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# DoD Environmental Planning and Conservation Webinar Series

CLEARED  
For Open Publication

Dec 13, 2022

Department of Defense  
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

Impact of Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program  
Awards on National Public Lands Day

December 19, 2022



***Please mute your phones***



Audio Dial-In: 410-874-6749

Participant Code: 312-273-099#

[www.denix.osd.mil/nr/](http://www.denix.osd.mil/nr/)

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**MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS**

**NO GROUND FIRES**  
No ground fires are permitted on the land or in the dry tree areas.

**NO POV'S ON THE BEACH**  
No ATVs or POV's allowed on the beach.

**NO REMOVAL OF BEACH SAND**  
State and MCRM regulations prohibit the removal of beach sand.

**PROTECT OUR MARINE LIFE**  
Do not discard any trash, nets, or other debris that can harm our Hawaiian monk seal and other marine life.

**HARBLESS FISHING HOOKS**  
Use barbless fishing hooks.

# Impact of Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program Awards on National Public Lands Day

Presented by  
Dabreon Darby & Maria-Veronica Banks

# NEEF: Who We Are

Chartered by Congress to cultivate an environmentally conscious and responsible public, NEEF is harnessing the power of collaboration make the environment more accessible, relevant, related, and connected to the daily lives of ALL Americans.



## Funding Communities

NEEF mobilizes public and private funding to support community-based projects and respond to critical and emerging needs in K-12 education, conservation, and health.



## Increasing Competency

We are increasing competencies and changing behavior of public lands managers, health professionals, educators, and corporate employees, who in turn reach their own constituents and communities.



## Supporting Diversity & Inclusion

We partner with educators, public lands groups, environmental organizations, local communities, and others who share our mission of making the environment more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

# Program Areas & Strategies



**K-12 Education**



**Health**



**Conservation**



**Grants**



**Engagement Campaigns**

# National Public Lands Day

**NPLD is the nation's largest single-day volunteer event for public lands. Established in 1994 and held annually on the fourth Saturday in September**

Events include releasing captive-bred California condors at the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument in Arizona, and restoring the habitat of the endangered New England cottontail rabbit at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Maine.

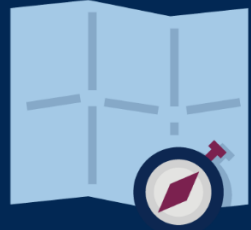


# NPLD 2022 by the Numbers



**612**

Number of  
Events



**1,647**

Number of  
Sites



**55,408**

Number of  
Volunteers



**221,632**

Number of  
Volunteer Hours



**\$6.6 M**

Monetary Value of  
Volunteer Work

## National Conservation Impacts



**298,761**

Square Feet  
of Invasives  
Removed



**131,776**

Pounds  
of Trash  
Collected



**72,705**

Acres of  
Public Land  
Impacted



**16,072**

Native Tree,  
Flowers, and  
Shrubs Planted



**658**

Miles of Trails  
Built or  
Maintained

# History

## National Public Lands Day & The Department of Defense

### *Department of Defense Legacy Awards 1999-2016*



# Purpose of NPLD Legacy Award



*Naval Air Station, Key West  
2020 Legacy Award*

**Restoring public lands with the aim of conservation for future generations, military members, and their families.**

- Conservation activities
- Engage volunteers
- Supporting in-person and virtual events
- Connect people to public lands from wherever they are

Projects that take place on military installations with some lands open to the public for recreation are eligible for DoD Legacy funding.



# DoD Legacy Resource Management Program & NEEF

Since 1999, DoD and NEEF have collaborated to support military installations to improve the quality of public lands and preserve natural and cultural resources.



Over **\$3M** in funding to support over **560 NPLD projects** on military lands



Approximately **3 million** square feet of land restored and maintained



More than **65,000** trees and native plants planted



Over **7,000 pounds** of trash removed

# Focus Areas and Installation Types



## Areas of Focus

- Natural Resources Management
- Cultural Resource Management
- Climate Change Resilience (since 2022)



## Types of Installations Served

- US Navy
- US Army/Air National Guard
- US Army
- US Air Force
- US Marine Corps
- Other military branches

# Types of Projects

- Enhancement and Preservation
- Maintenance projects (supplies, gloves, shovels, waders, etc.)
- Installation or maintenance of infrastructure
  - Cultural Resource Centers and Monuments
- Education on biodiversity and natural habitats
- Beach restoration and invasive species removal

