

POTOMAC SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

VIRGINIA | Est. 2023



The Potomac Sentinel Landscape spans 1.6 million acres and includes a variety of land cover (forests, grasslands, wetlands, farmland, rivers, and shorelines) that support essential military missions across Northern Virginia.

The Potomac Sentinel Landscape contains three critical military installations that play a vital role in defense readiness: Marine Corps Base Quantico, Fort A.P. Hill, and Fort Lee. These strategically located assets enable rapid transition from training to battlefield operations, delivering critical force projection capabilities for national security. Quantico, known as the “Crossroads of the Marine Corps,” spans 54,000 acres and 184 square miles of airspace, supporting joint live-fire and aviation training. Fort Walker provides 76,000 acres for year-round, multi-branch training and room to maneuver, while Fort Lee, the Army’s third busiest training site, trains over 70,000 soldiers annually.

Rapid development and infrastructure expansion in this high-growth region of Virginia increasingly threaten the training capacity and operational readiness of these military installations. These bases depend on surrounding open lands to preserve dark skies, reduce noise conflicts, and maintain critical maneuver space. Safeguarding working farms, forests, and open space within the Potomac Sentinel Landscape is essential to protecting them from incompatible development. Through supporting land conservation, compatible land use, and mission-critical green and grey infrastructure enhancement, the Potomac Sentinel Landscape helps to ensure operational flexibility, uninterrupted training access, and continuity of operations.

Landscape Goals



Enhance a variety of military training, testing and operational areas through the protection, conservation, and restoration of high-value lands outside of military installations and within sentinel landscape boundaries.



Prevent encroachments that threaten military missions including dark-sky training and mission critical flight routes



Protect, conserve, restore and manage off-installation wildlife habitats within sentinel landscape boundaries to avoid environmental restrictions on military activities.



Strengthen partnerships between military bases and surrounding communities to support long-term regional stability (encourage land management that reduces drought and fire risk, etc.).



U.S. Marines with Security Battalion, Marine Corps Base Quantico, fire an M2A1 while participating in a machine gun range on MCB Quantico, Virginia. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Joaquin Dela Torre)

