

A black helicopter is silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way. The helicopter is positioned in the lower center of the frame, with its rotors visible. The background shows a dark desert landscape with some distant lights on the horizon.

Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape

Phil Murray, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center - Twentynine Palms
Encroachment Manager, Philip.Murray@usmc.mil
Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group, 3 Oct 2024



SENTINEL LANDSCAPES

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Defense (DOD), Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with the mission to:

- ▶ Strengthen military readiness
- ▶ Support agricultural productivity
- ▶ Preserve natural resources
- ▶ Increase access to recreation
- ▶ Advance sustainable land management
- ▶ Promote landscape resilience

Protected Areas:

Total Permanently Protected Acres:



677,100
acres of land through FY 2022

Total Enrolled Acres:



Over **4.4 million**
acres of land in financial and
technical assistance programs
in FY 2022

Investments:

From FY 2012 through FY 2022, projects across
sentinel landscapes have attracted approximately:



\$335 million
in **USDA** funds



\$341 million
in **state** funds



\$233 million
in **DOD** funds



\$26 million
in **local** funds



\$92 million
in **DOI** funds



\$142 million
in **private** funds



<https://sentinellandscapes.org/>



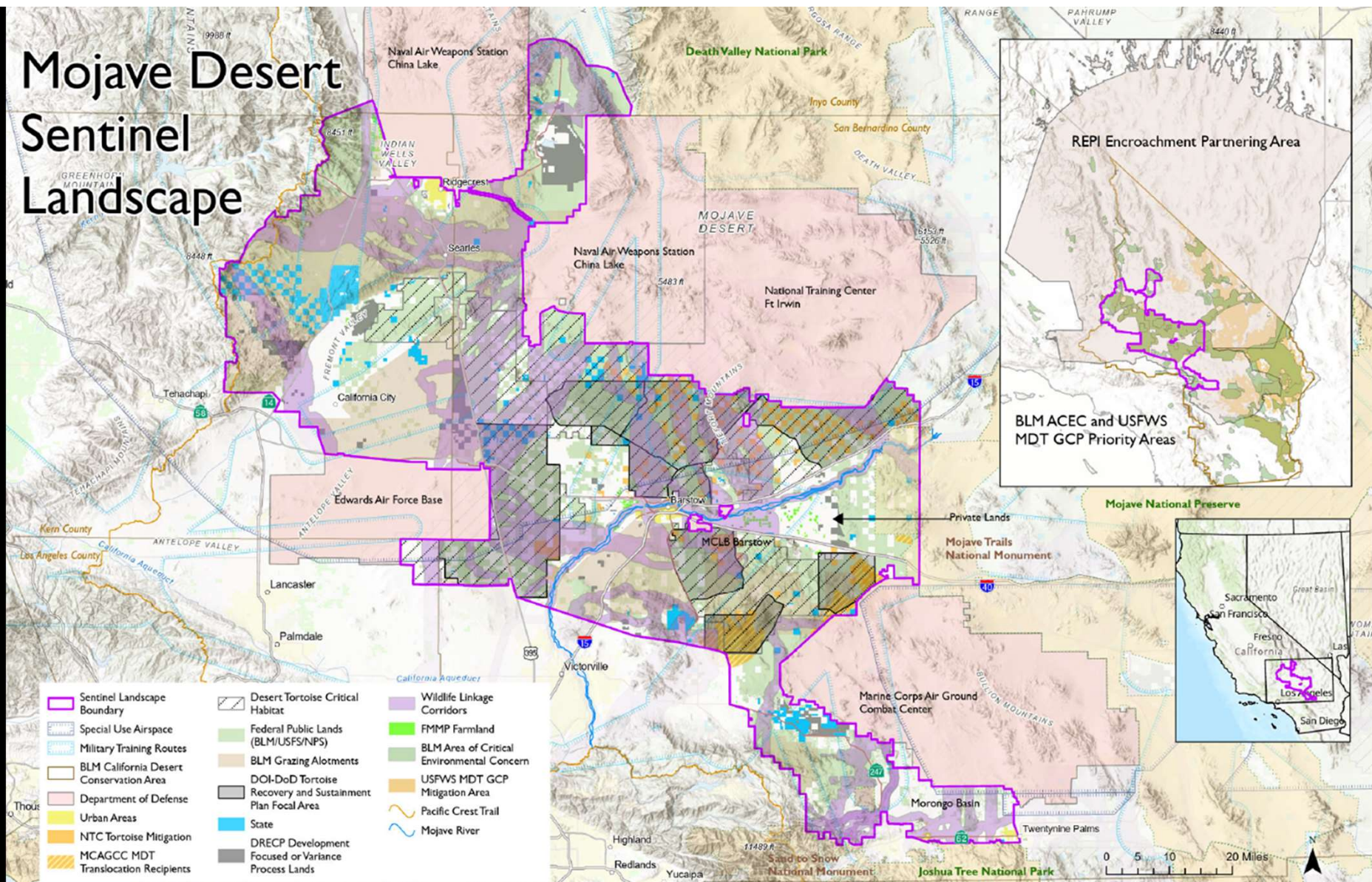
What makes the Mojave Desert Special?

