

Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Briefing



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- ★ The U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Defense, and U.S. Department of the Interior established the Partnership in 2013 through a Memorandum of Understanding (updated in 2022).
- ★ The Partnership's goals are to:
 - ▶ Bolster agricultural and forestry productivity
 - ▶ Conserve natural resources
 - ▶ Strengthen military readiness
 - ▶ Enhance resilience to unexpected & severe weather events



Sentinel Landscapes in Statute

- ★ In 2018, the [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) introduced language that formally recognized the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership in statute. This language was further amended in the FY 2022 NDAA.
- ★ Under Section 317 of the FY 2018 NDAA, as amended, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are encouraged to give eligible landowners or agricultural producers within a designated sentinel landscape **“priority consideration for participation in any easement, grant, or assistance program administered by that Secretary's department.”**
- ★ Once sentinel landscapes are designated, the FCC works to connect landowners and land managers in these areas with **voluntary federal and state assistance programs** that support adopting and maintaining sustainable land management practices.

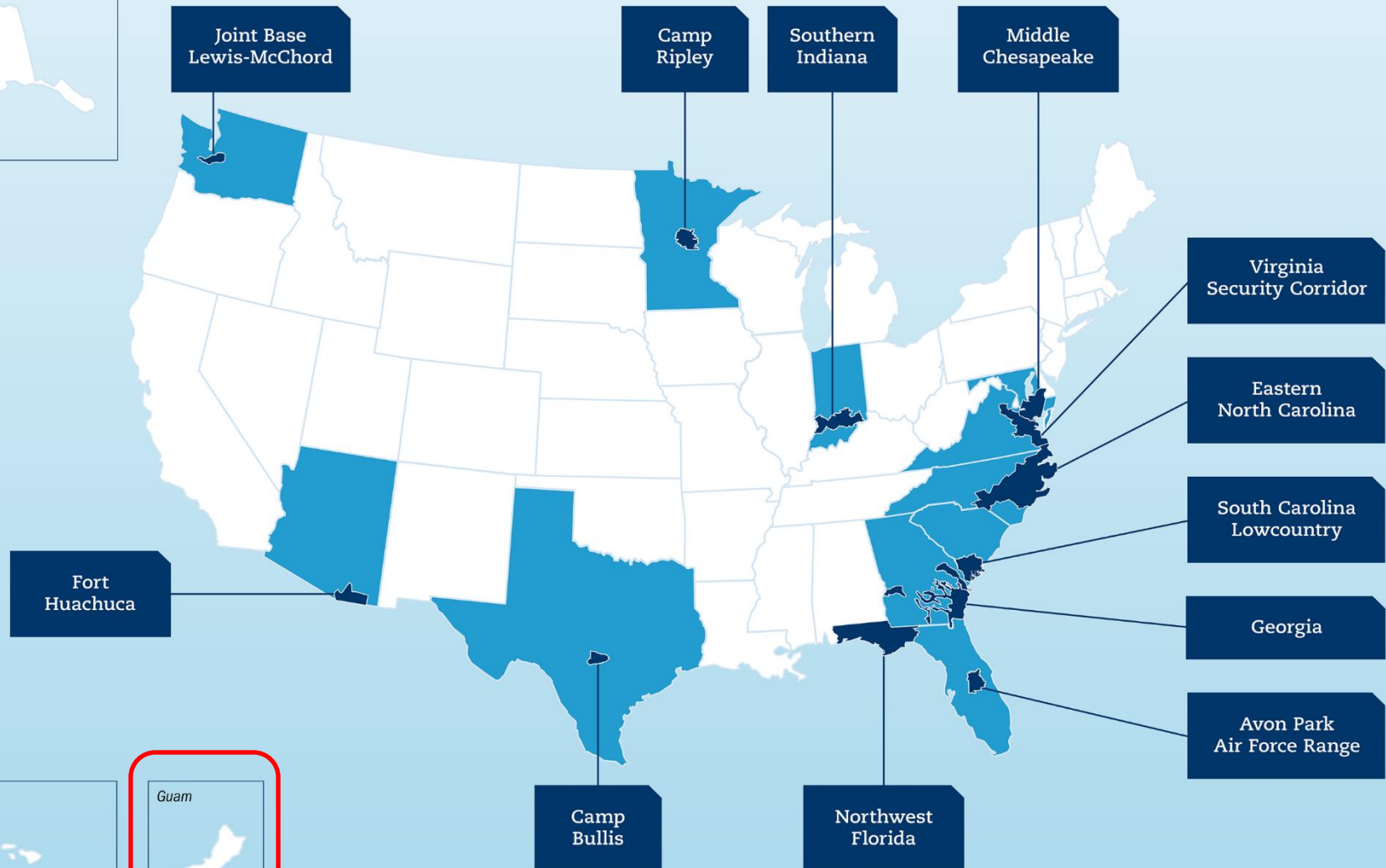
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- ★ Sentinel landscapes are areas where **conservation, working lands, and national defense interests converge**.
- ★ They are anchored by at least one high-value **military installation or range** and contain high priority lands for USDA, DOD, and DOI.
- ★ Critically, they encompass agricultural and/or forestry lands and are the appropriate size and scale needed to address the conservation, land management, and ecological restoration objectives defined for each landscape.



