

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.; Apalachee 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:

AVON PARK SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

U.S. AIR FORCE  
AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE  
Charles MacLaughlin  
Range Operations Officer

  
Charles MacLaughlin (Nov 18, 2021 07:33 EST)

CENTRAL FLORIDA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
Patricia M. Steed  
Executive Director

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

PROPOSED NORTHWEST FLORIDA SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

U.S. AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER CENTER  
Shawn G. Rose, GS-14, DAF  
Chief, Readiness and Environmental  
Protection Integration (REPI) Branch



Shawn G. Rose (Jan 21, 2022 12:48 CST)

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE  
Jamie Rappaport Clark  
President/Chief Executive Officer



Jamie Rappaport Clark (Nov 17, 2021 07:31 EST)

TALL TIMBERS RESEARCH INC.  
William E. Palmer  
President/Chief Executive Officer



William E Palmer (Nov 17, 2021 04:56 EST)

APALACHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Peter Kleinhenz  
Conservation Committee Chair



Peter N. Kleinhenz (Nov 17, 2021 10:39 EST)

PROPOSED NORTHEAST FLORIDA SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
CAMP BLANDING JOINT TRAINING CENTER  
Adam M. Curry  
LTC, IN  
State Quartermaster, Florida National Guard

Adam M. Curry

Adam M. Curry (Dec 21, 2021 09:27 EST)

NORTH FLORIDA LAND TRUST  
Jim McCarthy  
President



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer

Elizabeth Payne

Elizabeth Payne (Nov 17, 2021 08:45 EST)

STATE OF FLORIDA AGENCY PARTNERS

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

*Callie DeHaven*

Callie DeHaven (Nov 18, 2021 18:07 EST)

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

*Erin Albury*

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Eric Sutton  
Executive Director

*Eric Sutton*

Eric Sutton (Jan 21, 2022 11:43 EST)

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

*Eren Erman Ozguven*

Eren Erman Ozguven (Nov 16, 2021 22:23 EST)

## 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 (Nov 22, 2021 07:27 EST)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
Juan C. Hernandez  
State Conservationist

  
Juan C. Hernandez (Nov 17, 2021 21:59 EST)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA  
Kelly Russell  
Forest Supervisor



## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN FLORIDA  
Temperince Morgan  
Executive Director



THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE  
Carol Denhof  
President



CONSERVATION FLORIDA  
Traci Deen, Esq.  
Chief Executive Officer



THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND  
Kate Brown  
Senior Project Manager



FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
Preston T. Robertson  
President & CEO

  
Preston T. Robertson (Nov 17, 2021 09:20 EST)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR COALITION  
Jason Lauritsen  
Chief Conservation Officer



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
South Central Regional Center  
Susan Kaderka  
Regional Executive Director

  
Susan Kaderka (Nov 16, 2021 21:06 CST)

1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA  
Paul Owens  
President



THE CONSERVATION FUND  
Lauren Day  
Florida State Director

  
Lauren Day (Nov 17, 2021 16:10 EST)