



2026 Sentinel Landscape Designation Cycle Proposal Guidance

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership began its second decade in 2023, celebrating a legacy that started with the first sentinel landscape designation at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington in 2013. With eighteen sentinel landscapes currently designated, the past decade of success proves the power of unconventional partnerships in driving valuable landscape-scale outcomes.

Building on this strong foundation, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is thrilled to launch the 2026 Sentinel Landscape Designation Cycle. This process will be informed by over ten years of lessons learned in building innovative connections between partners in conservation, working lands, landscape resilience, and national defense, with the goal of setting the stage for the next decade of impact within sentinel landscapes.

This document offers comprehensive guidance on the proposal process for the 2026 Sentinel Landscape Designation Cycle. In addition to information on eligibility, process, timeline, and evaluation criteria, this document includes various “success factors” that the Sentinel Landscapes Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC) identified as contributing to strong local partnerships. Please take these success factors into consideration when completing your proposal.

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I. Background

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a coalition of Federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that work with willing landowners and land managers to advance sustainable land use practices on private and public lands around military installations and ranges. The partnership was established in 2013 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Defense (DOD), and Department of the Interior (DOI) and later affirmed in statute under the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. A Sentinel Landscapes Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established the Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC) to advance the goals and actions of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership and award designations to new sentinel landscapes on a biennial basis through a competitive proposal process. The MOU was updated in 2024 to include the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), broadening the partnership's landscape resilience efforts.¹

The partnership's mission is to strengthen military readiness, conserve natural resources, bolster agricultural and forestry economies, increase access to recreation, and promote landscape resilience. Sentinel landscapes help to sustain land use around installations and ranges compatible with the military's mission. Natural areas and working lands minimize encroachment concerns such as light pollution, spectrum interference, overflights, and artillery noise that may impact surrounding communities. The partnership connects federal agencies, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and interested landowners and land managers within designated sentinel landscapes to achieve landscape-level outcomes that:

- Are consistent with and supportive of the military mission inherent to the military installations or ranges anchoring a sentinel landscape.
- Concurrently advance the missions and goals of the USDA, DOD, DOI, and FEMA within that same landscape.

Each sentinel landscape is anchored by a military installation; encompasses agricultural and forestry lands; and would significantly benefit from natural resource management and landscape resilience efforts such as water quality and quantity improvement, disaster risk reduction, or wildlife habitat enhancement. While USDA, DOD, DOI, and FEMA maintain oversight of the partnership, sentinel landscapes are predominantly local enterprises. Each sentinel landscape is unique in its land cover, economic drivers, cultural heritage, and natural resource challenges. Within each designated landscape, local partnership teams are responsible for implementing their identified projects.

By collaborating across all tiers of government, engaging with landowners and land managers, and partnering with the private sector, sentinel landscapes address the needs of local communities while also advancing landscape-level objectives aligned with USDA, DOD, DOI, and FEMA mission priorities. By better aligning these federal, state, and local programs in designated locations and encouraging voluntary landowner and land manager participation and interagency collaboration, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership generates value beyond what USDA, DOD, DOI, and FEMA can accomplish independently.

¹ The 2024 Sentinel Landscapes Partnership MOU is available here:
https://sentinellandscapes.org/media/coonpn5e/2024_sl_mou_signed_09242024.pdf



II. Eligibility

Any entity whose mission aligns with or otherwise supports the goals of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is eligible to apply. Examples of eligible entities include but are not limited to: federal agencies; state and local governments; Federally Recognized Tribes, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and other Indigenous Communities (including state-recognized tribes and Alaska Native Corporations); for-profit and not-for-profit organizations or associations with conservation, agricultural, or silvicultural missions; municipal water treatment entities; water irrigation districts; and soil conservation districts.

III. Benefits of Designation

There are numerous benefits to being selected as a sentinel landscape:

- a) Partner agencies at the federal and state level are encouraged and may choose to provide program-specific funding or give priority consideration in existing funding processes to landowners and land managers within sentinel landscapes through actions that include:
 - Revising funding and award guidance to give appropriate preference to activities within designated sentinel landscapes, recognizing the value of the sentinel landscape designation in meeting agency-specific mission goals and objectives.
 - Providing priority consideration for landowners within sentinel landscapes under existing funding guidance.
 - Encouraging landowners and other eligible entities within designated sentinel landscapes to apply for funding or technical aid from government assistance programs aligned with the goals of the Sentinel Landscape Partnership.
- b) Upon receiving a designation, the local sentinel landscape partnership is eligible to receive funding from the FCC to hire a sentinel landscape coordinator (SLC). This individual serves as a liaison between local partners and agency headquarters. They also work to build relationships among local defense, conservation, and agricultural partners. The SLC's principal duty is to facilitate and coordinate the activities of the local sentinel landscape partnership to achieve objectives and key results. A sample SLC position description can be found in Appendix III. Designated sentinel landscapes are also eligible to receive funding from agency partners to hire a resilience specialist to support resilience-related activities.
- c) A designation leads to improved recognition at the local, state, and national levels for projects within a sentinel landscape.
- d) The structure provided by the local sentinel landscape partnership combined with the hiring of the SLC improves communication, coordination, and collaboration amongst government agencies, private organizations, and local communities within the sentinel landscape. This can lead to greater information sharing amongst partners and increased landowner participation in government assistance programs. Furthermore, by adding a national security context to the existing array of interests within a defined landscape – including conservation, agricultural, and resilience – a sentinel landscape designation cultivates a willingness amongst diverse partners to engage in rigorous and effective planning while building and stewarding highly effective collaborations.
- e) The local sentinel landscape partnership will have access and exposure to the national Sentinel Landscapes Network: the community of organizations, agencies, advisors, partners, funders, and individuals who contribute to the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership and implement local sentinel landscape partnerships across the country. The network actively promotes the exchange of ideas

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and lessons learned through regular meetings, trainings, site visits, and other forums. In addition to the network of peers, local partnerships are encouraged to elevate problems that they encounter in meeting their goals to the FCC, who can support collaborative efforts within designated sentinel landscapes at the federal level.

IV. Proposal Process

Contact: If you have questions regarding your proposal, please contact FCC@sentinellandscapes.org.

Timeline:

- Jan 13, 2025: Expression of interest form is available.
- Jan 29, 2025, 1:00-2:30 PM ET: FCC members will host a live proposal help session webinar.
- April 9, 2025: Completed expression of interest form with map attachment must be submitted as a PDF to FCC@sentinellandscapes.org by 11:59 PM local time.
- Summer 2025: Members of the FCC will notify applicants regarding whether they have been invited to submit a full proposal. At this time, the full proposal form will be made available only to invited applicants.
 - Applicants who are selected will have at least 60 business days to submit their full proposals. They will receive opportunities for individual guidance with FCC representatives as they develop their full proposals.
- Feb 2026: The FCC announces new sentinel landscape designations.

V. Evaluation Criteria

The information in this section is meant to guide applicants in considering what information to include in their proposals. All proposals will first be reviewed for accuracy, completeness, and compliance with the instructions outlined in the expression of interest and full proposal forms. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the criteria below.

A. Landscape Needs Statement

Applicants should be able to succinctly address the question, “Why do you want to be designated as a sentinel landscape?” Successful proposals will articulate what cannot already be accomplished in their landscape through existing processes and partners, and hence, why a designation is needed. Please refer to the 2024 Sentinel Landscapes Partnership MOU for reference on the goals of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership.

B. Military Mission & Anchor Military Installation

All sentinel landscapes must include an anchor military installation or range whose mission requirements are demonstrably impacted by multiple, complex encroachment and resilience challenges. Such installations and ranges should consider how a sentinel landscape designation – and the subsequent collaboration with a broader set of partners and tools that such a designation affords – might allow them to better protect and sustain their operational mission footprint. These are locations and situations where

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projects through DOD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program agreements and Sikes Act authorities are insufficient to fully address encroachment and resilience challenges.

Not all installations and ranges need to be associated with a sentinel landscape to successfully manage their encroachments challenges. Many, if not most, installations and ranges utilize REPI agreements, Sikes Act authorities, and/or Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation programs to sufficiently engage relevant partners to address encroachment threats and sustain compatible land use.

As such, competitive proposals will: 1) succinctly describe the complexity of encroachment challenges, shared resource concerns, and/or resilience priorities associated with the mission of their anchor installation or range, and 2) describe how the sentinel landscape designation is necessary to fully address these needs. Applicants should describe how the existing REPI Program efforts are facing limitations or barriers that could be addressed by broadening the scope of collaboration through the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. Further, competitive proposals will embrace the application of programs and tools beyond easements, in recognition of a higher level of complexity of encroachment challenges occurring within the proposed sentinel landscape. **Sentinel landscape designation WILL NOT be considered unless the anchor installation or range has an existing REPI partnership agreement in place.**

Applicants with more than one installation or range in their proposed landscape will be considered if the encroachment challenges and associated goals and objectives can be shown to be similar, supportive, and complementary amongst the multiple installations or ranges. In this case, applicants would be required to give a clear and compelling case for how these installations/ranges are able to act as a cohesive decision-making group within the same sentinel landscape to address shared challenges (see “E. Landscape Boundary” and Appendix II for further guidance).

C. Landscape Goals and Objectives

All newly designated sentinel landscapes are expected to have completed implementation plans no later than one year from the date of designation. This will likely be the core responsibility of the SLC in the first year of their role. Competitive proposals should include an outline of landscape goals and corresponding objectives that support the local sentinel landscape partnership’s priorities and represent the initial development of a full implementation plan. If designated, the local sentinel landscape partnership steering committee would be expected to use the first year of designation to finish developing the goals and objectives in the implementation plan and formalize steering committee and partnership structures. Once completed, a landscape’s implementation plan can be updated on a continual basis.

Goals are broad statements of what partners hope to accomplish in their sentinel landscape, while objectives are activities that result in specific outcomes that support the achievement of goals. To the extent possible, objectives should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound.

A successful expression of interest will:

- Include goals that reflect multiple sentinel landscape priorities from each FCC member agency, as laid out in Appendix I.
- Provide a clear explanation as to how a sentinel landscape designation and accompanying full-time coordinator will help the partnership achieve the desired outcomes and advance identified goals.

Building on the above points in the expression of interest, a successful full proposal will further:

- Explain the method that partners used to develop their goals and objectives with a specific focus on how they relate to shared interests among partners.
- Include objectives that result in clear, actionable outcomes to support the achievement of each goal.
- Establish clear, quantifiable metrics to assess progress toward sentinel landscape priorities, enabling partners to track conservation, land management, and readiness achievements. Metrics should be aligned with FCC member agency priorities and provide measurable benchmarks to guide adaptive management and demonstrate landscape-scale impacts over time.

Please note: Applicants will be required to list only goals in their expression of interest. Only applicants who are invited back for full proposals will be required to list the objectives and metrics that correspond to their goals (which they will do so when submitting their full proposal).

D. Landscape Leadership, Governance, and Partner Engagement

Both expressions of interest and full proposals must include a well-established network of partners—including USDA, DOD, DOI, FEMA, state and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and non-governmental organizations—that are necessary to achieve the sentinel landscape’s goals and objectives and that will actively contribute to project planning and implementation. Competitive proposals will document a history of ongoing partner collaboration prior to and/or during the development of the proposal. Proposals should include a detailed explanation of how partners plan to coordinate efforts within the sentinel landscape, including an explanation of what each partner’s roles and responsibilities would be.

Proposals should also include a description of the governance and decision-making structure for their local sentinel landscape partnership. All landscapes are expected to have a formal local coordinating committee comprised of representatives from their partner network that is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the landscape’s goals and objectives.

Proposals should demonstrate that USDA, DOD, DOI, FEMA, state agencies, and non-governmental organizations will actively participate in the sentinel landscape. Participation from local and regional agencies is strongly encouraged. To be competitive, proposals should include how each partner will contribute to specific actions that advance the partnership’s goals. Partner contributions may include but are not limited to:

- Personnel: Partners may decide to assign staff to participate on the local sentinel landscape partnership team or other working groups. Personnel can also contribute technical assistance by serving as subject matter experts on agency-related topics.
- Commitment of resources: Partners may decide to dedicate cash or in-kind contributions to the local sentinel landscape partnership. Agencies and partners may also decide to give priority consideration to landowners within the sentinel landscape during program funding processes.