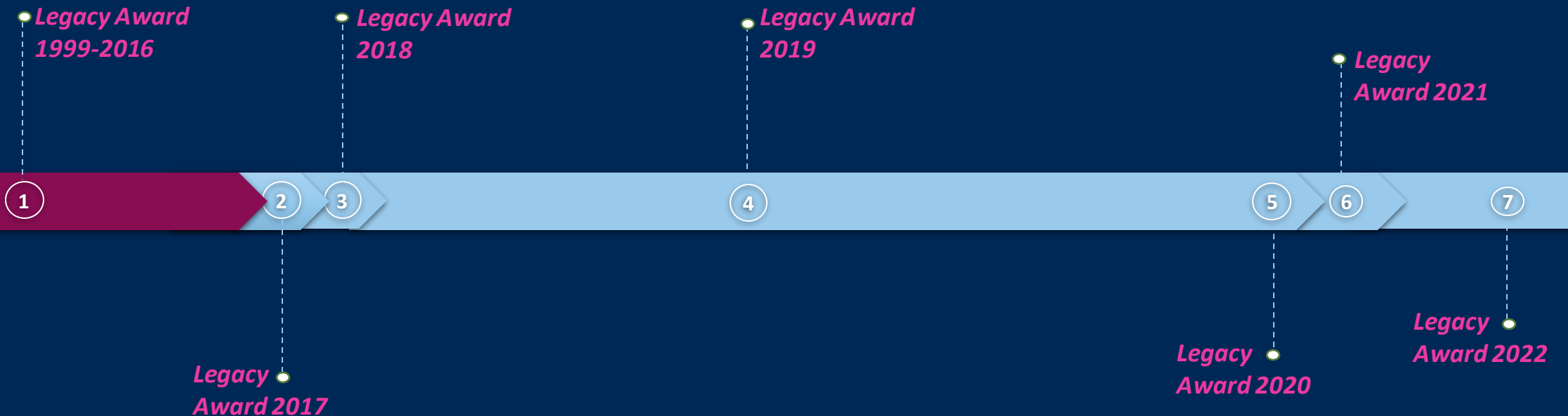


*Ft. Hood  
2019 Legacy Award,  
Park RX*

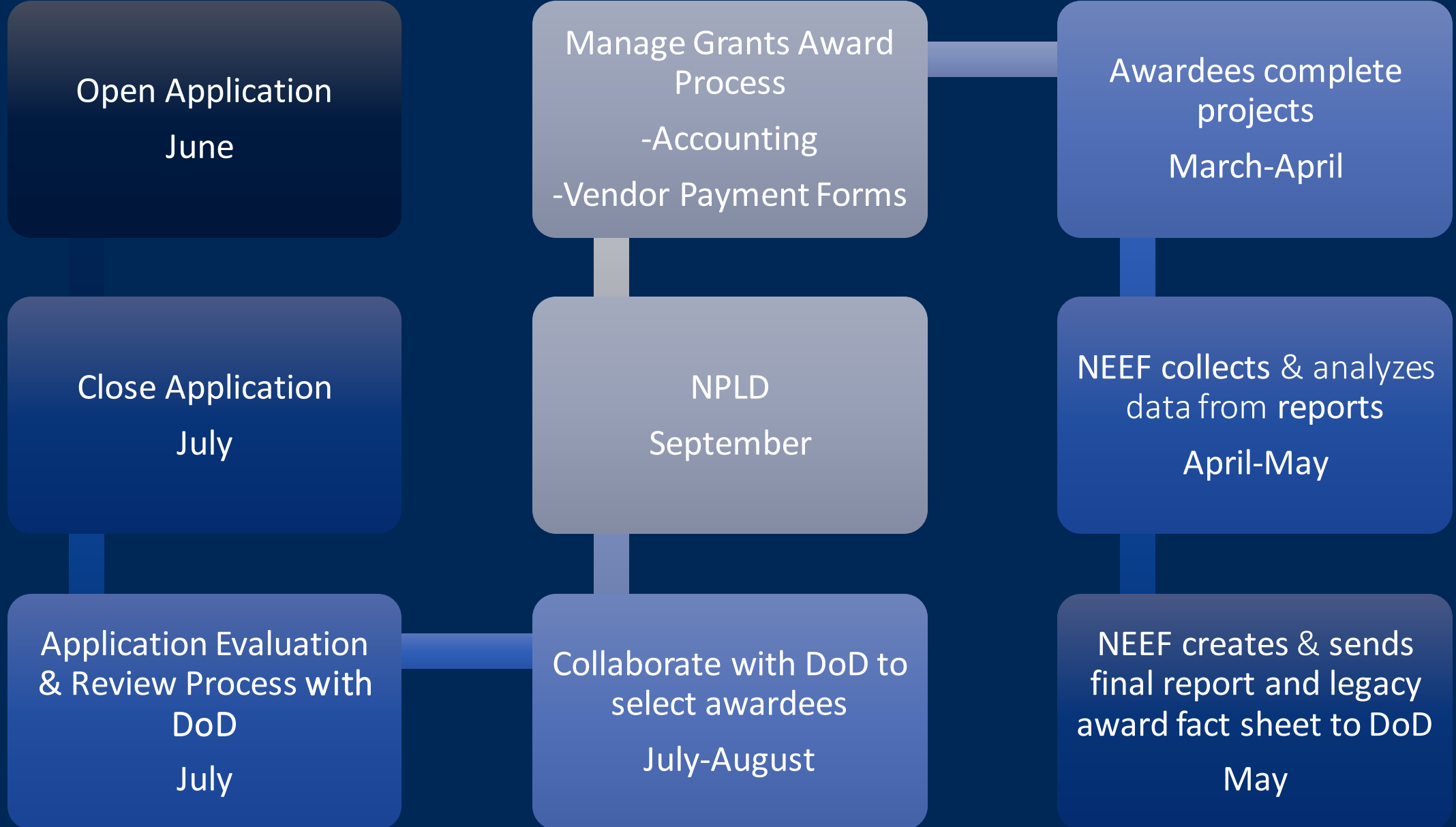
# History

## National Public Lands Day & The Department of Defense

### *Department of Defense Legacy Awards 2017-Present*



# Award Process



# Impact of Covid-19 on the FY19-FY20 Legacy Awards

Agile Approaches

Flexibility in programmatic needs

Reproducible Impact

Overview of funding relationship

# By the Numbers: Maximizing Impact

Metric	2017-2021	Avg. Year-Over-Year % Increase from 2017-'21
<b>Total Number of Participants</b>	3,828	31%
<b>Total Participant Hours</b>	1,580	29%
<b>Average Award Amount</b>	\$7,055	26%
<b>Total Award Amount</b>	\$730,100	14%

# Impact Value

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Total Impact Value</b>	\$1,579,216	\$3,968,162	\$312,354	\$1,904,702	\$1,340,046
<b>Participants</b>	732	1,343	333	781	639
<b>Program Hours</b>	322	441	140	364	313

