Establishing and Sustaining a Collaborative Partnership with your Military Installations

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Introduction
Discussion Topics

- The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program
- Sentinel Landscapes
- A template for successful collaboration – Fort Hood, Texas
  - Assisting military veterans in your communities
  - Promoting agriculture and employment
  - Preserving the character of rural communities
What is DoD’s REPI Program?

- Protects military training capabilities on U.S. military installations.
- Conserves working lands and natural resources near U.S. military installations.
- *Willing* landowners only.
Why REPI?

• The military must have the space necessary to conduct realistic training.
• Increased potential for land use conflicts.
• The DoD needs to preserve key (buffer) lands adjacent/near military installations.
Who Can be a REPI Partner?

- Partnerships are between a military installation and an eligible entity (*partner*).
- Who qualifies as an eligible entity?
  - State and local government agencies whose primary mission is conservation.
  - Private conservation organizations.
Where Can You Be a REPI Partner?
Compatible Lands Foundation’s REPI Program Partnerships
Sentinel Landscapes – What are They?

• A partnership between DoD, USDA, & DOI.
• A defined area that represents overlapping priorities for:
  - military mission protection
  - working lands preservation
  - natural resource conservation
• There are currently 7 Sentinel Landscapes.
Collaboration and Partnering Benefits

MILITARY
• Protects Military Readiness.
• Preserves compatible land use near critically important training and testing sites.
• Promotes communication, coordination, and mutual understanding with State and local governments.

STATES
• Contributes to the longevity of working farms, forests, and ranchlands.
• Increases recreational and open space opportunities for nearby residents and military families.
• Protects against mission relocations that can affect local economies.
How Can States Collaborate with DoD?

- Become a REPI partner with military installations located in your State, you ARE an eligible entity under the law.
- Become a partner and/or support a Sentinel Landscape located in your State.
- Propose a REPI Challenge project for a military installation in your State.
Veterans’ Farming Education And Training (FEAT) Initiative
“Closing The Circle”

- **REPI Program**
  - protects military readiness
  - helps ensure our military remains the best trained in the world

- **FEAT Initiative**
  - provides returning Veterans with training and employment opportunities in agriculture
  - provides healing, counseling and mentoring
“Engage and Serve”

- Compatible Lands Foundation
  - Preventing incompatible development inside Fort Hood’s Army Compatible Use Buffer zone

- Farmer Veteran Coalition
  - *Homegrown by Heroes*

- Texas A&M University
  - *Battleground to Breaking Ground*
On Your FEAT!