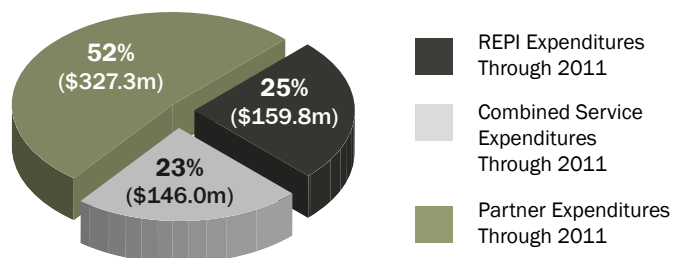


The map above shows REPI projects through FY 2011 at 66 locations in 24 states across the country.

REQUISITES OF A REPI PROJECT

- Partnership between the military and eligible entity – State or local government or private conservation organization
- Military and partner share the cost for partner to acquire a land interest or easement to protect the land
- Land owner enters into sale voluntarily and willingly
- Protected land ensures compatible land use or habitat preservation

REPI LEVERAGES PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS



Partner funds have covered more than half of the total costs to date. REPI partners and contributors have included:

- The Nature Conservancy
- The Conservation Fund
- Local and regional land trusts
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (including Forest Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (including Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program)
- State and local governments



Example Project: Located in the Mojave Desert, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, provides vital training before deployment to desert combat areas. However, these training requirements put a strain on sensitive desert natural resources on-base. In partnership with the Mojave Desert Land Trust, Twentynine Palms helped protect land adjacent to the popular Joshua Tree National Park, and provided habitat for the threatened desert tortoise.