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ES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] §4321 *et seq.*) requires federal agencies to examine the environmental effects of major federal actions that may have significant impacts in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS is a public document that provides a detailed assessment of the potential effects that a major federal action may have on the human, natural, or cultural environment. The United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) prepared this EIS (hereafter referred to as “EIS”) to assess the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and proposed Navy and Oregon National Guard (ORNG, which is comprised of the Oregon Army and Air National Guards) training activities (described in detail in Chapter 2, Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) within the Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility (NWSTF) Boardman (Figure ES-1). The Navy is the lead agency for this EIS pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §1501.5 and §1508.5 and the U.S. National Guard Bureau (NGB) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are cooperating agencies pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §1501.6. The Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the NGB and the ORNG to establish the lead-cooperating agency relationship (August 8, 2010). The ORNG is the NGB’s agent for execution of this Memorandum of Agreement. The NGB is the federal instrument responsible for the administration of the National Guard of the United States established by the U.S. Congress as a joint bureau of the Department of the Army (Army) and the Department of the Air Force. Since the Proposed Action contemplates activities associated with Special Use Airspace (SUA), the Navy requested the FAA’s cooperation (January 10, 2012) in accordance with the guidelines described in the Memorandum of Understanding between the FAA and the Department of Defense (DoD) concerning SUA Environmental Actions, dated October 4, 2005.

This EIS was prepared in compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. §4321 *et seq.*); Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§1500–1508), Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 C.F.R. §775); FAA’s Policies and Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts (FAA Order 1050.1 Series); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 C.F.R. §651), which also covers Army National Guard activities.

The Navy’s mission is to organize, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas. This mission is mandated by federal law (10 U.S.C. §5062), which ensures the readiness of the United States’ naval forces. The Navy executes this responsibility by establishing and executing training programs and ensuring naval forces have access to the ranges, operating areas, and airspace needed to develop and maintain skills for conducting naval activities.

The ORNG has a dual state and federal mission to “provide the citizens of the State of Oregon and the United States with a ready force of citizen soldiers and airmen, equipped and trained to respond to any contingency.” A key component of the nation’s defense, the National Guard’s federal mission is “to provide trained units and qualified persons available for active duty in the armed forces, in time of war or national emergency, and at such other times as the national security may require, to fill the needs of the armed forces whenever more units and persons are needed than are available in the regular components” (10 U.S.C. §10102). The ORNG is also an asset to the state of Oregon during emergencies caused by natural disasters, civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, and other threats to life, property, or civil order. As Commander in Chief of the ORNG, the Governor of Oregon may order the ORNG to duty in order to fulfill State mission requirements.