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Guam is now one too!

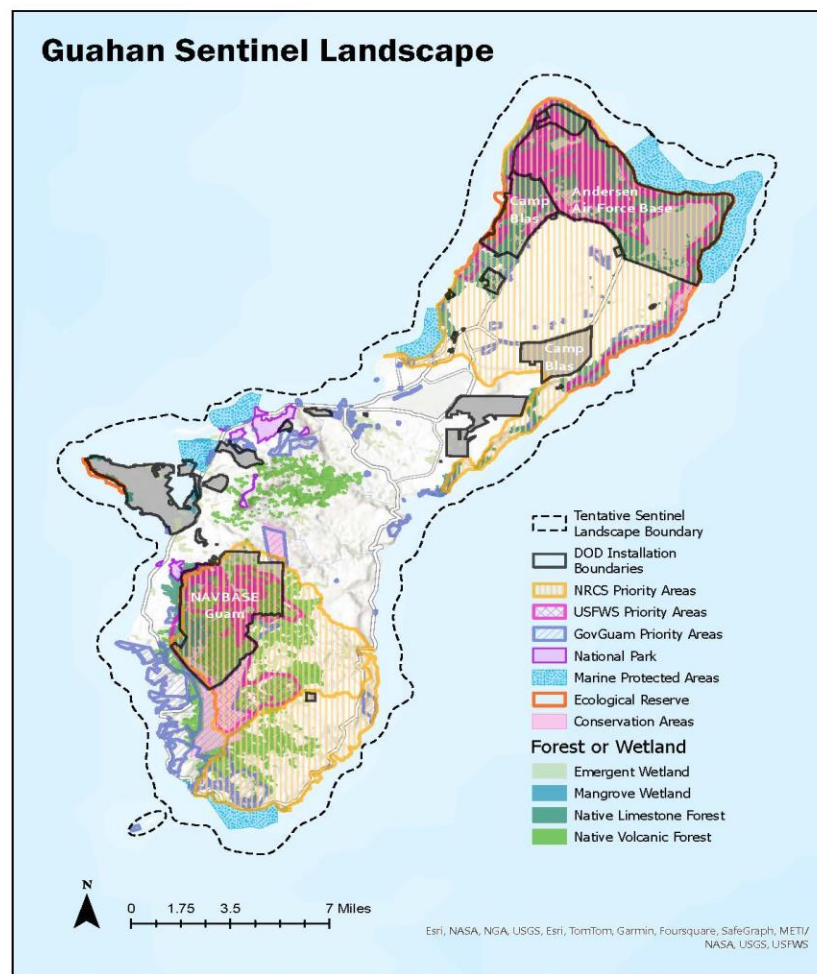
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The goals and objectives of each sentinel landscape are established by local partnerships that may include:

