

# SENTINEL LANDSCAPES



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## Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Newsletter: Fall 2022 Edition

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership newsletter shares success stories, announcements, and opportunities to the sentinel landscapes network and public. For more information about the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, please visit [www.sentinellandscapes.org](http://www.sentinellandscapes.org).

If this message was forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe to the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership listserv to receive updates, news, and announcements, please click [here](#).

## Message from Federal Coordinating Committee



Dear Sentinel Landscapes Partners and Stakeholders,

On behalf of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC), I am thrilled to introduce our inaugural Sentinel Landscapes Partnership newsletter!

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that work to conserve natural resources, bolster agricultural and forestry economies, strengthen military readiness, and increase resilience to climate change in the ten sentinel landscapes across the U.S.

These newsletters will be an opportunity for our FCC members – the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Defense (DOD), and Department of the Interior (DOI) – to spotlight the incredible work of our partners in sentinel landscapes and share updates and funding opportunities. Read on for success stories from the Fort Huachuca, Camp Ripley, and Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscapes that highlight innovative approaches to sustainably managing forestry, agricultural, and ranch lands.

The Sentinel Landscape Partnership provides a unique opportunity for our FCC to collaborate on shared goals, which was recently illustrated through our FCC member agencies' funding contributions to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) new America the Beautiful Challenge. I'm pleased to share that two of our sentinel landscapes – Georgia and Fort Huachuca – were recipients of the recently announced first round of grants. Learn more in our News Roundup section.

If you found this newsletter useful, please forward it to your partners working in sentinel landscapes or to those who are interested in learning about the partnership. Thank you for reading, and we're eager to share what's on the horizon for the Sentinel Landscape Partnership.

Best,

Kristin Thomasgard  
DOD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI)  
Program Director

## Sentinel Landscape Partner Spotlight



### **The Symbiosis Between Land Conservation and Military Mission in the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape**

*Deputy to the Commanding General at Fort Huachuca Jeff Jennings details his experience with the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership.*

When the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape was designated in 2015, Mr. Jeff Jennings, Deputy to the Commanding General at Fort Huachuca, admits that he initially had a difficult time seeing the nexus between the USDA, DOI, DOD's goals for working in the landscape. However, as the partnership within the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape took shape, he quickly learned that a symbiotic relationship exists between land conservation and military mission. In a recent interview with the REPI Program, Mr. Jennings detailed the shared understanding that Fort Huachuca has developed with federal and state partners, ranchers and land trusts on how protecting natural and working lands can combat encroachment on military mission.

"Leveraging environmental stewardship to protect military mission is the best anti-encroachment method. The partnership between those involved in the sentinel landscape and the military is critical because it prevents encroachment from happening in the first place." Mr. Jennings said.

Read the full interview [here](#).

## Sentinel Landscape Success Stories



### Natural Resource Institute Awarded \$8.5 million RCPP Award for Work in Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape

In August, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded Texas A&M's Natural Resource Institute (NRI) \$8.5 million for work in the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis, which provides critical medical training facilities for all branches of the Armed Forces, faces various challenges to its mission

including urban encroachment, increased droughts, floods, and wildfire risk, decreases in water quality and quantity, decreases in critical species habitat, and increased vulnerability to climate change. NRI and various partners will use a combination of land management activities and conservation easements to address these concerns across nearly one million acres of project area. Project funding will be targeted to lands with high conservation value to meet the goals and objectives of the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape.

Learn more [here](#).

## **Supporting Forest Resilience in Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape**

Partners of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape continue to work with USDA NRCS to promote long-term forest resiliency, enable landowners to better manage their property, and protect the National Guard's training mission. Currently, a \$400,000, three-year contribution agreement between NRCS and the Morrison Soil & Water Conservation District provides forestry related training and technical assistance to landowners within the 805,000-acre sentinel landscape. In addition, a \$2.8 million, five-year NRCS RCPP project, which was renewed this past July, provides sentinel landscape partners with resources to execute conservation easements and pursue assistance to better plan and implement land management practices.

"Couple (the agreement) with the RCPP and NRCS dollars to fund practices, and now all of a sudden, we've got capacity to deliver, the money to do the work, and now it's engaging with landowners," said Todd Holman, Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Coordinator and Mississippi Headwaters Program Director for The Nature Conservancy. The natural resource and wildlife management practices conducted within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape also create a habitat buffer that keeps protected species off Camp Ripley and allows the military to conduct year-round training activities with limited restrictions.

Learn more [here](#).

## **Opportunities**

### **Fiscal Year 2022 Notices of Funding Opportunities for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants**



# FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced its fiscal year 2022 application period for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Notices of Funding Opportunities for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program and the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. Recognizing the growing threats associated with climate change and the need for natural hazard risk mitigation, the FMA and BRIC grant programs



foster greater community resilience and reduce disaster suffering by providing states, local communities, tribes and territories with funding to address high-level risks to natural disasters, such as wildfires, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme heat, and increased flooding. The application period for the FMA and BRIC grant programs will close January 27, 2023.

Learn more [here](#).

## News Roundup



### 2022 America the Beautiful Challenge Recipients Announced

NFWF recently announced the recipients for the 2022 America the Beautiful Challenge. The REPI Program contributed funding towards a project in the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape in Arizona and co-funded a project in the Georgia Sentinel Landscape with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Both projects align with the core focal areas for the America the Beautiful Challenge by protecting open, natural landscapes outside installations and improving installation resilience to climate change through prescribed burns, hazardous fuels reduction, and other wildfire management practices.

Read NFWF's full announcement [here](#).

Read the REPI-America the Beautiful Fact Sheet [here](#).

### America's Longleaf Celebrates Banner Year

America's Longleaf released its 2021 Range-wide Accomplishment Report, which highlights 2.29 million acres of longleaf management activities across the Southeast – the most acreage since America's Longleaf formed in 2010. The Georgia Sentinel Landscape's pilot promoting prescribed fire was featured as a success story.

Learn more [here](#).

## Easement Will Protect Land on Lake Wales Ridge and Provide Buffer for Avon Park Range

A 320-acre property within the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape in Polk County, Florida recently gained protection from development through a conservation easement established by an agreement between the DOD and the Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Division. Facilitated by Conservation Florida, the easement ensures that the Florida Forest Service will be able to continue conducting prescribed fires while also protecting Avon Park Air Force Range missions.

Learn more [here](#).

## NFWF Announces \$7.5 Million in Conservation Grants to Restore Iconic Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

NFWF officially announced the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund would award \$7.5 million through 22 grants to restore, enhance, and protect longleaf pine forests in nine southern states. This year's grant slate, the largest in the program's history, will leverage \$9 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of \$16.5 million. The Georgia, Eastern North Carolina, and Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscapes will directly benefit from LLSF projects.

Read NFWF's full announcement [here](#).

## Resources and Webinars



### 2022 Sentinel Landscapes Achievements Webinar

On August 24, 2022, the REPI Office hosted a webinar highlighting the 2022 Sentinel Landscapes Partnership

Achievements, including accomplishments of the partnership over the past year, what to expect in the coming year, and success stories of federal agency engagement in the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape and Avon Park Sentinel Landscape. Watch it [here](#).

## Explore the Sentinel Landscapes Website

Interested in learning more about the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership? Explore the Resources page of our [website](#) for useful reports, webinars, and other background materials.

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Federal Coordinating Committee

E-mail:

[fcc@sentinellandscapes.org](mailto:fcc@sentinellandscapes.org)