DOD Installations in the Mojave

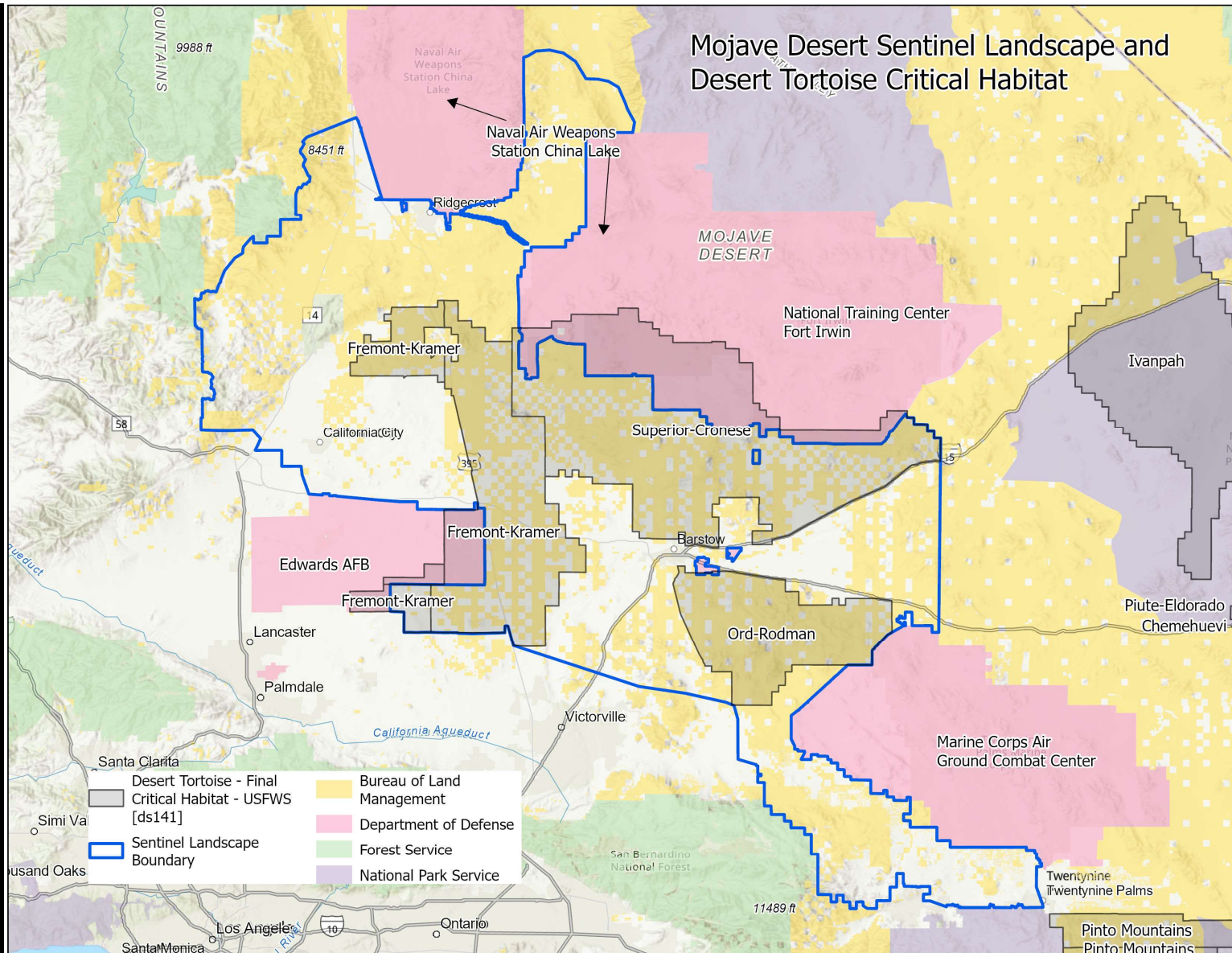


- Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms*
- Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow
- Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake
- Edwards Air Force Base
- National Training Center Fort Irwin

Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape



Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape and Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat



Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape (MDSL) at a Glance



~3.5 million acres
centered around multi-
use public lands



~2.8 million acres of DOD
installations surround the
designated area



Diverse assemblage of
partners including state,
federal, tribal, county,
local and NGO partners



Many shared goals

MDSL Goals

1. Reduce vehicle strikes killing threatened, endangered, and other special status species



MDSL Goals



2. Provide community outreach in tandem with habitat improvements to increase the success of restoration and climate resilience activities

MDSL Goals

3. Reduce and mitigate impacts from unauthorized OHV use and illegal cannabis grows



MDSL Goals



4. Reclaim and rehabilitate priority resilient habitats by supporting the protection, restoration, wildfire resilience, and rehabilitation of up to 50,000 acres

MDSL Goals

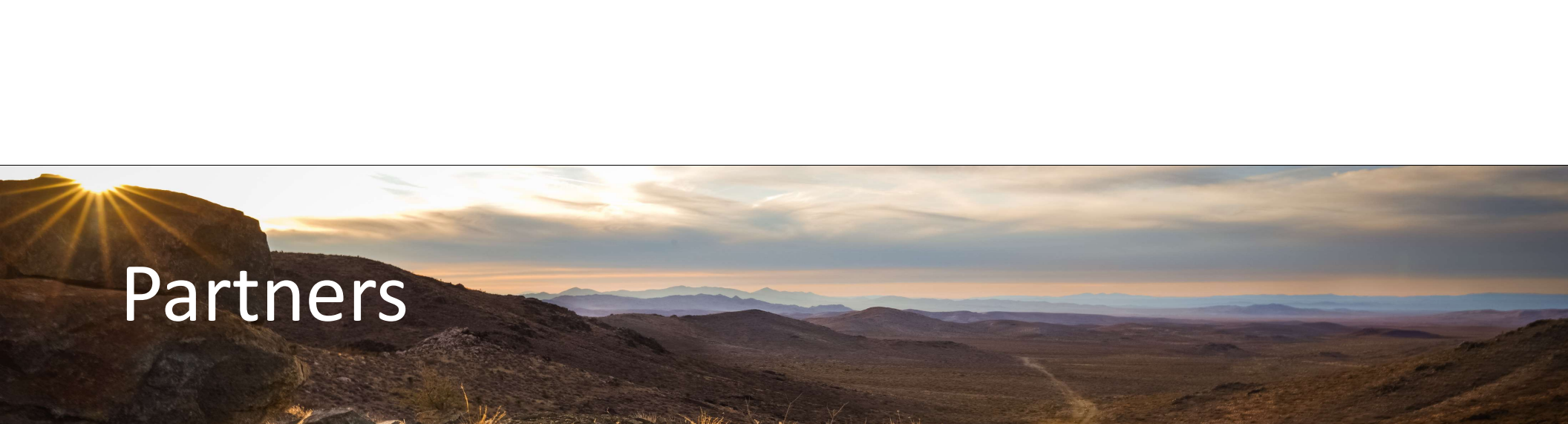
5. Develop sustainable seed propagation agricultural practices and seed growing cooperatives that are climate resilient



Path to Designation

- The Sentinel Landscape Program aligns with the state of California's climate and conservation goals.
- California has more military bases than any other state in the U.S.
- Working together will help increase the pace and scale of environmental restoration needed for healthy ecosystems and communities.
- Mojave is a special place with dedicated partners already working together on desert tortoise recovery and other priorities.





Partners

Non-Federal

- CA Natural Resources Agency
- CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- CA Wildlife Conservation Board
- CA State Lands Commission
- CA State Parks
- San Bernardino County
- Mojave Desert Land Trust
- Trust for Public Lands
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Agua Caliente

Federal

- DOD Installations
- BLM
- USFWS
- USGS
- NPS
- NRCS

And growing!

Updates and Timeline

Timeline

- ✓ May to July 2024: Assemble Steering Committee
- ✓ June to September: 2024 CNRA initiate Tribal Consultation
- ✓ July 2024: Submitted America the Beautiful Challenge
- ✓ 15 August 2024: Hold Steering Committee Meeting
- ✓ September 2024: Land Trust Alliance Rally
 - Fall 2024: State hires MDSL Landscape Coordinator
 - October 2024 – May 2025: Develop Implementation Plan
 - 6-7 November 2024: Desert Manager's Group
 - 7 November 2024: In person meeting at DMG
 - November 2024: Received results from NFWF ATBC Challenge
- January 2024 – July 2026: Joint Environmental Planning