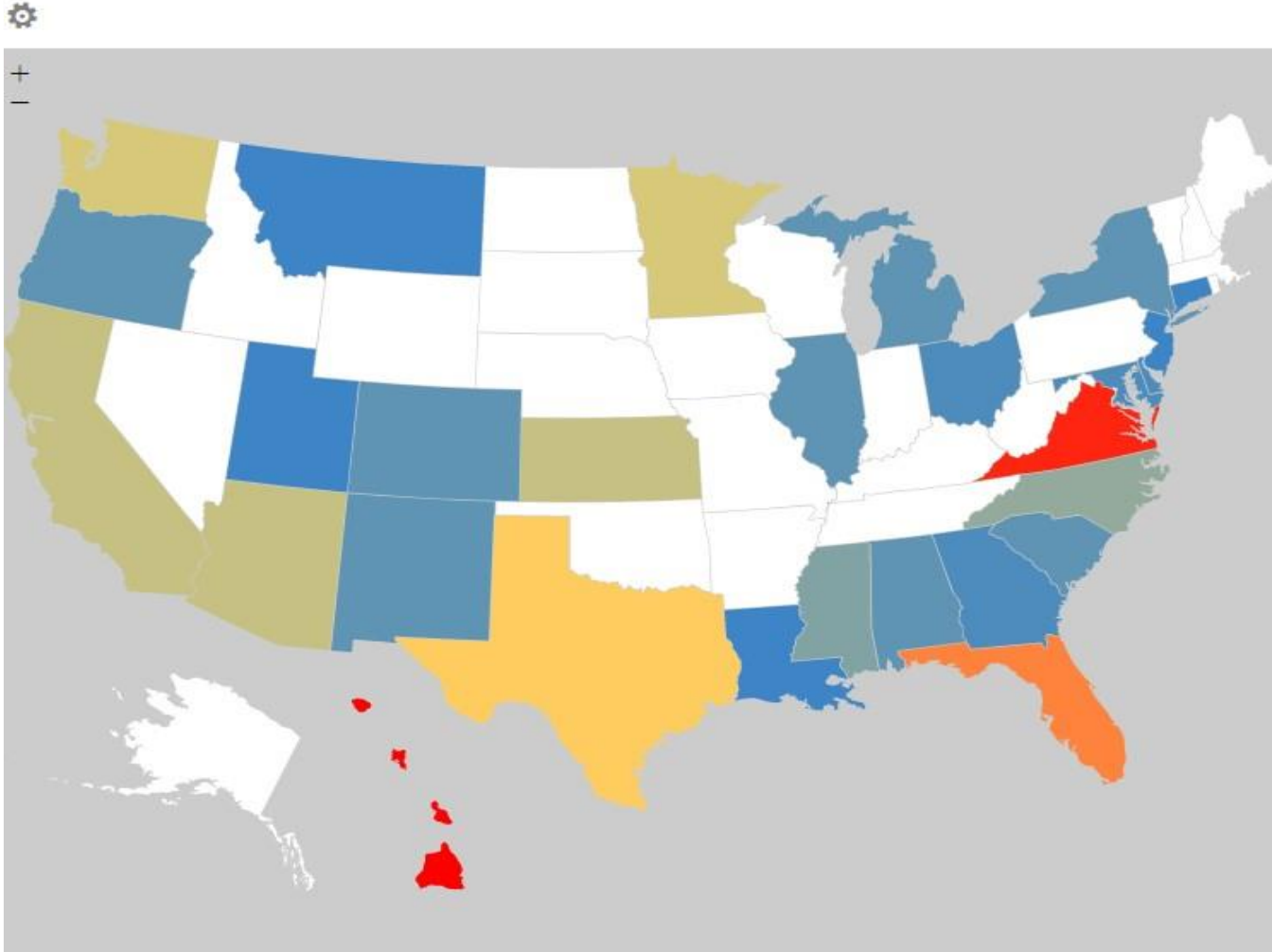
## Impact Value Formula






$$\text{\$} = \text{Clock} \times \text{People} \times \text{Stack of Coins}$$

\$6.70/volunteer hour\*  
 \*The value of Volunteer Service for Every Grant Dollar NEEF Provides



# Geographical Clusters

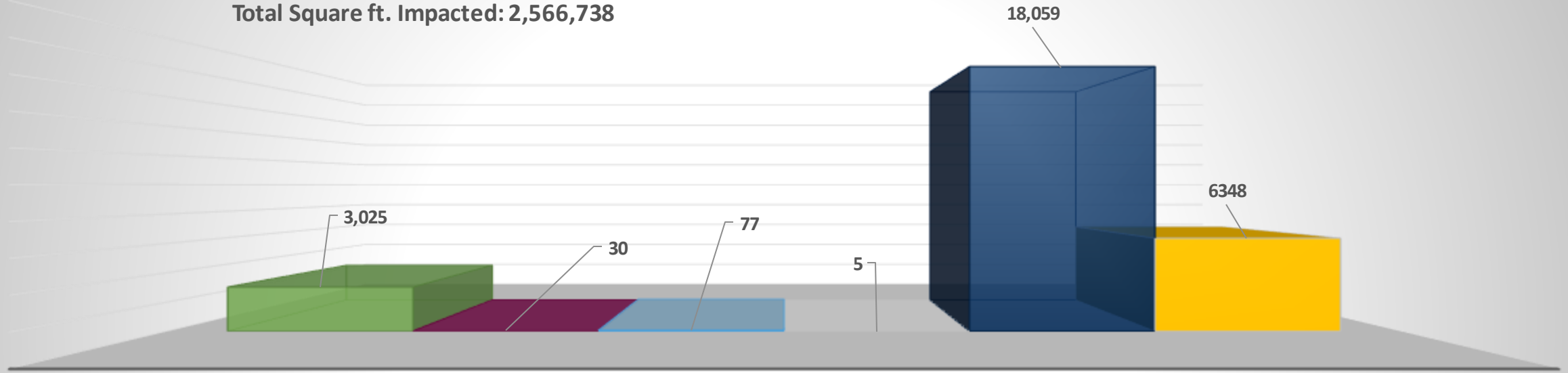


	States by percentage of applications
	<b>Hawaii, Virginia</b>
	<b>Florida</b>
	<b>Texas</b>
	<b>California, Washington, Minnesota, Kansas etc.</b>
	<b>Colorado, North Carolina, Connecticut, Georgia, Michigan, etc.</b>

\*Installations in United States territories are also eligible to apply.

