



2016 SENTINEL LANDSCAPES DESIGNATIONS

U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of the Interior



HOW SHARED PRIORITIES FOR CONSERVATION AND WORKING LANDS PRESERVATION CONVERGE TO PROTECT NATIONAL DEFENSE

Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation's defense mission — places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes.

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, announced as an initiative in 2013 between the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and the Interior, enables each of the partner Federal agencies to achieve their established priorities at greater cost-share, on a wider-scale, and with broader stakeholder buy-in. Through aligning processes and improving planning and execution with state and local governments and non-governmental organizations, private landowners are receiving better coordinated delivery of Federal programs that provide assistance. In turn, Sentinel Landscapes partners — Federal, state, and local alike — are accomplishing their objectives and establishing trusted forums for communication, coordination, and implementation within each landscape.

CORE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

Led at the local level, stakeholders work together to ensure each Sentinel Landscape possesses three fundamental components:

1. Each Sentinel Landscape must identify the military installation(s) or range(s) that anchors the landscape. The mission of these anchor installations and ranges benefits from preserving compatible land uses and promoting conservation on the lands in the Sentinel Landscape.
2. A defined landscape associated with the anchor installation's "mission footprint" and conservation and working lands priorities. Within this landscape, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other partners coordinate their programs in support of ranching, farming, forestry, and conservation in partnership with the landowners in the landscape.
3. A coordinated and collaborative implementation strategy or plan providing incentives and affording recognition to those landowners who participate in the Sentinel Landscape. Landowners participate by adopting and sustaining land uses compatible with the military mission while providing tangible benefits to conservation and working lands within the defined landscape.

Protect Vital Military Test and Training Missions



DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program



DoD Office of Economic Adjustment Joint Land Use Studies



DoD Natural Resources Program Legacy Program

Conserve Habitat and Natural Resources



USFWS
North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants
Migratory Bird Conservation Fund



NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund



BLM National Conservation Areas



NOAA Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program



Strengthen the Economies of Farms, Ranches, and Forests



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
Conservation Reserve Program
Conservation Stewardship Program
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Regional Conservation Partnership Program



USFS State and Private Forestry
Forest Legacy Program
Forest Stewardship Program
Landscape Scale Restoration Program

DESIRED OUTCOMES FOR SENTINEL LANDSCAPES

Sentinel Landscapes seek to produce three principal outcomes.

1. Implement a coordinated and comprehensive strategy within a defined Sentinel Landscape to promote compatible land use.
2. Coordinate the delivery of existing Federal programs to landowners whose working and natural lands support the military mission within designated Sentinel Landscapes.
3. Encourage state, local, NGO, and private participation and the use of multiple resources to engage and reward landowner participation through recognition and monetary incentives that complement Federal programs.

LANDOWNER AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership aims to provide landowners with information about and access to Federal program assistance that can help address their conservation needs. Landowners who choose to participate within a Sentinel Landscape will gain access to technical and financial assistance to maintain or improve their operations while making a tangible contribution to national security.

THE WAY FORWARD

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership will continue to support the local implementation of efforts at designated Sentinel Landscapes, helping Federal agencies to meet their own mission objectives while aligning programs and resources to achieve the greatest impacts at the local level.

For more information about Sentinel Landscapes and updates from the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, please go to WWW.SENTINELLANDSCAPES.ORG.



Eastern North Carolina

Eastern North Carolina is home to multiple key military installations and ranges, among them Fort Bragg, Dare County Bombing Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Stations Cherry Point and New River, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (AFB). The military network stretching over the state's Coastal Plain and Sandhills landscape serves all the Military Services, providing a wide variety of capabilities, including heavy maneuver areas, air-to-ground training, training for more than half of all special operations forces, and thousands of miles of low-level flight routes. Behind only agriculture, military-related activity is the second largest economic driver in the state. As a result, a broad and diverse Federal-state-local, public-private partnership developed within the 33-county region with the goal of incentivizing qualifying private landowners and communities to preserve specific military mission-critical areas and take action to help sustain military readiness, working lands, and natural resources.

The Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape will seek to address top priority encroachment concerns identified by the military, including restrictions related to species conservation and potential development of privately owned agriculture, forest, and open space lands. Programs at Camp Lejeune and Seymour Johnson AFB will work with Federal and state partners to offer voluntary landowner incentives protecting aviation training routes through the promotion of compatible land uses, while a program at Camp Lejeune will create high quality habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker outside the installation in order to forestall anticipated training restrictions inside the installation's boundary. Through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, qualifying landowners in the 33-county region will also be able to access funding assistance for implementing best management practices for land and water resource management, which will provide additional income for farmers that will help to deter development while protecting natural resources. Other partners are offering cost sharing opportunities to local governments for conserving priority wildlife habitat, and a pilot concept for a Veterans and Youth Conservation Corps will provide skills and eight months of employment working on coastal conservation projects that also support military objectives and lands around Dare County Bombing Range.



U.S. Marines conduct fast rope training from an MV-22 Osprey over Camp Lejeune. (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps)

BENEFITING WORKING LANDS

More than 90 percent of the land within the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape is privately owned. Of that, more than 60 percent of the landscape is forest land. Agriculture and agribusiness, North Carolina's biggest economic contributors, are more prevalent in this region than anywhere else in North Carolina and contribute \$84 billion annually to the state's economy, making the protection of these lands a top priority for the partnership. Through voluntary programs and incentives, eligible landowners and communities who want to conserve and protect their working lands could receive financial assistance to do so while also protecting the military mission of key installations.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

Longleaf pine forests support 29 Federally-listed threatened or endangered species, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, and many more that are at risk for listing under the Endangered Species Act primarily due to loss of habitat. As a significant amount of longleaf pine forest is contained within the Sentinel Landscape, coordination efforts will complement and build on the