E. Landscape Boundary

Applicants must include a well-defined sentinel landscape boundary associated with the anchor installation or range that:

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- Is the appropriate size and scale to address partnership objectives that include encroachment threats, shared resource concerns, and landscape resilience priorities.
- Encompasses high-priority areas for USDA, DOD, DOI, and FEMA.
- Includes the anchor installation or range's military operational mission footprint, which will require close coordination with military leadership and key staff.
- Encompasses an existing REPI agreement area.
- Considers, if applicable, landscape-scale natural resource concerns such as watershed boundaries, wildlife corridors, and ecologically important land types.

Successful applicants will be able to justify the selection of their boundary through supplying the following information:

- a) Proposals should include a strong justification for why the sentinel landscape boundary was selected, including why the size and scale of the sentinel landscape is appropriate to address the local sentinel landscape partnership's goals and objectives. Proposals must describe the characteristics or criteria used to define the boundary (e.g., Air Installations Compatible Use Zones, REPI agreement areas, watersheds, critical or high value habitat, flood zones, state/county lines, etc.).
- b) The sentinel landscape boundary should represent a geography where partners are committed to engage in and outcomes are reasonably anticipated within the next three to five years. *To note: the FCC will consider boundary adjustment proposals from designated sentinel landscapes if the local sentinel landscape partnership presents compelling evidence for any such change. This gives local sentinel landscape partnerships the flexibility to adjust their geographically based goals and objectives over time. However, such boundary adjustments are usually not considered by the FCC until the sentinel landscape has been designated for a few years.*
- c) Proposals should include a description of the current land use, land cover, and land ownership status within the landscape's boundary, using quantitative descriptions if possible.
- d) Proposals should include a GIS map that delineates the boundary of the proposed sentinel landscape. The following layers shall be delineated on the boundary map:
 - a. The anchor installation operational footprint, with the option to convey the location of associated encroachment concerns.
 - b. Priority areas for relevant federal, state, local, regional, and private partners, including priority areas that may extend beyond the boundary of the sentinel landscape and/or the areas where partners plan to target their activities over the next five years.
 - c. Appropriate map elements, as applicable, such as a legend, scale bar, title, and north arrow.

For detailed guidance regarding defining the boundary and size for a proposed sentinel landscape, please review Appendix II.

F. Local Coordination

To enhance coordination among defense, agricultural, conservation, and resilience partners, the local sentinel landscape partnership will be provided funds by the FCC to hire a local SLC. The FCC expects that the SLC role will be a full-time position, however, requirements may vary depending on the needs of their sentinel landscape.



For detailed guidance regarding defining the SLC role in a proposed sentinel landscape, please review Appendix III.

VI. Resources

- Sentinel Landscapes Proposal Help Session: January 29, 2025, from 1:00-2:30 PM ET
 - Note: The Proposal Help Session will be recorded and made available at sentinellandscapes.org/about/resources
- Sentinel Landscapes Website: sentinellandscapes.org
 - Note: Sentinel Landscape profiles can be reviewed at: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/landscapes>
- Sentinel Landscapes Partnership 2024 MOU: https://sentinellandscapes.org/media/coonpn5e/2024_sl_mou_signed_09242024.pdf
- 2023 Sentinel Landscapes Accomplishments Report: https://sentinellandscapes.org/media/sxomjdsa/2023-sentinel-landscapes-accomplishments-report_20240305.pdf
- Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Fact Sheet: https://sentinellandscapes.org/media/rezdtkab/sl_partnerships_factsheet_092424.pdf

Appendix I: Sentinel Landscapes Priorities of the FCC Member Agencies

Below are each FCC member agency's high-level priorities for participating in the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. Successful sentinel landscape proposals should have multiple priorities from each FCC member agency reflected in their goals. During the designation process, applicants are encouraged to reach out to local FCC member agency representatives to begin the process of relationship building, create awareness for the Sentinel Landscape Partnership, and learn more about specific local priorities as well as planned and active projects for each agency.

USDA NRCS

- Please refer to the state-level NRCS priorities for each state that the proposed sentinel landscape is located within. Please reach out to the State Conservationist(s) to gain a complete understanding of the priorities within the proposed boundary.

USDA USFS

- Positively impact the Wildfire Crisis Strategy.
- Landscapes are within or contain State designated priority areas for Legacy, Stewardship, and other conservation programs or plans to address state priorities in forest management.
- If relevant, bordering or contained National Forests are involved in the landscape coordinating committee.
- Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests.

