



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
 COMMANDER
 UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
 250 MAKALAPA DRIVE
 PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131**

RECEIVED

APR 01 2016

BLM NVSO IAC

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
 Ser N465 0311
 22 Mar 16

Routing
Copies Received
ASD
ASD
LE
EEO
Office of Comm.
Fire
Support Services
Minerals
Resources
Action
Central Records

The Honorable Mr. John F. Ruhs
 Director, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office
 1340 Financial Boulevard Reno, Nevada 89502

SUBJECT: COOPERATING AGENCY REQUEST FOR THE FALLON RANGE TRAINING COMPLEX MODERNIZATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Mr. Ruhs,

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Department of the Navy (Navy) is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with a comprehensive modernization of the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC), Nevada. The federal proposal to be studied includes renewal of the existing withdrawal and reservation of public lands, withdrawal and reservation of additional public lands, and the modification and expansion of Special Use Airspace and other airspace areas in the FRTC. Implementation of this proposal supports military readiness requirements into the future.

The primary mission of the FRTC is to provide a tactical training environment to support the most realistic strike and integrated warfare training available for the United States (U.S.) Pacific Fleet, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Marine Corps, Naval Special Warfare Command, and other combat elements. As mission requirements have changes over the years and the performance of platforms and weapon system technologies has advanced, there is a need to modernize the airspace, ranges, maneuver areas, training facilities, and range infrastructure of the FRTC. Specifically, in addition to renewing the current withdrawal of 221,363 acres, the Navy is proposing to withdraw and reserve an additional 612,270 acres, for a total of 833,633 acres of public land. The public land currently withdrawn was made available for military use by the Department of Defense under Public Law 106-65, which will expire on November 5, 2021.

As the Federal agency authorized to manage public land in the State of Nevada as defined by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. Section 1701, as amended), , the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has jurisdiction by law for the Navy's proposed land renewal and withdrawal. As a result, the Navy requests BLM to serve as a cooperating agency for the development of its EIS pursuant to NEPA and associated regulations.

As the Lead Agency, the Navy will be responsible for overseeing preparation of the FRTC Modernization EIS, to include, but not be limited to the following environmental planning actions:

- Identifying and providing the necessary background information, including the most up-to-date real estate information, as well as scientific, encroachment, and resource management analysis, as best available data, to prepare the EIS and the associated withdrawal application;

SUBJECT: COOPERATING AGENCY REQUEST FOR THE FALLON RANGE TRAINING COMPLEX MODERNIZATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

- Working closely with the BLM to pursue the proposed withdrawal renewal and additional withdrawal of public lands to renew and expand the FRTC.
- Determining the scope of the EIS, including the alternatives to be evaluated;
- Circulating the EIS with the public, stakeholders and interested parties and perform public involvement under the NEPA regulations;
- Scheduling and supervising meetings held in support of the NEPA process;
- Compiling, summarizing, and responding to comments received by the public, stakeholders, and interested parties; and
- Maintaining an administrative record and responding as appropriate to any Freedom of Information Act requests relating to this EIS.

The Navy requests that the BLM, in its role as a cooperating agency, provide support as follows:

- Providing timely comments on working drafts of the EIS and associated withdrawal application documents, in accordance with agreed upon and approved project schedules and commenting protocols;
- Responding to Navy requests for information, in particular those related to the public land withdrawal process and Federal management of public land in the State of Nevada,
- Participating as appropriate and as agreed upon in public involvement efforts and public meetings conducted by the Navy for the EIS;
- Adhering to the comprehensive project schedule as developed by the Navy in cooperation with BLM;
- Preparing BLM and withdrawal-application-specific documents;
- Maintaining an administrative record and responding as appropriate to any Freedom of Information Act requests relating to this EIS; and
- Providing a formal, written response to this request.

The Navy views BLM's participation as an important element to the successful completion of the environmental planning process for the FRTC Modernization EIS.

**SUBJECT: COOPERATING AGENCY REQUEST FOR THE FALLON RANGE TRAINING
COMPLEX MODERNIZATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Navy's point of contact for the FRTC Modernization is Mr. Edmund Rybold, NAS Fallon, Command Integrator/N5, (775) 426-2405, edmund.rybold@navy.mil. The U.S. Pacific Fleet's point of contact is Mr. Alex Stone, (619) 545-8128, alexander.stone@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



L. M. FOSTER
By direction

Copy to:

CNO (N456)

COMFLTFORCOM (N465)

Commander, Naval Installations Command (N45)

Commander, Navy Region Southwest (N40)

Commander, Navy Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest (N45)

Commander, Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center (N00)

Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Fallon (N00)