- ★ Federal, state, and local government agencies
- ★ Tribal governments
- ★ Nonprofit organizations
- ★ Academic institution that represent relevant working lands, conservation, recreation, and landowner interests

Guahan Sentinel Landscape Map



Key Milestones for the Guåhan Sentinel Landscape

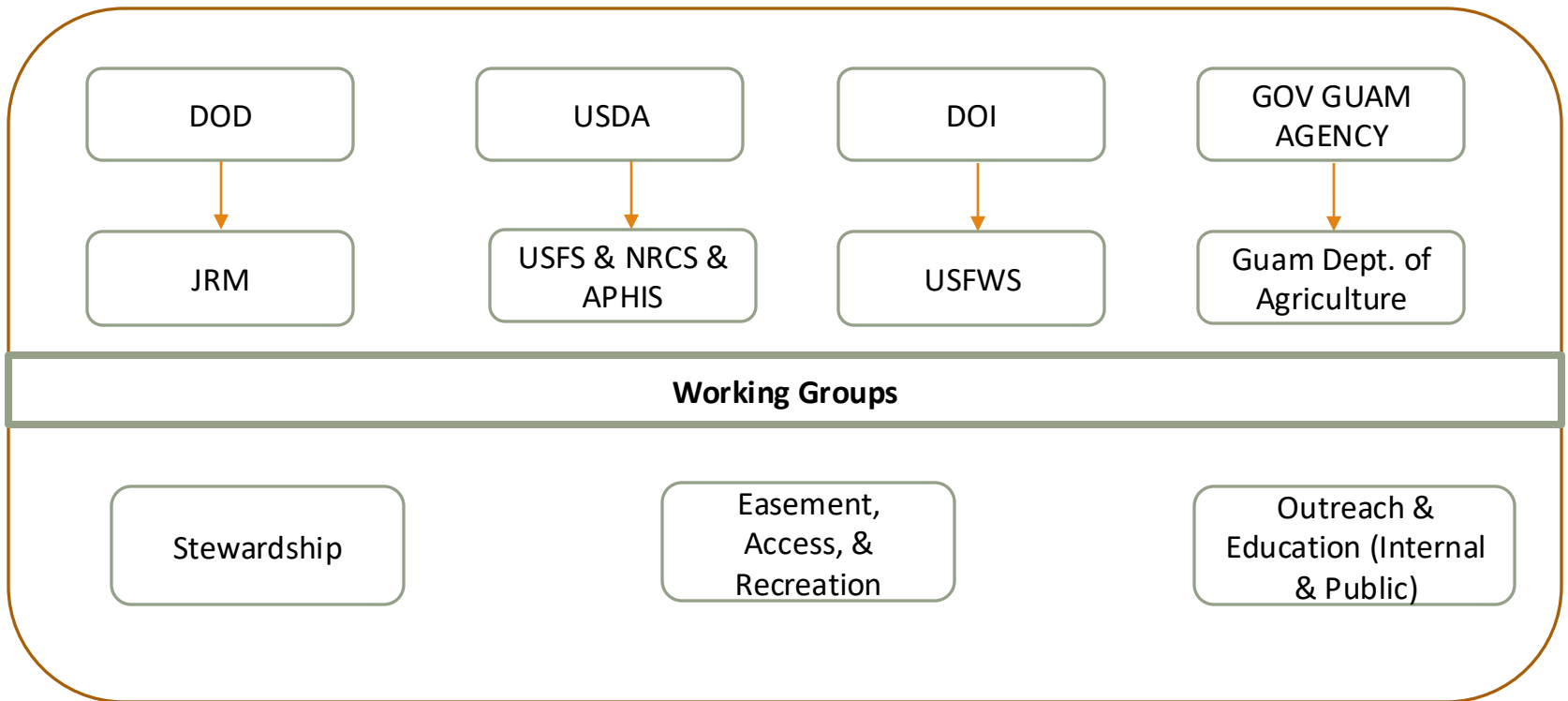
- ★ September 2023 – Hired Sentinel Landscape Program Coordinator
- ★ 2023–2024 – Established the Guåhan Sentinel Landscape Partnership, uniting federal, local, nonprofit, and community stakeholders
- ★ 2024 – Drafted and finalized the Guåhan Sentinel Landscape Implementation Plan
- ★ February 2025 – Officially designated as a Sentinel Landscape under the national program

Steering Committee

- ★ US Dept. of Agriculture
 - ▶ NRCS
 - ▶ APHIS
 - ▶ US Forest Service
- ★ Government of Guam
 - ▶ Guam Dept. of Agriculture
- ★ US Dept of Defense
 - ▶ Joint Region Marians (NAVFAC)
- ★ US Department of Interior
 - ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Office

Guahan Sentinel Landscape

Governance Structure



Guahan Sentinel Partnership

- ★ USDA NRCS
- ★ USDA – APHIS
- ★ USDA – US Forest Service
- ★ US Fish & Wildlife Service
- ★ District Conservationist
- ★ Northern & Southern SWCD
- ★ Joint Region Marians
- ★ Military Affairs Commission/Dept of Military Affairs
- ★ BSP-GCMP
- ★ Governor's Climate Change Resilience Commission
- ★ NFWF
- ★ GWA
- ★ Guam Preservation Trust
- ★ Pacific Island Climate Adaptation Science Center
- ★ University of Guam – CIS
- ★ LOVE GUAM
- ★ IGP
- ★ Guam Dept of Agriculture
 - ▶ Forestry and Soil Resources Division
 - ▶ Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

Goals, Strategies, and Actions

The Guåhan Sentinel Landscape has identified 7 goals (numbered for organization not priority):

- 1. Land protection** - Protect strategic lands by identifying potential funding sources and programs that assist in easements, fee simple acquisition, and other long term conservation strategies.
- 2. Protect and enhance habitats to support threatened species** - Identify opportunities to implement projects targeted at species habitat and natural resource conservation efforts. Protect and enhance ecologically significant areas to support threatened, endangered, and at risk species.
- 3. Support and protect working agricultural lands and forests-** Encourage and assist agricultural and working landscapes in adopting sustainable land practices that benefit both the environment and the economy, promoting food security and enhancing ecosystems
- 4. Community Collaboration-** Ensure that local knowledge and perspectives are integrated into land use planning, conservation efforts, and sustainable resource management, thereby fostering resilient and thriving landscapes throughout Guam.
- 5. Increase resilience to variable weather related vulnerabilities** - Reduce vulnerabilities to climate change by promoting nature-based solutions to restore and/or enhance the inherent resilience of the landscape and protect critical infrastructure.
- 6. Establish and promote the Guåhan Sentinel Landscape** – Establish, promote and ensure the success of the Guåhan Sentinel Landscape and its partnering agencies.
- 7. Enhance Military Readiness** - Support the defense and readiness operations of the Joint Region Marianas (JRM) installations on Guam by forming partnerships and facilitating communication between DOD and non-DOD GSLP members.

Partnership Next Steps

- ★ Establish formal governance structure and charter
- ★ Develop and finalize an interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Steering Committee members
- ★ Launch regular coordination meetings to track progress and share updates
- ★ Align existing and upcoming projects with the Implementation Plan goals
- ★ Develop a shared data platform for geospatial layers, partner contributions, and project tracking
- ★ Coordinate community outreach and engagement strategy
- ★ Pursue joint funding opportunities (e.g., REPI Challenge, NRCS programs, DOI grants). Draft strategic outlook for identified actions including metrics and realistic timelines.

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