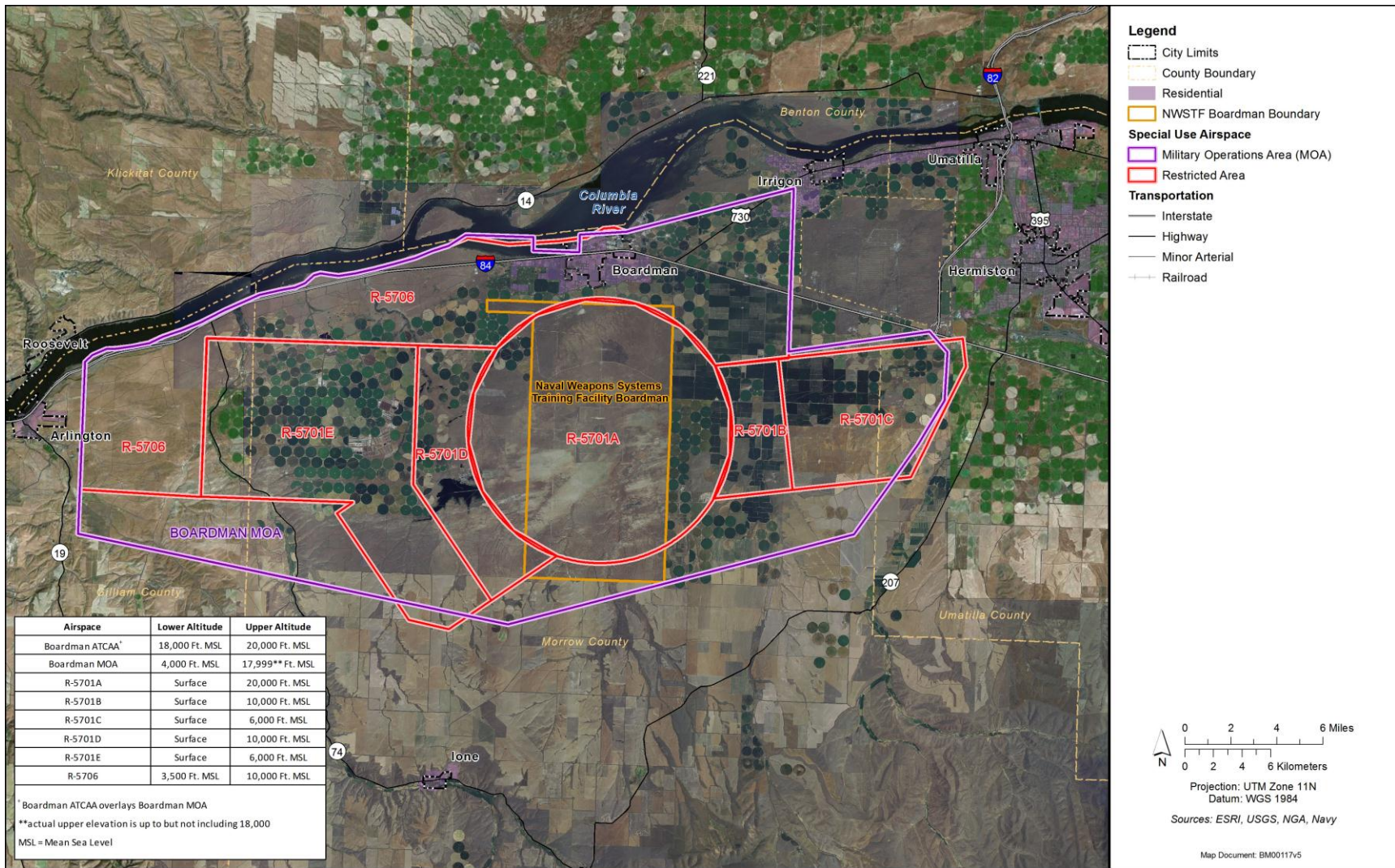


Figure ES-1: Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman Military Operations Area and Restricted Areas

The mission of the NGB is to participate with the Army and the Air Force staffs in the formulation, development, and coordination of all programs, policies, concepts, and plans pertaining to or affecting the National Guard (which includes the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard of the United States). The NGB develops and administers such detailed operating and funding programs as are required for the operation of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, based on approved programs, policies, and guidance from the U.S. Department of the Army and the U.S. Department of the Air Force. The NGB also participates with and assists states in the organization, maintenance, and operation of their National Guard units to provide trained and equipped units capable of immediate expansion to war strength, and make the units available for service in time of war or emergency to augment the active Army and Air Force.

ES.2 STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF NAVAL WEAPONS SYSTEMS TRAINING FACILITY BOARDMAN

NWSTF Boardman is the principal regional air-to-ground range, providing the only terrestrial impact area and restricted low altitude training airspace for use by Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island-based student and fleet aircrew and ORNG units. NWSTF Boardman and its associated airspace are also used for training (including Unmanned Aircraft System [UAS] training) by ORNG units located throughout the state of Oregon. NWSTF Boardman and its associated airspace also support occasional training requirements of other DoD units and the SUA is used by DoD offices to conduct UAS testing and training. Accordingly, the strategic vision for NWSTF Boardman is to support naval and joint operational readiness by providing a realistic, live-training environment with the capability and capacity to support the Services' current, emerging, and future training requirements and UAS testing requirements. NWSTF Boardman has a unique combination of attributes that make it a strategically important training venue for the Services as presented in the sections below.

