

SCOPING SUMMARY

FOR THE FORT LEWIS ARMY GROWTH AND FORCE STRUCTURE REALIGNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



March 2009

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Introduction

This report describes the scoping process implemented by Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center (YTC) that is consistent with the Council for Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA* (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508) and *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (32 CFR Part 651). This report addresses two primary subjects. First, it summarizes the process conducted to define the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and YTC, Washington. Second, it describes the issues identified during the scoping process and the specific issues that will be the focus of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and subsequent EIS.

Fort Lewis and YTC Scoping Process

Public scoping for the analysis formally began on 22 December 2008. On this date, a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and YTC, Washington was published in the *Federal Register* (73 Federal Register, No. 246, Page 78336). A copy of the Notice of Intent is included as Appendix A. In addition, public notices were published in seven newspapers serving the area in and around Fort Lewis and YTC. The seven newspapers were the *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, *The News Tribune*, *Olympian*, *Yakima Herald Republic*, *Ellensburg Daily Record*, and *Columbia Basin Herald*. Copies of the public notices from the newspapers are included as Appendix B.

In addition to the publications, the public notice was sent to interested parties, along with a fact sheet that provided background information on the Proposed Action and the EIS and a self-addressed comment form. Interested parties included members of Congress; state and local elected officials; representatives from Federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; representatives from non-governmental organizations; and private citizens. The public notice was also sent to local libraries. A complete list of interested parties is included as Appendix C.

Three public meetings were held to discuss the scope and to receive comments from the public. The meetings were held in: Lacey, Washington on 20 January 2009; Ellensburg, Washington on 21 January 2009; and Yakima, Washington on 22 January 2009. Individuals representing agencies and organizations, as well as private citizens, participated in the scoping process. Table 1 identifies the number of attendees at each meeting. Copies of the sign-in sheets are included as Appendix D.

Table 1 Scoping Meeting Attendance

Scoping Meeting Locations	Number of Attendees
Lacey, Washington Lacey Community Center	20
Ellensburg, Washington Hal Holmes Community Center	3
Yakima, Washington Howard Johnson Plaza	7
TOTAL	30

All three meetings began at 6:00 p.m. with an open-house style format containing eleven stations with poster displays illustrating various aspects about the project and the NEPA process. Subject matter

experts were available to answer the public's questions about each aspect of the project. The eleven stations included:

- Project Area
- NEPA, Scoping, and EIS Process
- Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action
- 2007 Grow the Army (GTA) Record of Decision
- Alternatives and Site-Specific Actions
- Alternatives 1, 2, 3, and 4
- Resource Analysis
- Resources That May Be Analyzed
- GTA EIS Project Timeline
- Related Actions for the Army, Fort Lewis, and Yakima Training Center
- Comment Table

Copies of the poster displays at each of these stations are included as Appendix E of this report.

Several handouts were also distributed at the scoping meetings to attendees. These handouts are provided as Appendix F, and included:

- Fact Sheet: About Today's Public Scoping Meeting
- Fact Sheet: Background Information for Scoping of the Fort Lewis Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment Environmental Impact Statement
- Fact Sheet: Questions and Answers (Q&A)
- Fact Sheets: What is a Stryker Brigade Combat Team? What is a Medium Combat Aviation Brigade? What is an Expeditionary Sustainment Command?
- Public Comment Form

Results of Scoping

Agencies, organizations, businesses, and private citizens responded with written correspondence. The responses were received in the form of comment forms completed at the public scoping meetings, written response letters mailed in, and comments received via email. Two written comments were received at the scoping meetings: one at the Ellensburg, Washington meeting and one at the Yakima, Washington meeting. A total of 15 written responses were received during the scoping period. Table 2 provides a breakdown of the types of scoping respondents. Copies of all written comments can be found as Appendix G. Three respondents indicated that they would like to be added to the EIS mailing list.

Issues Identified During Scoping

The process of reviewing the comments received during the public scoping process and defining discreet issues to be addressed in the Fort Lewis Grow-the-Army Environmental Impact Statement (GTA EIS) involved the following basic steps. First, specific comments identified in each response were extracted. Then, the comments were grouped based on common threads or topics. Third, a primary issue statement that explicitly described an issue was prepared for each group of comments. Finally, these issue statements were evaluated for applicability to the Fort Lewis GTA EIS.

Table 2 Summary of Scoping Respondents

Category of Respondent that Commented during Scoping	Number of Responses
Federal Governmental Agency	1
State Governmental Agency	3
Local Governmental Representative	3
Businesses	2
Organizations	3
Private Citizens	3
Total	15

The process described above generated 13 primary issue statements, of which one was eliminated from the Fort Lewis GTA EIS. The rest of this section describes the primary issue statements. It also identifies which issues will be incorporated into the NEPA analysis and specifically used to compare alternatives in the EIS, and which issues cannot be addressed specifically in the context of this analysis or EIS.

Issues Incorporated into the NEPA Analysis

The following 12 issues that arose from the public scoping process will be incorporated into the NEPA analysis. They will also be specifically used to assist in comparing alternatives in the EIS. Issues to be incorporated into the NEPA analysis are categorized according to whether they relate to direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts resulting from the Proposed Action or its alternatives. Several issues relate to more than one impact type, and are noted accordingly below.

Issue 1: The effects of increased usage of YTC on deer and elk hunting. (Impact type: Direct Impact)

A concern was expressed regarding the effects of increased military usage of YTC on deer and elk hunting that is currently allowed at the center for private citizens.

Issue 2: Traffic impacts resulting from increased military personnel and civilian employment at Fort Lewis. (Impact type: Direct Impact)

A concern was expressed regarding how increased military personnel and civilian employment at Fort Lewis will affect traffic on surrounding roads. Roads that were specifically identified in the comment include Interstate 5 (I-5) and the Pierce County road system, particularly County arterial roads on the east side of Fort Lewis, including but not limited to Spanaway Loop Road South, Military Road South, 176th Street East, and Cross-Base Highway. The commenter requested that a discussion of all proposed traffic mitigation, including assumptions relative to the cost and funding of any proposed mitigation, be included as part of the traffic analysis in the EIS. Multi-modal solutions were recommended as potential traffic mitigation. Other concerns regarding the traffic analysis in the EIS included the need to use a horizon year that assumes the full implementation of the GTA initiative, and the need to discuss assumptions used to project background growth in existing traffic volumes out to the horizon year. The respondent’s recommended horizon year is 2013, and is based on full implementation of the GTA initiative at Fort Lewis.

Issue 3: The effects of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment on surface water resources (Waters of the United States and waters of the state) at Fort Lewis and YTC. (Impact types: Direct and Indirect Impacts)

Concerns were expressed regarding the effects of the alternatives on surface waters, including lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, saltwaters, and wetlands, at Fort Lewis and YTC. Included were concerns about the direct effects from dredge or fill activities during facility construction and indirect effects from pollution of surface waters. One respondent suggested that a reconnaissance study in the proposed project area(s) be conducted to establish a baseline of waters of the state present at the installations. Two respondents recommended that the EIS contain a detailed evaluation of all water bodies affected by the project, including their acreage and channel lengths, habitat types and value, water quality, and flood capacity. The responses also noted that effects to such water bodies may be subject to permit requirements under the Clean Water Act and Coastal Zone Management Act, and asserted that evaluation of avoidance alternatives and mitigation to offset impacts may be required.

Issue 4: The effects of facility construction and demolition activities and long-term operations on surface and groundwater quality, including drinking water sources, and hydrology. (Impact types: Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts)

Concerns were expressed about how construction/demolition activities and ongoing military operations would affect surface and groundwater quality. Specific concerns included cumulative impacts to water bodies listed on the State's and Tribes' most current Clean Water Act Section 303(d) lists, including how the alternatives would coordinate with on-going protection, restoration, and enhancement efforts for those waters; identification of source water protection areas, aquifer recharge areas, and sensitive zones within such areas that are in the vicinity of the project area; identification of the numbers and types of potential contaminants that could impact drinking water sources; and soil compaction and resulting indirect impacts to hydrology and runoff characteristics from the construction of facilities and roads. In addition, indirect impacts from stormwater runoff and sedimentation to streams from the construction and use of roadways and facilities were specifically identified as concerns. It was recommended that the EIS disclose information about the existing road networks and evaluate changes in road miles and density that would occur due to the project, as well as predicted impact on water quality. Concerns regarding cumulative effects on groundwater and surface water resources from other projects affecting hydrologic conditions of the area were also expressed.

Issue 5: The effects on air quality, and resulting effects on human health and climate change, from proposed construction/demolition activities and long-term operations associated with GTA actions at Fort Lewis and YTC. (Impact types: Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts)

Concerns were expressed regarding the protection of air quality during implementation of GTA actions at Fort Lewis and YTC. Specific emissions concerns identified included: fuel use during construction activities; dust particulate emissions from construction, demolition, clearing, and landscaping activities and on-going use of roadways on the installations; the potential for asbestos to be released during facility demolition activities; and increased vehicular traffic during operations and associated effects on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions. The project's potential effects on all criteria pollutants under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were expressed as a concern, as were subsequent indirect and cumulative effects including visibility impairment, air quality related values in the protection of any affected Class I Areas, and impacts on public health. In addition, a concern about how the alternatives would contribute to climate change from increased greenhouse emissions was raised. It was also asserted that the following air quality-related approvals and plans may be required for implementing the proposal: a New Source Review Order of Approval may be required based on the equipment to be used on the installations; a Notification of Demolition and Renovation

(NODR) application would be required to be filed with the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (YRCAA) and appropriate fees paid; and a Dust Control Plan would be required to be filed with the YRCAA prior to the start of any construction/demolition work.

Issue 6: The effects on the environment from a potential release of hazardous/toxic chemicals during operations or as a result of an accident. (Impact types: Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts)

A concern was expressed regarding the potential for accidental or other release of hazardous or toxic materials during operations at the installation. Specific concerns raised included spill and leak prevention, planning, and clean-up; measures to minimize the generation of hazardous materials and waste; applicability of state and federal hazardous waste requirements; and emergency response measures that would be implemented in the event of an accidental release. Concerns regarding the potential use of pesticides and herbicides were also expressed. Specific concerns about pesticide and herbicide use included the potential toxic hazards related to application of such chemicals and what actions would be taken to assure that such hazards and impacts to the environment will be minimized.

Issue 7: The effects of increased training activities at Fort Lewis and YTC on rare species and habitats on the installations. (Impact types: Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts)

Concerns were expressed that increased training capacity and the types of developments proposed at Fort Lewis and YTC as a result of army growth could result in significant adverse effects on rare species and habitats at these installations. It was suggested that the GTA EIS provide up-to-date information on the current threats and status of all federal and state listed, candidate, and species of concern and critical habitat occurring on the installations, and address project-specific and synergistic threats to these resources. The high quality prairie and native oak habitats, and associated species dependent on these habitats, at Fort Lewis were noted as specific concerns. Rare species dependent on these habitats that were specifically noted include the federal candidate Taylor's checkerspot, Mardon Skipper, Mazama pocket gopher, and streaked horned lark, all of which were noted to occur on Fort Lewis. It was also noted that Fort Lewis retains the largest expanse and highest quality prairie habitat through the entire ecoregion, which extends from central Oregon to British Columbia. One respondent asserted that considerable training restrictions could be imposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the event of future listing of these species under the Endangered Species Act due to a cumulative loss of habitat at Fort Lewis.

The loss and degradation of shrub-steppe habitat and resulting effects on greater sage-grouse populations at YTC was noted as a specific concern. It was asserted that current levels of military training at YTC have resulted in a decline in shrub-steppe habitat condition in important sage-grouse areas, and a concern was expressed that increased training, military personnel, and infrastructure resulting from GTA actions would exacerbate habitat loss and degradation and a decline in sage-grouse populations. Other sagebrush-dependent species that were noted as specific concerns at YTC include the sage thrasher, sage sparrow, and loggerhead shrike. Concerns regarding the indirect and cumulative effects of frequent wildfires, road construction, and widespread appearance of weedy invasive species from military activities in sagebrush habitats were expressed. Respondents expressing these concerns recommended numerous specific mitigation measures, including but not limited to redesigning sage-grouse protection areas, limiting military training and infrastructure development in redesigned protection areas, habitat restoration, and reducing wildfire risk, to reduce impacts on shrub-steppe habitat and the greater sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate species during implementation of the GTA initiative.

Issue 8: The effects of GTA actions on the spread of noxious weeds/invasive species, and their resulting environmental effects. (Impact types: Direct and Indirect Impacts)

Concerns were raised about the spread of invasive species/noxious weeds from increased military use of the installations and increased road construction and use resulting from GTA actions. Indirect economic, ecological (effects on native plant communities and wildlife habitat), and human health impacts from increased invasive species spread were noted as concerns.

Issue 9: Temporary and permanent land use effects from implementing the GTA initiative. (Impact types: Direct and Cumulative Impacts)

Several concerns relating to land use effects from implementing the GTA actions were expressed. General land use-related concerns included concerns about disturbance of existing land uses at specific sites on the installation and surrounding areas during construction, operations, and maintenance of facilities and impacts to land cover. A specific concern about impacts to agricultural lands, especially at YTC where irrigation systems and drainages exist, was expressed. This concern related to the quantity of farmland affected, type of crops affected, and what measures would be conducted to restore farmlands and compensate landowners for losses incurred during the project. A specific concern was also raised about impacts on forests and other open land use types due to construction and cantonment area developments associated with the project. In addition, concerns about impacts to special land use areas, such as wildlife refuges, parks, and other areas, were expressed.

Issue 10: The effects of Army expansion at Fort Lewis on the availability of off-post housing and community facilities. (Impact types: Indirect and Cumulative Impacts)

One respondent discussed a recently completed EIS and entitlements of two Master Planned Community projects consisting of over 6,000 lots, several hundred acres of open space, and commercial and recreational amenities on approximately 1,500 acres surrounding Fort Lewis in the City of Yelm. This respondent noted that the majority of his organization's community homebuyers are military personnel, and is interested as to how these new developments may help address or mitigate the effects of increased military personnel on Fort Lewis from Army expansion by providing housing and community amenities.

Issue 11: The potential for increased fire danger resulting from increased live-fire training use of YTC. (Impact type: Indirect Impact)

A concern was expressed by a homeowner adjacent to the YTC boundary regarding the increased potential for wildfire danger associated increased live-fire training activities at YTC. This respondent requested that continued or increased measures should be implemented to prevent range fires.

Issue 12: The potential for disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations from implementation of the project. (Impact types: Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts)

A concern was raised that the project could result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts to environmental justice populations (minority and low-income populations). The respondent asserted that such populations should be identified, informed of the proposed action, and allowed a meaningful opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

Issues Not Considered Further in the NEPA Analysis

Issue 13: There should be no restrictions on military use of the entire area for live-fire and other training.

One respondent preferred to see no restrictions on military use of the entire YTC installation for live-fire and other training activities. This respondent asserted that environmental restrictions should be waived and that live-fire training should be allowed anywhere on the installation as needed.

This issue was dismissed from further consideration in the NEPA analysis because removing all restrictions would violate existing laws and regulations protecting environmental resources and human health and safety, as well as Department of Defense, Department of the Army, and installation-specific regulations and directives.

APPENDIX A

COPY OF THE NOTICE OF INTENT

individuals should address written inquiries to Headquarters, United States Air Force Reserve Command, HQ AFRC/A6NS, Communications Directorate, Building 210, 155 Richard Ray Blvd., Robins AFB, GA 31098-1635.

Written request should include full name, address, Social Security Number (SSN) and signature.

CONTESTING RECORDS PROCEDURES:

The Air Force rules for accessing records and for contesting and appealing initial agency determinations are published in AFI 33-332; 32 CFR Part 806b; or may be obtained from the system manager.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Information is obtained from individuals or authorized Air Force/DoD automated systems such as the Military Personnel Data System (MILPDS), the Air Force Fitness Management System, and the Preventive Health Assessment.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

[FR Doc. E8-30416 Filed 12-19-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Growth at Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center (YTC), WA

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DOD.
ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army intends to prepare an EIS to analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of implementing the stationing and realignment decisions in the 2007 "Grow the Army" Programmatic EIS (GTA PEIS) and other ongoing Army realignment and stationing initiatives that pertain to Fort Lewis and YTC. The GTA PEIS Record of Decision (ROD) made the decision to station additional units at Fort Lewis including an Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and specified unit restructuring actions that would increase active duty strength at Fort Lewis by approximately 1,900 Soldiers. This EIS will also analyze Fort Lewis and YTC as potential locations for the stationing of additional units, to include approximately 1,000 combat service support (CSS) Soldiers consisting of Quartermaster, Medical, Transportation or Headquarters units to support combat operations, and a Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB)

consisting of approximately 2,800 soldiers and 110 helicopters. These actions could occur over the next five years.

ADDRESSES: Questions regarding this proposal or written comments should be forwarded to: Department of the Army, Directorate of Public Works, Attention: IMWE-LEW-PWE MS 17 (Mr. Paul T. Steucke, Jr.), Box 339500, Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bill Van Hoesen, Fort Lewis NEPA Coordinator at (253) 966-1780 during business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Fort Lewis is a major Army installation (one of 15 U.S. power projection platforms) encompassing 86,176 acres in western Washington, approximately 35 miles south of Seattle. The 327,231 acre YTC is a sub-installation of Fort Lewis located about 7 miles northeast of the City of Yakima in central Washington. Fort Lewis and YTC are important Army facilities for weapons qualification and field training. In addition to the units stationed there, Reserve and National Guard units, as well as units from allied nations, train at Fort Lewis and YTC.

Stationing and force structure realignment actions across the Army were identified in the GTA PEIS that would increase the Army by approximately 74,000 Soldiers in the next five years. In addition to analyzing the effects of implementing the proposed GTA decisions pertaining to Fort Lewis and YTC, this EIS will analyze the effects from related stationing and force structure decisions of ongoing Army initiatives interconnected with and essential to implementing the GTA decisions. These ongoing initiatives are the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005, the Global Defense Posture Realignment, and transition to the Army Modular Force. These actions include stationing and unit restructuring, increased intensity of use of maneuver and live-fire training areas, and construction activity. New construction will be required for new training facilities and ranges; cantonment area development projects such as troop and family housing, administrative facilities, motor pools, child development centers; and infrastructure upgrades.

The EIS will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives and their subsequent potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed construction and training activities in order to support the potential stationing of additional CSS units and a CAB. Under the No Action alternative, the

proposed site-specific actions to implement the decisions of the GTA and related Army initiatives would not be implemented. Other alternatives may be identified as part of the public scoping process initiated by this NOI.

An impact analysis will be performed for a wide range of environmental resource areas including, but not limited to, air quality, water quality, cultural resources, sensitive species and habitats, soil erosion, traffic and transportation, noise, socioeconomic, land use, utilities, and solid and hazardous materials/waste. The impact analysis will include consideration of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives. Additional resources and conditions may be identified as a result of the scoping process initiated by this NOI.

Public Participation: The public will be invited to participate in the scoping process, which includes scoping meetings, and encouraged to provide input on the proposed actions and alternatives in the EIS. The scoping process is intended to assist the agency in identifying, among other things, important issues of environmental concern and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. The public will also be invited to review and comment on the Draft EIS. These public involvement opportunities will be announced in the local news media. To ensure comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than 45 days following publication of this NOI. The process will be concluded by preparation of a Final EIS and a ROD choosing a particular course of action.

Dated: December 12, 2008.

Addison D. Davis IV,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army,
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health).*

[FR Doc. E8-30174 Filed 12-19-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Army Science Board 2009 January Plenary Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.
ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Sunshine in the Government Act of 1976 (U.S.C. 552b, as amended) and 41 Code of the Federal Regulations (CFR

APPENDIX B

**COPIES OF PUBLIC NOTICES ANNOUNCING
SCOPING MEETINGS**

Please submit your photo, along with the entry form below, no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 26th, 2008. To ensure return please write name and address on the back of photo and include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope.

For all of you who were blessed with a little one in 2008, we would like to offer you the chance to win a \$100 Savings Bond.

Boy Girl

Baby Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Grandparent's Name _____

Other Relative's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Credit Card # _____

PUBLIC NOTICE

Scoping Meetings to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement Analyzing the Impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center

Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center (YTC) announce scoping meetings for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process that will analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of implementing the stationing and realignment decisions of the 2007 "Grow the Army" Programmatic EIS (GTA PEIS) at Fort Lewis and YTC. The EIS will also analyze Fort Lewis and YTC as a potential location for future stationing of additional Combat Service Support (CSS) Soldiers and a medium Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB). Construction will be required for new training facilities, ranges, and area development projects, such as troop and family housing, administrative facilities, motor pools, child development centers, and infrastructure upgrades.

The EIS will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives that support the 2007 GTA PEIS decisions to station approximately 560 Soldiers and increase existing units by approximately 1320 Soldiers at Fort Lewis. The EIS will also evaluate the potential realignment of up to 1,000 CSS Soldiers and a medium CAB (approximately 2,800 Soldiers) at Fort Lewis and YTC. Under the No Action alternative, actions required to support the stationing decisions of the GTA and related Army initiatives would not be implemented at Fort Lewis and YTC. Additional alternatives may be identified as part of the public scoping process.

Public Scoping meetings will be held at the locations and on the dates and times listed below. Meetings will consist of an open house where personnel from Fort Lewis and YTC will be present to answer questions. All members of the public, Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties are invited to attend. Fort Lewis seeks comments on the alternatives proposed for analysis, on the proposed scope of analysis, and other areas of particular concern.

January 20, 2009
Lacey Community Center
6729 Pacific Avenue SE
Lacey, WA 98503
6:00-8:00pm

January 21, 2009
Hal Holmes Community Center
209 North Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
6:00-8:00pm

January 22, 2009
Howard Johnson Plaza
9 North 9th Street
Yakima, WA 98901
6:00-8:00pm

To ensure scoping comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than February 5, 2009. Send comments or requests for additional information to PUBLIC WORKS, ATTN: BILL VAN HOSEN, BLDG 2012 LIGGETT AVENUE MS 17 BOX 339500, FORT LEWIS, WA 98433-9500. Comments and requests for additional information may also be sent to Mr. Bill Van Hosen by e-mail at bill.vanhosen@us.army.mil, or by fax to 253-966-4985.

**Coyotes split with
Manson at home**

The Kittitas High School boys' and girls' basketball teams performed a split with Manson Saturday at home in the teams' league opener, as the boys won, 39-34, and the girls lost, 47-41.

second-quarter points, and a 13-point deficit going into the fourth quarter was too much to overcome. Temara Jones had 32 points for the Mustangs, who were 7-of-8 from the line down the stretch to put the game away. "The one good thing to learn is this team has no quit," Fare said. "We scrapped and fought hard against a good

In Iraq, hope comes on four

Taking a grass-roots tack, the U.S. military gives away 50 cows to 50 Iraqi widows so the women can feed their families and sell milk.

BY TONY PERRY
Los Angeles Times

ANBAR PROVINCE, IRAQ — As U.S. forces work to revive Iraq's tattered farming economy, they seem to have found an effective new weapon.

Cows.

At the suggestion of an Iraqi women's group, the Marine Corps recently bought 50 cows for 50 Iraqi widows in the farm belt around Fallujah.

The cow purchase is seen as a small step toward re-establishing Iraq's once-thriving dairy industry, as well as a way to help women and children hurt by the frequent failure of the Iraqi government to provide the pensions that Iraqi law promises to widows.

The early sign is that the program is working. Widows, many with no other income, have a marketable item to sell, as well as milk for their children. Although Iraqis, particularly women, are often reluctant to participate in an American effort, the cows were imme-

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Public Notice

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The EIS will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives that support the 2007 GTA PEIS decisions to station approximately 560 Soldiers and increase existing units by approximately 1320 Soldiers at Fort Lewis. The EIS will also evaluate the potential realignment of up to 1,000 CSS Soldiers and a medium CAB (approximately 2,800 Soldiers) at Fort Lewis and YTC. Under the No Action alternative, actions required to support the stationing decisions of the GTA and related Army initiatives would not be implemented at Fort Lewis and YTC. Additional alternatives may be identified as part of the public scoping process.

Public Scoping meetings will be held at the locations and on the dates and times listed below. Meetings will consist of an open house where personnel from Fort Lewis and YTC will be present to answer questions. All members of the public, Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties are invited to attend. Fort Lewis seeks comments on the alternatives proposed for analysis, on the proposed scope of analysis, and other areas of particular concern.

January 20, 2009

Lacey Community Center
6729 Pacific Avenue SE • Lacey, WA 98503
6:00-8:00pm

January 21, 2009

Hal Holmes Community Center
209 North Ruby Street • Ellensburg, WA 98926
6:00-8:00pm

January 22, 2009

Howard Johnson Plaza
9 North 9th Street • Yakima, WA 98901
6:00-8:00pm

To ensure scoping comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than February 5, 2009. Send written comments or requests for additional information to PUBLIC WORKS, ATTN: BILL VAN HOESEN, BLDG 2012 LIGGETT AVENUE, MS 17 BOX 339500, FORT LEWIS, WA 98433-9500. Comments and requests for additional information may also be sent to Mr. Bill Van Hoesen by e-mail at bill.vanhoesen@us.army.mil, or by fax to 253-966-4985.

Page Two

day
 e-mails are playing with the Olympia

at theolympian.com
 See more photos from the week's news at
 www.theolympian.com.

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	7 day	Weekends
1 month	\$16.50	\$10.25
3 month	\$48.75	\$30.00
6 month	\$96.00	\$58.50
1 year	\$186.00	\$111.00
EZ Pay	\$15.50	\$9.25

Single Copy 50¢ Daily \$1.50 Sunday

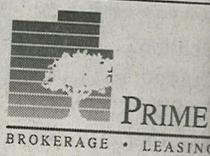
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pet projects in a stimp Hast-
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 between the states arending
 and city governmentsaxpay-
 should get the moneyment
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GOP plans

Republicans are con



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Washington state's other sen- head the Department of Veter- said Larsen.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Scoping Meetings to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement Analyzing the Impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center

Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center (YTC) announce scoping meetings for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process that will analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of implementing the stationing and realignment decisions of the 2007 "Grow the Army" Programmatic EIS (GTA PEIS) at Fort Lewis and YTC. The EIS will also analyze Fort Lewis and YTC as a potential location for future stationing of additional Combat Service Support (CSS) Soldiers and a medium Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB). Construction will be required for new training facilities, ranges, and area development projects, such as troop and family housing, administrative facilities, motor pools, child development centers, and infrastructure upgrades.

The EIS will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives that support the 2007 GTA PEIS decisions to station approximately 560 Soldiers and increase existing units by approximately 1320 Soldiers at Fort Lewis. The EIS will also evaluate the potential realignment of up to 1,000 CSS Soldiers and a medium CAB (approximately 2,800 Soldiers) at Fort Lewis and YTC. Under the No Action alternative, actions required to support the stationing decisions of the GTA and related Army initiatives would not be implemented at Fort Lewis and YTC. Additional alternatives may be identified as part of the public scoping process.

Public Scoping meetings will be held at the locations and on the dates and times listed below. Meetings will consist of an open house where personnel from Fort Lewis and YTC will be present to answer questions. All members of the public, Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties are invited to attend. Fort Lewis seeks comments on the alternatives proposed for analysis, on the proposed scope of analysis, and other areas of particular concern.