LANDSCAPE DETAIL

Total Sentinel Landscape Area: 1,606,512 acres

**Total Protected
Acres:**

0

From year established
through fiscal year 2024

**Total Enrolled
Acres:**

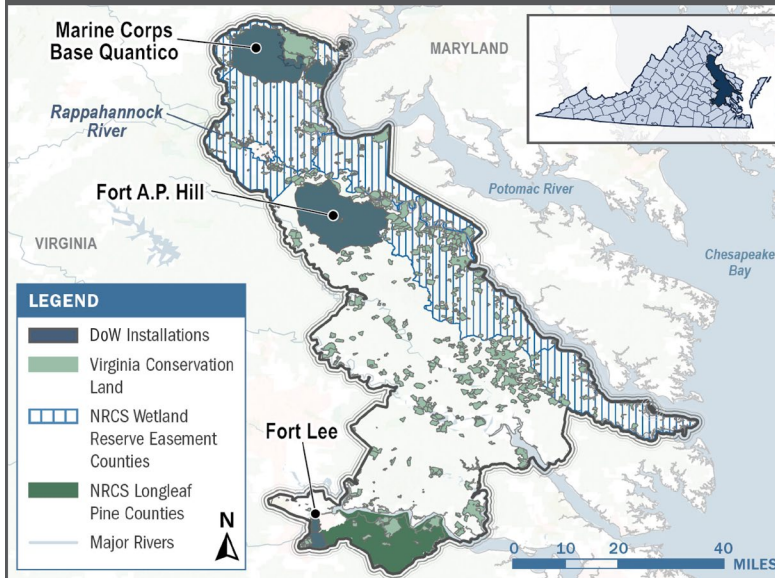
48,662

For fiscal year 2024

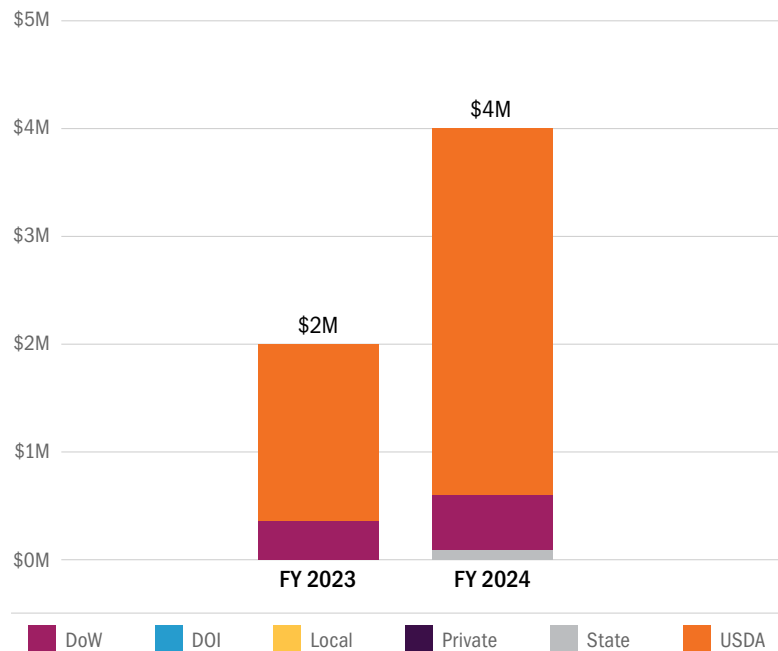
**Active Base
Area Acres:**

139,117

Potomac Sentinel Landscape Map



Potomac Sentinel Landscape Total Funding by Partner



Key Partners

- ▶ American Battlefield Trust
- ▶ American Farmland Trust
- ▶ Capital Region Land Conservancy
- ▶ Center for Large Landscape Conservation
- ▶ Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
- ▶ College of William and Mary
- ▶ Conservation Partners, LLC
- ▶ Crater Planning District Commission
- ▶ DOD Chesapeake Bay Program
- ▶ Duck Unlimited
- ▶ Environmental Defense Fund
- ▶ Fort A.P. Hill
- ▶ Fort Lee
- ▶ Friends of Dragon Run
- ▶ Friends of the Lower Appomattox River
- ▶ George Washington Regional Commission
- ▶ Historic Virginia Land Conservancy
- ▶ Hopewell & Prince George (HPG) Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Indigenous Conservation Council of the Chesapeake Bay
- ▶ Land Trust Alliance
- ▶ LegacyWorks Group
- ▶ Marine Corps Base Quantico
- ▶ Marstel-Day
- ▶ National Park Conservation Association
- ▶ Natural Resource Conservation Service
- ▶ Northern Neck Land Conservancy
- ▶ Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
- ▶ Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- ▶ Pew Charitable Trusts
- ▶ Piedmont Environmental Council
- ▶ Plan RVA
- ▶ Prince George County
- ▶ Prince William County Conservation Alliance
- ▶ Prince William Forest Park
- ▶ Rappahannock River Roundtable
- ▶ Rappahannock Tribe
- ▶ Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
- ▶ Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- ▶ Sustainable Chesapeake
- ▶ The Conservation Fund
- ▶ The Nature Conservancy
- ▶ Trust for Public Land
- ▶ Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- ▶ Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- ▶ Virginia Department of Forestry
- ▶ Virginia Department of Transportation
- ▶ Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- ▶ Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
- ▶ Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- ▶ Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- ▶ Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- ▶ Virginia State University
- ▶ Virginia's United Land Trusts
- ▶ Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation
- ▶ Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc.
- ▶ Wild Virginia



LANDSCAPE COORDINATOR CONTACT: Chris Moi | christopher.moi@dof.virginia.gov