# Total Environmental Impact 2019-2021

Total Environmental Impact 2019-'21  
Total Square ft. Impacted: 2,566,738



TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL METRICS

	Total Environmental Metrics
Total Pounds of Trash	3,025
Total Miles of waterway	30
Built Infrastructure Total	77
Total Acres of invasive vegetation removed	5
Total native plants and trees added	18,059
Total Miles of trails	6,348

■ Total Pounds of Trash  
■ Built Infrastructure Total  
■ Total native plants and trees added

■ Total Miles of waterway  
■ Total Acres of invasive vegetation removed  
■ Total Miles of trails

# Success Stories

# Insights

## Applicants have shared these themes across projects:

Bring attention to overlooked habitats

Strengthening their relationship with the outdoors and improved well-being

Strong sense of accomplishment and increased sense of place and belonging

Lasting multi-generational impact

# Hurlburt Field AFB Florida Grace Brown Nature Trail 2019



## Commandos are Great Volunteers – Grace Brown Nature Trail Boardwalk Repairs for National Public Lands Day

1 SOCES/CEIE organized the project, improving trail access for outdoor recreation.

The Grace Brown Nature Trail on Hurlburt Field is located behind the Soundside Club and provides scenic views of Santa Rosa Sound as well as excellent wildlife watching opportunities and a fun hiking experience.



Volunteers replaced rotten/broken boards, trimmed vegetation along the trail, and picked up numerous bags of garbage!



Hard work and volunteering pay off!  
Way to go Wingmen!



17 volunteers represented the 1 SOCES, 8 SOS, 28 IS, 919 SOW, 39 IOS, 801 SOAMXS, 1 SOMXS, and the 479 FTG/FMF (out of Pensacola!)



*Any Time...Any Place*

# Hurlburt Field AFB Florida Grace Brown Nature Trail 2021

The Grace Brown Nature Trail has been closed since 2020 when Hurricane Sally damaged the boardwalks. Earlier in 2021, 567 RHS removed garbage and the old trail signs so that they could be refurbished and recycled, and CENM contractors fixed immediate safety concerns from dangerous broken boardwalk pieces.

To celebrate NPLD in September: new interpretative signs replaced the old signs, road signs and trail markers were installed, additional boards on boardwalks were replaced, and overgrown vegetation was trimmed.



13 volunteers from: AFSOC/OC, 1 SOMXS, Corvias, 11 SOIS, and CEIE spent 5.5 hours working on the trail on the 24<sup>th</sup>.



1 SOCES/CEOHP installed road signs for the trail

1 SOCES/CEOHS cut lumber to replace old rotten boards in the boardwalks – improving safety



PA provided photos for signs



1 SOMXS spent >60 hours refurbishing old signs, creating new signs (road signs and trail markers), and reassembling the refurbished pieces of the new trail signs

# Bellows Air Force Station Hawaii Malalma Dunes and Wetlands 2020



## Educational Materials

- Electronic library
- Virtual wetlands tour
- Identification charts
- Field Guide to coastal birds

## Conservation Activities

- Cleared invasive plants
- Trash clean-up
- Plant native plants

## Learned

- Wetland Ecology
- Identification of native species

# 2020 Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) Washington Halverson Marsh



## Conservation Activities

- Purple Martin Houses

## Enhancing Habitat

- Rare birds
- Butterflies (endangered Taylors Checkerspot)
- Bats



# 2021 Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) Washington Marion Prairie



## Focus

- Gradient-based restoration
- Road systems
- Woodland and prairie species

## Impact

- Enhanced habitat for oak trees
- Creation of travel corridor allowing species flow