ES.2.1 LOCATION

NWSTF Boardman serves as a regional range for Naval units homeported in the Pacific Northwest area including aviation units homeported at NAS Whidbey Island. NWSTF Boardman is located approximately 225 miles (368.3 kilometers) southeast of NAS Whidbey Island. NWSTF Boardman also is located within an acceptable travel distance for the majority of the ORNG's soldiers and airmen, which ensures that the actual time spent training during a training assembly is maximized. Individual Guard training typically occurs at Army National Guard organizational armories, readiness centers, maintenance shops, and training sites on a regular basis. Collective training of troops in the field during Annual Training occurs at larger training sites. Consequently, non-value added travel time must be kept to a minimum (less than 25 percent according to Army Regulation 350-2 and NGB guidance) to ensure that all training tasks and qualifications can be met annually.

The Pacific Northwest region is home to thousands of military families. The military services strive, and in many cases are required, under Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 3000.13, to track and, where possible, limit "personnel tempo," meaning the amount of time that military personnel spend deployed away from home. Personnel tempo is an important factor in family readiness, morale, and retention. The availability of NWSTF Boardman and its associated airspace as a regional training range is critical to Navy and ORNG efforts in these administrative (or personnel) support functions. Delegated SUA associated with NWSTF Boardman is essential to support realistic training opportunities to Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Air Force, and National Guard manned and unmanned aircraft (see Figure ES-1). Detailed descriptions of these areas are provided in Section 1.3.4 (Description of NWSTF Boardman Training Areas).

ES.2.1.1 Training Supported

NWSTF Boardman plays a vital role in the execution of the military readiness mandate. This training area is the Pacific Northwest's only venue for Basic phase/Unit-level air-to-ground bombing practice, Low Altitude Tactical Training (LATT), and Surface to Air Counter Tactics (SACT) for Naval aviation squadrons. In addition, NWSTF Boardman supports ORNG and U.S. Air Force Reserve training requirements, and UAS testing and training conducted by the DoD and ORNG. Training at NWSTF Boardman is critical to the preparation of the Services for advanced level training and predeployment certification.

ES.3 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to achieve and maintain military readiness by using a weapons training facility within acceptable travel distance for ORNG and Navy personnel that has appropriate air-to-ground ranges, terrestrial impact areas, and SUA to support and conduct current, emerging, and future training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities, while enhancing training resources through investments on the range. Additionally, the purpose of the Proposed Action is to achieve the requirements set forth in the Navy Required Capabilities Document of September 8, 2005 and the U.S. Army Forces Command/Army National Guard/U.S. Army Reserve Regulation 350-2, U.S. Army Reserve Regulation 350-1, and Department of the Army Pamphlet 350-8.

A weapons training facility with these capabilities is essential to maintain military readiness because of the unique training environment it provides. Approval of the Proposed Action is required to support the following in the Pacific Northwest:

- Ensuring that NWSTF Boardman continues to support critical military training activities in a realistic and cost-effective manner;
- Achieving and maintaining military readiness using NWSTF Boardman to support and conduct current, emerging, and future training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities; and
- Upgrading and modernizing NWSTF Boardman's existing capabilities to address training range shortfalls in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

Approval of the Proposed Action is needed to provide an essential piece of the real-world training environment consisting of ranges, training areas, and range instrumentation with the capacity and capabilities to fully support required training tasks for operational units and personnel utilizing NWSTF Boardman. In this regard, NWSTF Boardman furthers the military's execution of its roles and responsibilities under U.S.C. Title 10 (federal military) and Title 32 (State National Guard). To comply with its Title 10 and 32 mandates, the military needs to maintain current levels of military readiness through improvement of training at NWSTF Boardman, accommodation of possible future increases in operational training, and maintenance of the long-term viability of NWSTF Boardman as a military training and testing area.

The Navy and ORNG have developed alternatives selection criteria pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §1502.14, which are discussed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), based on this statement of the purpose and need.

ES.4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

NEPA requires federal agencies to examine the environmental effects of their Proposed Actions. This EIS is a detailed public document that provides an assessment of the potential environmental impacts

associated with a proposed major federal action. The impacts to be analyzed are those that occur to the human environment, including natural and physical resources.

ES.4.1 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The first step in the NEPA process (pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§1501–1508) is the preparation of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop the EIS. The NOI provides an overview of the Proposed Action and the scope of the EIS (Appendix A). The NOI for this project was published in the Federal Register (FR) on October 5, 2010 (75 FR 61452), and throughout October 2010 in six local newspapers (East Oregonian, Tri-City Herald, Oregonian, Hermiston Herald, North Morrow Times and Heppner Gazette-Times), which cover Boardman, Pendleton, Hermiston, and the general northeast Oregon region. The NOI and newspaper notices included information about comment procedures, the length of the comment period (41 days), the project website address (<http://www.NWSTFBoardmanEIS.com>), a list of information repositories (public libraries), and the dates and locations of the scoping meetings.

Scoping is an early and open process for developing the “scope” of issues to be addressed in the EIS. The scoping meetings for this EIS (held in Boardman, Oregon and Hermiston, Oregon) were advertised in local newspapers. The advertisements invited public attendance to help define and prioritize environmental issues and how to convey these issues to the Navy (see Appendix G for information on the scoping meetings). Comments from the public, as well as from agencies and public interest groups, including the development of alternatives, have been considered in the preparation of this EIS.

A separate and additional scoping effort was conducted by the Navy and the ORNG to address the inclusion of an additional proposed action, a Military Operations Area (MOA) that would join the current airspace to the northeast of existing NWSTF Boardman Airspace. The additional NOI for this new proposed action was published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2011 (76 FR 80910), and throughout December 2011 and January 2012 in five local newspapers (East Oregonian, Tri-City Herald, Hermiston Herald, North Morrow Times, and Heppner Gazette-Times), which noted a 30-day public comment period. At the request of commenters, this comment period was extended from an original period of 30 days to a total of 62 days.

Subsequent to the scoping process, the Draft EIS was prepared to assess the potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on the environment. A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on September 7, 2012 (77 FR 55213), and notices were placed in the aforementioned newspapers announcing the availability of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS was available for general public and agency review and was circulated for review and comment between September 7 and November 6, 2012. An amended Notice of Availability was published on November 9, 2012 (77 FR 67362), which extended the public comment period to December 6, 2012. A Notice of Public Meetings to receive public comments on the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on September 7, 2012 (77 FR 55195) and were held on September 25, 2012 in Hermiston, OR, and September 26, 2012 in Boardman, OR. Refer to Appendix G for more information on the public notification process and the public meetings, the Navy’s response to all public comments (35 total comments received) on the Draft EIS, and transcripts of the public meetings.

In this Final EIS, the Navy has made changes to the Draft EIS based on comments received during the public comment period. These changes included factual corrections, additions to existing information, and improvements or modifications to the analyses in the Draft EIS.

The Record of Decision will reflect the Navy's final decision on the Proposed Action, the rationale behind that decision, and any commitments to monitoring and mitigation. The Record of Decision will be signed by the Navy following the issuance of this Final EIS and completion of a 30-day wait/review period. A Notice of Availability of Record of Decision will be published in the Federal Register, and the Record of Decision will be distributed to agencies and interested parties, and posted on the NWSTF Boardman EIS website. The Record of Decision will also be announced in local newspapers.

ES.5 EXECUTIVE ORDER 13175 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

In accordance with EO 13175, DoD policies and Navy instructions, Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet invited government-to-government consultation with the Confederal Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe to government-to-government consultation.

ES.6 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Proposed Action involves the construction and operation of new range facilities and changes in existing training and testing activities at NWSTF Boardman. The Proposed Action would result in enhancements and increases in training and testing that are necessary to ensure NWSTF Boardman supports military training and readiness objectives. Actions to support current, emerging, and future training and testing activities at NWSTF Boardman will be evaluated in this EIS. The components of the Proposed Action stem from U.S. Navy training requirements (Fleet Response Training Plan) and other military training requirements, including Army Regulation 350-1, *Army Training and Leader Development*; Army Regulation 350-2, *Reserve Component Training*; Department of the Army Pamphlet 350-38, *Standards in Training Commission*; and ORNG regulations and policies. In general, the Proposed Action would:

- Increase the types of training activities and the number of training events conducted at NWSTF Boardman
- Accommodate force structure changes
- Provide enhancements to training facilities and operations at NWSTF Boardman and its associated SUA
- Establish an additional MOA to join existing restricted airspace (Boardman Low MOA) and establish an extension to the existing Boardman MOA in the northeast area of Boardman airspace (Boardman MOA, Proposed Extension).