January 20, 2009
 Lacey Community Center
 6729 Pacific Avenue SE
 Lacey, WA 98503
 6:00-8:00pm

January 21, 2009
 Hal Holmes Community Center
 209 North Ruby Street
 Ellensburg, WA 98926
 6:00-8:00pm

January 22, 2009
 Howard Johnson Plaza
 9 North 9th Street
 Yakima, WA 98901
 6:00-8:00pm

To ensure scoping comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than February 5, 2009. Send written comments or requests for additional information to PUBLIC WORKS, ATTN: BILL VAN HOESEN, BLDG 2012 LIGGETT AVENUE, MS 17 BOX 339500, FORT LEWIS, WA 98433-9500. Comments and requests for additional information may also be sent to Mr. Bill Van Hoesen by e-mail at bill.vanhoesen@us.army.mil, or by fax to 253-966-4985.

0001149301V01 0104

The ground offensive sets the stage for a show-
 down that could significantly shake up Middle
 East political dynamics by either cowering hard-
 line Hamas ideologues into moderating their
 views or propelling the Israeli-Palestinian con-



The president-elect's schedule
 is filling up as well.
 He's to meet Monday on Capitol
 Hill with House Speaker Nancy
 Pelosi, D-Calif., Senate Majority

PUBLIC NOTICE

Scoping Meetings to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement Analyzing the Impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center

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Sharon Rehfield

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and
9% bodyfat

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\$2000



Before



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Martin Mielke

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10% bodyfat

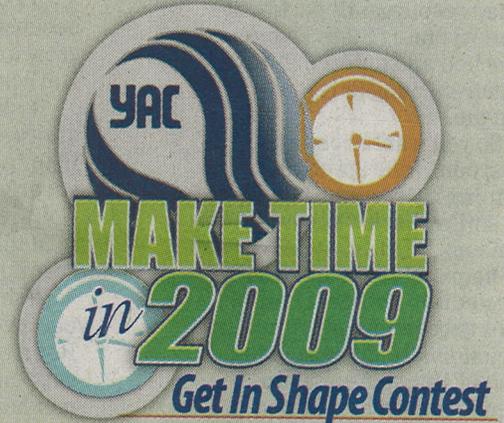
Won 1st
Place Men's
35+
\$1050



Before



"I was a couch potato with no energy, self-esteem, I couldn't breathe and had no motivation. The contest changed all of that!"



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(first flight)
Jan. 16 - Apr. 10 2009
(second flight)

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Jan. 15th, 2009

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Papa Murphy's

df

APPENDIX C

LIST OF INTERESTED PARTIES

U.S. CONGRESS

Patty Murray
US Senate

US Senate

US House of Representatives
3rd Congressional District

US House of Representatives
4th Congressional District

US House of Representatives
6th Congressional District

US House of Representatives
7th Congressional District

US House of Representatives
8th Congressional District

US House of Representatives
9th Congressional District

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Don Klima
Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Federal Agency Programs

Michele Wright
Federal Facilities Coordinator
US Environmental Protection Agency -
Region X

National Oceanic Atmospheric
Administration
Fisheries Service

National Park Service
Pacific West Region

USDA Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Research Station

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Central Washington Field Office

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Endangered Species Division

NEPA Program Manager
Federal Aviation Administration

MILITARY AGENCIES

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Installation Management Command

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces Command

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
U.S. Army Environmental Command

Mr Grenko
McChord Air Force Base

Oregon Military Department

Tom Carlson
Washington Army National Guard

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Gary Alexander
Representative
20th Legislative District

Jan Angel
Representative
26th Legislative District

Randi Becker
Senator
2nd Legislative District

Tom Campbell
Representative
2nd Legislative District

Mike Carrell
Senator
28th Legislative District

Bruce Chandler
Representative
15th Legislative District

Steve Conway
Representative
29th Legislative District

Bruce Dammeier
Representative
25th Legislative District

Jeannie Darneille
Representative
27th Legislative District

Richard DeBolt
Representative
20th Legislative District

Jerome Delvin
Senator
8th Legislative District

Fred Finn
Representative
35th Legislative District

Dennis Flannigan
Representative
27th Legislative District

Rosa Franklin
Senator
29th Legislative District

Karen Fraser
Senator
22nd Legislative District

Tami Green
Representative
28th Legislative District

Kathy Haigh
Representative
35th Legislative District

Larry Haler
Representative
8th Legislative District

Bill Hinkle
Representative
13th Legislative District

Janéa Holmquist
Senator
13th Legislative District

Jim Honeyford
Senator
15th Legislative District

Sam Hunt
Representative
22nd Legislative District

Norm Johnson
Representative
14th Legislative District

Jim Kastama
Senator
25th Legislative District

Troy Kelley
Representative
28th Legislative District

Judy Warnick
Representative
13th Legislative District

Derek Kilmer
Senator
26th Legislative District

Brendan Williams
Representative
22nd Legislative District

Curtis King
Senator
14th Legislative District

Steve Kirby
Representative
29th Legislative District

Brad Klippert
Representative
8th Legislative District

Jim McCune
Representative
2nd Legislative District

Dawn Morrell
Representative
25th Legislative District

Daniel Newhouse
Representative
15th Legislative District

Debbie Regala
Senator
27th Legislative District

Charles Ross
Representative
14th Legislative District

Larry Seaquist
Representative
26th Legislative District

Tim Sheldon
Senator
35th Legislative District

Dan Swecker
Senator
20th Legislative District

STATE AGENCIES

Dr. Allyson Brooks
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Archaeology and Historic
Preservation

Washington Department of Ecology
Environmental Review Section

Washington Department of Ecology
Air Quality Program

Regional Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Bureau of Land Management

Washington State Department of
Transportation

Washington Native Plant Society
Washington Natural Heritage Program
Department of Natural Resources

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Washington State Parks and Recreation
Commission

TRIBES AND TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

Thomas Edwards
Cultural Regulatory Specialist
Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Historic Preservation Department

Jeffrey Thomas
Timber Fish & Wildlife Biologist
Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Historic Preservation Department

Andy Whitener
Director
Squaxin Island Tribe
Natural Resources

Judy Wright
Tribal Historian
Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Historic Preservation Department

Honorable Rex Buck, Jr
Wanapum Leader
Grant County Public Utility District

Honorable Herman Dillon, Sr
Chairman
Puyallup Tribal Council

Rhonda Foster
Director
Squaxin Island Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Thor A. Hoyte
Office of the Tribal Attorney
Nisqually Indian Tribe

Honorable Jeanne Jerred
Chair
Confederated Tribes of the Colville
Reservation

Honorable David Lopeman
Chairman
Squaxin Island Tribal Council

Karen Lucei
Environmental Protection Program
Yakama Nation

Honorable Cynthia Lyall
Chair
Nisqually Indian Tribe

Cynthia Lyman
Tribal Attorney
Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Historic Preservation Department

Brian McCloud
6th Council Member
Nisqually Indian Tribe

Johnson Meninick
Cultural Resources Program
Yakama Nation

Vera Morgan
TCP Coordinator
Confederated Tribes of the Colville
Reservation
History/Archaeology

Honorable Joan K. Ortez
Chair
Steilacoom Indian Tribe

Camille Pleasants
Confederated Tribes of the Colville
Reservation
History/Archaeology

Honorable Ralph Sampson, Jr
Chair
Yakama Tribal Council

David Troutt
Director
Natural Resources
Nisqually Indian Tribe

LOCAL OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority

Mayor
City of DuPont

Mayor
City of Ellensburg

City of Lacey
Community Development Department

City of Lakewood
Community Development

City of Olympia
Community Planning and Development

Mayor
City of Roy

Mayor
City of Selah

City of Tacoma
Community and Economic Development,
9th Floor

City of Yakima
Community and Economic Development

City of Yelm
Community and Economic Development

City of Moxee
City of Union Gap

Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce

Mayor
Town of Steilacoom

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Selah Chamber of Commerce

Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce

Mayor
Town of Rainier

Jay Willenberg
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

Grant County Planning Department
Ephrata City Hall

Grant County Public Utility District
Cultural Resources

Thurston Chamber of Commerce

Director, Planning Commission
Kittitas County
Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency

Director
Pierce County Planning and Land Services

Pierce County Transportation
Benefit Area Authority
Pierce County Community Services

Thurston County Development Services

Thurston County Housing Authority

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of
Commerce

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Thurston County Regional Planning Council

Yakima County Planning Department

Yakima County Courthouse

**NON-GOVERNMENT
ORGANIZATIONS**

Maria Cantwell
Yakima Valley Audubon Society

The Nature Conservancy
Yakima

Grays Harbor Audubon Society

The Nature Conservancy
Seattle

The Nature Conservancy
Olympia

Tahoma Audubon Society

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Ellensburg City Library

Ephrata Public Library

City of Moses Lake Library

Pierce County Library System
Processing and Administrative Center

Timberland Regional Library System
Lacey Branch

Timberland Regional Library System
Olympia Branch

Yakima Valley Regional Library

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Bethel School District

Clover Park School District No. 400

Franklin Pierce School District

North Thurston School District

Peninsula School District #401

Superintendent
Steilacoom Historic School District

Sumner School District #320

Tacoma School District No. 10

Puyallup School District No. 3

West Valley School District No. 208

Naches Valley School District

Highland School District

East Valley School District No. 90

Yakima School District No. 7

Selah School District

Kittitas School District

Ellensburg School District

Franklin Pierce School District

Olympia School District

Yelm Community Schools

University Place School District
District Office

Tumwater School District

Yelm Community Schools

PRIVATE CITIZENS

Bill Kitrell

Carol Martinez

APPENDIX D

SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN DOCUMENTATION



**Environmental Impact Statement to Analyze the Impacts of Army Growth
and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center**

Scoping Meeting Sign-in Record

Name of Meeting: Scoping - Lacey		Location: Lacey Community Center		
Date: January 20, 2009	Start Time: 6:00pm	End Time: 8:00pm	Length:	
Name	Representing	Complete Address	Telephone Number	E-mail Address
1) Nancy Thill	Bruceski's Buffalo wings	1584 McNeil St Ste 100 Dupont ⁹⁸³²⁷	253-912-4305	brucaskisgizza@aol.com
2) JACK TATE	SELF	4126 SWAYNE DR NE Oly WA	360-459-5325	tatejack@comcast.com
3) CASEY COX	TAXPAYERS	4419 64th AVE SE Oly	360-456-8930	snoosedip@comcast.net
4) John Youmans	Self	2336 COVINGTON CT NE Lacey ⁹⁸⁵¹⁶		johnyoumans@comcast.net
5) JOHN WELLER	"	8216 14th AVENUE NE SEATTLE 98115	206-523-2245	jweller68@yahoo.com
6) HAL WELSH	Fathers Rights		253-967-6165	Hal.Welsh1@us.army.mil
7) TOM HINMAN	SELF	POB 2708 Redmond WA 98073	425-216-3723	tom@thinmanassoc.com
8) Inger Gruhn	Fort Lewis		253-967-1549	inger.gruhn@us.army.mil
9) Patrick Dunn	The Nature Conservancy	120 E Union Ave #215 Olympia 98501	360-956-9713	pdunn@tnc.org
10) Stacey Kempf	FL-ENV		253-966-1771	stacey.kempf@us.army.mil
11) JOHN MOUNTS		19324 EASTERDAY RD Dupont 98327	253-964-0606	Dunneweaver@hotmail.com
12) Dan Penrose	City of Lakewood	6000 main St SW Lakewood 98499	253-983-7772	dpenrose@cityoflakewood.us
13) Tami Merrieman	City of Yelm	105 Yelm AVEW, Yelm, WA 98597	360-458-8496	tamim@ci.yelm.wa.us

**Environmental Impact Statement to Analyze the Impacts of Army Growth
and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center**



Name	Representing	Complete Address	Telephone Number	E-mail Address
14 Hannal Anderson	The Nature Conservancy	120 E Union Ave #215 Olympia 98501	360 701 8803	handerson@tnc.org
15 BRET RUBY	FORT LEWIS	5311 Gray Ct SE Olympia 98513	360 357 3420	bret.ruby@us.army.mil
16 Alex Somokd	FORT LEWIS	1015 Satelet oak Dr SE Olympia 98503	360-438-8335	moba275@ASN.com
17 Deborah Johnson	City of Lakewood	6000 Main St SW Lkwd 98499	253.983.7770	djohnson@cityoflakewood.us
18 Gary Brackett	Tacoma Pierce Co. Chamber	Pd Box 1933 Tacoma 98401	253-627-2125	garyb@tacumachamber.org
19 Jeff Burkhardt	Tacoma Pierce Co	714 S. Junett St. Tacoma 98405	253-912-3880	Jeffery.Burkhardt@us.army.mil
20 JEFF BROWN	Clover Park Schools/BCRA	2406 PACIFIC AVE, TACOMA, WA.	253-627-4367	jbrown@bcra-design.com



**Environmental Impact Statement to Analyze the Impacts of Army Growth
and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center**

Scoping Meeting Sign-in Record

Name of Meeting: Scoping - Yakima		Location: Howard Johnsons Plaza		
Date: January 22, 2009	Start Time: 6:00pm	End Time: 8:00pm	Length:	
Name	Representing	Complete Address	Telephone Number	E-mail Address
Penny Carter George Buckler	SELF	31 ORBURN Vista Ln 11401 Summitview Rd, Yakima wa. 98908	452 0874 966-9572	RCW 1948 @Live.com
Paul Overby	Self / City of Selah	828 S 4th Street loop, Selah WA 98942	509-698-5717	OverbyPaul@hotmail.com
BILL LOVER	City Council "YAKIMA"	2507 W. YAKIMA AVE. YAKIMA WA 98902	509-457-4166	
Dave Heitzman	Boise Cascade	P.O. Box 3101 Union Camp 98903	509 961 6701	DAVEHEITZMAN@boisebuilding.com DaveHeitzman@boisebuilding.com
Mike Mounisette	Yakima Chamber of Commerce	10. North 9th St. Yakima, WA 98907	509 248-2021	Mike@Yakima.org
Carol Martinez	S. Martinez Rust	13321 Hwy 24, Waco, 98936	(509)248-7967	

