

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.

BENEFITING WORKING LANDS

Restoring, managing, and protecting the viability of historic agricultural and forest lands within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape is a top priority for the local community, with 330

Figure 1: Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Map

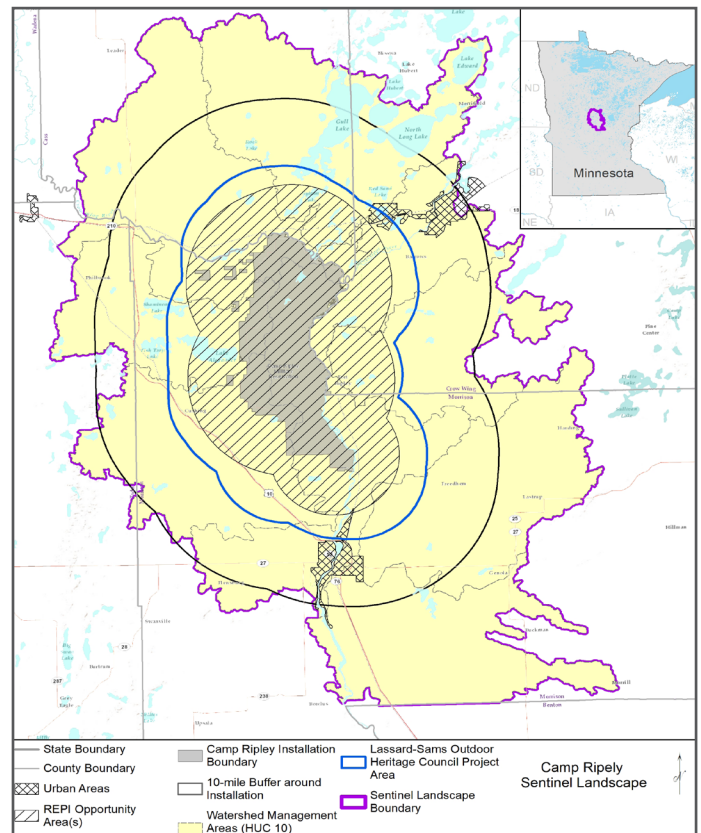


Table 1: Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Footprint Details (from year established through fiscal year 2021)

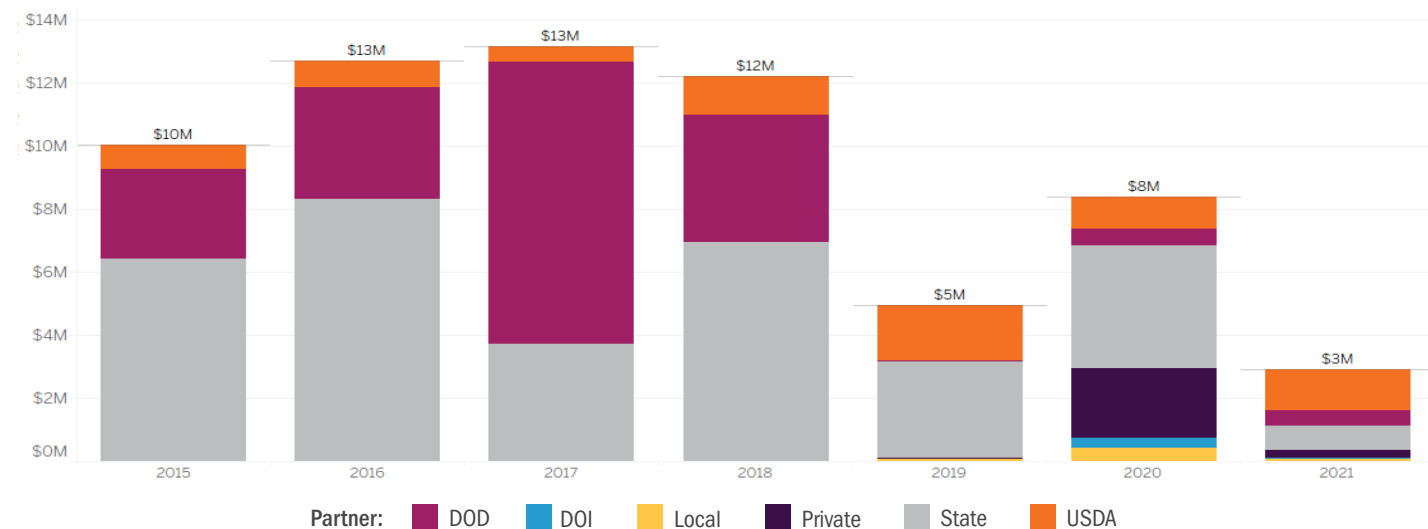
Total Protected Acres ¹	16,742
Total Enrolled Acres ²	78,130
Active Base Area	52,758
Total Sentinel Landscape Area	719,829

landowners enrolling over 35,000 acres of private working ranches, croplands, and timberlands into Reinvest In Minnesota conservation easements with the Minnesota Board of Water and

¹ Protected acres are recognized as land acquisitions—fee simple or easement—that have completed the due diligence and closing actions necessary to obtain a real estate interest.

² Land is considered enrolled if the property owner voluntarily participates in a federal or state land-management program that provides financial or technical assistance to promote sustainable agricultural practices, restore imperiled species and their habitat, or preserve critical natural resources; or if a landowner or an organization receives a federal or state grant to conduct a conservation project on said property.

Figure 2: Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Total Funding by Partner



Soil Resources. Other federal, state, and local partners bring cost-share funding and technical assistance for resource plans, practices, and assistance tools.

Local and federal partners like the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) work with willing landowners to provide technical assistance that will strengthen prime working lands. Landowners will have the opportunity to access conservation education and enhance their land management practices while maintaining their right to continue agricultural production and protect their lands from development as appropriate within the sentinel landscape.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape includes 7 sub-watersheds, 50 miles of the Mississippi River, and the Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Thousands of acres of public and private conservation lands converge on the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape, which is also one of the state's most important source water protection areas for drinking water.

While coordination across county and city boundaries has long been necessary to protect the quality of cross-border watersheds, the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Partnership is leveraging broader support to protect and improve the quality of the region's soil and water resources. The Minnesota Forest Resource Council is working with landowners to implement forest stewardship plans within the sentinel landscape, while conservation partners will work with private landowners to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitats, wetlands, and pollinator habitats.

Key Partners

- ★ 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
- ★ 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
- ★ City of Baxter
- ★ Crow Wing County
- ★ Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District
- ★ Mississippi Headwaters Board
- ★ Morrison County
- ★ Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District
- ★ Sylvan Township (Cass County)
- ★ Great River Greening
- ★ The Conservation Fund
- ★ The Nature Conservancy