# NEEF & DoD: An Impactful Relationship

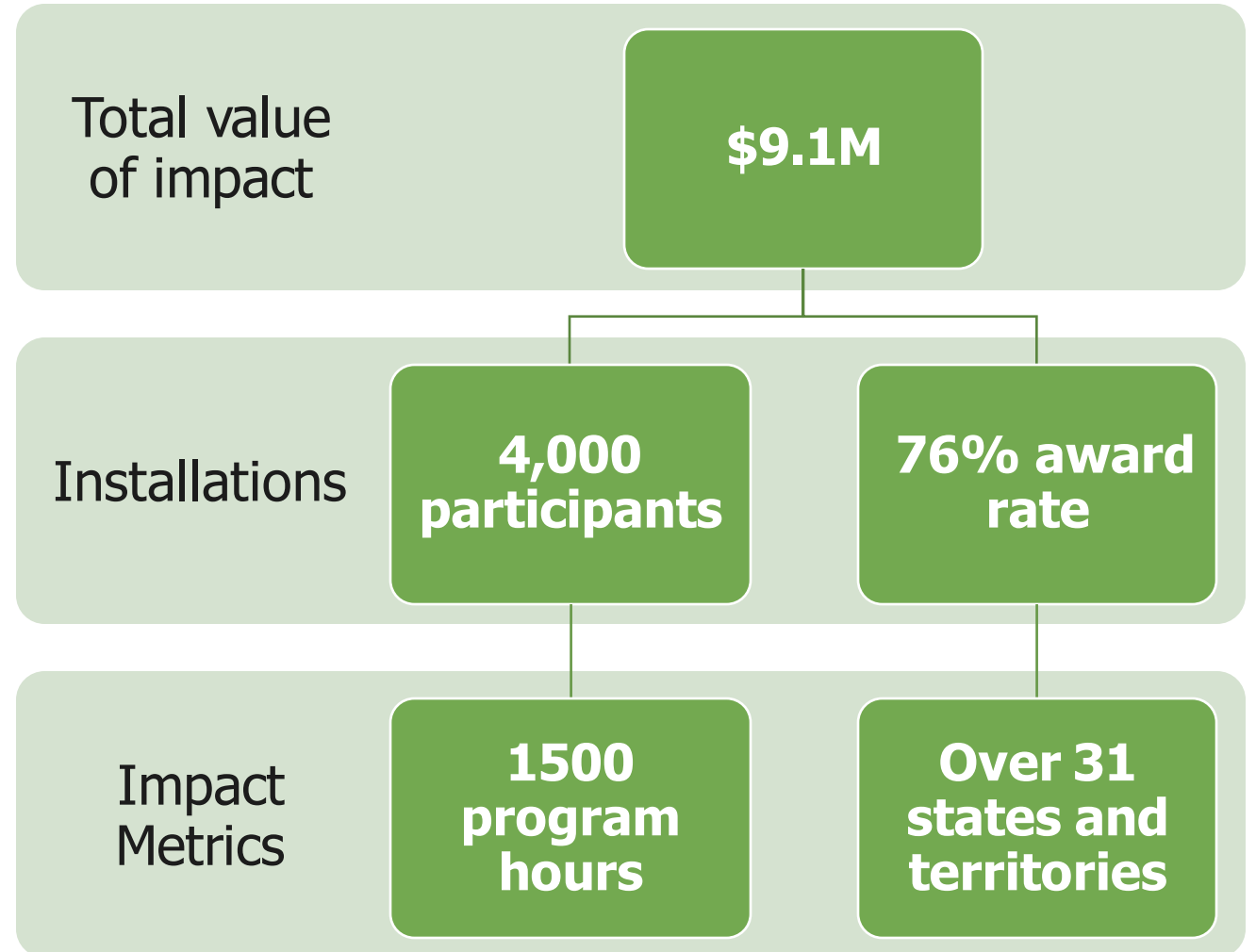
## NEEF/DoD relationship (Present)

- Addition of climate change resilience to program
- Our role as an intermediary
- Managing the relationship with DoD
- Focus on increasing impact and reducing installation carbon footprint through projects

