

How to Pursue State Engagement in Sentinel Landscapes A Guide for 2021 Applicants

State agencies are critical to the success of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. To be competitive during the 2021 designation round, applicants must demonstrate that state agencies will actively contribute to their local partnership. This resource is intended to help applicants gauge the degree to which state agencies are involved in their sentinel landscape. Generally speaking, the more questions applicants can answer in the affirmative, the more competitive their proposal will be.

Sample Questions:

1. Does your state have a Department of Military and Veterans Affairs or similar office?
2. Does your state currently have legislation that addresses encroachment challenges faced by military installations in your state? Does this legislation specifically benefit the installation that anchors your sentinel landscape? If so, what are the key provisions in that statute (e.g. real estate notification, noise abatement regulations, down lighting requirements)?
3. Does your state have a program that provides state resources to acquire protective easements or other protection measures to buffer military installations from encroachment pressures?
4. Does an organization exist within your state that coordinates between the military and all appropriate state agencies (e.g. Florida Defense Alliance, North Carolina Military Affairs Commission)?
5. Have state agencies been involved in development of your sentinel landscape application?
6. Is your state represented in your local sentinel landscape partnership?
7. Has your state drafted legislation to formally recognize your sentinel landscape? If so, what are the key provisions for that legislation (e.g. establishment of a State Coordinating Committee, reporting and meeting requirements)?
8. Does your state have programs or related authorities that could be used to incentivize landowners to adopt land management practices that will help achieve desired results within your sentinel landscape? Examples might include:
 - Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality
 - BMP Loan Programs
 - BMP Tax Credits
 - Conservation Assistance Programs
 - Present Use Value Tax Deferment
9. Are there opportunities to provide landowners within your sentinel landscape priority consideration for state assistance programs?
10. Are there opportunities for state agencies to offer interested landowners additional benefits, services, or incentives for implementing desired land management practices within your sentinel landscape? Examples might include:
 - Annual “VIP” event

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- Certificate of participation
- Signage
- “Stacked” benefits from existing state programs
- Priority points from existing state programs
- Free access to State Parks and other state facilities
- Priority access to hunting lottery
- Technical and financial assistance in preparing and implementing land management plans
- State proposed sentinel landscapes focused Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) under USDA Farms Services Agency
- Addendum that provides alignment with existing State Present Use Value/Ag Use/Differed tax programs

NOTE: *This resource is meant to help you understand potential forms of state engagement in sentinel landscapes. Your responses to the questions above should be used to draft your answers to questions 3A in the pre-proposal and 3E in the full proposal. Please do not submit additional written answers.*