APPENDIX E

SCOPING MEETING POSTER DISPLAYS



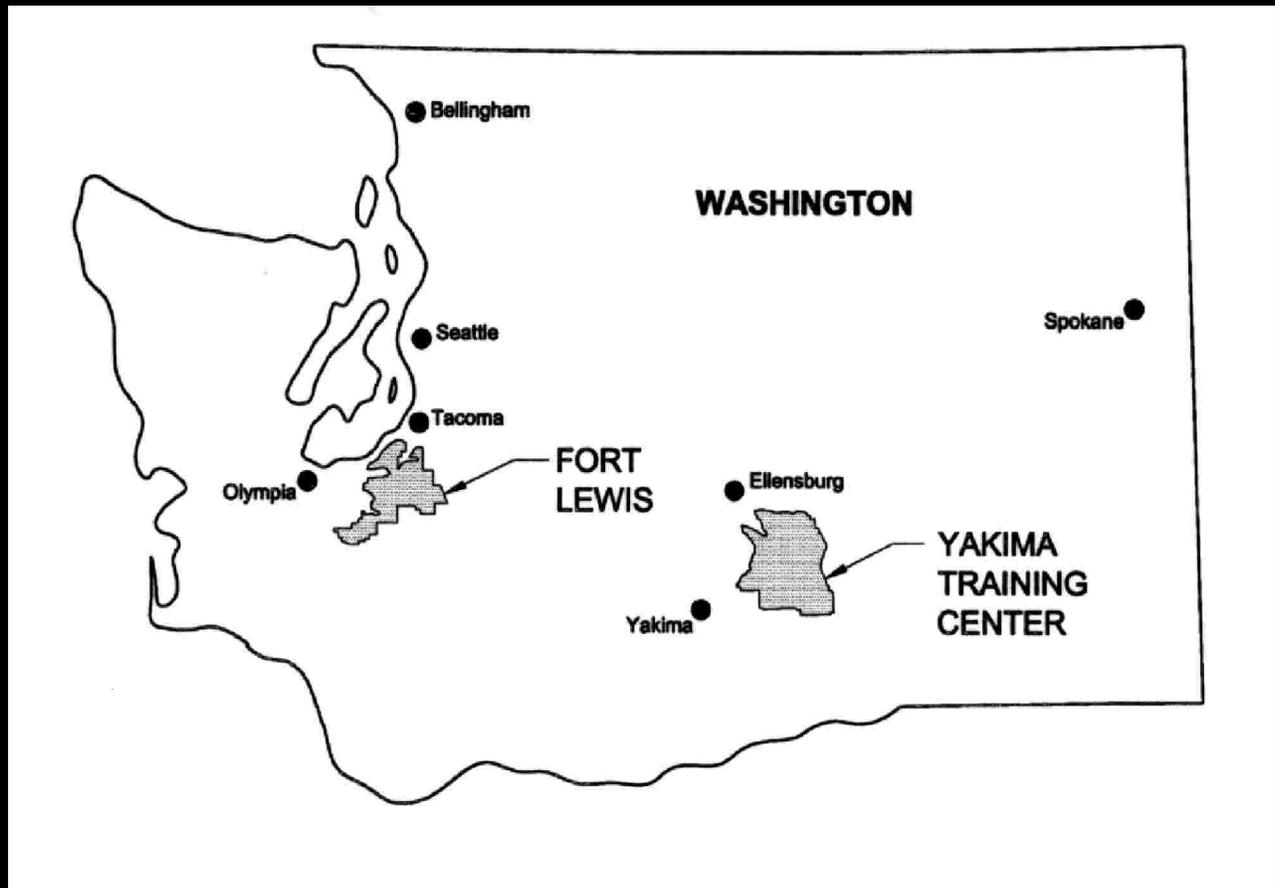
Fort Lewis/ Yakima Training Center



**Grow the Army EIS
Public Scoping Meeting
6 – 8pm**



Location of Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center (YTC)





Why are we here tonight?

- Help the public and stakeholders understand the Grow the Army (GTA) Proposed Action and Alternatives at Fort Lewis and YTC
- Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by soliciting comments from the public and stakeholders on issues and resources to be addressed and analyzed in the GTA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

NEPA and the EIS Process

- An EIS is a document that describes
 - The potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts as a result of a Proposed Action
 - The potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of Alternatives
 - Plans to mitigate the impacts
- Federal agencies are required by NEPA to analyze, document and disclose the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of any proposed action and its Alternatives before any action is taken

Fort Lewis and YTC have determined that an EIS is the appropriate NEPA document for analyzing the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Action.



Purpose of Scoping Under NEPA

- Use as a Planning Tool
 - Identify relevant issues
 - Identify potential impacts
 - Determine appropriate level of analysis
- Ensure Public and Stakeholder Disclosure
 - Provide the public and stakeholders with a clear understanding of the Proposed Action
- Solicit Public and Stakeholder Participation

Public and Stakeholder Participation under NEPA

- NEPA requires solicitation of Public and Stakeholder Participation
 - Engage the public and stakeholders in the decision-making process
 - Written comments are the most effective form of public and stakeholder participation
- Public review and comment opportunities include
 - Initial scoping comments (accepted through February 5, 2009)
 - Review and comment on the Draft EIS (July 2009)
 - Review the Final EIS (November 2009)

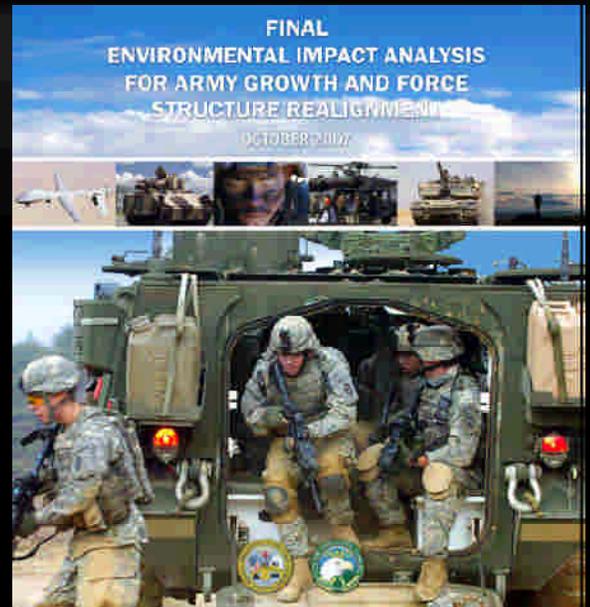


Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

- Purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement the decisions made in the Department of the Army Record of Decision (ROD) for the 2007 GTA Final Programmatic EIS
- Fort Lewis needs to provide for the training, readiness, deployments, administrative functions, and Soldier and Family quality of life elements for those Soldiers stationed at or slated for stationing at Fort Lewis
- Fort Lewis and YTC need to modernize the Cantonment Areas in accordance with the Area Development Plans contained in the Fort Lewis Master Plan

Decisions Made in the 2007 Grow the Army ROD

- Increase force strength across the Army
- Change force size/structure at a number of installations
- The GTA ROD calls for
 - Stationing approximately 1,900 new Soldiers at Fort Lewis
 - Stationing additional units, including an Expeditionary Sustainment Command (approx. 560 Soldiers total)
 - Unit restructuring actions that would increase active duty strength at Fort Lewis by approximately 1,340 Soldiers



Information on the 2007
GTA ROD is available at:
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/nepa/topics00.html>

Alternatives and Site-Specific Actions

- Four Identified Alternatives
- Site-Specific Activities Common to All Alternatives
 - Stationing
 - Training
 - Maneuver
 - Live Fire
 - Construction
 - Cantonment Area Facilities
 - The Cantonment Areas contain government housing areas, schools, troop billets, installation command and control facilities, Gray Army Air Field, Vagabond Army Heliport at YTC, Madigan Army Medical Center, and recreational sites
 - Master Plan/Area Development Plans call for new barracks, housing, and support facilities to be built regardless of Alternative selected
 - Training ranges and facilities





Fort Lewis GTA Alternative 1— Implement Army GTA ROD Decisions

- Train ten Brigades including three Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCTs) and other separate units at Fort Lewis and YTC
- Grow existing units and station new units at Fort Lewis
- Add approx. 1,900 additional active duty personnel by 2011
- Construct planned Cantonment Area and training infrastructure facilities
- Total active duty military and civilian personnel in FY 2013:
 - Military = approx. 36,400
 - Civilian = approx. 11,800



Fort Lewis GTA Alternative 2— Potential Additional Combat Service Support (CSS) Soldiers

Implement Alternative 1, plus

- Potentially assign up to 1,000 CSS Soldiers to Fort Lewis/YTC
 - The CSS Units could consist of Logistic (Sustainment) Units including: Transportation, Quartermaster, Medical, and Headquarters Units
- Add approx. 2,900 additional active duty personnel by 2011
- Total active duty military and civilian personnel in FY 2013
 - Military = approx. 37,400
 - Civilian = approx. 11,800





Fort Lewis GTA Alternative 3— Potentially Assign a Medium Combat Aviation Brigade

Implement Alternative 2, plus

- Potentially assign to Fort Lewis/YTC a medium Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB)
 - Approximately 2,800 troops
 - 110 helicopters
- Add approx. 5,700 additional active duty personnel by 2011
- Total active duty military and civilian personnel in FY 2013
 - Military = approx. 40,200
 - Civilian = approx. 11,800



Fort Lewis GTA Alternative 4— No Action

- This serves as the baseline condition (2008) for analysis and continues to support those stationing decisions that have already been made by Headquarters, Department of Army.
 - Includes stationing actions recommended by the BRAC Commission (BRAC 2005)
 - Includes Army Global Defense Posture Realignment actions that took place prior to 2008
- Site-specific actions at Fort Lewis and YTC to support the Army ROD Decisions would not occur
- Total active duty military and civilian personnel in FY 2008 = approximately 39,900
- Total active duty military and civilian personnel in FY 2013
 - Military = approx. 34,500
 - Civilian = approx. 11,800



Resource Analysis

The resource analysis methodology is based on Valued Environmental Components (VECs), which are environmental resources important to the Fort Lewis and YTC regions.

A systematic approach to impact analysis that consists of:

1. A description of the components of each Alternative
2. Identification of VECs
3. Development of methods to analyze impacts, and
4. Identification of significant criteria to determine the intensity of impacts, and development of mitigation measures that may be applied to reduce or eliminate impacts. Analysis may also include resources and issues identified during scoping.

Resources that may be Analyzed for all Alternatives

- Noise
- Land use conflict/compatibility
- Biological resources
- Wildfire management
- Traffic and transportation
- Cultural resources
- Socioeconomics
- Air quality
- Water resources
- Facilities
- Solid waste/hazardous materials

Public and stakeholder identification and validation of issues and resources that should be analyzed during the EIS process is critical during the scoping period



Fort Lewis GTA EIS Approximate Schedule

Notice of Intent for EIS
Dec 22, 2008

Scoping Process
Dec 2008 – Feb 2009

Draft EIS
Jan – July 2009

Public Comment on
Draft EIS
July – Aug 2009

Final EIS
Aug – Nov 2009

Record of Decision
December 2009

Army conducts scoping and identifies key issues

Public and stakeholders attend scoping meetings and provide comments (comments accepted through February 5, 2009)

Army prepares Draft EIS

Army releases Draft EIS

Public and stakeholders attend DEIS public meetings and provide comments

Army prepares Final EIS

Army releases Final EIS for Review

Army makes Decision and releases Record of Decision

Related Army and Fort Lewis/YTC Actions

- High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)
 - Ongoing Actions: Undergoing impact analyses



- Army's Future Combat Systems
 - Ongoing Actions and other potential proposals not sufficiently advanced for impact analyses



Information on current Environmental Impact Analysis actions is available at

http://www.lewis.army.mil/publicworks/sites/envir/EIA_1.htm

APPENDIX F

SCOPING MEETING HANDOUTS

About Today's Public Scoping Meeting

Welcome to today's public scoping meeting.

The U.S. Army is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of implementing the stationing and realignment decisions of the 2007 "Grow the Army" Programmatic EIS (GTA PEIS) at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center (YTC). The EIS will also analyze Fort Lewis and YTC as a potential location for future stationing of additional Combat Service Support (CSS) Soldiers and a medium Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB). Construction will be required for new training facilities, ranges, and area development projects, such as troop and family housing, administrative facilities, motor pools, child development centers, and infrastructure upgrades.

The EIS will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives that support the 2007 GTA PEIS decisions to station approximately 560 Soldiers and increase existing units by approximately 1320 Soldiers at Fort Lewis. The EIS will also evaluate the potential realignment of up to 1,000 CSS Soldiers and a medium CAB (approximately 2,800 Soldiers) at Fort Lewis and YTC. Under the No Action alternative, actions required to support the stationing decisions of the GTA and related Army initiatives would not be implemented at Fort Lewis and YTC. Additional alternatives may be identified as part of the public scoping process.

Meeting Format

There are 11 stations around the room set up to provide you information about the project. At each station, subject matter experts are available to answer your questions about that aspect of the project. The 11 stations are:

- Project Area
- NEPA, Scoping and EIS Process
- Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action
- 2007 GTA Record of Decision
- Alternatives and Site-Specific Actions
- Alternatives 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Resource Analysis
- Resources That May be Analyzed
- GTA EIS Project Timeline
- Related Actions for the Army, Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center
- Comment Table

Providing Your Comments

There are several ways you can provide your comments. We encourage you to use any of these methods to comment on the EIS. All methods are equally considered, and all are included in the public record. In order for your comment to be part of the public record and considered in the analysis, you **must** submit your comment through one of these methods:

- Written Comment Forms – A comment table is provided for you to write your comments today. If you would like, you may take a comment form with you and return it by regular mail or email.
- Email – If you would like to comment on the project, you may email them to Bill Van Hoesen at bill.vanhoesen@us.army.mil.
- Fax – You may fax your comments to Bill Van Hoesen at 253-966-4985.

To ensure scoping comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than February 5, 2009. Your comments on the alternative locations are important for the successful completion of this stage of the NEPA process.

For more information on the Fort Lewis GTA EIS please visit http://www.lewis.army.mil/publicworks/sites/envir/EIA_2.htm.

Thank you for taking the time to come tonight.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR SCOPING OF THE FORT LEWIS ARMY GROWTH AND FORCE STRUCTURE REALIGNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Background. In December 2007, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, G-3/5/7 (Operations, Plans, and Training), signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the 2007 Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment ("Grow the Army" Final Programmatic EIS or GTA FPEIS). The ROD validated the Army's plan to grow by approximately 74,200 Active and Reserve component Soldiers and to station these additional Soldiers at various specified installations. This growth is intended to mitigate shortages in units, Soldiers, and time to train that would otherwise inhibit the Army from meeting readiness goals and supporting strategic requirements. Specifically, the ROD states that the Army will take the following actions:

- Implement realignments and associated activities between Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 and
- FY 2013 to support the Army's decisions on Modular Transformation and General Defense Posture Realignment (GDPR),
- Add approximately 30,000 Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) Soldiers to the Active and Reserve components of the Army to address critical shortfalls in high-demand military skills, and
- Grow the Army by up to six Active Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs.)

The GTA FPEIS decisions for growth and realignments to be implemented at Fort Lewis and YTC will station approximately 560 additional Active Duty Soldiers including an Expeditionary Sustainment Command at Fort Lewis and augment Fort Lewis' existing units by approximately 1,320 Soldiers.

Purpose. In compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Army analyzed the programmatic environmental effects of the GTA growth and realignment decisions. These effects were documented in the GTA FPEIS. The Army also directed that site-specific analysis under NEPA would be undertaken at the affected installations before the actions were implemented. Fort Lewis and YTC have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the appropriate vehicle to satisfy the NEPA requirements.

Fort Lewis and YTC are initiating the process to prepare an EIS that will analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of implementing the stationing and realignment decisions of the GTA FPEIS ROD. The decision in the GTA FPEIS ROD validates the permanent stationing and training of three Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCTs) simultaneously at Fort Lewis and YTC with the GTA-directed new units being stationed and the other units already training at Fort Lewis and YTC. The EIS will also analyze the impacts of constructing facilities necessary to support these units. The goals of the EIS process, scheduled for completion in December 2009, are to:

- Support the GTA FPEIS decisions,
- Satisfy NEPA requirements, and
- Protect the environment

The Fort Lewis and YTC Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment Environmental Impact Statement (Fort Lewis and YTC GTA EIS). The Fort Lewis and YTC GTA EIS will address the proposed growth and adjustment of the composition of the Army's forces stationed at Fort Lewis in accordance with the ROD for the GTA FPEIS. The Fort Lewis GTA EIS will also analyze Fort Lewis and YTC as a potential location for future stationing of up to 1,000 additional CSS Soldiers and a medium Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB). Construction will be required for new training facilities, ranges, and area development projects, such as troop and family housing, administrative facilities, motor pools, child development centers, and infrastructure upgrades.

The MS will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives that support the 2007 GTA FPEIS decisions and the potential stationing at Fort Lewis of up to 1,000 CSS Soldiers and a 2,800- Soldier medium CAB. Under the No Action alternative, the training and construction required to implement the stationing decisions of the GTA FPEIS and related Army initiatives would not occur at Fort Lewis and YTC. Additional alternatives may be identified as part of the public scoping process.

Public Scoping Meetings. The EIS process will include scoping meetings for the purpose of providing information about the Fort Lewis and YTC GTA EIS and to obtain comments from the public on the proposed action. Fort Lewis and YTC request your participation in the NEPA scoping process and solicit your input. Public scoping meetings will be held at the locations and on the dates and times listed below. Meetings will consist of an open house where personnel from Fort Lewis and YTC will be present to provide information and answer questions. All members of the public, Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties are invited to attend. Fort Lewis and YTC seek comment on the alternatives proposed for analysis, on the proposed scope of analysis, and on other areas of particular concern.

<p>January 20, 2009 Lacey Community Center 6729 Pacific Avenue SE Lacey, WA 98503 6:00-8:00pm</p>	<p>January 21, 2009 Hal Holmes Community Center 209 North Ruby Street Ellensburg, WA 98926 6:00-8:00pm</p>	<p>January 22, 2009 Howard Johnson Plaza 9 North 9th Street Yakima, WA 98901 6:00-8:00pm</p>
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Recognizing that some interested parties may not be able to attend one of these public scoping meetings, a comment form is provided with this fact sheet. To ensure that scoping comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than February 5, 2009.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&A)

Q-1. *What is the basis for the Proposed Action at Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center (YTC)?*

A-1. The Army has determined that its operational requirements are out of balance with the number and types of Soldiers and units that constitute its forces. The December 2007 *Army Record of Decision (ROD) for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment* of its forces determined the Army would increase by 74,200 Soldiers. This decision followed an Army-wide assessment of environmental impacts in the 2007 *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment ("Grow the Army" Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (GTA) PEIS)* which considered a number of alternate stationing scenarios at 17 different Army installations, including Fort Lewis.

Successful implementation of GTA decisions requires the Army to synchronize and integrate its actions with ongoing, interconnected initiatives that are changing the Army's force stationing and organization. These include Base Realignment and Closure 2005, Global Defense Posture Realignment, and transition to the Army Modular Force organization.

If chosen, the Proposed Action would implement the Army decisions in the GTA ROD and ongoing initiatives that pertain to Fort Lewis and YTC.

Q-2. *What is the Proposed Action at Fort Lewis and the YTC?*

A-2. As part of the ROD from the 2007 GTA PEIS, the Army determined that it would station additional units, including an Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and implement unit restructuring that would increase active duty strength at Fort Lewis, WA by approximately 1,900 Soldiers. The Proposed Action also includes the potential stationing of up to approximately 1,000 combat service support Soldiers consisting of quartermaster, medical, transportation or headquarters units to support combat operations, and a Combat Aviation Brigade consisting of approximately 2,800 Soldiers and 110 helicopters.

The Proposed Action consists of the site-specific activities at Fort Lewis and the YTC to implement the decisions from the GTA PEIS ROD and the interconnected Army initiatives essential to successful GTA implementation. These include stationing and unit restructuring, additional maneuver and live fire to support the training of all three Stryker Brigade Combat Teams and other Brigades and units at one time, and construction. Construction will include new training facilities and ranges, cantonment area development projects such as troop and family housing, administrative facilities, motor pools, child development centers, and infrastructure upgrades.

Q-3. *What is the purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army growth at Fort Lewis and the YTC?*

A-3. The purpose of the Fort Lewis/YTC EIS is to provide a full and fair assessment of environmental and socioeconomic impacts resulting from the reasonable alternatives for the Proposed Action and to make this information available to the public. The EIS process will also ensure that government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public have an opportunity to provide input on the scope of the EIS and the ES itself. Preparation of the EIS will ensure that the

decision maker is fully informed as to the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of implementing the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action before making a final decision.

Q-4. *What actions and alternatives will be assessed in the Fort Lewis/YTC site-specific EIS?*

A-4. The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action at Fort Lewis and the YTC. Reasonable alternatives will include stationing, construction and training activities to successfully implement the GTA and related Army initiatives, and activities necessary to support the potential stationing of additional combat service support units and a Combat Aviation Brigade. Under the No Action alternative, the proposed site-specific actions to implement the decisions of the GTA and related Army initiatives would not be implemented at Fort Lewis and YTC. Other alternatives may be identified as part of the public scoping process.

Q-5. *What opportunities will be available for public involvement?*

A-5. The public is invited to participate in defining the important environmental quality issues and alternatives to be evaluated through a process called "scoping." The public will also have the opportunity to comment on the manner in which the Army considered the potential for impacts on the human environment through the 45-day Draft EIS process. Public service announcements, advertisements in local newspapers and other publications, and notification to interested groups, individuals and agencies through letters and emails will be used to give as much advance notice as possible of meetings, comment review periods, and availability and location of documents for review.

Q-6. *What environmental concerns will be identified in the EIS?*

A-6. Resource areas that have been identified by Fort Lewis, the public through scoping, and other agency resource managers as potential environmental concerns and will be considered or analyzed in detail in the Army Growth EIS include, but are not limited to, biological resources (including special status species), water resources, traffic and transportation, historic and cultural resources, land use, air quality, noise, utilities and public services, solid and hazardous materials/waste, environmental justice, and cumulative impacts. The Army Growth EIS will evaluate these and other pertinent environmental and socioeconomic impacts and relate them to Fort Lewis' sustainability mission and long-term sustainability goals. In addition, the Army Growth EIS will identify potential mitigation measures to address adverse impacts from implementation of the Proposed Action and the alternatives.

Q-7. *Who will be involved in the completion of this EIS?*

A-7. The public, local communities, environmental organizations, Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, if appropriate state tribes, and numerous State and Federal agencies will be involved in the completion of this EIS.

Please fold in thirds, staple and affix postage.

Public Works
US Army Environmental Center
Building E4460, 5179 Hoadley Road
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401

Affix Postage

Public Works
Attn: Bill Van Hoesen
Bldg 2012 Liggett Avenue
MS 17 Box 339500
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500

APPENDIX G

WRITTEN SCOPING COMMENTS

Womack, Carrie

From: Cameron, David
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 9:40 AM
To: Stevens, Robin
Subject: Email for Scoping Report Documentation

FYI for Scoping Report

From: Larson, Ian W CTR USA [mailto:ian.w.larson@us.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 10:28 AM
To: Cameron, David
Subject: FW: Public Notice EIS

FYI

From: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2009 7:55 AM
To: 'Beth Elliott'
Subject: RE: Public Notice EIS

Ms. Elliott,

We will notify you by email when the documents are available. You can track our ongoing actions at:

http://www.lewis.army.mil/publicworks/sites/envir/EIA_1.htm

Bill

From: Beth Elliott [mailto:bethelliott1953@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 8:25 PM
To: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Subject: Re: Public Notice EIS

Hi Bill,

Thank you for your prompt response. Yes, I would like to be notified of the availability of the EIS.

Beth

On Mon, Jan 5, 2009 at 10:11 AM, Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM <bill.vanhoesen@us.army.mil> wrote:

Ms. Elliott,

We do understand that our scoping meeting is on this special occasion. In order to stay on the schedule our higher headquarters have given us and allow ample opportunity for the public to comment on the action prior to release of the draft environmental impact statement, these dates were selected. We also know that all of the inauguration events will be over before the start of our scoping meeting start time.

Since the scoping meetings have already been advertized, we will hold them as scheduled.

Thank you for your concern though over our process.

Also, would you like to be notified by email of the availability of the EIS for this action?

Jay Mathews has been added to this distribution as he is with the Garrison Commander's Public Affairs Office.

Bill Van Hoesen
NEPA Program Manager
Fort Lewis

From: Beth Elliott [mailto:bethelliott1953@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2009 9:30 AM

To: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM

Subject: Public Notice EIS

Good morning Bill,

I was very disappointed when I read about the date of the upcoming opportunity to discuss the impacts of army growth in Fort Lewis. January 20th is the date of the inauguration of our new president. I find it odd that a meeting would be held on that date. Could this meeting be changed to another date?

I look forward to your response.

Beth Elliott

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Environmental Impact Statement to Analyze the Impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center

Thank you for your interest in this Project. Please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the Project mailing list and to provide any comments or questions you would like addressed. You may submit your comments verbally or in writing in the space provided below and submit them either at the open house or by mail to the address specified on the back of this form. Comments may also be emailed to Bill Van Hoesen at bill.vanhoesen@us.army.mil.

PLEASE PRINT

Carol Martinez

Name

S. Martinez Livestock

Organization

13391 Hwy 24

Street Address

(509) 248-7967

Daytime Phone No. (optional)

MOXEE WA 98936

City

State

Zip Code

e-mail address (optional)

Please indicate any questions or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on back or additional pages if necessary).

*As a neighbor on your south boundary -
I am concerned about fire danger with
the increased target practice. Would like to
see contained or increased measures to
prevent range fires*

To ensure scoping comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than February 5, 2009.

Thank you for your time and interest in the Fort Lewis GTA EIS Project.

Please fold in thirds, staple and affix postage.

Public Works
US Army Environmental Center
Building E4460, 5179 Hoadley Road
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401

Affix Postage

Public Works
Attn: Bill Van Hoesen
Bldg 2012 Liggett Avenue
MS 17 Box 339500
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500

Received 1-22-09 Yakima

Womack, Carrie

From: Cameron, David
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 9:41 AM
To: Stevens, Robin
Subject: Information for Ft Lewis GTA EIS Scoping Report

Importance: High

FYI for Scoping Report

-----Original Message-----

From: Larson, Ian W CTR USA [mailto:ian.w.larson@us.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 9:57 AM
To: Cameron, David
Subject: FW: Public meeting on Yakima Firing Center 1/22/2009
Importance: High

Dave,

FYI. As you requested, we will forward these to you as we receive them.

Ian

-----Original Message-----

From: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 8:51 AM
To: Larson, Ian W CTR USA
Subject: FW: Public meeting on Yakima Firing Center 1/22/2009
Importance: High

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: DaveHeitzman@BoiseBuilding.com [mailto:DaveHeitzman@BoiseBuilding.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Subject: FW: Public meeting on Yakima Firing Center 1/22/2009
Importance: High

From: Heitzman, Dave
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 9:07 AM
To: 'bill.vanhoesen@us.military.mil'
Subject: Public meeting on Yakima Firing Center 1/22/2009
Importance: High

I plan on attending tonight's meeting, but one of my coworkers wanted me to ask a question for him. With increased usage of the center, how will this effect Deer and Elk hunting currently allowed at the center by citizens?

Boise Building Distribution

Dave Heitzman

Product Manager

1512 S 1st St.

Yakima Wa. 98901

1-800-572-3682

Womack, Carrie

From: Cameron, David
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 9:39 AM
To: Stevens, Robin
Subject: FW: BRAC News Clips 12-30-08 Group 3

FYI for Scoping Report

From: Larson, Ian W CTR USA [mailto:ian.w.larson@us.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 10:29 AM
To: Cameron, David
Subject: FW: BRAC News Clips 12-30-08 Group 3

FYI

From: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 3:39 PM
To: 'Deborah Johnson'
Cc: David Bugher; Ellie Chambers; Dan Penrose; Jeff Brewster
Subject: RE: BRAC News Clips 12-30-08 Group 3

Ms. Johnson,

When "Grow the Army" documentation is ready for review, I will send you email announcements. Our EIA website is:

http://www.lewis.army.mil/publicworks/sites/envir/EIA_1.htm

Bill

From: Deborah Johnson [mailto:DJohnson@cityoflakewood.us]
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 12:06 PM
To: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Cc: David Bugher; Ellie Chambers; Dan Penrose; Jeff Brewster
Subject: FW: BRAC News Clips 12-30-08 Group 3

Please provide the City of Lakewood with a copy of the DEIS referenced in the attached document when it is available (CD format is fine). It would best facilitate staff review if it were addressed either to me or Dave Bugher. Thanks-

Deborah Johnson
Senior Planner
Lakewood Community Development Dept.
6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499-5027
Voice: 253.983.7770
Fax: 253.512.2268

All e-mail correspondence to and from this address is subject to the Washington State Public Records Act, which may result in monitoring and archiving, as well as disclosure to third parties upon request.

From: Ojennus, Matthew (CTED) [mailto:MatthewO@CTED.WA.GOV]
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 7:47 AM
To: Andrew Fuller; Andy Demott; David Condon; Ed O'Neill; evan_schatz@murray.senate.gov; Jan Shinpoch; Jasper

MacSlarrow; Mark.Middaugh@mail.house.gov; Nick Shipley; pete.mills@mail.house.gov; Sally Hintz; Sara Crumb; Sean Hughes; Tom Young; Bahrenburg, Brent (CTED); Bauer, Leonard (CTED); Lawhead, Terry (CTED); Ojennus, Matthew (CTED); Williams, Larry (CTED); Baldwin, Marc (OFM); Clark, Dennis; Lefberg, Irv; Lin, Ta-Win; Schmidt, Jim; icedc@whidbey.net; ingrids@co.isalnd.wa.us; Jill@oakharborchamber.com; mcdowell@whidbey.net; Patty Cohen; Stan Stanley; stewart@kitsapeda.org; Don Burger; mcclure@kitsapregionalcouncil.org; Diane Smith; Leathers.Kathryn@leg.wa.gov; Mac Nicholson; Marsha Reilly; Bickford, Nancy (MIL); everirde@dfw.wa.gov; davistmd@dfw.wa.gov; andrejga@dfw.wa.gov; tnor461@ECY.WA.GOV; robbins@wsdot.wa.gov; Deborah Johnson; Dick Muri; Donna Stenger; Gary Brackett; Robert Allen; Louise Stanton-Masten; Pat McClain; Paul Roberts; Angela Naccarato; ed.neunherz@globalcu.org; Greg Bever; Joe Tortorelli; Rich Hadley

Cc: Dunn, Karen (CTED); McArthur, Karen (CTED); Sullivan, Marie (CTED); Wilkerson, Juli (CTED)

Subject: BRAC News Clips 12-30-08 Group 3

Matthew Ojennus
Military Community Assistance Coordinator
Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development
PO Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

Phone: (360) 725-4047
Fax: (360) 586-0873
Email: matthewo@cted.wa.gov

CTED is taking part in a Washington State government six-month trial of a 4/10 work week beginning October 6, 2008. During the trial, operational office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CTED offices in Olympia will be closed for business Friday through Sunday, from October 10, 2008 through March 2009.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

February 4, 2009

Reply To: EPTA – 088

Ref.: 08-069-DoD

Paul T. Steucke, Jr.
Department of the Army
Directorate of Public Works
IMWE-LEW-PWE MS 17, Box 339500
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500

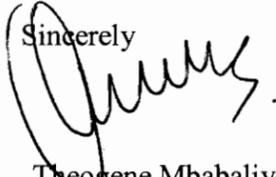
Dear Mr. Steucke:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Department of Defense (DoD) Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for **Army Growth at Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center (YTC)** in WA. Our review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309 specifically directs EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions. Under our policies and procedures, we also evaluate the document's adequacy in meeting NEPA requirements.

According to the NOI, DoD proposes to analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts that would result from construction and training activities to support potential stationing of additional combat service support (CSS) units and a Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) at Fort Lewis and YTC. The proposed project implements stationing and realignment decisions made in the 2007 Grow the Army Programmatic EIS (GTA PEIS) and other ongoing Army realignment and stationing initiatives that pertain to Fort Lewis and YTC. These stationing and unit restructuring actions would include increased intensity of use of maneuver and live-fire training areas, and construction of new training facilities and ranges, and cantonment area development projects such as troop and family housing, administrative facilities, motor pools, child development centers; and infrastructure upgrades.

The NOI identifies a preliminary list of environmental resources to be addressed in the EIS that include, but are not limited to, air and water quality, cultural resources, sensitive species and habitats, soil erosion, traffic and transportation, noise, socioeconomic, land use, utilities, and solid and hazardous materials/waste. Even though this list of resources is appropriate for the proposed project, we are offering the following scoping comments to inform DoD of issues that EPA believes should be considered as the EIS process for the project moves forward.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the preparation of the EIS for this project and look forward to continued participation in this process as more information becomes available. If you have questions about our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-6322.

Sincerely

Theogene Mbabaliye
NEPA Review Unit

**EPA Scoping Comments on proposed
Army Growth at Fort Lewis and the YTC, WA**

Environmental effects

The EIS should include environmental effects and mitigation measures. This would involve delineation and description of the affected environment, indication of resources that would be impacted, the nature of the impacts, and a listing of mitigation measures for the impacts. The proposed activities may result in adverse impacts to a variety of resources, including water, soil, vegetation, wildlife and their habitat, biodiversity, land use, and climate change. These and other impacts should be reduced to protect human health and the environment.

Water resources impacts

Water quality degradation is one of EPA's primary concerns. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires States and Tribes to identify water bodies that do not meet water quality standards and to develop water quality restoration plans to meet established water quality criteria and associated beneficial uses. The EIS must disclose which waters may be impacted by the project, the nature of potential impacts, and specific pollutants likely to impact those waters. It should also report those water bodies potentially affected by the project that are listed on the States and Tribes' most current EPA approved 303(d) list. The EIS document should describe existing restoration and enhancement efforts for those waters, how the proposed project will coordinate with on-going protection efforts, and any mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid further degradation of impaired waters.

Public drinking water supplies and/or their source areas often exist in many watersheds. It is possible that source water areas exist within watersheds in which the project sites and associated facilities would be located. Source water is water from streams, rivers, lakes, springs, and aquifers that is used as a supply of drinking water. Source water areas are delineated and mapped by the states for each federally-regulated public water system. The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) require federal agencies to protect sources of drinking water for communities. As a result, state agencies have been delegated responsibility to conduct source water assessments and provide a database of information about the watersheds and aquifers that supply public water systems.

Since construction and operation of the project may impact sources of drinking water, EPA recommends that DoD contact Washington State Department of Ecology to help identify source water protection areas within the project areas. Typical databases may contain GIS and Access information of the watersheds and aquifer recharge areas, the most sensitive zones within those areas, and the numbers and types of potential contaminant sources identified for each system. The EIS document should identify all:

- a) Source water protection areas within the project area.
- b) Activities that could potentially affect source water areas.
- c) Potential contaminants that may result from the proposed project.
- d) Measures that would be taken to protect the source water protection areas.

Construction of facilities and cantonment developments would require infrastructure, including machinery to transport materials and for construction of new access roads and buildings. Roads often contribute more sediment to streams than any other management activity and interrupt the subsurface flow of water. Roads and their use also contribute to habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance and the introduction or exacerbation of noxious weeds. The EIS should therefore include data about existing road networks and evaluate the change in road miles and density that will occur due to the project and predicted impacts to water quality by roads. The EIS should note that, under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), any construction project disturbing a land area of one or more acres requires a construction storm water discharge permit or the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for discharges to waters of the U.S. The EIS should document the project's consistency with applicable storm water permitting requirements and should discuss specific mitigation measures that may be necessary or beneficial in reducing adverse impacts to water quality.

Construction of facilities and access roads may also compact the soil, thus changing hydrology, runoff characteristics, and ecological function of the area, affecting flows and delivery of pollutants to water bodies. Therefore, the EIS should include a detailed discussion of the cumulative effects from this and other projects on the hydrologic conditions of the proposed project area. The document should clearly depict reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to groundwater and surface water resources. For groundwater, the potentially affected groundwater basin should be identified and any potential for subsidence and impacts to springs or other open water bodies and biologic resources should be analyzed.

Wetlands and riparian areas

The EIS should use existing plans to identify aquatic resources that would be potentially impacted by construction and operation of the proposed project. DoD should coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the proposed project requires a Section 404 permit under the CWA. Section 404 regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands and other special aquatic sites. The EIS should describe all waters of the U.S. that could be affected by the project alternatives, and include maps that clearly identify all waters within the project area. The discussion should include acreages and channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of these waters. EPA strongly encourages early coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

If a permit is required, EPA will review the project for compliance with *Federal Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Materials* (40 CFR 230), promulgated pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA ("404(b)(1) Guidelines"). Pursuant to 40 CFR 230, any permitted discharge into waters of the U.S. must be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) available to achieve the project purpose. The EIS should include an evaluation of the project alternatives in this context in order to demonstrate the project's compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. If, under the proposed project, dredged or fill material would be discharged into waters of the U.S., the EIS should discuss alternatives to avoid those discharges. If a discharge to waters of the U.S. becomes necessary, the EIS should discuss how potential impacts would be minimized and mitigated. This discussion should include:

- (a) Acreage and habitat type of waters of the U.S. that would be created or restored.
- (b) Water sources to maintain the mitigation area.
- (c) Re-vegetation plans, including the numbers and age of each species to be planted, as well as special techniques that may be necessary for planting.
- (d) Maintenance and monitoring plans, including performance standards to determine mitigation success.
- (e) Size and location of mitigation zones.
- (f) Parties that would be ultimately responsible for the plan's success.
- (g) Contingency plans that would be enacted if the original plan fails.

Mitigation should be implemented in advance of the impacts to avoid habitat losses due to the lag time between the occurrence of the impact and successful mitigation.

Hazardous Materials

If hazardous materials will be used during construction and operation of the proposed actions, the EIS should address potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of such hazardous materials. Toxic materials may be released to the environment during operations or because of accidents. Therefore, the EIS should describe such operations, measures that will be taken to minimize the chances of accidents, and emergency response measures that would be taken should an accident occur. In particular, the EIS should address the applicability of state and federal hazardous waste requirements, and appropriate mitigation measures to minimize the generation of hazardous materials. EPA recommends that the EIS also address the issue of spill and leak prevention, planning, and clean up.

If any pesticides and herbicides will be used on project sites, the EIS should address any potential toxic hazards related to the application of the chemicals, and describe what actions will be taken to assure that impacts by toxic substances released to the environment will be minimized. Executive Order 13112, *Invasive Species* (February 3, 1999), mandates that federal agencies take actions to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause. The EIS should include a project design feature that calls for the development of an invasive plant management plan to monitor and control noxious weeds, and to utilize native plants for restoration of disturbed areas after construction.

Air quality impacts

The protection of air quality should be addressed in the EIS. The types of fuels to be used during construction activities, increased traffic during operations, and related VOC and NOx emissions should be disclosed and the relative effects on air quality and human health evaluated. Dust particulates from construction activities and ongoing operation of the roadways are important concerns, as discussed previously. The EIS should evaluate air quality impacts, and detail mitigation steps that will be taken to minimize associated impacts. This analysis should also address and disclose the project's potential affect on: all criteria pollutants under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), including ozone; visibility impairment, and air quality related values (AQRV) in the protection of any affected Class I Areas, any significant concentrations of hazardous air pollutants, and protection of public health.

Land use impacts

Land use impacts would include, but not be limited to, disturbance of existing land uses on the proposed action sites and surround areas during construction, operations, and maintenance of facilities. The EIS should document all land cover and uses within the project area, impacts by the project to the land cover and uses, and mitigation measures that would be implemented to reduce the impacts.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act was enacted in 1981 to minimize the unnecessary impacts to farmlands, especially impacts that would reduce agricultural uses of farms because of federal actions. The Act also seeks to assure that federal programs are administered in a manner that will be compatible with state and local policies and programs that have been developed to protect farmlands. Because of construction and operation of the project, EPA is concerned that agricultural lands could be impacted, especially around the YTC where irrigation systems and drainages exist, and wildlife habitats are often associated with agricultural lands. Agricultural lands that are contiguous to environmentally sensitive areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, and aquifer recharge zones play important roles in buffering these sensitive areas from development and should be protected. We recommend that the EIS discuss impacts to farmlands, indicate acres that would be affected, which crops would be affected, and what will be done to restore farmlands and compensate landowners for losses incurred due to the project. The policy of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is to protect significant agricultural lands from conversions that are irreversible and result in the loss of an essential food and environmental resources.

The primary impact of construction and cantonment developments on forests and other open land use types, such as rangelands, would be the removal of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation. Although these can be regenerated or replanted, their re-establishment can take up a long time, making the construction impacts to these resources long term and in some cases permanent. The impact on forest land use, for example, in cantonment areas would be a permanent change to open land. The EIS should describe the impacts to forest and open land use types, indicate if the impacts would be permanent or temporary, and state measures that would be taken to compensate for the loss of such resources because of the proposed actions.

If the project would use special areas such as Wildlife Refuges, Parkways, and other areas, then the EIS should specify the areas, indicate impacts to the areas, and document any conditions for use of the areas, including mitigation measures.

Cumulative effects

The Council on Environmental Quality definition of *cumulative impact* is "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions". The cumulative impacts analysis should therefore provide the context for understanding the magnitude of the impacts of the alternatives by analyzing the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects or actions and then considering those cumulative impacts in their entirety. The EIS should include and analyze present and reasonably foreseeable projects and actions proximate to the proposed project area and vicinity. Where adverse cumulative impacts may exist, the EIS should disclose the parties that would be responsible for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating those adverse impacts.

The EIS should clearly identify the resources that may be cumulatively impacted, the time over which impacts are going to occur, and the geographic area that will be impacted by the proposed project. The focus should be on resources of concern - those resources that are at risk and/or are significantly impacted by the proposed project before mitigation. In the introduction to the *Cumulative Impacts Section*, identify which resources are analyzed, which ones are not, and why. For each resource analyzed, the EIS should:

- a. Identify the current condition of the resource as a measure of past impacts. For example, the percentage of species habitat lost to date.
- b. Identify the trend in the condition of the resource as a measure of present impacts. For example, the health of the resource is improving, declining, or in stasis.
- c. Identify the future condition of the resource based on an analysis of the cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable projects or actions added to existing conditions and current trends. For example, what will the future condition of the watershed be?
- d. Assess the cumulative impacts contribution of the proposed alternatives to the long-term health of the resource, and provide a specific measure for the projected impact from the proposed alternatives.
- e. Disclose the parties that would be responsible for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating those adverse impacts.
- f. Identify opportunities to avoid and minimize impacts, including working with other entities.

Endangered Species Act

The proposed project may impact endangered, threatened or candidate species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), their habitats, as well as state sensitive species. Evaluation of the proposed project should identify the endangered, threatened, and candidate species under ESA, and other sensitive species within the project corridor and surrounding areas. The EIS should describe the critical habitat for the species; identify any impacts the project will have on the species and their critical habitats; and how the proposed project will meet all requirements under ESA, including consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The EIS may need to include a biological assessment and a description of the outcome of consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The Department of Defense actions should promote the recovery of declining populations of species.

Coordination with Tribal Governments

The EIS should describe the process and outcomes of government-to-government consultation between DoD and each of the tribal governments that would be affected by the project, issues that were raised, if any, and how those issues were addressed.

Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* (November 6, 2000), was issued in order to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have tribal implications, and to strengthen the U.S. government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes.

Environmental Justice and Public Participation

The EIS should include an evaluation of environmental justice populations within the geographic scope of the project. If such populations exist, the EIS should address the potential for disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations, and the approaches used to foster public participation by these populations. Assessment of the project's impact on minority and low-income populations should reflect coordination with those affected populations. One tool available to locate Environmental Justice populations is the Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment tool, which is available online at: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/ej>.

The EIS must demonstrate that communities bearing disproportionately high and adverse effects have had meaningful input into the decisions being made about the project. The EIS needs to include information describing what was done to inform the communities about the project and the potential impacts it will have on their communities (notices, mailings, fact sheets, briefings, presentations, exhibits, tours, news releases, translations, newsletters, reports, community interviews, surveys, canvassing, telephone hotlines, question and answer sessions, stakeholder meetings, and on-scene information), what input was received from the communities, and how that input was utilized in the decisions that were made regarding the project.

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (February 11, 1994), directs federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations, allowing those populations a meaningful opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

Climate Change

Scientific evidence supports the concern that continued increases in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activities contribute to climate change. Effects of climate change may include changes in hydrology, sea level, weather patterns, precipitation rates, and chemical reaction rates. Therefore, the EIS document should consider how resources affected by climate change could potentially influence the proposed project and vice versa, especially within sensitive areas. Also, the EIS should quantify and disclose greenhouse gas emissions from the project and discuss mitigation measures to reduce emissions.

Monitoring

The proposed project has the potential to impact a variety of resources and for an extended period. As a result, we recommend that the project be designed to include an environmental inspection and mitigation monitoring program to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures and assess their effectiveness. The EIS document should describe the monitoring program and how it will be used as an effective feedback mechanism so that any needed adjustments can be made to the project to meet environmental objectives throughout the life of the project.

Please fold in thirds, staple and affix postage.

PUBLIC WORKS
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FORT LEWIS, WA 98433-9500



Affix
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PUBLIC WORKS
BLDG 2012 LIGGETT AVENUE
ATTN: Bill Van Hoesen
BOX 339500 MS-17
FORT LEWIS WA 98433-9500

98433+9500



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Environmental Impact Statement to Analyze the Impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center

Thank you for your interest in this Project. Please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the Project mailing list and to provide any comments or questions you would like addressed. You may submit your comments verbally or in writing in the space provided below and submit them either at the open house or by mail to the address specified on the back of this form. Comments may also be emailed to Bill Van Hoesen at bill.vanhoesen@us.army.mil.

PLEASE PRINT

<i>HOWARD BRIGGS</i>			_____
Name	Organization		
<i>671 HIGHLINE LOOP</i>			
Street Address			Daytime Phone No. (optional)
<i>CLE ELUM WA. 98922</i>			
City	State	Zip Code	e-mail address (optional)

Please indicate any questions or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on back or additional pages if necessary).

This is an important Army training Base! There should be NO restrictions on military use of this entire area. All environmental restrictions should be waived and live fire training must be allowed anywhere within the base - as needed. Military bases around the U.S.A. are having too many restrictions of uses put on them at a time when we need to have the best trained armed forces in the world -

To ensure scoping comments are fully considered in the Draft EIS, comments and suggestions should be received no later than February 5, 2009.

Thank you for your time and interest in the Fort Lewis GTA EIS Project.

Please fold in thirds, staple and affix postage.

Public Works
US Army Environmental Center
Building E4460, 5179 Hoadley Road
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401

Affix Postage

Public Works
Attn: Bill Van Hoesen
Bldg 2012 Liggett Avenue
MS 17 Box 339500
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500

Received 1-21-09 Ellensburg

January 27, 2009

The Nature Conservancy
120 E Union Ave # 215
Olympia, WA 98501
360-701-8803



Public Works
Attn: Bill Van Hoesen
Bldg 2012 Liggett Avenue
MS 17 Box 339500
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500

Greetings Mr. Van Hoesen:

This aim of this letter is to provide comment for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public scoping as part of the National Environmental Policy Act requirements for the proposed Grow the Army (GTA) actions at Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center (YTC) in Washington State.

If not planned appropriately, increased training capacity at Fort Lewis and YTC could incur serious negative effects to rare species and habitats that occur on the installations. Fortunately, Fort Lewis and YTC are well positioned to plan and provide relief for these potential effects. The relatively large land base, committed leadership of the Department of Defense (DOD), Fort Lewis, and YTC, the relative flexibility in when and where actions are applied combine to create a positive situation in which deleterious effects to species can be minimized. The well-established cooperative conservation community in South Puget Sound, of which Fort Lewis has been a long-standing and active member, can provide substantial assistance in seeking proactive solutions that meet the Army's needs as well as those mutual goals shared by conservation partners. Long-standing community and agency partnerships at YTC will also provide a context for seeking solutions to rare species and ecosystem protection within changing training needs.

The prairies and oak woodlands of the South Puget Sound are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States. Fort Lewis retains the largest expanse and highest quality prairie habitat throughout the entire ecoregion, which extends from central Oregon to British Columbia. The fragility of this habitat is evidenced in the number of rare species that depend upon it, several of which are Federal candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Fort Lewis is the sole ownership in the ecoregion that retains populations of all the candidate prairie species. Should any of these species become listed, considerable training restrictions could be imposed by the USFWS.

The importance and dedication toward recovering the rare prairie species is reflected in the regional emphasis on restoring prairie habitat in western Washington from local, state, and federal resource agencies as well as private entities such as The Nature Conservancy. The Department of Defense, as well as the Fort Lewis Installation itself has also demonstrated their commitment to restoring prairie habitat and recovering its rare species in many ways. There has been substantial investment of DOD funds toward the effort including direct Fort Lewis funds, as well as sizeable grants from the Legacy Resource Management Program and the Army Compatible Use Buffer program.

However, despite significant steps forward by the myriad conservation partners, several of the species' populations continue to decline and are considerably imperiled. It is the recommendation of The Nature Conservancy that actions which directly impact prairie habitat occupied by these rare species be shifted in time and space to accommodate biologically sensitive time periods such as spring breeding and areas such as high species concentrations. We suggest the DOD integrates in the 2009 EIS up to date information regarding the current threats and status of all federal and state listed, candidate, and species of concern that occur on the installation.

The current Fort Lewis EIS defined strategies to protect and maintain rare species populations on Fort Lewis, such as Research Natural Areas. Unfortunately, in the ensuing years since its publication, many of the species' populations have continued to decline and their federal and state conservation statuses have been raised. The actions outlined in 1997 are insufficient to address the severity of threats for today's populations and do not address additional and synergistic threats that have since become evident, such as the threat of climate change. New and innovative actions need to be defined to address these threats in relation to the proposed GTA actions.

The information outlined in the documents provided by the Army, including the "Background Information for Scoping of the Fort Lewis Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment Environmental Impact Statement", are general in nature. It is difficult to provide detailed comment on the impacts to the rare species without knowing the detailed actions themselves, as well as their spatial and temporal influence. The Nature Conservancy views the production of the 2009 EIS as an opportunity to work proactively with Fort Lewis, YTC and the Army Environmental Command (AEC) to generate solutions that meet the needs of all entities. We believe that there are positive opportunities for mitigation on-base as well within a regional perspective beyond the installation boundaries. The Conservancy would be pleased to share our ideas, data and expertise as well as connect AEC and the consultants working on the EIS with representatives of the prairie conservation community in the South Puget Sound and beyond.

The Nature Conservancy looks forward to a continued positive relationship with Fort Lewis and the Department of Defense and to working collaboratively to define solutions that support our national security in concert with the conservation of our unique biological resources.

Thank you,

Patrick Dunn
South Sound Program Director
The Nature Conservancy



Pierce County

Public Works and Utilities

Brian J. Ziegler, P.E.

Director

Brian.Ziegler@co.pierce.wa.us

Transportation Services

2702 South 42nd Street, Suite 201
Tacoma, Washington 98409-7322
(253) 798-7250 • FAX (253) 798-2740

February 3, 2009

Mr. Bill Van Hoesen
Department of the Army
Installation Management Command
United States Army Garrison, Fort Lewis
Box 339500, Mail Stop 17
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500

Re: Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (GTA PEIS)

Dear Mr. Van Hoesen:

The Pierce County Public Works Traffic Engineering Division received the notification letter requesting comments and input for preparation of the "Grow the Army" Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on January 6, 2009. The notification letter and subsequent information provided by your office estimates that the "Grow the Army" initiative may result in an additional 8,200 additional personnel at Fort Lewis and potentially 2,000 new civilian positions, increasing the employment on the military base by over 10,000 personnel by the year 2013. We have several questions and comments to provide as part of the scoping process for the draft EIS.

Since this project is not under Pierce County jurisdiction, and thus not subject to Traffic Impact Fees (TIF), the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will need to evaluate any significant traffic impacts based on standard SEPA/NEPA requirements. In addition to the I-5 corridor, the EIS needs to evaluate and address these potential impacts to the Pierce County road system, particularly the County arterials on the east side of Fort Lewis, including but not limited to Spanaway Loop Road South, Military Road South, 176th Street East, and Cross-Base Highway. The EIS also needs to include discussion of all proposed traffic mitigation, including assumptions relative to the cost and funding of any proposed mitigation as part of the analysis.

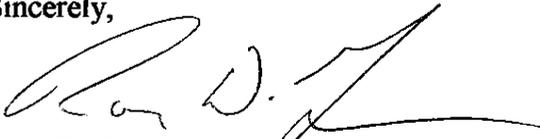
The horizon year used in the study should assume full implementation of the "Grow the Army" Initiative and the study should also indicate the assumptions used to project background growth in existing traffic volumes out to the horizon year. The recommended horizon year based on full implementation is 2013. Multi-modal solutions should also be considered as a part of the proposed traffic mitigation.



Bill Van Hoesen
Department of the Army
February 3, 2009
Page 2

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to participate in the scoping of the draft EIS. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Jane Parr, P.E., Transportation Engineer at 253-798-2249.

Sincerely,



Rory D. Grindley P.E., PTOE
Associate County Traffic Engineer

RDG:MJP:ts

cc: Brian D. Stacy, P.E., County Engineer
James W. Ellison, P.E., County Traffic Engineer
Gary N. Proedehl, P.E., Transportation Planning and Programming Manager
Jesse Hamashima, Transportation Planning Supervisor
Jane Parr, P.E., Transportation Engineer,
Steve Winter, Transportation Engineer
Adonais Clark, Senior Planner, Resource Management, Pierce County PALS
Dan Cardwell, Senior Planner, Advance Planning, Pierce County PALS
Dan Penrose, Project Manager, City of Lakewood
Debra Johnson, Senior Planner, City of Lakewood
File

Womack, Carrie

From: Stevens, Robin
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 9:36 AM
To: Stevens, Robin
Subject: FW: Grow the Army EIS
Attachments: public notice 010409.pdf

From: Larson, Ian W CTR USA [mailto:ian.w.larson@us.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 10:28 AM
To: Cameron, David
Subject: FW: Go the Army EIS

FYI

From: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 11:27 AM
To: 'Steve Chamberlain'
Cc: Mathews, Jay C CIV USA IMCOM
Subject: RE: Go the Army EIS

Mr. Chamberlain,

We are conducting public scoping meetings later this month. We encourage all interested parties to attend these meetings so we can identify issues and any potential mitigation measures related to this Army action. I have attached a file of the public notice we recently placed in several western and central Washington newspapers.

I hope you can attend so the contractor we have preparing the impact analysis can further discuss the issues you presented below.

Thanks,

Bill Van Hoesen

Fort Lewis NEPA Pgm Mgr

From: Steve Chamberlain [mailto:slc@slcemail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2009 11:45 AM
To: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Subject: Go the Army EIS

Hi Bill my name is Steve Chamberlain. I represent some major land holdings of approx 1500 acres adjacent to Fort Lewis property in the City of Yelm. We just recently completed an EIS and entitlements of 2 Master Planned Community projects involving over 6000 lots, several hundred acres of open space, commercial and recreational amenities, basically creating an entire city within a city. I would be very interested in reviewing any preliminary info you can provide me prior to the January 20th open house on your project. I am also interested in exploring how the above referenced projects might in some way address or mitigate some of the anticipated impacts due to the Forts proposed expansion. We find that over 80 % of our community homebuyers are military. These two master planned communities are anticipated to accommodate more than 15,000 people over the next 15 to 20 years. We are also in earlier conversation with the YMCA about putting in a large regional sports recreational and childcare facility on site. As you may already know the Y currently provides child care and recreational opportunities to nearly 90% of all military families living in Thurston County.

If any of this is of interest to you please contact me at slc@slcemail.com or by phone at 360-888-6002 or 360-493-6002 ext 109. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Steve Chamberlain



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

February 5, 2009

Department of Army
Public Works
ATTEN: IMWE-LEW-PWE (Van Hoesen)
Building 2012 Liggett Avenue
Box 339500 MS 17
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500

Dear Mr. Van Hoesen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping for the Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment project. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) reviewed the information provided and has the following comment(s):

AIR QUALITY: Bernard Brady (360) 407-6803

Best management practice for minimization of track out and windblown dust should be included in any applicable permitting.

SHORELANDS/WETLANDS & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE: Sarah Lukas (360) 407-7459

The Fort Lewis Military Facility contains many natural resources including surface waters of the state, defined in 173-201A-020(2), "Surface waters of the state include lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, saltwaters, wetlands, and all other surface waters and water courses within the jurisdiction of the state of Washington." I suggest that the applicant conduct a reconnaissance study in the proposed project area(s) to establish a baseline of waters of the State as part of the proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS should contain an evaluation of these waterbodies, including but not limited to their merits of habitat, water quality, and flood capacity.

Impacts to such waterbodies may be subject to permit requirements under the Clean Water Act as well as the Coastal Zone Management Act. If impacts are proposed to any waterbodies subject to the Clean Water Act, mitigation maybe required to offset the proposed environmental degradation.

If the applicant would like assistance or has questions regarding Waters of the State, please contact Alex Callendar, Shorelands and Wetlands Specialist, Ecology Southwest Regional Office at (360) 407-6167, or by email at acal461@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology's comments are based upon information provided by the lead agency. As such, they may not constitute an exhaustive list of the various authorizations that must be obtained or legal requirements that must be fulfilled in order to carry out the proposed action.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these comments, please contact the appropriate reviewing staff listed above.

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office

(SM: 09-0069)

cc: Bernard Brady, AQP
Sarah Lukas, SEA



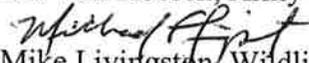


State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

2620 N. Commercial Ave, Pasco, WA 99301

DATE: 5 February 2009

TO: Bill Van Hoesen, Army NEPA Coordinator, Ft Lewis, WA

FROM: 
Mike Livingston, Wildlife Biologist

SUBJECT: Scoping Comments: Grow the Army Programmatic EIS at YTC

We appreciate and value the Army's role in protecting our nation and recognize the need for troop readiness when fighting two wars abroad. We also appreciate the efforts the Army has made at protecting the natural resources at YTC. The Army's protection of riparian, spring/seep and cultural resource sites at YTC has improved over the years. Upland habitats at the installation scale have improved impressively since the cessation of livestock grazing. However, WDFW has concerns regarding the degradation and loss of shrubsteppe essential for the viability of the greater sage-grouse population and other wildlife on the YTC.

At current levels of military training we have observed a decline of habitat condition, mostly due to wildfires, in important sage-grouse areas. In addition, the sage-grouse population on YTC has been declining steadily for the last few years. More training, military personnel and infrastructure will likely exacerbate habitat degradation/loss and sage-grouse population declines.

We support the Army's "Sustainability Vision" and the "triple bottom line: mission, environment and community" (<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/sustainability/index.html>). WDFW is interested in working with the Army to utilize best available science to support the Army's triple bottom line. In particular, we are interested in YTC's natural resources that support training and wildlife and are highly valued by the citizens of Washington State. Below are our issues/concerns related to the "Grow the Army Programmatic EIS at Fort Lewis and YTC". Thank you for addressing our concerns in the EIS.

Please address the following issues, concerns and questions in the EIS

- Curtail live fire exercises during the summer months when fire risk is highest.
- Redesign sage-grouse protection area(s) in light of radio telemetry data collected in 1999/2000 and 2004-2007.

State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
2620 N. Commercial Ave, Pasco, WA 99301

- ❑ Reevaluate protection area(s) boundaries on a regular basis (every 2 years?) to consider new information related to wildlife habitat and species protection needs.
- ❑ Redesign sage-grouse protection areas to accommodate all known leks and surrounding nesting habitat.
- ❑ Exclude live fire exercises from within redesigned sage-grouse protection areas.
- ❑ Exclude military maneuvers from within redesigned sage-grouse protection areas.
- ❑ Exclude new infrastructure (new buildings, ammo supply points etc.) from within redesigned sage-grouse protection areas.
- ❑ Increase restoration efforts to recover sagebrush lost due to fire and native herbaceous cover due to maneuver training.
- ❑ More fully employ integrated pest management practices to control invasive species encroachment especially adjacent to roads and firebreaks.
- ❑ Revisit firebreak strategies to consider existing roads and natural firebreaks (shallow soil sites)?
- ❑ Questions related to fire history
 - How many acres have burned over the last 10, 15, 20 years? How many of those fires covered previously unburned areas?
 - What are the weather parameters under which live fire exercises are curtailed?
- ❑ Questions related to habitat restoration
 - How many acres of disturbed habitat (either burned or tactical vehicle damage) have been rehabilitated?
 - How successful have habitat rehabilitation efforts been?
 - What monitoring methods and benchmarks are used to determine success at habitat rehabilitation?
- ❑ How many miles/acres of additional disturbance (new or improved roads, buildings, firing ranges, etc.) are expected from the proposed expansion of training?
- ❑ How will future habitat impacts be mitigated for on-site or off-site?
- ❑ How has loss of habitat function been addressed in the past? How will it be addressed in the future?

Womack, Carrie

From: Cameron, David
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 1:13 PM
To: Stevens, Robin
Subject: FW: COMMENT: EIS to analyze the impacts of the Army growth and force structure realignment

[One more comment letter.](#)

From: Larson, Ian W CTR USA [mailto:ian.w.larson@us.army.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:56 AM
To: Cameron, David
Subject: FW: COMMENT: EIS to analyze the impacts of the Army growth and force structure realignment

From: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:15 AM
To: Larson, Ian W CTR USA; Piek, Joseph J CIV USA IMCOM
Cc: Leingang, Colin G CIV USA IMCOM; Clouse, David C CIV USA IMCOM; McDonald, John E Mr CTR USA IMCOM
Subject: FW: COMMENT: EIS to analyze the impacts of the Army growth and force structure realignment

[One late comment.](#)
[Bill](#)

From: WILDERMAN, DAVID (DNR) [mailto:DAVID.WILDERMAN@dnr.wa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:40 AM
To: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Subject: COMMENT: EIS to analyze the impacts of the Army growth and force structure realignment

Dear Mr. Vanhoesen,

I realize my comments have missed the Feb. 5 deadline, however I hope they may still be able to be considered. My comments are as follows:

- 1) I recognize the importance of the project and acknowledge the Army's goal to protect the environment
- 2) Ft. Lewis supports essentially the only remaining landscape-scale native prairie habitat in the state, as well as a large percentage of the native oak habitat in western Washington.
- 3) These habitats are critically important for a number of rare species, including the Federal Candidate species Taylor's checkerspot, Mardon skipper, Mazama pocket gopher, and Streaked horned lark, all of which occur on Ft. Lewis.
- 4) Various entities, including my program, are involved in an active partnership to conserve these habitats and species in the local region. Partners including Ft. Lewis, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, private landowners, and various others, are working together to acquire, restore, and manage these habitats. This has involved substantial investment and effort for all parties and has resulted in significant on-the-ground progress toward these goals.
- 5) The type of development proposed in this project could, depending on location and extent, significantly impact these species and habitats. A major component of providing for protection of the environment in this instance should be to thoroughly consider these habitats and species, and avoid any significant impact to them.

I appreciate the Army's past and current efforts to help conserve these features and hope that this will continue. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Sincerely,

David Wilderman
Natural Areas Ecologist
Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 47014
Olympia, WA 98504-7014
Phone: (360) 902-1556
Fax: (360) 902-1789

david.wilderman@dnr.wa.gov

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/NaturalAreas/Pages/amp_na.aspx

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/NaturalHeritage/Pages/amp_nh.aspx



329 North First Street, Yakima WA 98901
Phone: (509) 834-2050 Fax: (509) 834-2060
Website: <http://www.yakimacleanair.org>

January 8, 2009

Mr. Bill Van Hoesen
Public Works
Bldg 2012 Liggett Avenue
Box 339500 MS-17
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500

RE: "Grow the Army" decisions at Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center, Washington

Dear Mr. Van Hoesen:

Thank you for providing the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (YRCAA) a short description of the Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center GTA EIS project.

Based on the description of the project the following will be required:

1. A New Source Review (NSR) Order of Approval may be required based on the equipment to be installed;
2. Prior to demolishing any structures an asbestos survey must be done by a certified asbestos building inspector;
3. Any asbestos found must be removed by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor prior to demolition;
4. A Notification of Demolition and Renovation (NODR) application must be filed with YRCAA and the appropriate fee should be paid; and
5. Contractors doing demolition, excavation, clearing, construction, or landscaping work must file a Dust Control Plan with YRCAA, prior to the start of any of the work.

Thank you for the opportunity to connect with the city's continued support-in-protecting the air quality in Yakima County.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hasan M. Tahat", is written over a faint, stylized graphic element.

Hasan M. Tahat, Ph.D.
Engineering and Planning Division Supervisor

Cc: File

Womack, Carrie

From: Cameron, David
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 9:26 AM
To: Stevens, Robin
Subject: FW: Yakima Training Center comments

[FYI – scoping comments](#)

From: Larson, Ian W CTR USA [mailto:ian.w.larson@us.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 9:23 AM
To: Cameron, David
Subject: FW: Yakima Training Center comments

From: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 7:12 AM
To: Larson, Ian W CTR USA; Nissen, Peter E CIV USA IMCOM
Cc: Mathews, Jay C CIV USA IMCOM; McDonald, John E Mr CTR USA IMCOM
Subject: FW: Yakima Training Center comments

[More comments concerning YTC.](#)
[Bill](#)

From: Andy Stepniewski [mailto:windypointandy@dishmail.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 5:08 PM
To: Van Hoesen, Bill CIV USA IMCOM
Subject: Yakima Training Center comments

Bill van Hoesen

Re: "Grow the Army" at the Yakima Training Center,

The Yakima Valley Audubon Society, a conservation based in Yakima, has 280 members that has, as a primary mission, maintaining environmental quality in south-central Washington. We thank you for allowing us to comment on "Grow the Army Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" in regards to proposed increased training on the Yakima Training Center (YTC).

Yakima Valley Audubon Society is greatly concerned that military preparedness has hugely impacted shrub-steppe quality on the YTC, particularly in regards to maintaining quality habitat for Greater Sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligates such as Sage Thrasher, Sage Sparrow, and Loggerhead Shrike, all listed species. Habitat condition is steadily declining as military activities increase due to frequent fires, habitat fragmentation due to increasing roads, and widespread appearance and spread of weedy invasives. Even riparian areas on the YTC, an arena where protection has improved dramatically over the past 20 years, has witnessed widespread fires over the past couple years (Cold and Foster Creeks especially).

Yakima Valley Audubon Society very much wishes to be involved in this environmental process to help the Army achieve its military training goals while still maintaining habitat quality on the YTC. This

is an important goal because the YTC is widely recognized as the finest remaining shrub-steppe habitat on a landscape scale in Washington's Columbia Basin. Below are our issues/concerns related to the "Grow the Army Programmatic EIS at Fort Lewis and YTC".

We have the following issues and concerns with this proposed project:

Nearly 10,000 acres per year are being burned on the YTC, the result of use of live fire during the summer drought. We strongly urge the Army adopt training practices that reduce significantly these fires. In our opinion, fires pose a grave threat to the continued survival of sage-grouse and other shrub-steppe obligates on the YTC.

New buildings and other structures are appearing in areas of high quality shrub-steppe habitat. Can these facilities be built in areas of lesser quality habitat?, ammo supply points etc.) be built outside of redesigned sage-grouse protection areas?

Invasive species control along roads and firebreaks appears to be gaining ground especially after the recent road system projects were completed. We recommend greatly increasing focus on controlling weedy invasives.

We are concerned sage-grouse protection areas do not encompass all leks and these do not include surrounding nesting habitat (within 8 km as stated in the sage grouse plan and best available science). These areas must be protected in order that sage-grouse survive on the YTC.

We are concerned restoration efforts have not kept pace with losses due to fires and mechanical damage caused by training vehicles.

Again, Thank You for allowing us to comment on future activities at YTC.

Sincerely,

Andy Stepniewski
Yakima Valley Audubon Society
Conservation Committee
windypointandy@dishmail.net
509-949-7404