**We look forward to continuing the relationship to increase impact!**

**2023 Award: Opens summer 2023 & we are open to new project ideas!**

## Successes of investing in DoD Legacy Award and NEEF since 2017:



**Questions?**

**For more information please contact:**

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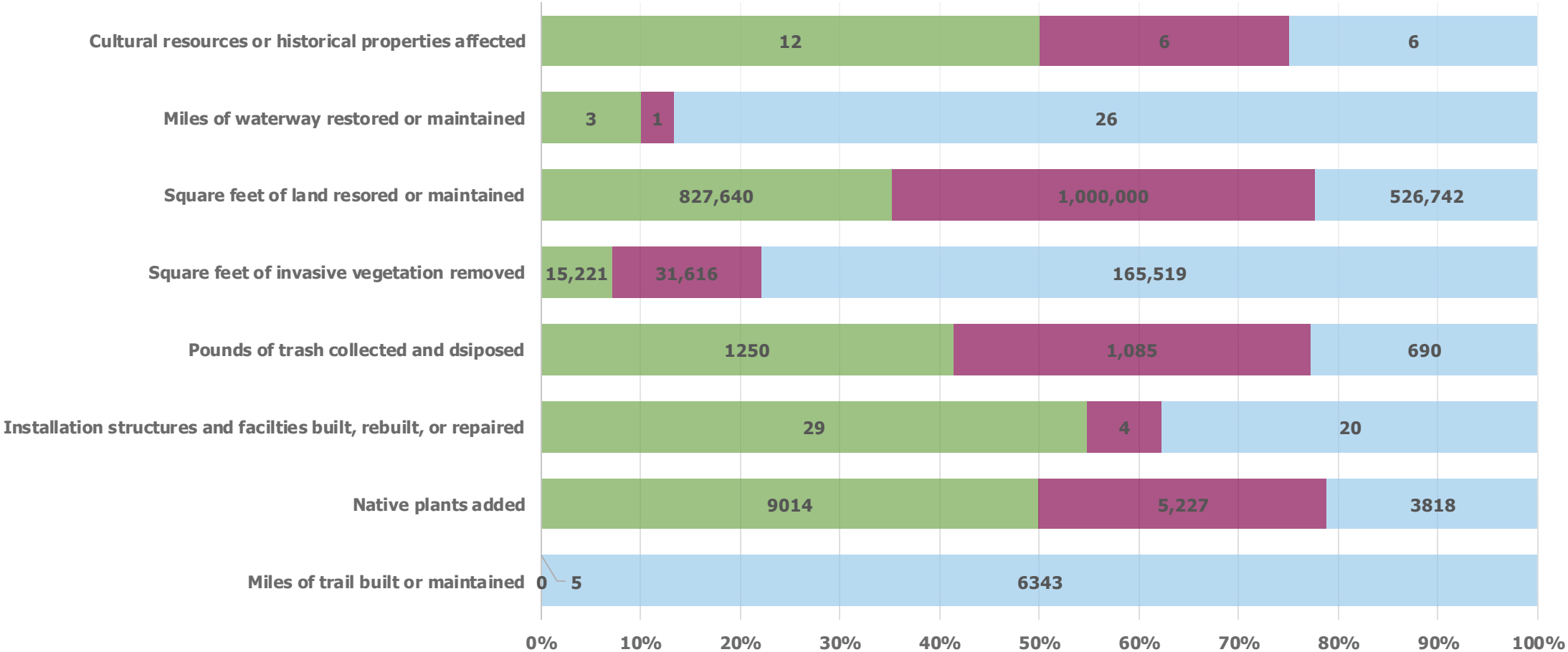
**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION | [NEEFusa.org](http://NEEFusa.org)**

# Resources

## Appendix

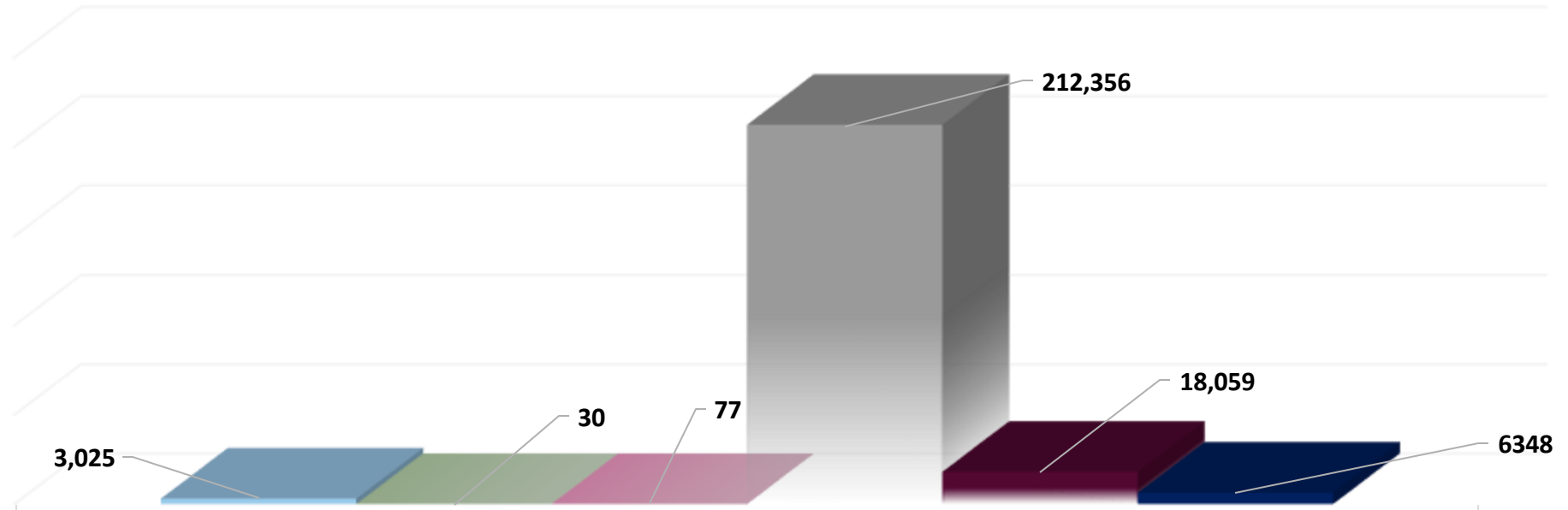
# Environmental Metrics by Year 2019-'21