ES.7 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE: BASELINE TRAINING AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Each military activity described in this EIS meets a requirement that can be ultimately traced to the National Command Authority.¹ Over the years, the tempo and types of activities have fluctuated at NWSTF Boardman due to changing requirements, the dynamic nature of international events, the introduction of advances in warfighting doctrine and procedures, and force structure changes. Such developments have influenced the frequency, duration, intensity, and location of required training. The

¹ The National Command Authority is a term used by the U.S. military and government to refer to the ultimate lawful source of military orders. The term refers collectively to the President of the United States (as Commander in Chief) and the U.S. Secretary of Defense.

factors influencing tempo and types of activities are variable by nature, and will continue to cause fluctuations in training activities on NWSTF Boardman and in its associated airspace. Accordingly, training and testing activity data used throughout this EIS are a representative baseline (based on historical information collected from 2007 to 2010) for evaluating impacts that may result from the proposed training and testing activities, and is presented as the No Action Alternative.

Training activities at NWSTF Boardman would continue to vary from basic individual to unit level events of relatively short duration involving few participants. ORNG Soldiers would continue to be transported long distances to use out-of-state training ranges, dependent on the ability to schedule the use of those ranges, to meet qualification and training requirements that cannot be met at existing ORNG facilities. The Navy would continue to use the currently available airspace and provide the range operations support. Evaluation of the No Action Alternative in this EIS provides a baseline for assessing environmental impacts of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, as described in the following subsections.

ES.8 ALTERNATIVE 1 – INCREASE TRAINING ACTIVITIES, ACCOMMODATE FORCE STRUCTURE CHANGES, AND IMPLEMENT REQUIRED RANGE ENHANCEMENTS

Alternative 1 would include all current training and testing activities described under the No Action Alternative, and could include the establishment and use of an additional MOA to the northeast of existing NWSTF Boardman airspace, an increase in existing training activities, new training and testing activities, and range enhancements to meet Navy and ORNG training requirements. Some ongoing training activities could increase or change as a result of force structure changes associated with the introduction of new aircraft or other equipment. The following proposed range enhancements would support new training and testing activities and some ongoing activities (Figure 2-4):

- Establishment and use of an additional MOA (Boardman Low MOA) to the northeast of existing NWSTF Boardman airspace and expansion of current Boardman MOA to the northeast of existing NWSTF Boardman airspace
- Construction and operation of an Army-standard Multipurpose Machine Gun Range, with a heavy sniper lane, and associated support facilities
- Construction and operation of an Army-standard Digital Multipurpose Training Range (DMPTR) and associated support facilities
- Construction and operation of an eastern Convoy Live Fire Range (CLFR)
- Construction and operation of a Demolition Training Range
- Construction and operation of a single building housing a Range Operations Control Center and UAS Training and Maintenance Facility with small airstrip
- Designation and establishment of a Drop Zone to accommodate parachute operations of personnel and small-medium sized equipment (Containerized Delivery Systems)

ES.9 ALTERNATIVE 2 – INCREASE TRAINING ACTIVITIES, ACCOMMODATE FORCE STRUCTURE CHANGES, AND IMPLEMENT DESIRED RANGE ENHANCEMENTS (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

Implementation of this alternative would include all elements of Alternative 1 (accommodating training activities currently conducted, increasing training activities, accommodating force structure changes, and implementing required range enhancements), with the exception of those elements associated with the DMPTR. Due to the changing fiscal priorities impacting the DoD and the services, as well as changing priorities necessary to meet mission requirements, the NGB and ORNG is evaluating Alternative 2

without the proposed DMPTR. Under Alternative 2, the DMPTR would not be constructed or operated. Alternative 2 has been identified by the Navy as the Preferred Alternative.

In addition, under Alternative 2, training activities of the types currently conducted would not be increased over levels identified in Alternative 1; however, they would be distributed between existing and proposed ranges. Additional range enhancements include those described in Alternative 1 plus the addition of three mortar pads, a second (western) CLFR, and a new joint-use Range Operations Control Center.

As mentioned above, current fiscal constraints are impacting the DoD and the services, as well as changing priorities necessary to meet mission requirements. With these changing priorities and mission requirements, Alternative 2 meets the selection criteria identified in Section 2.2.1 (Alternatives Development). Alternative 2 would meet Navy and ORNG minimum required capabilities as documented in the Navy Required Capabilities Document of September 8, 2005 and the U.S. Army Forces Command/Army National Guard/U.S. Army Reserve Regulation 350-2, U.S. Army Reserve Regulation 350-1, and Department of the Army Pamphlet 350-8.

ES.10 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The EIS describes existing environmental conditions and assesses the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives. The affected environment and environmental consequences are described and analyzed according to categories of resources. Due to the concerns regarding wildfire, and the frequency of fires in the region, the potential for wildfire as a result of military activities at NWSTF Boardman is addressed in its own resource category. The categories of resources addressed, and their respective section numbers, in the EIS are listed within Table ES-1.

In the environmental impact analysis process, the resources analyzed are identified and the expected geographic scope of potential impacts for each resource, known as the resource’s region of influence, is defined. The discussion and analysis, organized by resource area, mainly coincide with the air and land training areas of NWSTF Boardman.

Table ES-1: Categories of Resources Addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement

Soils (3.1)	Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice (3.8)
Air Quality (3.2)	Transportation (3.9)
Water Quality (3.3)	Cultural Resources (3.10)
Noise (3.4)	American Indian Traditional Resources (3.11)
Vegetation (3.5)	Public Health and Safety and Protection of Children (3.12)
Wildlife (3.6)	Wildfire (3.13)
Land Use and Recreation (3.7)	

The Navy has a comprehensive management program that considers biological resources, cultural resources, environmental compliance, and environmental resource education and interpretation (e.g., Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans, etc.), the details of which are presented in each relevant resource section. The basis for Navy environmental resource management at NWSTF Boardman is a holistic, long-term view of human activities in conjunction with air/water quality, cultural resources, land uses, noise ordinances, waste

management, or other terrestrial biological resources such as sensitive species and habitats. The Navy is responsible for compliance with applicable federal environmental laws, rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines designed to protect terrestrial, environmental, and cultural resources at NWSTF Boardman, concurrent with the Navy's sustained utilization of NWSTF Boardman for training. Environmental programs at NWSTF Boardman balance the need for environmental protection with the training mission, such that military forces maximize the benefits of NWSTF Boardman training assets while minimizing adverse effects on the environment.

To achieve this balance, the Navy monitors the effects of training activities on environmental resources, using an adaptive management strategy to modify resource management in response to the ongoing influx and evaluation of monitoring and management data (see Section 3.6.3.4.4, Adaptive Management and Monitoring). Through this approach, the Navy's environmental resource managers acquire information to identify potential impacts in a timely manner, thus allowing for ongoing adjustments to training and/or resource management while keeping the training mission on schedule to meet necessary training goals. The monitoring effort is focused not only on the environmental resource itself, such as a protected species, but also on the operational and administrative setting for training activities potentially affecting the resource.

ES.11 SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

Environmental effects that may result from the implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives are summarized at the end of this summary in Table ES-2. A summary of effects is presented for Wildlife, which was identified within the EIS as having potential significant impacts from the activities described under the action alternatives. Resource categories identified as having less than significant impacts from the activities are not presented in Table ES-2. Analysis of the activities described in the action alternatives and conclusions for all resource categories can be found in Chapter 3 (Introduction).

