Dear Sir or Madam:

SUBJECT: Northwest Training Range Complex Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS)

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Navy is in the beginning stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Navy’s Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC). The Navy is requesting your comments on the scope, content, and issues to be considered during the development of the EIS/OEIS to ensure that the protection of the environment is considered in the proposed action.

The NWTRC consists of numerous individual training areas that stretch from Washington to northern California (please see map of the EIS/OEIS study area in Enclosure 1). Extending 250 nautical miles (nm) (about 288 miles) west from the coastline into the Pacific Ocean, the NWTRC encompasses more than 126,000 square nautical miles (nm²) of ocean area. The range complex study area also includes more than 34,000 nm² of airspace and 875 acres of land. The land, air, and sea components of the NWTRC provide the space and resources needed to realistically train Navy Sailors and aviators to achieve and maintain Fleet readiness.

As global defense technology advances, it is necessary for the Navy to enhance our training and testing capabilities. Therefore, the Navy is proposing to support current, emerging, and future training activities and testing operations in the NWTRC as necessary to achieve and sustain military readiness, including:

- Maintaining baseline training activities at current levels;
- Increasing training activities from current levels in support of the Fleet Readiness Training Plan;
- Accommodating new platforms and weapons systems;
- Supporting research, development, testing, and evaluation operations; and
- Implementing range enhancements.

Providing additional capabilities at the NWTRC will sustain the range complex’s strategic importance to Fleet readiness through essential training and support of advanced technology development and assessment to improve national defense effectiveness. Please note that this project does not involve a geographic expansion of the existing sea, land, or airspace components of the NWTRC.
The NWTRC EIS/OEIS will address the following resource areas: marine and terrestrial natural resources, including threatened and endangered species; noise; land use; airspace management; fishing; navigation; recreation; water quality; air quality; and historical and cultural resources. Your input in identifying specific issues and concerns that should be assessed in these or other areas is important to the process.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Navy is holding five public scoping meetings in three states to support an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action. Scoping meetings will inform the public of the Navy’s proposed action and give community members an opportunity to make comments. Input from scoping meetings will be used to help identify potentially significant issues to be analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Scoping meetings will be conducted in an open house format and representatives from the Navy will be available to provide information and answer questions about the proposed action. The scoping meeting schedule is as follows:

**Monday, Sept. 10, 2007**
6 to 9 p.m.
The Coachman Inn
32959 State Route 20
Oak Harbor, WA

**Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007**
6 to 9 p.m.
Pacific Beach Fire Hall
4586 State Route 109
Pacific Beach, WA

**Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2007**
6 to 9 p.m.
Grays Harbor College
Cafeteria
1620 Edward P. Smith Drive
Aberdeen, WA

**Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007**
6 to 9 p.m.
Spouting Horn Restaurant
110 Southeast Highway 101
Depoe Bay, OR

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007**
6 to 9 p.m.
Eureka Women’s Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, CA

Regardless of whether you are able to participate in the scoping meetings, you may send written comments to the following address:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
1101 Tautog Circle Suite 203
Silverdale, WA 98381-110
ATTN: Mrs. Kimberly Kier - NWTRC EIS
All comments must be postmarked by September 29, 2007, to be considered in the Draft EIS/CEIS. You may also submit comments online at www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com.

For more information, please visit the website or contact Mrs. Kimberly Kler, (360) 396-0927.

Sincerely,

Y. A. Rios
By Direction

Enclosure:
(1) Northwest Training Range Complex Map - Study Area

Distribution:
Federal
U.S. Senators
  Washington
  Oregon
  California
U.S. Representatives
  Washington Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
  Oregon Districts 2, 4, 5
  California District 1
Federal Aviation Administration
  Washington D.C. headquarters
  Western Pacific Region Military Liaison
Marine Mammal Commission
National Marine Fisheries Service
  Washington D.C. headquarters
  Northwest Regional Office
  Office of Protected Resources
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division
U.S. Army National Guard (Boardman, OR)
U.S. Coast Guard
  Headquarters NEPA Office
  District 13
U.S. Department of the Interior
  Bureau of Indian Affairs
  Bureau of Land Management
  Environmental Policy & Compliance Department
  Minerals Management Service
  National Park Service, Olympic National Park
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Pacific Region - Portland Office
U.S. Geological-Survey, Western Region

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington D.C. headquarters
Region X
U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

State
Governor's Offices
Washington
Oregon
California
State Senators
Washington Districts 7, 10, 24
Oregon Districts 1, 5, 29
California Districts 2, 4
State Representatives
Washington Districts 7, 10, 24
Oregon Districts 1, 9, 57
California Assembly District 1
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (SHPO)
Washington State Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 6
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Washington State Ocean Policy Work Group
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Puget Sound Partnership
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation
Oregon Department of State Lands
Oregon Military Department
Oregon Water Resources Department
California Coastal Commission
California Department of Fish and Game
California Environmental Protection Agency
California Resources Agency
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Local
Clallam County Board of Commissioners
Ferry County Board of Commissioners
Grays Harbor County Board of Commissioners
Island County Board of Commissioners
Jefferson County Board of Commissioners
Kitsap County Board of Commissioners
Okanogan County Board of Commissioners
Pacific County Board of Commissioners
Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners