

Public Participation

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1 **G PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

2 This appendix includes information about the public's participation in the development of the Naval
3 Weapons System Training Facility (NWSTF) Boardman Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This
4 appendix summarizes the public scoping process that began with the publication of the Notice of Intent
5 (NOI) in the *Federal Register* in October 2010. The scoping period allowed a variety of opportunities for
6 the public to comment on the scope of the EIS, and included two public scoping meetings.

7 **G.1 PROJECT WEBSITE**

8 A public website was established specifically for this project (<http://www.nwstfboardmaneis.com/>) and
9 went active on October 4, 2010. This website address was published in the initial Notice of Intent and
10 has subsequently been re-printed in all newspaper advertisements, agency letters, and public postcards
11 for both the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environment Impact Statement and Notice of Availability of
12 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Scoping meeting fact sheets, posters, brochures, and various
13 other materials have been available on the project website throughout the course of the project.

14 **G.2 GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE SCOPING PERIOD**

15 The scoping period for the NWSTF Boardman EIS began with the publication of a NOI in the Federal
16 Register on 5 October 2010. The scoping period began on this date and concluded on 15 November
17 2010.

18 The United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy), in cooperation with the National Guard Bureau
19 (NGB) and Oregon National Guard (ORNG), held two scoping meetings in Oregon from 27-28 October
20 2010, for the NWSTF Boardman EIS. The purpose of the meetings was to actively involve the public and
21 other agencies in identifying the environmental issues to be addressed in the Draft EIS as well as other
22 potential alternatives to accomplish the purpose and need. Efforts to notify the public, media, federally
23 recognized tribes, government agencies and elected officials about the scoping meetings were
24 conducted in accordance with the Navy and National Guard's *Public Involvement Plan* for the NWSTF
25 Boardman EIS.

26 **G.2.1 PUBLIC SCOPING NOTIFICATION**

27 The Navy made significant efforts at notifying the public to ensure maximum public participation during
28 the scoping process. A summary of these efforts follows.

29 **G.2.1.1 Federal Register Notice**

30 On 5 October 2010, the Navy, in cooperation with the NGB and ORNG, published a NOI/Notice of Public
31 Scoping Meetings in the Federal Register, which announced the intent to prepare a Draft EIS to evaluate
32 potential environmental effects associated with current and proposed military training and testing
33 activities at NWSTF Boardman, the proposed action and alternatives, and the dates, locations, and times
34 of the scoping meetings.

35 **G.2.1.2 Tribal Letters**

36 A personalized tribal notification letter was mailed to four federally recognized tribes, including the
37 Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian
38 Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Nez Perce Tribe on 5 October 2010. This letter
39 served to formally invite the Tribes into Government to-Government consultation and provided detailed

1 information about the proposed action. Follow-up phone calls were made to ensure the letters were
2 received and were sent to the correct personnel within each tribe.

3 **G.2.1.3 Notification Letters**

4 A personalized agency notification letter was mailed to 164 federal, state, and local elected officials and
5 government agencies on 6 October 2010. This letter provided detailed information about the proposed
6 action, the scoping process and the dates, locations, and times of the scoping meetings. Information for
7 submitting comments was also provided.

8 **G.2.1.4 Advertisements**

9 Three series of display advertisements were placed in the following six newspapers: *Hermiston Herald*,
10 *East Oregonian*, *The Oregonian*, *Tri-City Herald*, *North Morrow Times*, and *Heppner-Gazette Times*. As
11 listed below, the first series of newspaper advertisements occurred after the NOI was published in the
12 Federal Register and ran for three consecutive days in each of the newspapers, with the exception of
13 *The Oregonian*, which ran for 2 consecutive days, and the non-daily newspapers. The second series of
14 advertisements were published 5 to 10 days prior to the scoping meetings. The third series of
15 newspaper advertisements were published 3 consecutive days prior to the scoping meetings, including
16 the day of the scoping meeting, with the exception of the weekly and monthly newspapers.

17 <i>Hermiston Herald</i>	36 <i>The Oregonian</i>
18 Saturday, 9 October 2010	37 Thursday, 7 October 2010
19 Wednesday, 13 October 2010	38 Friday, 8 October 2010
20 Saturday, 16 October 2010	39 Monday, 18 October 2010
21 Wednesday, 20 October 2010	40 Tuesday, 26 October 2010
22 Saturday, 23 October 2010	41 Wednesday, 27 October 2010
23 Wednesday, 27 October 2010	42 Thursday, 28 October 2010
24 <i>East Oregonian</i>	43 <i>Tri-Cities Herald</i>
25 Thursday, 7 October 2010	44 Thursday, 7 October 2010
26 Friday, 8 October 2010	45 Friday, 8 October 2010
27 Saturday, 9 October 2010	46 Saturday, 9 October 2010
28 Tuesday, 19 October 2010	47 Monday, 18 October 2010
29 Tuesday, 26 October 2010	48 Tuesday 26 October 2010
30 Wednesday, 27 October 2010	49 Wednesday, 27 October 2010
31 Thursday, 28 October 2010	50 Thursday, 28 October 2010
32 <i>Heppner-Gazette Times</i>	51 <i>North Morrow Times</i>
33 Wednesday, 13 October 2010	52 Friday, 1 October 2010
34 Wednesday, 20 October 2010	
35 Wednesday, 27 October 2010	

53 **G.2.1.5 Press Releases**

54 A press release was distributed by the Commander, Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Officer to
55 media outlets, elected officials and other potentially interested parties. The NOI press release was
56 distributed on 5 October 2010 and announced the intent to prepare an EIS. The Notice of Scoping
57 Meetings press release was distributed on 20 October and emphasized the scoping process. The NOI and
58 Notice of Scoping Meetings press releases included details on the proposed action, scoping meeting
59 dates, locations, times, and comment information.

1 **G.2.1.6 Public Service Announcement**

2 A public service announcement was distributed by the Commander, Navy Region Northwest Public
3 Affairs Officer to media outlets, elected officials, and other potentially interested parties. The public
4 service announcement announced the scoping meeting dates, locations, and times.

5 **G.2.1.7 Postcard Mailer**

6 A postcard mailer announcing the preparation of an EIS, proposed action, comment information, project
7 website and the scoping meeting dates, locations, and times, was sent out to 391 individuals on the
8 project mailing list on 12 October 2010.

9 **G.2.1.8 Flier**

10 A flier providing the dates, locations, and times of the scoping meeting, along with the project website
11 was provided to four distribution locations in both Boardman and Hermiston, Oregon, and included
12 libraries, post offices, chambers of commerce, and local markets. The fliers were distributed on 13
13 October 2010.

14 **G.2.1.9 Expanded Scoping**

15 Expanded scoping activities included early and proactive notification and an offer for briefings to key
16 stakeholders. Navy representatives met with officials from Morrow County, the city of Boardman, and
17 the Port of Morrow prior to the public scoping meeting in Boardman to discuss specific issues of concern
18 associated with the NWSTF Boardman EIS.

19 **G.2.2 SCOPING MEETINGS**

20 Scoping meetings were conducted in an open house style information session at the dates, locations,
21 and times listed in Table G.2-1.

22 **Table G.2-1: Scoping Meeting Locations**

MEETING LOCATION	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Boardman	Port of Morrow Conference Center	27 October 2010	5 to 8 p.m.
Hermiston	Hermiston Conference Center	28 October 2010	5 to 8 p.m.

23 A media availability session was offered via press releases to allow the media to ask questions of Navy
24 and National Guard representatives prior to the arrival of members of the public. Media representatives
25 could also arrive at any time during the scoping meetings.

26 For each scoping meeting, staffers at the welcome station greeted guests and encouraged meeting
27 attendees to sign in if they wanted to receive project information and notifications in the future. A
28 packet of information describing the poster stations and containing five project fact sheets, a brochure,
29 a National Environmental Policy Act handout, and a comment form was distributed to all attendees,
30 along with verbal directions on the organization and flow of the poster stations around the meeting
31 room. Guests were directed to first watch the NWSTF Boardman informational video, which provided an
32 overview of the training and testing activities conducted at NWSTF Boardman, and natural and cultural
33 resource protection programs. Chairs were provided for guests to watch the video.

1 Poster stations were set up around the room offering visual displays, fact sheets, a brochure, maps, and
2 comment forms. Navy and National Guard representatives staffed each poster station to engage in one-
3 on-one discussions with the public and answer any questions.

4 A comment station with tables, chairs, pens, comment forms, and a digital voice recorder for accepting
5 oral comments was also provided to facilitate the public completing and submitting written or oral
6 comments at the scoping meetings. Members of the public were encouraged to fill out public comment
7 forms to ensure their comments would be included in the public record and considered in the
8 development of the Draft EIS. Public comment forms were also available at each poster station.
9 Individuals could submit completed forms at the meeting or mail them to the address provided on the
10 form. Meeting attendees were also advised that they could submit comments online via the project
11 website, <http://www.nwstfboardmaneis.com/>.

12 **G.2.2.1 Attendance**

13 Guests were encouraged to sign in at the welcome table. The information below reflects the number of
14 guests who chose to sign in at the welcome table. Media attendance reflects the number of persons
15 who identified themselves as media. In total, 30 people signed in at the welcome table.

- 16 • Seventeen (17) people signed the attendance sheet at the Boardman scoping meeting; media
17 included a reporter from the *East Oregonian*; elected official representation included a staff
18 member from Senator Merkley's office, the mayor of Boardman, and other officials from
19 Morrow County and the city of Boardman; other representation included local utilities.
- 20 • Thirteen (13) people signed the attendance sheet at the Hermiston scoping meeting; media
21 included a photographer from the *East Oregonian*; elected official representation included a
22 staff member from Representative Walden's office, as well as two officials from Morrow County
23 and an Umatilla County Commissioner; other representation included representatives from
24 Bonneville Power, Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston Fire, and the commercial energy
25 industry.

26 **G.2.2.2 Public Scoping Comments**

27 During the NWSTF Boardman scoping period, public and agency comments were submitted via mail,
28 website, and e-mail. No comments were submitted at the scoping meetings. A total of 60 comments
29 were received during the public comment period from 5 October 2010 – 15 November 2010. Comments
30 addressed various resource areas from fire management to biological species to airspace (Table G.2-2).

31 **G.2.2.2.1 Economic Impacts, Airspace, Wind/Renewable Energy Projects and Land Use**

32 Economic impacts, airspace, wind/renewable energy projects and land use were the top four resource
33 areas commented on. The majority of comments expressed concern about how both air and ground
34 training activities at NWSTF Boardman could impact wind and other renewable energy projects.
35 Commenters expressed concern that changes in airspace would prohibit current wind and renewable
36 energy projects from moving forward, particularly on the south side of NWSTF Boardman. Commenters
37 expressed concern that changes to restricted airspace or requirements for wind turbine free flight

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Table G.2-2: Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman Scoping Comments

Resource Issues	Comments	Percentage
Purpose and Need	5	1.74%
Economic Impacts	49	17.07%
Fire Management	7	2.44%
Public Outreach/Involvement	10	3.48%
Energy/Transmission Lines	6	2.09%
Alternative Development	5	1.74%
Biological Resources	9	3.14%
Policy/National Environmental Policy Act	4	1.39%
Wind/Renewable Energy Projects	42	14.63%
Cultural Resources	2	0.70%
Cumulative Impacts	8	2.79%
Public Health and Safety	5	1.74%
Threatened, Endangered and Critical Species	9	3.14%
Mitigation	7	2.44%
Airborne Sound	6	2.09%
Hazardous Waste/Materials	4	1.39%
Air Quality	4	1.39%
Environmental Justice	2	0.70%
Water Quality	4	1.39%
Transportation	2	0.70%
Airspace	45	15.68%
Miscellaneous	3	1.05%
Land Use	49	17.07%
ISSUE TOTALS	287	100.00%

Note: The number of comments for each resource area will not add to the total number of comments received. Many letters had several comments or one comment could span across several issues. This table only includes a tally of written comments that were received via mail, website and e-mail throughout the scoping process.

2 corridors outside NWSTF Boardman would ultimately restrict the construction of wind projects on the
3 property of landowners. Commenters stated preventing wind/renewable energy projects on private and
4 public property would eliminate the potential for tax revenue, and also severely impede economic
5 prosperity through the creation of jobs. Other comments addressed the economic impacts on farming
6 and ranching operations that would result from additional restrictions on airspace.

7 **G.2.2.2.2 Biological Resources and Threatened, Endangered and Critical Species**

8 Commenters questioned how increases in training activities would impact biological resources, including
9 wildlife, their habitat, and other plant species, and threatened, endangered, and critical species.
10 Commenters believed increases in fire, the introduction of weeds, noise pollution, water pollution, air
11 pollution, and habitat degradation would have a significant and irreversible impact on wildlife and plant
12 species, especially the Washington ground squirrel, on and surrounding NWSTF Boardman. Some
13 commenters stated that, given the magnitude of the potential impacts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
14 decision to place the Washington ground squirrel as a candidate for federal listing under the Endangered

1 Species Act, would need to be reviewed and considered for a higher listing, which might impact the
2 Navy's use of NWSTF at Boardman.

