Memorandum of Understanding
For Coordination and Support of Sentinel Landscapes in Florida

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter “MOU”) is made and entered into by and between the: United States Department of Defense represented by the Air Force; United States Department of Agriculture represented by the National Forests in Florida and Natural Resources Conservation Service; United States Department of the Interior represented by the Fish and Wildlife Service; Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Florida Department of Military Affairs; Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Northeast Florida Regional Council; Florida A&M. University-Florida State University represented by the Resilient Infrastructure and Disaster Response (RIDER) Center; Defenders of Wildlife; North Florida Land Trust; Tall Timbers Research Inc.; Apalachicola Audubon Society; The Nature Conservancy in Florida; The Longleaf Alliance; Conservation Florida; The Trust for Public Land; Florida Wildlife Federation; Florida Wildlife Corridor Coalition; 1000 Friends of Florida; National Wildlife Federation; and The Conservation Fund (hereafter referred to as the "Parties"). The United States Navy supports this statewide partnership and is entering into separate MOU’s with the North Florida Land Trust for the proposed Northeast Florida Sentinel Landscape and with Defenders of Wildlife for the proposed Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape.

1. BACKGROUND

Sentinel Landscapes are areas in which natural and working lands are well suited to protect defense facilities from land use that is incompatible with the military's mission. These landscapes contribute to the working and rural character of the State’s private lands which is important for agricultural production, conservation of natural resources, and national defense. Sustainable land uses such as farming, ranching, and forestry not only offer economic and ecological benefits but also protect defense facilities from incompatible development that can constrain the military's ability to carry out training and testing activities. Sentinel Landscape partners accomplish these multiple objectives by connecting private landowners around military installations and ranges with land conservation opportunities and voluntary government assistance programs that offset the cost of implementing sustainable land management practices. By aligning these programs in targeted locations and encouraging interagency collaboration, the Sentinel Landscape partnership generates value beyond what U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) can accomplish independently.

Sentinel landscapes are designated by the U.S. Secretary of Defense, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and U.S. Secretary of the Interior, as the Secretaries deem appropriate, as provided in Section 317 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. Through this authorization, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior may give to eligible landowners or agricultural producers who manage their properties compatibly with military training missions within a designated Sentinel Landscape, priority consideration for participation in voluntary easement, grant, or assistance programs administered by that Secretary's department.

2. PURPOSE

This MOU establishes a framework for the Parties to work collaboratively to advance the goals and objectives of the Sentinel Landscape program in Florida. Maintaining rural land uses and conserving and restoring land within the designated landscape will prevent encroachment on military operations, protect the region's important biodiversity and water resources, link protected areas, provide recreational opportunities for a growing population and help support the economic health of the region. The Parties will accomplish this by connecting private landowners around military installations with voluntary government assistance programs that offset the cost of implementing sustainable land management and conservation activities including the acquisition of real property interests within areas designated or proposed to be designated as Sentinel Landscapes. This collaboration will help to streamline activities and strengthen the Sentinel Landscape partnership in Florida.
Sentinel landscapes rely upon a network of state agencies, local governments, academic institutions, private organizations, and other stakeholders to engage with private landowners and implement projects on the ground. Working with this network enables Sentinel Landscapes to address the needs of local communities while also advancing the objectives of USDA, DOD, and DOI. Leveraging interests within these landscapes, including national security, conservation, and sustainable agriculture, is key to expanding the network of willing landowners with whom participating entities can engage.

3. GOALS

The Parties will collaborate, using available authorities and resources to:

A. Enhance communication and coordination among Florida’s Sentinel Landscapes’ coordinators and stakeholders.

B. Provide consistent messaging and resources to educate and engage willing landowners in voluntary federal, state and local land conservation programs, and natural resources stewardship incentive programs. The Parties will identify and share strategies to incentivize landowner participation in these programs and encourage partner agencies to give priority consideration through existing funding processes to landowners within Sentinel Landscapes.

C. Identify consistent qualitative and quantitative metrics that may be used to measure progress towards achieving the goals of the Sentinel Landscapes’ implementation plans.

D. Inform partners of collective and mutually beneficial actions that will enable the Sentinel Landscapes and their partners to achieve their goals. This includes sharing funding opportunities, project proposals, progress reports on significant projects and achievements, opportunities for partnerships and collaboration, best practices for successful resolution of common challenges, and identification of resources to achieve mutual goals.

4. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTEREST

A. The Parties are bound by all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. If conflicts arise, the Parties will evaluate how to best achieve the goals of a project and make appropriate recommendations.

B. The Parties will communicate on a regular basis to enhance and develop the institutional arrangements necessary to facilitate the purposes of this MOU. The Parties agree to participate in semi-annual meetings and other meetings of partners of Sentinel Landscapes as may be called from time to time. Standing and ad hoc committees may be formed to enhance coordination. Each Party will designate a representative or representatives to participate in meetings. The Parties will appoint a chair to facilitate meetings and coordination. Committees or boards formed are intended to serve only a coordinating function and do not have a role in the approval process of projects undertaken in the Sentinel Landscapes.

C. To further ensure coordination and exchange of information, the coordinator for each Sentinel Landscape serves as a liaison to other Sentinel Landscape coordinating/steering committees and participates in meetings. This liaison may offer insights into lessons learned in the management of the Sentinel Landscape and serve as a conduit for information from the other Sentinel Landscape(s) back to their own.

D. This MOU shall be reviewed annually and can be amended by mutual written consent by all the Parties. New signatories to this MOU may be added by written agreement of the current signatories. Parties may terminate their participation in this MOU by giving the other Parties written notice 30 days prior to the termination. This MOU shall remain in effect until it is terminated by the Parties.

E. This MOU in no way restricts the Parties from participating in activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

F. The Parties agree that this MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funding obligation document. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to require any obligation or payment of funds in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1341 and 1517) or any other applicable statute or regulation. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among various agencies and
offices of the parties will be done in accordance with each agency’s applicable rules, policies and procedures.

5. **PRINCIPAL CONTACTS:**

The individuals executing this MOU on behalf of their agency or organization, may act in their respective areas for matters related to this MOU.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF,** the Parties and principal contacts hereto have executed this MOU as of the last written date below:

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**AVON PARK SENTINEL LANDSCAPE**

**U.S. AIR FORCE**
**AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE**
Charles MacLaughlin  
Range Operations Officer  
[Signature]

**CENTRAL FLORIDA**
**REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**
Patricia M. Steed  
Executive Director  
[Signature]

Patricia M Steed (Nov 17, 2021 08:32 EST)  
Patricia M Steed (Nov 17, 2021 08:32 EST)

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U.S. AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER CENTER
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Chief, Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Branch

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DIVISION OF STATE LANDS
Callie DeHaven
Director

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
Erin Albury
Director and State Forester

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Eric Sutton
Executive Director

FAMU-FSU COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND DISASTER RESPONSE (RIDER) CENTER
Eren Erman Ozguven, Ph.D.
Director

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FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
SOUTH ATLANTIC –
GULF AND MISSISSIPPI BASIN REGIONS
Leopoldo Miranda-Castro
Regional Director

Leopoldo Miranda-Castro
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
Juan C. Hernandez
State Conservationist

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Kelly Russell
Forest Supervisor

Kelly Russell
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THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE
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FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
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FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR COALITION
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NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
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1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA
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THE CONSERVATION FUND
Lauren Day
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