2019 2020 2021



# Total Environmental Impact 2019-'21

TOTAL SQUARE FT. OF LAND IMPACT - 2,566,738



Total Environmental Metrics	
Total Pounds of Trash	3,025
Total miles of waterway	30
Built Infrastructure Total	77
Total Square ft. of Invasive vegetation removed	212,356
Total Native plants	18,059
Total miles of trails	6,348

■ Total Pounds of Trash   
 ■ Total miles of waterway   
 ■ Built Infrastructure Total   
 ■ Total Square ft. of Invasive vegetation removed   
 ■ Total Native plants   
 ■ Total miles of trails



# Insights



**“The Kahanahaiki Seed Orchard was one of our most impactful projects to date because of the lasting, multi-generational impacts the work will have.”**

~ Kimberly Welch; Army Natural Resources Program Hawaii; Kahanahaiki Ko`oko`olau Seed Orchard, 2019

**“While installing the garden they all felt a strong sense of accomplishment as they watched birds and butterflies take advantage of the new habitat.”**

~ Edward Barham; Naval Air Station Key West Florida; Installation of a Pollinator Garden at Naval Air Station Key West, 2020

**(At left) Fort Leavenworth | Kansas Missouri River Shore Clean Up and Wood Duck Box Installation**

*Photo: Volunteer retired Lt. Col.*

**(At right) Gary Linhart, member of Paddle KC paddling club, helps Scouts into their kayaks before embarking on an 11-mile paddle to Centennial Bridge Oct. 9 on the Missouri River. Many of the Scouts were paddling for the first time.**

*Photo: Charlotte Richter/Fort Leavenworth Lamp 2021*





# Insights

**“The event and continuing efforts all address one of the most overlooked aspects of habitat restoration and species conservation: transitional habitat gradients. Of these, oak/prairie savanna is the rarest in our region and supports many species of conservation concern. A focused effort to restore oak savanna on JBLM will go a long way to meeting species recovery goals, and this event was a great way to kick it off and bring attention to the issue.”**

~ Dennis Buckingham, Joint Base Lewis-McChord(JBLM)| Washington, Oak Savanna Restoration at Marion Prairie, 2020



**“Completing this project benefited everyone that utilizes and sees Fort Belvoir as a green space to connect with the outdoors. With new research showing that with 120 minutes in nature a week is all it takes to increase self-esteem, reduce anxiety, and improve mood, our projects try to get regular and newcomers to explore and learn something new while strengthening their relationship with the outdoors and improving their well-being.”**

~ Tomás Nocera, Virginia Fort Belvoir Environmental Division, Wildflower Gardens and Boardwalk Construction, 2021



# Impact of Covid-19 on the Legacy Award

The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the way Americans can engage with public lands. From iconic national parks and military installations to local urban green spaces, the threat of COVID-19 has made it extremely difficult -if not impossible –for many land managers to host large in-person events on public lands. During the 2019 award program, the coronavirus put a halt on all projects due to public health lockdowns in March of 2020. Once lockdowns were lifted public health mandates required physical distancing practices and gatherings in groups of six or fewer people.

- Agile approaches to funding, projects, and project engagement
- Flexibility in meeting programmatic needs supporting virtual events designed to engage and connect people to public lands from the safety and comfort of their own homes
  - Implementation of covid-safety protocols for all in-person events
  - Collaborating with project managers to finish incomplete projects without outside volunteers and instead with installation members
- Reproduceable Impact
  - Although different approaches were utilized by project managers, installations were still able to engage a significant number of volunteers despite having delayed projects.
  - Growth in program participants (2020)
- Overview of funding relationship