National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
Joint session with NCSL Military and Veterans Affairs and Agricultural Task Force
Innovative Land Use Strategies to Protect Military Bases – Sentinel Landscapes

Title: “Camp Ripley...Where Missions Meet”

Date: 19 August 2014
Time: 1045 – 1200
Location: Minneapolis Convention Center Lower Level - L100H
1. Introduction – Session Chairs


3. Minnesota State Legislator - Senator Paul Gazelka

4. Minnesota National Guard – Major General Richard C. Nash

5. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Commissioner Tom Landwehr

6. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources – Executive Director John Jaschke

7. Minnesota State Legislator - Representative Ron Kresha

8. Open panel discussion
Ms. Kristin Thomasgard
Program Director
Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Environment/Basing Directorate)
Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI)

REPI Mission: To protect the military’s ability to accomplish its training, testing, and operational missions by helping remove or avoid land-use conflicts near installations and addressing regulatory restrictions that inhibit military activities.

- It’s all about compatible land use
- Cooperative agreements with REPI partners and willing land owners
- Conservation easements as principal REPI tool
- 72 Installations across the nation (It’s already in your back yard)
- Camp Ripley – a model of REPI success
Good News: REPI has been successful – Camp Ripley
Bad News: REPI alone won’t protect our mission

- Need comprehensive approach to address encroachment
- Requires more tools in addition to conservation easements
- Recognize federal, state, and local interests overlap

Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation’s defense mission – places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes.

- MOU between federal agencies DOD/USDA/USFWS hence the title… “Where Missions Meet”
- States can play a critical role and capitalize on the MOU
- Camp Ripley – as Sentinel Landscapes finalist – could serve as an example to other training sites across the nation given its strong partner support
Sentinel Landscapes – Where Missions Meet

- State Senator, Paul Gazelka
- MG Richard Nash, The Adjutant General, Minnesota National Guard
- State Commissioner Tom Landwehr, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- State Executive Director John Jaschke, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- State Representative, Ron Kresha
Senator Paul Gazelka (R)
District 09 Representative
Statewide Focus

- Valued members of the community

- Role of MNNG in state emergencies in support of the citizenry

- Importance of the mission to our national security and the health, safety and welfare of our Soldiers and Airmen

- Economic impact of MNNG
Camp Ripley Focus

• Value of Camp Ripley to Federal and State Mission

• Economic Engine

• Nationally recognized in environmental management
Major General Richard C. Nash
The Adjutant General, Minnesota National Guard
Facts about Camp Ripley:

- Camp Ripley is a 53,000 acre state owned military training center
- Largest employer in the area with an annual economic impact of over $300 million
- Critical training infrastructure accommodating large and small caliber weapon systems
- Airfield serving both rotary and fixed wing aircraft and unmanned aircraft
- Maneuver space for heavy mechanized operations and training
- Training levels exceeding 450,000 mandays/year including military and civilian customers
**Army Compatible Use Buffer**

*Progress since 2004*

**Partners**
- MN Department of Natural Resources
- MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

**Land Transactions**
- 13,807 acres completed, plus 17,018 acres of other compatible lands for a total of 30,825 acres
- 228 Interested Landowners (27,500 acres); Estimated $40 million to complete
- Goal is 78,000 acres

**Funding**
- Federal Funding = $22,099,000
- State Funding = $3,973,000
Good news: ACUB has been a tremendous success

Bad news: ACUB, by itself, won’t be enough to protect and sustain Camp Ripley’s training missions

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is pushing us to look at all our requirements and to address encroachment in a more comprehensive manner

Sentinel Landscapes minimize the threat that encroachment poses to our mission and to the missions of military installations across the United States.

Protecting working lands that are compatible with the military mission and promoting sound natural resource management is made to order for Camp Ripley
Tom Landwehr, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Partnering with Camp Ripley’s ACUB program since 2004 (much longer on other resource issues)

DNR has many reasons to partner with Camp Ripley:

- Protecting and sustaining our natural resources is vital to our missions
- Our public lands provide important habitat for key species of plant and wildlife
- We rely on private landowners and other partners to help protect our State’s natural resources
- We are public servants to the citizens of Minnesota

Sentinel Landscapes – Count us in
A Wealth of Public Benefits

* Camp Ripley/ACUB sustain 65 Species of Greatest Conservation Need
* Ecological uniqueness of Camp Ripley from a landscape perspective and watershed perspective situated in the headwaters of the Mississippi River
* Focusing state Legacy funds to innovate and accelerate Camp Ripley’s ACUB, e.g., Little Nokasippi River WMA and proposed Gull River WMA.
* Hunting and fishing opportunities provide significant public benefit in outdoor recreation, capitalizing on Ripley’s natural assets and building local support:
  - Public archery deer hunt largest of its kind in the nation
  - Youth deer hunt
  - DAV and Deployed Soldier deer and turkey hunts
  - Trolling for the Troops fishing event
Little Nokasippi River Wildlife Management Area

Inside Boundary
Fee title – 476 ac.
County Tax Forfeit – 170 ac.

Outside Boundary
Cty. Forest Adjacent – 1,749 ac.
Total Public Access – 2,395 ac.

Conservation Easements (BWSR)
2,607 ac.

Total protected = 5,002 ac.
Gull River Wildlife Management Area

- Flowage adjacent from Sylvan Dam.
- “Lease only” due to Federal Energy Regulation Commission requirements
- 1250 Acres Long Term Lease
Mr. John Jaschke
Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
- Since 2006 BWSR has taken 120 conservation easements on 14,396 acres within the 3 mile ACUB perimeter.

- Most of these have been funded through DOD and ensure that agricultural production will continue.

- 24 conservation easements totaling 2,103 acres have been funded by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council using Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment dollars.

- LSOHC-ACUB easements protect riparian and forested tracts to ensure high quality wildlife habitat remains on the landscape and that source water for the Twin Cities area is protected.
**LSOHC_ACUB Lower Nokasippi Minor Watershed**

| % Public Land | 4 |
| % Easements | 0 |
| % Lakes | 2 |
| % Streams | 0 |
| % Wetlands (private) | 7 |
| **% Protected** | **13** |
| **Assigned Risk Level** | **Enhance** |

**Goal**

| % Public Land | 4 |
| % Easements | 32 |
| % Lakes | 2 |
| % Streams | 0 |
| % Wetlands (private) | 7 |
| **% Protected** | **45** |
| **Assigned Risk Level** | **Protection** |
Representative Ron Kresha (R)
District 9B Representative
Benefits of a Sentinel Landscape

Importance to Camp Ripley
- Mission
- Readiness
- Value to other organizations

Commitment:
- Promotes a Nationally recognized environmental management program
- Protects an enormous investment in infrastructure and ranges
- Reinforces Camp Ripley’s future as a viable military training center
- Sustains Camp Ripley as a critical State asset and economic driver

Camp Ripley as a Sentinel Landscape:
- Preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes
- Promotes conservation of habitat and natural resources; and
- Protects military readiness

Sentinel Landscapes embodies commitment and dedication, of the State and those landowners and partners at work on and around Camp Ripley
Way ahead – What Next?

• We want to do more; we want to become active partners in a Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape

• Defining State engagement through State legislation, a possible “Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscapes Engagement Act”

• State legislation is being drafted to effectively align State interests and State programs with Federal resources supporting Sentinel Landscapes around Camp Ripley

• Sentinel Landscapes – Count us in