



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5090

N01CEB/0662

31 Jul 07

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.

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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

Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007

6 to 9 p.m.
Spouting Horn Restaurant
110 Southeast Highway 101
Depoe Bay, OR

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007

6 to 9 p.m.
Pacific Beach Fire Hall
4586 State Route 109
Pacific Beach, WA

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007

6 to 9 p.m.
Eureka Women's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, CA

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2007

6 to 9 p.m.
Grays Harbor College
Cafeteria
1620 Edward P. Smith Drive
Aberdeen, WA

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 98315-110
ATTN: Mrs. Kimberly Kler - NWTRC EIS

All comments must be postmarked by September 29, 2007, to be considered in the Draft EIS/OEIS. 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,



J. O. 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

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

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Okanogan County Board of Commissioners
Pacific County Board of Commissioners
Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners