



Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman Environmental Impact Statement

Range Sustainability

The ability of the U.S. Navy and Oregon National Guard to use Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility (NWSTF) Boardman for testing and training U.S. military personnel in preparation for deployment and other military missions is vital for the military mission. At the same time, the Navy and Oregon National Guard recognize that there may be potential impacts associated with military training and testing activities. These potential impacts will be analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for NWSTF Boardman under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Navy and Oregon National Guard strive to achieve and maintain comprehensive emergency and fire response and range management practices and recognize the interests and concerns of the local community. To the extent practicable, procedures are followed to minimize effects of training and testing activities on the local community.



Aerial bombing target at NWSTF Boardman

NAVY RANGE SUSTAINABILITY AT NWSTF BOARDMAN

The Navy Range Sustainability Program is an operationally-driven, comprehensive, integrated process to sustain use of and access to Navy ranges and operating areas. The primary components of the Range Sustainability Program for NWSTF Boardman include:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Range Sustainability Environmental Program Assessment
- Operational Range Clearance

Range Sustainability Environmental Program Assessment (RSEPA)

The Navy has instituted the RSEPA process to support the sustainment of Navy ranges by evaluating the environmental conditions of each land-based operational range under Navy management. Knowledge of range-specific environmental conditions will help operators make informed range management decisions and simplify the planning required for Navy training activities in the future.

RSEPA includes comprehensive, periodic assessments of range conditions using an interdisciplinary team of operational, conservation, compliance, facilities, real estate, environmental planning, noise and legal personnel.

The Navy is in the process of completing a Range Condition Assessment under RSEPA. This information-gathering effort focuses on past and current use of the range to determine if there is a potential to affect public health or the environment. A previous assessment concluded that there were no environmental compliance deficiencies for the range.

Development of a new groundwater monitoring well



Operational Range Clearance

As required by Navy policy, NWSTF Boardman has an established program for the routine clearance of target areas and other range areas that are known or suspected of containing unexploded ordnance and range scrap/debris. The purpose of this program is to ensure the safety of military personnel who use the range, as well as the general public in the vicinity of the range.

Range debris that has been cleared and piled for disposal



FIRE MANAGEMENT AT NWSTF BOARDMAN

NWSTF Boardman provides ideal, realistic training opportunities for the Navy and Oregon National Guard; however, conducting training activities in an arid climate also has the potential to cause wildfires. NWSTF Boardman is susceptible to fires originating from three sources:

- On-base and off-base lightning strikes
- On-base military training activities
- Other on-base and off-base human activities

Fire Management Practices

Effective fire management is critical to ensure the safety of the public, military personnel and wildlife. Current fire management strategies consist of using fire breaks and other fire prevention methods, allowing NWSTF Boardman personnel the opportunity to either extinguish the fire or obtain assistance from outside agencies to help extinguish the fire before it spreads to larger areas.

Fire Prevention

The Navy and Oregon National Guard have established various fire prevention methods, such as:

- Establishing range standard operating procedures to minimize fire risk
- Restricting the use of ammunition and pyrotechnic devices at certain times of the year
- Designating smoking areas
- Conducting personnel briefings

Improvements in Fire Management

A new fire management strategy is recommended for NWSTF Boardman for acquiring newer equipment, training staff as wildland firefighters and using the existing road system as the initial attack fireline where Navy and Oregon National Guard personnel and equipment would have rapid access to fight a fire. The aim of the recommended fire management strategy is to fight fires at the roads to prevent fire-fighting crews from traveling cross-country to create new fire breaks.

The recommended fire management strategy will include requirements and improvements of:

- Fire breaks
- Personnel
- Equipment
- Water caching
- Range controls
- Post-fire rehabilitation and management



PUBLIC ACCESS TO NWSTF BOARDMAN

Public access to NWSTF Boardman is limited for safety reasons due to the nature of military training activities and the potential presence of unexploded ordnance from past practices. All military and civilian personnel, researchers and visitors are required to:

- Obtain approval to access the range
- Receive a Ground Access Safety Brief
- Acquire a valid Access Range Brief Certification Card
- Schedule ground access

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the local economy from the U.S. Navy and Oregon National Guard include salaries (active duty, reserve and civilian), local procurement of goods and services, retiree pensions, health care service payments, lodging and aid to school districts. These contributions are expected to grow as more training and testing activities are conducted and the number of personnel stationed at NWSTF Boardman increases. Impacts on the local and regional economy from increased military activity will be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement.



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