3 **G.2.2.2.3 Public Outreach/Involvement**

4 Other commenters recommended continued coordination with local and state agencies and
5 nongovernmental organizations to protect the natural resources at NWSTF Boardman. Commenters
6 believed that building working relationships with these agencies and nongovernmental organizations
7 would help the Navy and Oregon National Guard make informed decisions. Other comments expressed
8 concern that project materials were not translated into Spanish, which ultimately excluded the Hispanic
9 populations of Umatilla and Morrow counties, and that the format of the meeting was ineffective in
10 communicating project information. Additional comments encouraged the Navy and Oregon National
11 Guard to participate in local community events and other activities that would bring NWSTF Boardman
12 personnel and community members together to learn about NWSTF Boardman and the training
13 activities conducted at the range.

14 **G.2.3 SECOND PUBLIC SCOPING NOTIFICATION**

15 A separate and additional scoping effort was conducted by the Navy and the ORNG to address the
16 potential addition of a Military Operations Area to join the current airspace to the northeast of existing
17 NWSTF Boardman Airspace.

18 **G.2.3.1 Federal Register Notice**

19 On 27 December 2011, the Navy, in cooperation with the National Guard Bureau and Oregon National
20 Guard, published a NOI/Notice of Public Scoping Meetings in the Federal Register, which announced the
21 intent to prepare a Draft EIS to evaluate potential environmental effects associated with current and
22 proposed military training and testing activities at NWSTF Boardman, the proposed action and
23 alternatives, and the dates, locations, and times of the scoping meetings. On 2 February 2012, the Navy,
24 in cooperation with the National Guard Bureau and Oregon National Guard, published a Notice of
25 Extension of Public Scoping Period in the Federal Register, which announced a 32-day extension of the
26 public commenting period.

27 **G.2.3.2 Tribal Letters**

28 A personalized tribal notification letter was mailed to four federally recognized tribes, including the
29 Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian
30 Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Nez Perce Tribe on 3 January 2012.

31 **G.2.3.3 Advertisements**

32 Display advertisements were placed in the following five newspapers: *Hermiston Herald*, *East*
33 *Oregonian*, *Tri-City Herald*, *North Morrow Times*, and *Heppner-Gazette Times*. As listed below, the
34 newspaper advertisements occurred after the NOI was published in the Federal Register.

35 *Hermiston Herald*
36 Wednesday, 1 February 2012

39 *Heppner-Gazette Times*
40 Wednesday, 1 February 2012

37 *East Oregonian*
38 Saturday, January 28 2012

41 *Tri-Cities Herald*
42 Saturday, January 28 2012

1 *North Morrow Times* 3
 2 Friday, 3 February 2012

4 **G.2.3.4 Second Public Scoping Comments**

5 During the second NWSTF Boardman scoping period, public and agency comments were submitted via
 6 mail, website, and e-mail. A total of 20 comments were received during the public comment period
 7 from 27 December 2011 to 27 February 2012. Comments addressed various resource areas from
 8 airspace to water quality (Table G.2-3).

9 **Table G.2-3: Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman Scoping Comments**

Resource Issues	Comments	Percentage
Airspace	7	31.8%
Comment Period Extension	3	13.6%
Wind/Renewable Energy Projects	2	9.1%
Economic Impacts	2	9.1%
Cultural Resources	2	9.1%
Energy/transmission Lines	1	4.5%
Alternatives Development	1	4.5%
Public Health and Safety	1	4.5%
Threatened, Endangered, and Critical Species	1	4.5%
Water Quality	1	4.5%
Miscellaneous	1	4.5%
ISSUE TOTALS	22	100.00%

Note: The number of comments for each resource area will not add to the total number of comments received. Many letters had several comments or one comment could span across several issues. This table only includes a tally of written comments that were received via mail, website and e-mail throughout the scoping process.

10 Airspace, length of the comment period, economic impacts, wind/renewable energy projects, and
 11 cultural resources were the top five resource areas commented on. The majority of comments regarding
 12 airspace expressed concern about how air training activities at NWSTF Boardman could impact local
 13 aviation and economy by restricting airspace use. Additionally, the comments inquired about the
 14 necessity of new special use airspace. Other comments addressed the economic impacts on farming and
 15 ranching operations that would result from not allowing the public to utilize portions of NWSTF
 16 Boardman for irrigative farming. Commenters stated preventing farming projects on military land would
 17 eliminate the potential for tax revenue, and also severely impede economic prosperity through the
 18 creation of jobs. Numerous commenters inquired (at the beginning of the comment period) about the
 19 length of the comment period. As a result of these comments (as described in Section G.2.3.1), the
 20 comment period was extended by 32 days to allow the public additional time for review and comment
 21 of the revised NOI.

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