DOD REPI Program

- Promote compatible development around military installations and ranges to mitigate encroachment threats that could impact military testing, training, and operations.
- Enhance military installation resilience by mitigating the impact of threats exacerbated by changing environmental conditions (such as wildfire, floods, drought, flooding, and storms) to military testing, training, and operations.
- Preserve and enhance military readiness at installations and ranges where existing REPI Program partnership agreements and DOD authorities are insufficient to address the full scope of encroachment and resilience challenges.

DOI USFWS

- Protecting and restoring habitat for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species.
- Building community resilience to changing environmental conditions (such as wildfire, floods, drought, and storms).
- Supporting or expanding access to public recreation opportunities.

FEMA Future Conditions Resilience Branch

- Enhance community resilience to natural disasters by reducing risks near military installations and critical infrastructure.

- Encourage strategies to mitigate natural hazards impacting communities and essential facilities.
- Prioritize proactive pre-disaster mitigation in sentinel landscapes to protect lives, property, and infrastructure.
- Collaborate with state and local governments to align hazard mitigation planning with sentinel landscape goals.
- Support floodplain and wetland conservation to reduce flood risks and preserve natural buffer zones.

Appendix II: Guidance for Defining a Landscape Boundary

Setting a clear and compelling boundary for a proposed sentinel landscape is perhaps the most critical and challenging step in the proposal process. Applicants should consider the following lessons learned that the FCC has determined based on the experiences of existing sentinel landscapes:

Defining a Boundary

The boundary setting process starts with an initial proposed boundary, which begins with the installation(s) and/or range(s) that form the nucleus of a sentinel landscape. From there, the boundary works outward to encompass off-base military operational areas, other public lands, private working lands, habitat areas, developed areas, critical infrastructure, and connectivity corridors (both human and ecological).

A local sentinel landscape partnership's goals and objectives should be the primary organizing principles that underpin the boundary and size of the landscape. For instance, if your landscape includes two installations with core buffer areas and critical flight paths, you might choose those areas as a primary organizing principle. If the landscape has key critical habitat and species concerns, layering over the geographic extent of those elements might be a secondary organizing principle. The combined operational and habitat footprint might then be adjusted based on jurisdictional or watershed boundaries, with some areas clipped off to avoid adding additional counties or cities that would increase complexity without meaningfully enhancing impact potential or adding the remainder of a watershed where upstream impacts would be meaningfully detrimental to your resilience priorities. Lastly, you might then define zones within the landscape to distinguish the level of engagement appropriate given the impact potential, especially given capacity constraints.

The initial proposed boundary should take into consideration the priorities of all the core partners to ensure that the landscape boundary encompasses land areas, habitats, species, corridors, and other elements important to their missions. Taking habitat protection as one important planning arena, you will want to ensure that priority habitat areas outside of the installation fence for species of concern that may affect military operations are included, whether intact or degraded and in need of restoration, elevating the value and impact potential for your sentinel landscape with regional leadership of the USFWS and a state wildlife agency. Similarly, you will need to understand land acquisition plans and priorities of national, state, and local parks as well as land trusts active in the area. If local counties have established mitigation or habitat plans, these will provide important information to consider as well.

Landscape Complexity

Seeking to include areas of importance to the core partners will naturally lead to expanding the landscape's extent. However, that expansiveness can lead to significant challenges and needs to be counterbalanced to ensure that managing the landscape does not get too complex to be actionable and that it presents a clear and compelling identity to partners and funders.

For example, complex sentinel landscapes that contain multiple jurisdictional boundaries (specifically, state and county lines), military services, and installations and/or ranges are likely to pose significant challenges to local sentinel landscape partnerships in meeting their goals and objectives. Consider how a sentinel landscape that crosses multiple states and/or counties or must coordinate the diverse mission and encroachment threats of multiple installations/ranges will face an added challenge of coordinating conflicting jurisdictional needs on top of meeting the sentinel landscape's goals and objectives.