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects (Presented for Each of the Resource Categories Identified within the Environmental Impact Statement as Having Potential Significant Impacts)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
<p>3.6 Wildlife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread short-term minor effects from aircraft overflights in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Localized short-term minor effects from non-explosive practice munitions impact in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Localized short-term minor effects from small arms noise in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Localized short-term minor effects from vehicle and equipment noise in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Minor and localized effects from physical strikes. Low probability of incidental mortality. No observable population effects. • Localized short-term minor effects in the form of physiological or behavioral responses from electromagnetic fields or laser use. • Ground disturbance and habitat alteration would result in indirect, long-term minor effects in the form of localized habitat degradation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread short-term minor effects from aircraft overflights in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Localized short-term minor effects from non-explosive practice munitions impact in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Short-term minor effects from small arms noise in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. Effects would be widespread. • Noise from large arms (weapons) use has potential to reduce the fitness of individuals and diminish habitat quality. Potential to cause local population declines in Washington ground squirrels, grasshopper sparrows, western burrowing owls, and long-billed curlews. • Land demolitions have the potential to reduce the fitness of individuals and diminish habitat quality. Potential to cause local population declines in Washington ground squirrels, grasshopper sparrows, western burrowing owls, and long-billed curlews. • Widespread short-term minor effects from vehicle and equipment noise in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Minor and localized effects from physical strikes. Low probability of incidental mortality. No observable population effects. • Localized short-term minor effects in the form of physiological or behavioral responses from electromagnetic fields or laser use. • Ground disturbance and habitat alteration would result in indirect, long-term minor effects in the form of localized habitat degradation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread short-term minor effects from aircraft overflights in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Localized short-term minor effects from non-explosive practice munitions impact in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Short-term minor effects from small arms noise in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. Effects would be widespread. • Land demolitions have the potential to reduce the fitness of individuals and diminish habitat quality. Potential to cause local population declines in Washington ground squirrels, grasshopper sparrows, western burrowing owls, and long-billed curlews. • Widespread short-term minor effects from vehicle and equipment noise in the form of physiological or behavioral responses. • Minor and localized effects from physical strikes. Low probability of incidental mortality. No observable population effects. • Localized short-term minor effects in the form of physiological or behavioral responses from electromagnetic fields or laser use. • Ground disturbance and habitat alteration would result in indirect, long-term minor effects in the form of localized habitat degradation.

Table ES-2: Summary of Effects (Presented for Each of the Resource Categories Identified within the Environmental Impact Statement as Having Potential Significant Impacts) (continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
3.6 Wildlife (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Conclusion: The No Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts on wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Conclusion: Alternative 1 would result in significant impacts on wildlife because local declines in the Washington ground squirrel population could occur. Mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce impacts to this species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Conclusion: Alternative 2 would result in significant impacts on wildlife because local declines in the Washington ground squirrel population could occur. Mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce impacts to this species.
	<p>Mitigation:</p> <p>The analysis presented in this section indicates that the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) would result in unavoidable impacts on historically occupied Washington ground squirrel habitat. Therefore, mitigation measures would be implemented to compensate for these unavoidable impacts from the Preferred Alternative, as described in the Final Conferencing Opinion with USFWS (Appendix B, Regulatory Correspondence). The mitigation goal is no net loss of habitat quantity or quality, and to provide a net benefit of habitat quantity or quality, which would be achieved through in-kind and in-proximity habitat restoration and enhancement.</p> <p>Although not required under ESA, the Navy and ORNG (acting as the National Guard Bureau’s agent) engaged in early conferencing with the USFWS to address impacts on the Washington ground squirrel and develop conservation measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on this candidate species. Proposed mitigation measures are based on the outcome of the conference process and are provided in the Conference Opinion issued by USFWS on December 2, 2013 (Appendix B, Regulatory Correspondence).</p>		

Notes: MP = Management Practice, ESA = Endangered Species Act, INRMP = Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, NAS = Naval Air Station, Navy = U.S. Department of the Navy, NWSTF = Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility, ORNG = Oregon National Guard, USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

ES.12 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts were analyzed by following the NEPA of 1969, CEQ regulations, and CEQ guidance (40 C.F.R. §§1500–1508). Identifiable impacts of actions occurring in the past and present were analyzed, along with reasonably foreseeable future actions, to assess additive impacts of the Proposed Action, as well as other activities occurring in the region, including activities contributing to air quality emissions and loss of habitat. When considered with other actions, the incremental contribution of the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, or Alternative 2 to cumulative impacts on soils, air quality, water quality, noise, vegetation, wildlife, land use and recreation, socioeconomics and environmental justice, transportation, cultural resources, American Indian traditional resources, public health and safety, and wildfire would not rise to the level of significance. The No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, or Alternative 2 would also make incremental contributions to overall greenhouse gas emissions, but the incremental contributions would not be considered significant.

ES.13 MITIGATION MEASURES

As part of the Navy and ORNG commitment to sustainable use of resources and environmental stewardship, the Navy and ORNG incorporate measures that are protective of the environment into all of their activities. These include employment of management practices (MPs), standard operating procedures, adoption of conservation recommendations, and other measures that mitigate the impacts of training activities on the environment. Some of these measures are generally applicable and others are designed to apply to certain geographic areas during certain times of year, for specific types of military training.

NEPA regulations require that the federal agency evaluate means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts of the Proposed Action or alternatives (40 C.F.R. §1502.16). Additionally, an EIS is to include study of appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the alternatives (40 C.F.R. §1502.14[f]). Each of the alternatives considered in this EIS includes proposed MPs and mitigation measures intended to reduce the environmental effects of Navy and ORNG activities. Both MPs and mitigation measures are discussed throughout the EIS in connection with affected resources, and are addressed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation Measures).

ES.14 OTHER REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS

ES.14.1 POSSIBLE CONFLICTS WITH OBJECTIVES OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES, AND CONTROLS

Implementation of the Proposed Action for the NWTSF Boardman EIS is not expected to conflict with the objectives or requirements of federal, state, regional, or local plans, policies, or legal requirements. The Navy and ORNG have consulted or conferenced with regulatory agencies as appropriate during the NEPA process and prior to implementation of the Proposed Action to ensure requirements are met. Table 6-1 provides a summary of environmental compliance requirements that may apply. Agency correspondence can be found in Appendix B and supporting documentation can be found on the NWSTF Boardman EIS website at www.nwstfboardmaneis.com.

ES.14.2 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The majority of activities addressed in this EIS would be categorized as long term. For example, although the use of training areas for individual training activities may be of short duration, the training areas would continue to be utilized at the increased rate for the foreseeable future. As the Proposed Action includes an increase in training tempo (Table 2-1), areas designated for training would accommodate a

higher level of training uses in the long term, which would, in turn, affect the long-term productivity of environmental resources in those areas. Planning and accommodation of future training tempo requirements and deployment schedules will allow the Navy and ORNG to more readily facilitate long-term resource management strategies while achieving the near-term goal of providing the capacity and capabilities to fully support required training tasks and meet the Title 10 and Title 32 mandates.

ES.14.3 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Range development activities associated with the Proposed Action at NWSTF Boardman would result in the irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable energy resources, primarily in the form of fossil fuels (including fuel oil), natural gas, and gasoline for construction equipment. Implementation of the Proposed Action would require fuels used by aircraft and ground-based vehicles. Since fixed- and rotary-wing flights could increase the same under both Alternative 1 and 2 (approximately 91 percent; Table 2-4), total fuel use would increase. Fuel use by ground-based vehicles involved in training activities would also increase. Therefore, total fuel consumption would increase and this nonrenewable resource would be considered irreversibly lost.

ES.14.4 ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND CONSERVATION POTENTIAL

Increased training activities under Alternative 1 and 2 at NWSTF Boardman would result in an increase in energy demand over the No Action Alternative. Although the required electricity demands would be met by the existing electrical infrastructure at NWSTF Boardman, energy requirements would be subject to any established energy conservation practices. The use of energy sources would be minimized wherever possible without compromising safety, training, or testing operations.

ES.14.5 NATURAL OR DEPLETABLE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS AND CONSERVATION POTENTIAL

Resources that will be permanently and continually consumed by the Proposed Action include water, soils, electricity, natural gas, and fossil fuels. To the extent practicable, pollution prevention considerations are included. In addition, sustainable range management practices are in place that protect and conserve natural and cultural resources while preserving access to training areas for current and future training requirements.

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