

# CAMP RIPLEY

## SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

MINNESOTA | Est. 2016



Located along the northern stretch of the Mississippi River, Camp Ripley is the primary National Guard Training Center for units from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois. The agricultural and forested lands surrounding Camp Ripley enable the installation to conduct aircraft, live fire, artillery, IED, and winter training with limited restrictions. The large unfragmented landscape also protects water quality of the upper Mississippi River and its four major tributaries. However, the rural character of the area is threatened by development that could significantly affect Camp Ripley’s ability to fulfill its mission, convert historic farms, ranches, and forested lands into other uses, and adversely affect one of the most ecologically rich environments and important source water areas in the Midwest.

Recognizing the need to protect this landscape, the Minnesota legislature passed state law 190.33, which was signed into law by Governor Mark Dayton in May 2015. Under the law, the adjutant general convened a Sentinel Landscape Coordinating Committee to identify the boundaries of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape and develop a suite of tools and programs that could provide technical and financial assistance to interested landowners within the sentinel landscape. With input from local government, stakeholders, and Federal agency partners, the Coordinating Committee identified the desired outcomes of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape partnership: protecting the installation’s military training mission and the landscape’s wildlife management areas, watersheds, and agricultural resources.



National Guardsmen from the 121st Field Artillery Regiment drive HIMARS through a live fire range at the Camp Ripley Training Center. (Photo by Sgt. Mahsima Alkamoonneh)

### Landscape Goals



Preserve and improve natural resources by partnering with Camp Ripley and key stakeholders to protect land, watersheds, and public spaces, while engaging with landowners interested in conservation.



Enhance partner coordination by aligning land management priorities across various organizations and promoting awareness and participation within the landscape.



Improve impaired resources by increasing enrollment in agriculture and water quality certifications, reducing phosphorus and nitrogen runoff, seeking regional conservation partnerships for assistance, and coordinating projects for native vegetation and forest restoration in the landscape.

### LANDSCAPE DETAIL

Total Sentinel Landscape Area: **849,253** acres

Total Protected Acres:  
**22,574**

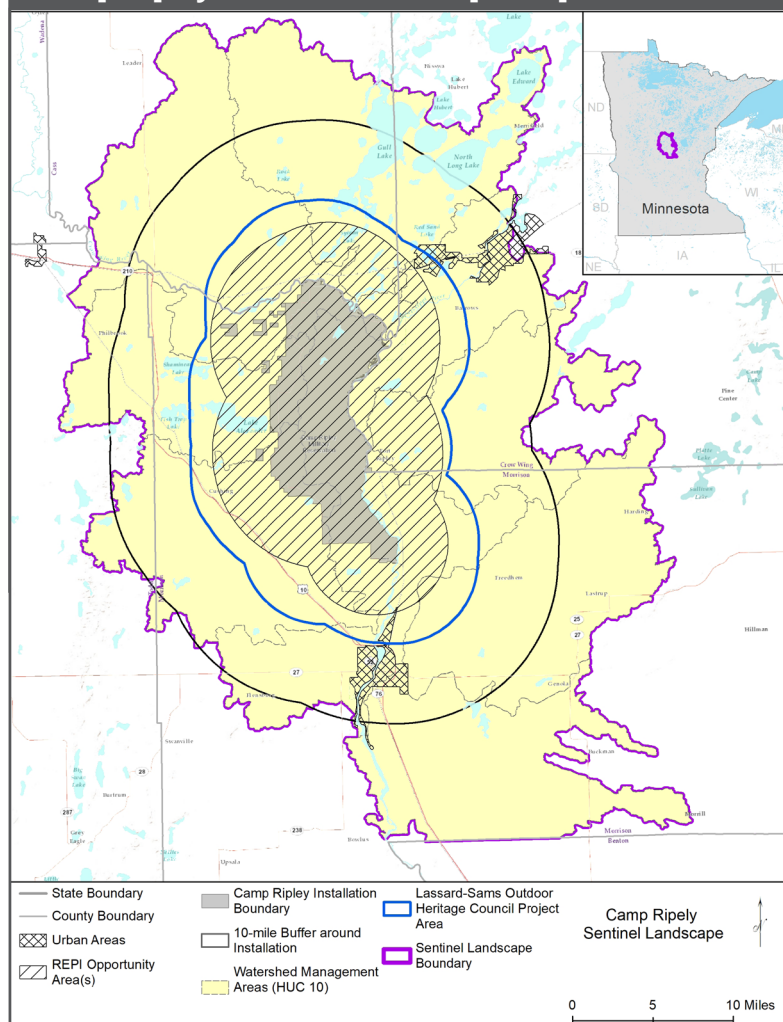
From year established through fiscal year 2022

Total Enrolled Acres:  
**49,763**

For fiscal year 2022

Active Base Area Acres:  
**52,758**

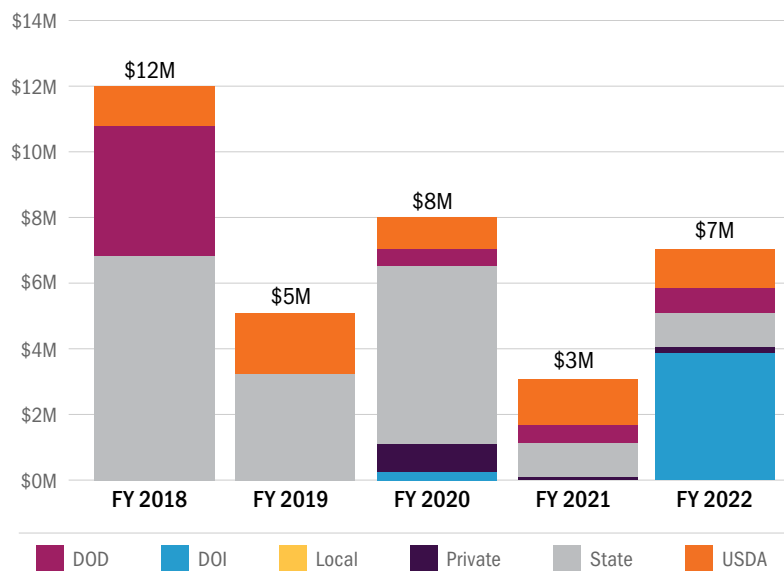
## Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Map



## Key Partners

- ▶ City of Baxter
- ▶ Crow Wing County
- ▶ Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District
- ▶ Great River Greening
- ▶ Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- ▶ Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- ▶ Minnesota Department of Military Affairs
- ▶ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- ▶ Minnesota Forest Resources Council
- ▶ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- ▶ Mississippi Headwaters Board
- ▶ Morrison County
- ▶ Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District
- ▶ Sylvan Township (Cass County)
- ▶ The Conservation Fund
- ▶ The Nature Conservancy
- ▶ U.S. Army National Guard
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- ▶ U.S. Department of Defense, Army Compatible Use Buffer Program
- ▶ U.S. Department of Defense, Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration
- ▶ U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▶ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

## Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Total Funding by Partner



Camp Ripley Environmental Team sets fire to natural vegetation during a prescribed burn. (Photo by Minnesota National Guard Spc. Mahsima Alkamoonneh)



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