As such, a primary consideration in defining a sentinel landscape boundary is how many jurisdictions the landscape intersects, since counties and cities are responsible for setting land use policy, and their plans, zoning and regulations are important arenas of engagement to achieve your sentinel landscape goals. If your landscape crosses too many jurisdictional boundaries, your sentinel landscape team may find it difficult to develop trust-based relationships and coordinate with key players who control important levers of change. However, in many cases this will be unavoidable, and your sentinel landscape team will need to address the complexity of crossing multiple jurisdictional boundaries.

The FCC recommends that applicants fully consider such challenges when considering their proposed landscape boundary and the complexity of partner relationships and jurisdictional boundaries included therein. This allows local sentinel landscape partnerships to focus on defining an area that lends itself to achievable goals within 3-5 years after designation.

Landscape Size

While complexity should be the critical determinate for size, experience indicates that as the number of acres within a sentinel landscape increases, the level of complexity increases as well. As such, proposals for landscapes larger than 5 million acres will only be considered if they can provide a solid justification for why projects in the landscape need such a large area to be successful. Proposals for landscapes smaller than 1 million acres will also be considered, particularly if the proposed landscape covers a complexity of different land ownership types or partners.

Another key consideration relating to landscape size is how people view, describe, and connect with the landscape already. A sentinel landscape that relates naturally to how community members define their regional identity will be far easier to describe, pitch, and engage key partners around. Single installation/range landscapes sometimes have an advantage here since the installation itself and its operational area provide a clear and compelling identity. In some cases, multi-installation/range landscapes can achieve a similar benefit – as illustrated by the South Carolina Lowcountry Sentinel Landscape's boundary, which maps to and is named to match a clear and compelling regional identity.²

² The South Carolina Lowcountry Sentinel Landscape map is available here: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/landscapes/south-carolina-lowcountry/>

Appendix III: Guidance for Defining the SLC Role

Significance of the sentinel landscape coordinator (SLC)

A complex, landscape-scale, conservation and resilience collaborative like a sentinel landscape requires high quality facilitation and support to succeed. The planning and execution for a proposed sentinel landscape requires highly effective coordination, collaboration, and communication among a core group of partners that may later grow to include additional parties. Facilitating and supporting this kind of partnership requires a dedicated position with a unique set of skills and capabilities. In many ways, the success of a sentinel landscape hinges on its SLC.

The local coordinating committee is responsible for identifying and hiring an SLC upon designation of their sentinel landscape, however, significant thought should be put into what role the SLC will play during the proposal process. The expectation is that the SLC role will be a full-time position, though requirements may vary depending on the landscape. As the sentinel landscape matures and initial successes build momentum and collaborative capacity, the partnership may need additional team members to keep pace with the body of work. These additional positions may include Co- or Associate Coordinators, a Resilience Specialist, or other roles to manage sub-units of a larger or more complex landscape.

The SLC serves as the partnership's primary facilitator, coordinating the work of the local coordinating committee and working groups while also serving as the landscape's liaison to the FCC. The SLC position is dynamic and challenging. They facilitate a broad collaboration amongst partners as the head of the local partnership enterprise while serving as the connective tissue between the landscape steering committee and working groups. They also play a significant role within the National Sentinel Landscape Network, sharing lessons learned and innovations from their experience in their own sentinel landscape and bringing lessons and ideas back from the larger network.

SLC Sample Job Description

Please note: the creation of an SLC job description is not a requirement for the expression of interest or full proposal. The following information is simply for reference as a developing partnership considers the role of an SLC in their proposed sentinel landscape.

The SLC should have a job description that is clear, achievable, and consistent, and encompasses the following critical roles:

- Facilitating the formation and ongoing operation of the local sentinel landscape partnership.
- Organizing and supporting the local coordinating committee, including recruiting partners to serve on the committee and qualified members to serve as Chair and Vice Chair, ensuring committed and qualified leadership of the governing body, and working with the Chair to set agendas and direction.
- Facilitating and supporting each working group, working with their chairs to set agendas for meetings, ensuring effective communication and task management.
- Coordinating the planning process described herein including annual plan reassessments and periodic plan updates.
- Gathering, collating, and reporting data annually on the progress of each working group and on the performance of the local sentinel landscape partnership overall.



Developing a strategic communications plan for both internal partners, as well as for external outreach and engagement that targets key audiences, including local, state and federal partners.

- Managing the local sentinel landscape partnership as if it were an enterprise, as a nonprofit leader manages a nonprofit, including developing annual budgets, overseeing finances, and building out and managing a team as needed to undertake the expanding work of a growing enterprise.
- Supporting each working group in the implementation of their annual action plans and the projects, programs and initiatives that entails.
- Supporting and coordinating fundraising activities, though partners lead significant grants for projects where they are in a leadership role.
- Hosting regular in-person meetings of the local partnership on quarterly, annual or as needed cadence, provide brief, electronic updates to this group on a regular basis, and interact with the FCC frequently.

Considerations for Selecting an SLC Host Organization

Each SLC position is hosted by either a local organization or LegacyWorks Group (LWG), the support organization to the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. In some cases, SLCs can be independent contractors.

LWG supports the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership by developing a national strategy, creating impact metric frameworks, producing annual reports, and offering training to coordinators. Additionally, LWG works with the sentinel landscape coordinators to offer mentoring, leadership development, meeting facilitation, and support in developing landscape implementation plans and Federal and state grant applications.

If a local sentinel landscape partnership wishes to host their coordinator within a local organization (for example, a nonprofit or local/state government agency), the following questions should be considered:

- Does the organization provide unique connections to the region, key partners, the anchor military installations, and/or the National Sentinel Landscapes Partnership?
- What is the financial stability and the potential overhead costs of the host organization?
- What administrative infrastructure does the host organization offer to support the SLC?
- Who will oversee the SLC as their supervisor?
- Does that individual and the organization have experience that can be helpful to the SLC's development as a leader in their role?
- Will hosting the SLC create any conflicts of interest or appearances of conflicts of interest that may create issues for the local sentinel landscape partnership?
- Does the organization bring particularly relevant and helpful knowledge, experience, systems, models, or expertise?
- Will other staff at the organization be able to back-up the SLC if needed?
- Would hosting the role there help facilitate more effective transitions and succession planning for the SLC role?

Glossary

Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC): Leadership from the participating agencies that coordinate the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership at the national level through the FCC. The FCC consists of representatives from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Forest Service; the DOD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program; the DOI Fish and Wildlife Service, and FEMA.

Implementation plan: Plans that set out detailed actions with timelines and assigned roles and responsibilities to advance strategies and meet goals.

Local sentinel landscape partnership: a local or regional partnership that forms to apply for designation as a sentinel landscape and then develop and implement a plan.

Local coordinating committee: The core partners that collaboratively launch and lead a local sentinel landscape partnership and develop, implement, and periodically update its plan.

Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program: preserves military missions by supporting cost-sharing agreements between the Military Services, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and private conservation organizations to avoid land use conflicts near military installations, address environmental restrictions that limit military activities, and increase resilience to changing environmental conditions. The REPI Program is administered by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Sentinel landscape: Designated areas where conservation, working lands, and national defense interests converge. They are anchored by at least one high-value military installation or range and contain high priority lands for USDA, DOD, DOI, and FEMA. They encompass open space, recreation, rangeland, agricultural and/or forestry lands and are the appropriate size and scale needed to address the ecological restoration and landscape resilience objectives appropriate for each landscape.

Sentinel landscape coordinator (SLC): This individual serves as a liaison between local partners and agency headquarters, with the principal duty of facilitating and coordinating the activities of the local sentinel landscape partnership to achieve objectives and key results. They also work to build relationships among local defense, conservation, and agricultural partners.

Sentinel Landscapes Network: The full community of organizations, agencies, advisors, partners, funders, and individuals who contribute to the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership and implement local sentinel landscape partnerships across the country.

Sentinel Landscapes Partnership: As authorized by Congress in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a coalition of Federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that work with willing landowners and land managers to advance sustainable land use practices on private and public lands around military installations and ranges.

Sentinel Landscapes Resilience Specialist: This role is responsible for integrating resilience-focused strategies within sentinel landscapes, ensuring that resilience efforts align with the priorities of federal, state, and local partners. The resilience coordinator works to address vulnerabilities to environmental

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stresses by developing, implementing, and tracking initiatives that bolster the adaptability of landscapes, ecosystems, and communities. This includes supporting resilience planning, facilitating collaboration among partners, securing funding to advance resilience initiatives and providing expertise to enhance landscape resilience around military installations, ranges, and surrounding communities.

SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound