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## 3.15 Environmental Justice

### **No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, the 1999 Congressional land withdrawal of 201,933 acres from public domain (Public Law 106-65) would expire on November 5, 2021, and military training activities requiring the use of these public lands would cease. Expiration of the land withdrawal would terminate the Navy's authority to use nearly all of the Fallon Range Training Complex's (FRTC's) bombing ranges, affecting nearly 62 percent of the land area currently available for military aviation and ground training activities in the FRTC.

### **Alternative 1 – Modernization of the Fallon Range Training Complex**

Under Alternative 1, the Navy would request Congressional renewal of the 1999 Public Land Withdrawal of 202,864 acres, which is scheduled to expire in November 2021. The Navy would request that Congress withdraw and reserve for military use approximately 618,727 acres of additional Federal land and acquire approximately 65,153 acres of non-federal land. Range infrastructure would be constructed to support modernization, including new target areas, and expand and reconfigured existing Special Use Airspace (SUA) to accommodate the expanded bombing ranges. Implementation of Alternative 1 would potentially require the reroute of State Route 839 and the relocation of a portion of the Paiute Pipeline. Public access to B-16, B-17, and B-20 would be restricted for security and to safeguard against potential hazards associated with military activities. The Navy would not allow mining or geothermal development within the proposed bombing ranges or the Dixie Valley Training Area (DVTA). Under Alternative 1, the Navy would use the modernized FRTC to conduct aviation and ground training of the same general types and at the same tempos as analyzed in Alternative 2 of the *2015 Military Readiness Activities at Fallon Range Training Complex, Nevada, Final Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS). The Navy is not proposing to increase the number of training activities under this or any of the alternatives in this EIS.

### **Alternative 2 – Modernization of Fallon Range Training Complex with Managed Access**

Alternative 2 would have the same withdrawals, acquisitions, and SUA changes as proposed in Alternative 1. Alternative 2 would continue to allow certain public uses within specified areas of B-16, B-17, and B-20 (ceremonial, cultural, or academic research visits, land management activities) when the ranges are not operational and compatible with military training activities (typically weekends, holidays, and when closed for maintenance). Alternative 2 would also continue to allow grazing, hunting, off-highway vehicle (OHV) usage, camping, hiking, site and ceremonial visits, and large event off-road races at the DVTA. Additionally under Alternative 2, hunting would be conditionally allowed on designated portions of B-17, and geothermal and salable mineral exploration would be conditionally allowed on the DVTA. Large event off-road races would be allowable on all ranges subject to coordination with the Navy and compatible with military training activities.

### **Alternative 3 – Bravo-17 Shift and Managed Access (Preferred Alternative)**

Alternative 3 differs from Alternative 1 and 2 with respect to the orientation, size, and location of B-16, B-17, B-20 and the DVTA, and is similar to Alternative 2 in terms of managed access. Alternative 3 places the proposed B-17 farther to the southeast and rotates it slightly counter-clockwise. In conjunction with shifting B-17 in this manner, the expanded range would leave State Route 839 in its current configuration along the western boundary of B-17 and would expand eastward across State Route 361 potentially requiring the reroute of State Route 361. The Navy proposes designation of the area south of U.S. Route 50 as a Special Land Management Overlay rather than proposing it for withdrawal as the DVTA. This Special Land Management Overlay would define two areas, one east and one west of the existing B-17 range. These two areas, which are currently public lands under the jurisdiction of BLM, would not be withdrawn by the Navy and would not directly be used for land-based military training or managed by the Navy.

# Environmental Impact Statement

## Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization

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### 3.15 Environmental Justice

The United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as the “fair treatment” and “meaningful involvement” of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016). “Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or policies” (Federal Aviation Administration, 2015). Meaningful involvement means that

- people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment or health,
- the public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision,
- their concerns will be considered in the decision-making process, and
- the decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected (Federal Aviation Administration, 2015).

#### 3.15.1 Methodology

The methodology for analyzing potential environmental justice impacts considers the region of influence, regulatory framework, identification of minority and low-income populations, and identification of any disproportionately high and adverse impacts. This analysis focuses on the potential for a disproportionate and adverse exposure of specific population groups to the projected adverse consequences discussed in Sections 3.1 through 3.14 of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

##### 3.15.1.1 Region of Influence

The region of influence (also referred to as the Study Area) for environmental justice includes Churchill, Elko, Eureka, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, and Washoe counties. Environmental justice refers to any minority or low-income population that could be exposed to a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effect of implementing the Proposed Action or any of the alternatives. This includes census block groups that overlap or are adjacent to existing Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Bravo ranges and training areas (also known as fenceline communities) and any other community that could experience day-night level (DNL) noise of 65 decibels A-weighted (dBA) or above as a result of FRTC training activities (see Section 3.7, Noise). Communities that would not experience noise levels of 65 dBA or above include Elko, Eureka, and Washoe; therefore, they are not analyzed further. Those communities that could experience noise levels of 65 dBA or greater include Churchill, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing counties; therefore, they are considered for this analysis.

##### 3.15.1.2 Regulatory Framework

Consistent with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (February 11, 1994), the Navy’s policy is to identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its actions on minority and low-income populations.

##### 3.15.1.3 Approach to Analysis

To determine whether there would be any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effect to a minority or low-income population, the Navy must first identify whether there

would be any minority or low-income population that may be exposed to disproportionately high and adverse environmental impacts (see Section 3.15.1.3.1, Identifying Minority or Low-Income Populations). For any identified populations, the Navy assesses the impacts and identifies whether the action would result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects. For purposes of this analysis, 2010 and 2016 population data was used for determining existing conditions in addition to forecast data for total population density out to 2021 (when the Proposed Action, if approved, would be implemented).

The identification of a disproportionately high and adverse impact on minority and low-income populations does not preclude a proposed agency action from going forward, nor does it necessarily compel a conclusion that a proposed action is environmentally unsatisfactory. If an agency determines there would be a disproportionately high and adverse impact on minority and low-income populations, an agency may consider heightening its focus on meaningful public engagement regarding community preferences, considering an appropriate range of alternatives (including alternative sites), and mitigation and monitoring measures (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016).

#### **3.15.1.3.1 Identifying Minority or Low-income Populations**

To assess the impacts on minority and low-income populations, the Navy first identifies whether there are any areas of minority or low-income populations that may experience disproportionately high and adverse impacts from the Proposed Action. Minority and low-income populations are determined by analyzing the demographic and economic characteristics of the affected area and comparing those to the characteristics of the larger community as a whole. This larger community is known as the community of comparison.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) was used to initially screen for areas with minority and low-income populations, potential environmental quality issues, and environmental and demographic indicators. Data was also pulled from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 Census and 2012-2016 American Community Survey for the analysis to characterize minority and Hispanic or Latino populations and to define low-income populations. Populations associated with Native American Tribes are included in the county populations. Tribal communities located within the Study Area (specifically, the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe) identify themselves as an environmental justice community of concern. Low-income populations in this analysis are defined using the percent of all individuals with determined poverty status, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, for each specific geographic area. In this analysis, U.S. Census statistics provided poverty estimates down to the census tract level only for this portion of Nevada. A census tract is a small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county. A census block group is a geographic unit that is smaller than a census tract but larger than a census block. A census block group generally consists of between 600 and 3,000 people and is usually a contiguous area. Census-designated places are delineated on figures to provide data for settled concentrations of populations that are identifiable by name but not legally incorporated under the laws of the state.

**Minority populations**<sup>1</sup> are individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or Black or African American. The

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<sup>1</sup> These are the exact categories as enumerated by the census bureau and guidance. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race, so they are also included in applicable race categories.

methodology used for identification of minority populations considered the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Report (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016). While the identification of minority populations can be conducted a number of ways, the report provides two approaches that include conducting either a *No-Threshold* analysis or both the *Fifty Percent* analysis and the *Meaningfully Greater* analysis in concert. For this EIS, the analysis conducted used the *Fifty Percent* and the *Meaningfully Greater* analyses. The following steps were adapted from the report.

Conducting the *Fifty Percent* analysis entails the following steps:

- Step 1: Determine the total number of individuals within the affected environment. The number of individuals within the affected environment was determined using the 2010 Census Bureau data.
- Step 2: Determine the total number of minority individuals (all individuals white alone, not Hispanic or Latino) residing within the affected environment. *The number of minorities within the affected environment was determined using the 2010 and 2016 Census Bureau data.*
- Step 3: Select the appropriate geographic units of analysis within the affected environment. Since minority population data was not available for census block groups within the Study Area, the census tract was the appropriate geographic unit used.
- Step 4: Determine the percentage of minority individuals (including Hispanics) residing with the geographic unit of analysis. Data provided later in the section in table format reflect the percentage of minority individuals (including Hispanics) within the Study Area.
- Step 5: If the percentage of minorities residing in the geographic unit of analysis meets or exceeds 50 percent, note the existence of a minority population. *Minority populations that exceed 50 percent or higher are identified and noted in the appropriate tables below.*
- Step 6: Compare the total number of minorities residing within the affected environment against the total number of individuals residing within the affected environment, in order to determine the percentage of minority individuals residing with the affected environment. *The percentage of minority individuals residing in the affected environment is provided in appropriate tables below.*
- Step 7: If the percentage of minorities residing in the affect environment exceeds 50 percent, consider noting the need for a heightened focus. *Provided in this analysis is a higher focus on minority populations over 50 percent.*
- Step 8: After completion of the *Fifty Percent* analysis, conduct the *Meaningfully Greater* analysis.

The following is the *Meaningfully Greater* analysis conducted in concert with the *Fifty Percent* analysis.

Conducting the *Meaningfully Greater* analysis entails the following steps:

- Step 1: Select the appropriate geographic unit of analysis for the affected environment. Since minority population data was not available for census block groups within the Study Area, the census tract was the appropriate geographic unit for analysis.
- Step 2: Select the appropriate reference community. The reference community is Churchill, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing counties.
- Step 3: Select the appropriate meaningfully greater threshold for comparison. The *Meaningfully Greater* analysis requires use of a reasonable, subjective threshold (e.g., 10 or 20 percent greater than the reference community). What constitutes "meaningfully greater" varies by agency, with some agencies considering any percentage in the selected geographic unit of analysis that is greater than the percentage in the appropriate reference community to qualify as being meaningfully greater. *For this analysis, "meaningfully greater" was defined as*

*demographic statistics that differ by more than 15 percent from those of the communities of comparison.*

- Step 4: Compare the percentages of minority individuals residing within the selected geographic units of analysis to the percentage of minority individuals residing within the reference community. *Identification of minority populations were compared to population characteristics from the affected census tracts to that of Churchill, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing counties.*
- Step 5: If the percentage of minorities residing within the geographic unit of analysis is meaningfully greater (based on the established threshold), either individually or in the aggregate than the percentage of minorities residing within the reference community, disclose the existence of a minority population. *Tables present the existence of minority populations within the affected environment.*
- Step 6: Display identified minority populations in a map and table format, as appropriate. *Figures illustrate the location of minority populations within the affected environment.*
- Step 7: Provide written rationale that explains the selection of the geographic unit of analysis, the reference community, the meaningfully greater threshold, and other methods used to identify minority populations. *Methods used to identify minority populations are identified above. Section 3.15.2 (Affected Environment) provides the data needed to support the analysis as presented in Section 3.15.3 (Environmental Consequences). Incorporated places and census-designated places were also included in this analysis to accurately reflect the existence of any minority population in the geographic unit of analysis (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016).*

**Low-income populations** are defined as census tracts where the percentage of the population considered to be low income is greater than or equal to the percentage of the general population with low incomes in the community of comparison. The methodology used for identification of low-income populations considered the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and NEPA Report (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016). While the identification of low-income populations can be conducted a number of ways, the report provides two approaches that include conducting either an Alternative Criteria Analysis or a Low-Income Threshold Criteria Analysis. For this EIS, the analysis conducted used the Low-Income Threshold Criteria Analysis, and the following steps adapted from the report were included:

- Step 1: Select and disclose the appropriate poverty thresholds as defined by the Census Bureau, the poverty guidelines as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services, or other appropriate source. *This analysis uses the 2010 and 2016 Census Bureau data.*
- Step 2: Select an appropriate geographic unit of analysis (e.g., block group, census tract) for identifying low-income populations in the affected environment. *Since low-income population data was not available for census block groups within the Study Area, the census tract is the appropriate geographic unit to use.*
- Step 3: Select the appropriate reference community to compare against the geographic units of analysis. Reference communities evaluated for this step included Churchill, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, and Nye counties. The community of comparison for Pershing and Lander counties is the State of Nevada because these counties each have only one census tract.
- Step 4: Select an appropriate measure (individuals, median household income, or families below the poverty level) for comparing the poverty level in the geographic unit of analysis to the reference community. *For this step, individuals below the poverty line was the measure used for purposes of comparison.*



- Step 5: Select an appropriate threshold for determining whether a particular geographic unit of analysis is identified as low-income. *The threshold for this analysis is if the geographic unit is greater or equal to the community comparison.*
- Step 6: Determine the percentage of individuals at or below the selected low-income threshold for the reference community and in each geographic unit of analysis. *Appropriate tables are provided later in the section that reflect the percentage of individuals at or below the low-income threshold.*
- Step 7: Compare the percentage (from Step 6) in each geographic unit of analysis to the percentage in the reference community. Tables are provided later in this section that present the comparison of minority or low-income populations affected against the projected county totals for all action alternatives.
- Step 8: If the percentage in the geographic unit of analysis is equal to or greater than that of the reference community, disclose the existence of a low-income population. *Low-income populations exist in Lyon County, Mineral County, Nye County, and Pershing County. Figures and tables presented later in this section identify potential low-income census tracts affected by the Proposed Action.*
- Step 9: Display in the NEPA document low-income populations identified within the affected environment in a meaningful way. Low-income populations are presented in this section through a number of figures and tables (Tables 3.15-1 and 3.15-2 and Figures 3.15-1 through 3.15-3).
- Step 10: Provide written rationale to explain the selection of data sources and other methods used to identify low-income populations. *Since census block group data was not available in the Study Area, census tract data was used. For circumstances where the county consisted of a single census tract, a low-income minority or low-income community was defined as any county where the percentage of the population with low incomes is greater than or equal to that of the corresponding state.*

### 3.15.1.3.2 Identifying Disproportionately High and Adverse Impacts

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidance on environmental justice analysis requires that any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations are identified and analyzed. A disproportionate effect is an adverse effect that either is

1. predominately borne by a minority population and/or low-income population, or
2. is an effect that will be suffered by the minority and/or low-income population and is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect that will be suffered by the nonminority or non-low-income population (Federal Highway Administration Order 6640.23A [2012]).

Once the presence or absence of a minority or low-income population is determined, the Navy then assesses the impacts from the proposed action and determine whether these impacts would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on these populations. This analysis involves comparing the impacts on the identified minority or low-income population to the general population within the affected environment. In determining whether there are potentially disproportionately high and adverse impacts, the Navy also considers the significance of the impacts under NEPA.

As informed by CEQ's *Environmental Justice Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act* (Council on Environmental Quality, 1997) and the Report of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and NEPA Committee, *Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews*

(U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016), disproportionately high and adverse impacts are typically determined based on the impacts in one or more resource topics analyzed in NEPA documents. Any identified impact on human health or the environment (e.g., impacts on noise, biota, air quality, traffic/congestion, or land use) that potentially affects minority or low-income populations in the affected environment might result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts.

According to the CEQ guidance mentioned above (Council on Environmental Quality, 1997), when determining whether environmental effects are disproportionately high and adverse, agencies consider the following three factors to the extent practicable:

1. Whether there is, or would be, an impact on the natural or physical environment that significantly and adversely affects a minority or low-income population.
2. Whether environmental effects are significant (as defined by NEPA) and are, or may be, having an adverse impact on minority or low-income populations that appreciably exceeds or is likely to exceed those on the general population or other appropriate comparison group.
3. Whether the environmental effects occur, or would occur, in a minority or low-income population affected by cumulative or multiple adverse exposures from environmental hazards.

Similar factors considered in determining whether there are disproportionately high and adverse human health effects include the significance of measured (in risk and rates) health effects of hazard exposure, and whether this hazard exposure exceeds the risk or rate to the general population or appropriate comparison groups.

*The Report from the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and NEPA* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2016) provides guiding principles for the determination of whether the impacts on minority or low-income populations may be disproportionately high and adverse.

In the disproportionately high and adverse impact analysis, agencies compare impacts on minority and low-income populations in the affected environment with an appropriate comparison group within the affected environment. Relevant and appropriate comparison groups are selected based on the nature and scope of the project. Using the Environmental Protection Agency's EJSCREEN, environmental indicators that can potentially amplify an impact on minority and low-income populations and warrant further considerations were evaluated for Churchill, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing counties. Environmental indicators generally include air toxics cancer risk, respiratory hazard index, diesel, particulate matter, ozone, lead paint, traffic proximity and volume, proximity to risk management plan sites, proximity to treatment storage and disposal facilities, proximity to national priorities list sites, and proximity to major direct water discharges (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2017). EJSCREEN was used to identify any existing environmental indicators that would result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts associated with minority and low-income populations.

#### **3.15.1.4 Public Scoping Concerns**

Issues and questions brought up by the public during the scoping period indicate that the public is concerned about potential impacts on tribal communities and low-income individuals. Concerns include potential impacts from aircraft overflight noise on rural, low-income, and minority communities. For further information regarding comments received during the public scoping process, please refer to Appendix D (Public Involvement).

### 3.15.2 Affected Environment

For purposes of this EIS, the environmental justice analysis identifies and concentrates on the communities most likely affected by actions at the FRTC. As described in the Navy's *Military Readiness Activities at Fallon Range Training Complex Environmental Impact Statement*, noise is the primary issue associated with current FRTC operations, and it is not likely that current air emission or water quality impacts are affecting communities outside the Bravo ranges (i.e., B-16, B-17, B-19, or B-20) (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2015).

Identified minority or low-income populations include all census block groups or tracts that overlap or are adjacent to existing FRTC Bravo ranges and training areas (also known as fenceline communities) and any other community that would experience DNL noise of 65 dBA or above as a result of current FRTC training activities (see Section 3.7, Noise). No incorporated places or census-designated places overlap or are adjacent to existing FRTC lands.

#### 3.15.2.1 Minority Populations

Demographic and economic data minority populations and communities of comparison as a whole are presented in Table 3.15-1. In the table, blue highlighting identifies census block groups that would qualify as minority populations based on the indicated thresholds. Churchill, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing counties are the communities of comparison for minority populations and are shaded grey in the table. These counties are the smallest geographic units that incorporate the affected population.

Based on the methodology presented in Section 3.15.1.3.1 (Identifying Minority or Low-income Populations), minority populations are located in Mineral County (Block Group 1, Census Tract 9708) and the Yomba Tribal Reservation (located in Nye County) and are shown on Figure 3.15-1. These areas qualify as minority populations because the percentage of minorities in these areas is meaningfully greater than it is in the community of comparison (Table 3.15-1).

#### 3.15.2.2 Low-income Populations

Demographic and economic data low-income populations and communities of comparison as a whole are presented in Table 3.15-1. In the table, blue highlighting identifies census block groups that would qualify as low-income population based on the indicated thresholds. Churchill, Lyon, Mineral, and Nye counties are the communities of comparison for low-income populations and are shaded grey in the table. The State of Nevada was used as the community of comparison for Pershing and Lander counties because these counties each have only one census tract.

Based on the methodology presented in Section 3.15.1.3.1 (Identifying Minority or Low-income Populations), low-income populations are located in Lyon County (Block Group 1, Census Tract 9602.02), Mineral County (Block Group 1, Census Tract 9708), and Pershing County (Block Group 1, Census Tract 9601). These census tracts qualify as low-income populations because they have a low-income population equal to or greater than that of their respective communities of comparison (Table 3.15-1).

Table 3.15-1: Comparison of Environmental Justice Population Currently Affected by the Fallon Range Training Complex to County Totals

Census Block Group/County	Total Population 2010 <sup>1</sup>	Total Population 2016 <sup>2</sup>	Percent Minority <sup>3</sup>	Percent Hispanic or Latino Origin <sup>4</sup>	Percent Low Income <sup>5</sup>	Population Density (per sq. mile) <sup>6</sup>
<b>Nevada – State Total</b>	<b>2,700,551</b>	<b>2,839,172</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Churchill County – County Total</b>	<b>24,877</b>	<b>24,148</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9501	1,027	823	5	2	10	<1
Block Group 2, Census Tract 9501	1,536	1,593	14	13	10	6
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9507	1,534	1,340	2	5	7	4
<b>Lander County – County Total</b>	<b>5,775</b>	<b>5,907</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>
Block Group 3, Census Tract 3	1,158	1,819	3	19	13	1
<b>Lyon County – County Total</b>	<b>51,980</b>	<b>51,897</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9602.02	1,085	1,196	12	2	19	6
<b>Mineral County – County Total</b>	<b>4,722</b>	<b>4,519</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9708	1,337	1,686	61	10	31	<1
<b>Nye County – County Total</b>	<b>43,946</b>	<b>43,198</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9601	956	635	15	0	5	<1
Yomba Tribal Reservation T001 TBG-A	95	101	84	3	11	14
<b>Pershing County – County Total</b>	<b>6,753</b>	<b>6,690</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9601 <sup>7</sup>	1,651	1,187	13	13	16	1

**Table 3.15-1: Comparison of Environmental Justice Population Currently Affected by the Fallon Range Training Complex to County Totals (continued)**

Census Block Group/County	Total Population 2010 <sup>1</sup>	Total Population 2016 <sup>2</sup>	Percent Minority <sup>3</sup>	Percent Hispanic or Latino Origin <sup>4</sup>	Percent Low Income <sup>5</sup>	Population Density (per sq. mile) <sup>6</sup>
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Notes: Grey shading identifies communities of comparison. Blue highlighting identifies census block groups or tracts that qualify as minority or low-income population. There are no incorporated places or census-designated places that overlap or are adjacent to existing FRTC lands or are within the modeled 65 dBA DNL noise contours for FRTC’s existing operations.

<sup>1</sup>Total population 2010 is the total estimated population for the entire census block group as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2010. These figures may be greater than the total number of residents affected because in most instances only a portion of the census block group would be affected.

<sup>2</sup>Total population 2016 is the total estimated population for the entire census block group as estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau in the 2012–2016 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017a).

<sup>3</sup>Minority is individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or Black or African American. Percent minority was estimated as the percentage of the population that did not identify as White in the 2012–2016 American Community Survey (5 Year Estimates) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017a).

<sup>4</sup>Hispanic or Latino consists of individuals who self-identify as belonging to this ethnic group (based on ethnicity, not race) in U.S. Census Bureau surveys (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017b).

<sup>5</sup>Percent low income is the percent of all residents identified as having incomes placing them below the U.S.-Census-defined poverty level in the past 12 months according to data published by the U.S. Census Bureau in the 2012–2016 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017c). The American Community Survey does not estimate income data at the census block group level; therefore, the income data displayed in this table are from the census tract level. Census block groups within the same census tract are estimated to have the same percent of low-income residents.

<sup>6</sup>Population densities per square mile were estimated by taking the projected number of individuals residing within the census area and dividing by the total land area of each census area. This estimate assumes a uniform density within each census area. EJSCREEN was used to calculate the amount of land area within each census block group (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2017).

<sup>7</sup>2012–2016 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates) used the same census tract population as that of the county population; therefore, low-income populations were identified by comparing the percentage of low income (i.e., below the poverty level) within the county to that of the State.

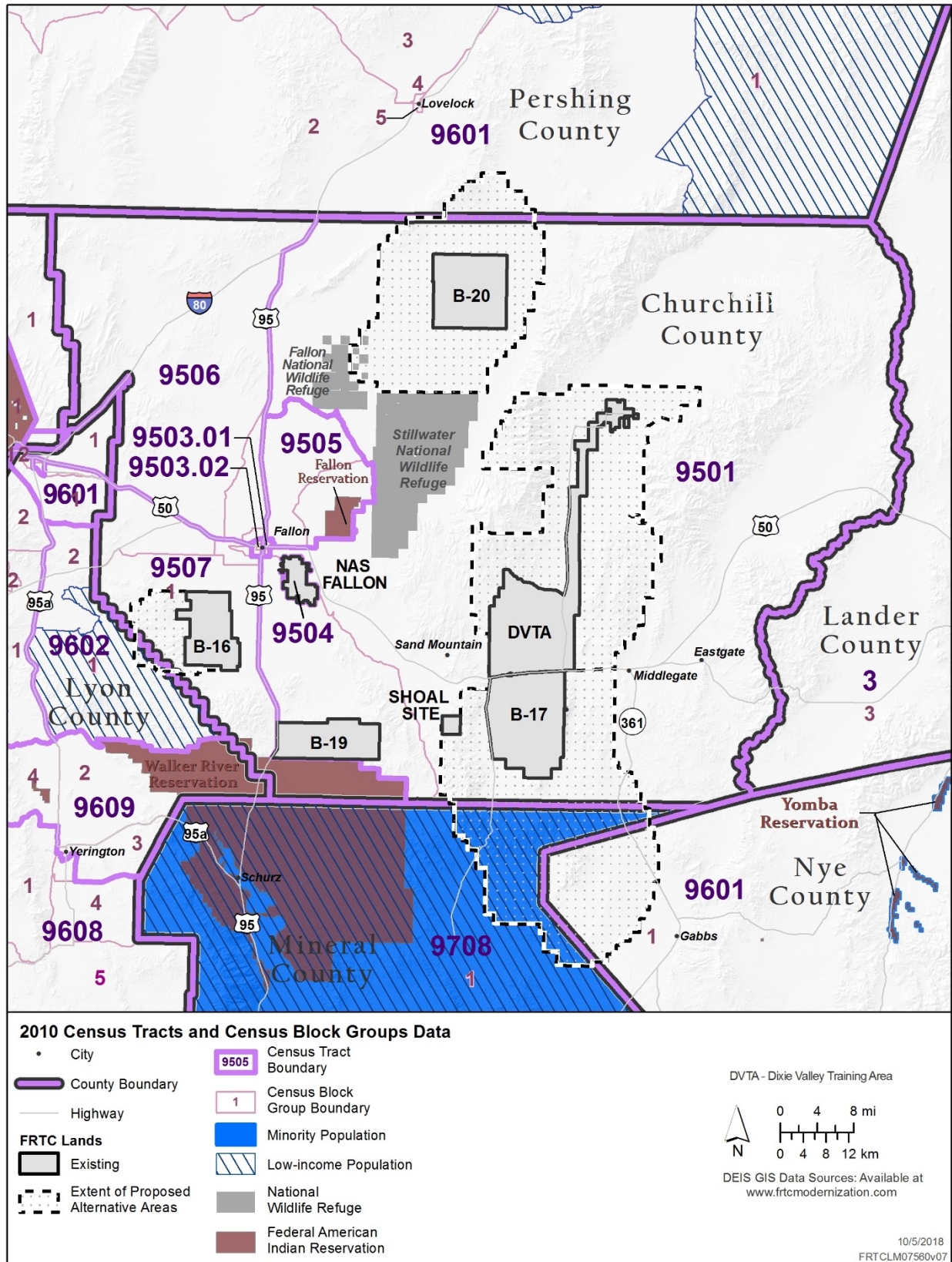


Figure 3.15-1: 2010 Census Tracts and Census Block Groups Data

### 3.15.3 Environmental Consequences

This section identifies minority or low-income populations affected by the Proposed Action and determines whether impacts on these populations are disproportionately high and adverse as required by Executive Order 12898.

This analysis focuses on the potential for a disproportionate and adverse exposure of specific population groups to the projected adverse consequences discussed in Sections 3.1 to 3.14 of this EIS. Noise impacts are the primary negative environmental and human health impact associated with the Proposed Action. As described in previous sections, any minority or low-income population that is adjacent to FRTC land or falls beneath the modeled 65 dBA DNL or above noise contours may be disproportionately and adversely affected by the action (Section 3.7, Noise). Other factors that could affect populations include activities that impact water quality and air quality, as well as an increased safety risk associated with any reconfigured weapon danger zones (WDZs) or surface danger zones (SDZs).

This analysis builds on that of the previous resource sections in this EIS. However, unlike those sections, which examine how activities at each Bravo range/training area would affect a specific resource, this analysis first identifies minority and low-income populations that could be affected by the Proposed Action, and then analyzes whether these populations would be subjected to a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects.

A summary of the potential impacts with implementation of the No Action Alternative or any of the three action alternatives (Alternatives 1, 2, and 3) is provided at the end of this section (see Section 3.15.3.6, Summary of Effects and Conclusions).

#### 3.15.3.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not occur and the existing legislative withdrawals would expire on November 5, 2021. The exact extent of any potential reduction in training activities is not known; however, current FRTC operations were recently determined to not have a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effect on any minority or low-income population (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2015). Therefore, the No Action Alternative would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations.

#### 3.15.3.2 Alternative 1: Modernization of the Fallon Range Training Complex

##### 3.15.3.2.1 Identifying Minority or Low-income Populations

The Alternative 1 study area for the environmental justice analysis is defined as any minority or low-income community that overlaps or is adjacent to proposed FRTC land or falls beneath the modeled 65 dBA DNL noise contours described in Section 3.7 (Noise).

Demographic and economic data for census block groups either wholly or partially within the study area is shown in Table 3.15-2. Blue highlighting identifies census block groups that would qualify as minority or low-income population based on the indicated thresholds. Communities of comparison are shaded grey in the table. As previously stated, Churchill, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing counties have been identified as the communities of comparison for minority populations. These counties are the smallest geographic units that incorporate the affected population. Also as previously stated, Churchill, Lyon, Mineral, and Nye counties are the communities of comparison for low-income populations, and the State of Nevada was used as the community of comparison for low-income populations within

Pershing and Lander counties because these counties each have only one census tract. There are no incorporated places or census-designated places that overlap or are adjacent to proposed FRTC lands or are within the modeled 65 dBA DNL contours. However, Gabbs is considered a census-designated place and is located to the southeast of the proposed B-17 expansion area.

For purposes of this analysis, Table 3.15-2 forecasts the total population density out to 2021 (year of alternative implementation). Forecast data for 2021 reflect two new areas that would be classified as low-income populations (Gabbs Census Designated Place and Pershing County, Block Group 2, Census Tract 9601) as compared to 2016. Population growth projections depend on a variety of factors, including trends and policy in international migration, potential impacts from automation, climate change, and funding and changes to healthcare (Nevada Department of Taxation, 2017). The Nevada State Demographer's *Nevada County Population Projections from 2017 to 2036* was used to identify estimated total populations for the communities of comparison (Nevada Department of Taxation, 2017). Data from the Nevada Department of Taxation was used to estimate growth factors for each county from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates), which was then uniformly distributed among the census tracts and census block groups within each county (Nevada Department of Taxation, 2015). Figure 3.15-2 shows the location of the 2021 census tracts, census block groups, incorporated places, and census-designated places within these study areas. U.S. Census Bureau's TIGERweb application was used to identify census tracts, block groups, and American Indian reservations within the study area (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017d).

As depicted in Table 3.15-2, which provides forecasted 2021 data, greater than 50 percent of the Yomba Tribal Reservation is a minority population. Mineral County Block Group 1 Census Tract 9708 has a minority population that is meaningfully greater than the community of comparison (i.e., 15 percent greater than the corresponding counties). Also, Lyon County Census Tract 9602.02, Mineral County Census Tract 9708, Gabbs Census Designated Place located in Nye County, and Pershing County Census Tract 9601 would qualify as low-income populations per the indicated thresholds.

### **3.15.3.2.2 Identifying Disproportionately High and Adverse Effects**

The following analysis compares whether any adverse human health and environmental effects on the minority or low-income populations located in Lyon County, Mineral County, Nye County, and Pershing County would be disproportionately high when compared to the general population and the comparison groups (Table 3.15-2). Based on the Census Bureau data, there are no minority or low-income populations in Churchill County or Lander County as defined above, so no further analysis is required. This section identifies any potential human health or environmental effect to populations within each of these communities and then compares these impacts to those of the comparison groups and the general population.



Table 3.15-2: Comparison of Minority and Low-Income Populations Affected to Projected County Totals for All Action Alternatives

Census Block Group/County	Estimated Total Population 2021 <sup>1</sup>	Percent Minority <sup>2</sup> 2021	Percent Hispanic or Latino Origin <sup>3</sup> 2021	Percent Low income <sup>4</sup> 2021	Population Density <sup>5</sup> (per sq. mile) 2021
<b>Nevada – State Total</b>	<b>3,120,711</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Churchill County – County Total</b>	<b>26,452</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9501	1,092	5	2	10	<1
Block Group 2, Census Tract 9501	1,633	14	13	10	7
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9507	1,631	2	5	7	5
<b>Lander County – County Total</b>	<b>6,231</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>
Block Group 3, Census Tract 3 <sup>6</sup>	1,919	3	19	13	1
<b>Lyon County – County Total</b>	<b>56,384</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>28</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9602.02	1,299	12	2	19	6
<b>Mineral County – County Total</b>	<b>4,349</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9708	1,623	61	10	31	<1
<b>Nye County – County Total</b>	<b>46,741</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9601	687	15	0	5	<1
Gabbs Census Designated Place	120	12	0	26	128
Yomba Tribal Reservation T001 TBG-A	109	84	3	11	21
<b>Pershing County – County Total</b>	<b>6,553</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>
Block Group 1, Census Tract 9601 <sup>6</sup>	1,163	13	13	16	1
Block Group 2, Census Tract 9601 <sup>6</sup>	2,738	22	29	16	1

**Table 3.15-2: Comparison of Minority and Low-Income Populations Affected to Projected County Totals for All Action Alternatives (continued)**

Census Block Group/County	Estimated Total Population 2021 <sup>1</sup>	Percent Minority <sup>2</sup>	Percent Hispanic or Latino Origin <sup>3</sup>	Percent Low income <sup>4</sup>	Population Density <sup>5</sup> (per sq. mile) 2021
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Notes: Grey shading identifies communities of comparison. Blue highlighting identifies census block groups or tracts that qualify as minority or low-income populations. There are no incorporated places or census-designated places that overlap or are adjacent to existing FRTC lands, or are within the modeled 65 dBA DNL noise contours for proposed operations.

<sup>1</sup>Total population for 2021 is estimated based on Nevada Department of Taxation projections for the county (Nevada Department of Taxation, 2017). This assumes a uniform growth for the entire county. The growth factors from the U.S. Census Bureau’s estimates for 2012–2016 were 10 percent for Churchill County, 5 percent for Lander County, 9 percent for Lyon County, -4 percent for Mineral County, 8 percent for Nye County, and -2 percent for Pershing County (Nevada Department of Taxation, 2017; U.S. Census Bureau, 2017a).

<sup>2</sup>Minority is defined as individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or Black or African American. Percent minority was estimated as the percentage of the population that did not identify as White in the 2012–2016 American Community Survey (5 Year Estimates) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017c). It is assumed for purposes of this EIS that these percentages would not change substantially from 2016 to 2021.

<sup>3</sup>Hispanic or Latino population is defined as individuals who self-identify as belonging to this ethnic group in U.S. Census Bureau surveys (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017e). This population definition is based on ethnicity and not race. It is assumed for purposes of this EIS that these percentages would not change substantially from 2016 to 2021.

<sup>4</sup>Percent low income is defined as the percent of all residents identified as having incomes below the U.S.-Census-defined poverty level according to data published by the U.S. Census Bureau in the 2012–2016 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017a). The American Community Survey does not estimate income data at the census block group level; therefore, the income data displayed in this table are from the census tract level. Census block groups within the same census tract are estimated to have the same percent of low-income residents. It is assumed for purposes of this EIS that these percentages would not change substantially from 2016 to 2021.

<sup>5</sup>Population densities per square mile were estimated by taking the projected number of individuals residing within the census area and dividing by the total land area of each census area. This estimate assumes a uniform density within each census area.

<sup>6</sup>The 2012–2016 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates) used the same census tract population as that of the county population; therefore, low-income populations were identified by comparing the percentage of low income (i.e., below the poverty level) within the county to that of the State.

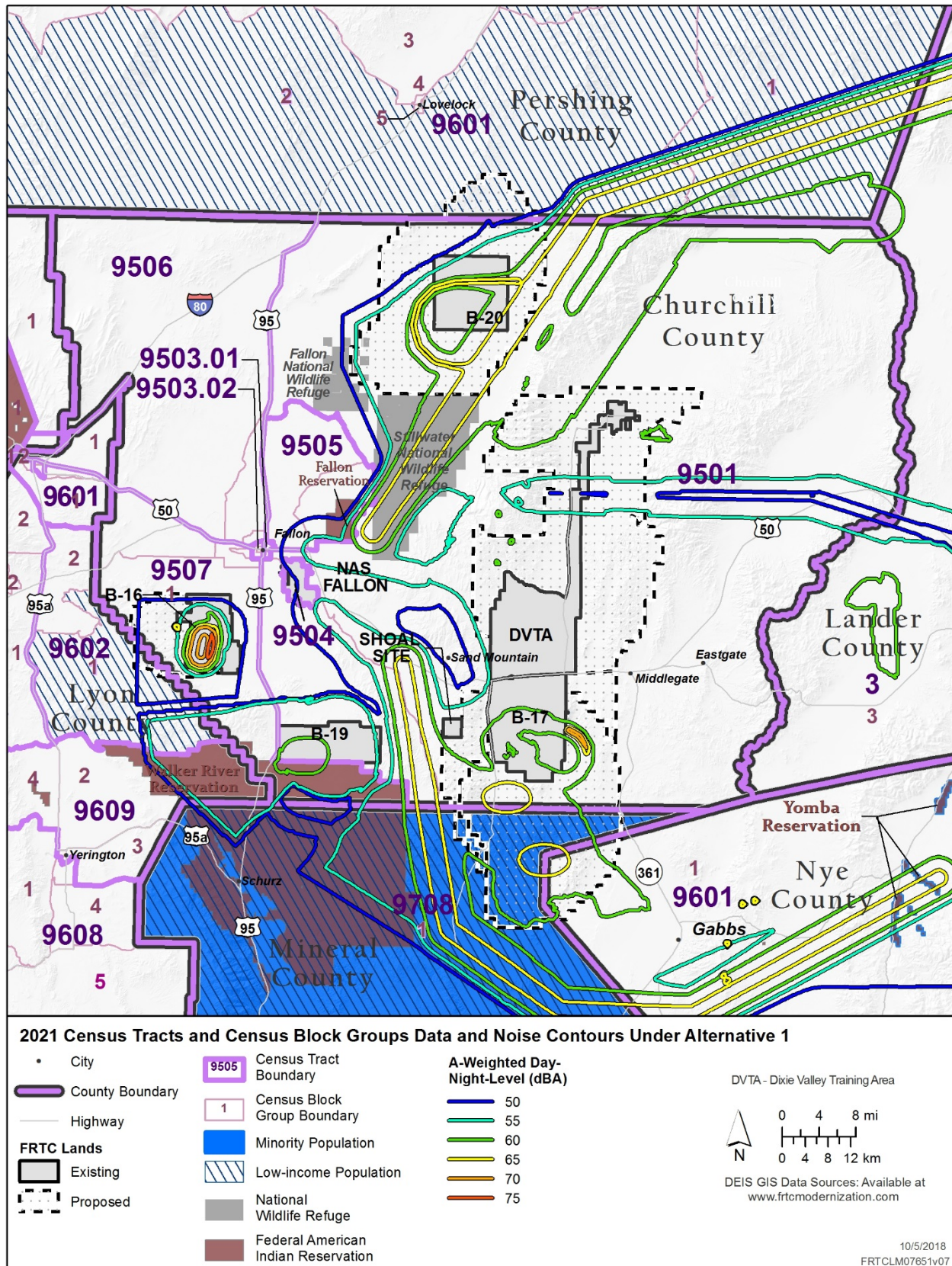


Figure 3.15-2: 2021 Census Tracts and Census Block Groups Data and Noise Contours Under Alternative 1

### ***Lyon County Census Tract 9602.02 Block Group 1***

Alternative 1 would expand B-16 west into the eastern portion of Lyon County Census Tract 9602.02 Block Group 1 and withdraw Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land from this census block group (Table 3.15-2, Figure 3.15-2). This census block group is primarily composed of BLM land in the eastern and southern portions with some private land in the northwest near Silver Springs. The Navy would not acquire any private property within this census block group. The proposed B-16 expansion area does not overlap any private residential land use or any sensitive receptors where minority or low-income populations may congregate (e.g., churches, schools). Alternative 1 would not result in noise outside the perimeter of B-16 in excess of 65 dBA DNL (Figure 3.15-2). Operational noise would be expected to be commensurate with baseline conditions because this alternative would not increase tempo or otherwise change the use of this corridor. As described in Section 3.8 (Air Quality), although there would be an increase in criteria pollutant emissions from Alternative 1 due to construction activities, these emissions would not pose human health or environmental risks to surrounding communities. Also, any hazardous air pollutant emissions or fugitive dust emissions would be minimal. Likewise, the results of the water quality analysis (Section 3.9, Water Resources) determined that there is little chance for groundwater or surface water contamination to result from Alternative 1. Further, as described in Section 3.14 (Public Health and Safety and Protection of Children), although the B-16 SDZ would be within this census block group, this SDZ would be fully contained within the proposed B-16 boundary, which would be fenced with posted warnings. Therefore, any human health or environmental effect on this community would be considered less than significant.

### ***Mineral County Census Tract 9708 Block Group 1***

Alternative 1 would expand B-17 and the Dixie Valley Training Area (DVTA) into Mineral County Census Tract 9708 Block Group 1 (Table 3.15-2, Figure 3.15-2). This census block group is largely composed of BLM land and the Walker River Paiute Reservation, the main population center of which is the Schurz Census Designated Place, located approximately 20 miles west of the proposed B-17 expansion. This alternative would withdraw BLM land and acquire private land within this census block group. However, the proposed B-17 and DVTA expansion areas would not include any private residential land use or any sensitive receptors where minority and low-income populations may congregate (e.g., churches, schools). The southern aircraft approach corridor and target approach area is over the northeastern portion of Mineral County Census Tract 9708 Block Group 1 (Figure 3.15-2). This corridor and target approach area would generate a 65 dBA DNL contour but would not go above 70 dBA DNL. This alternative would not increase tempo or otherwise change the use of this corridor and operational noise would be expected to be commensurate with baseline conditions.

As described in Section 3.8 (Air Quality), although there would be an increase in criteria pollutant emissions from Alternative 1 due to construction activities, these emissions would be temporary (lasting only until construction is complete) and would not pose human health or environmental risks to surrounding communities. Also, any hazardous air pollutant emissions or fugitive dust emissions would be minimal and are not expected to adversely impact the census block group. Likewise, the results of the water quality analysis (Section 3.9, Water Resources) determined that there is little chance for groundwater or surface water contamination to result from Alternative 1. Further, as described in Section 3.14 (Public Health and Safety and Protection of Children), although portions of the B-17 WDZ would overlap this census block group, the WDZ would be fully contained within the proposed B-17 boundary, which would be fenced with posted warnings.

The Navy would potentially relocate State Route 839. All three of the Navy's notional road relocation options include constructing a new county road through Mineral County Census Tract 9708 Block Group 1. One of these notional corridors includes constructing a new county road that would bisect the Walker River Paiute Reservation. A follow-on, site-specific NEPA document would be required to analyze the impacts of any feasible relocation of State Route 839, which would include analyzing any potential impacts on minority and low-income populations.

The Navy would also assist with the potential relocation of the Paiute Pipeline, potentially to within Mineral County Census Tract 9708 Block Group 1, to minimize socioeconomic and public health and safety risks. A follow-on, site-specific NEPA document would be required to analyze the impacts of any feasible options for this pipeline, which would include analyzing any potential impacts on minority and low-income populations.

***Nye County, Block Group 1, Census Tract 9601 Yomba Reservation T001 TBGA***

Alternative 1 would not withdraw or acquire any land within the Yomba Reservation. Alternative 1 would include special use airspace over the Yomba Reservation below 500 feet above ground level (Fallon South 2, Fallon South 3, and Duckwater Military Operations Areas). Except for the Duckwater Military Operations Area [at 200 feet above ground level], the floor of these special use airspaces would not change from existing baseline conditions. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there are 48 households on the 4,718-acre Yomba Reservation (i.e., less than one dwelling unit per acre) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017f). The Navy has implemented a 5-nautical-mile buffer around the Yomba Tribal Settlement; under Alternative 1 Navy aircraft would not be allowed to fly below 3,000 feet within this buffer.

Under Alternative 1, a portion of the south approach corridor to Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon would be over Yomba Reservation. This corridor would generate a 65 dBA DNL contour but would not go above 70 dBA DNL (Figure 3.15-2). This alternative would not increase tempo or otherwise change the use of this corridor and operational noise would be expected to be commensurate with baseline conditions. Likewise, any air emissions or risks to this minority and low-income population would be commensurate to existing baseline conditions. Therefore, any human health or environmental effect on this community would be the same as under baseline conditions and would be anticipated to be less than significant.

***Pershing County Block Group 1, Census Tract 9601***

Alternative 1 would not withdraw or acquire any land within Pershing County Census Tract 9601 Block Group 1. Under Alternative 1, a portion of the north approach corridor to NAS Fallon would be over this block group. This corridor would generate a 65 dBA DNL contour but would not go above 70 dBA DNL (Table 3.15-2). This alternative would not increase tempo or otherwise change the use of this corridor and operational noise would be expected to be commensurate with baseline conditions. Additionally, any air emissions or risks to this low-income population would be commensurate to existing baseline conditions. Therefore, any human health or environmental effect on this community would be the same as under baseline conditions and would be anticipated to be less than significant.

***Pershing County Block Group 2, Census Tract 9601***

Alternative 1 would expand B-20 into Pershing County Census Tract 9601 Block Group 2. This expansion area includes all or portions of 17 checkerboard private land blocks within this census block. Alternative 1 would acquire private land and withdraw public land within this census block. However,

there are no private residences or sensitive receptors where minority or low-income populations may congregate (e.g., churches, schools) within this area.

Alternative 1 would not produce noise in excess of 65 dBA DNL within this block group. As described in Section 3.8 (Air Quality), although there would be an increase in criteria pollutant emissions from Alternative 1, these emissions would not pose human health or environmental risks to surrounding communities. Also, any hazardous air pollutant emissions or fugitive dust emissions would be minimal and would not be anticipated to adversely impact the census block group. Likewise, the results of the water quality analysis (Section 3.9, Water Resources) determined that there is little chance for groundwater or surface water contamination to result from Alternative 1. Further as described in Section 3.14 (Public Health and Safety and Protection of Children), although the B-20 WDZ would be within this census block group, the WDZ would be fully contained within the proposed B-20 boundary, which would be fenced with posted warnings. Therefore, any human health or environmental effect on this community would be considered less than significant.

#### ***Comparing Minority and Low-Income Populations to Comparison Groups and the General Public***

As described in Section 3.15.1.3.2 (Identifying Disproportionately High and Adverse Impacts), the identification of a comparison group is required to determine whether any adverse human health or environmental effect on any minority or low-income community would be disproportionately high and adverse. A comparison group is required to be distinct from the community of comparison (or reference community), which was used to identify the existence of minority and low-income populations (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016).

The following comparison groups were used for this analysis: Nye County Census Tract 9601 Block Group 1, and Churchill County Census Tract 9501 Block Groups 1 and 2 and Census Tract 9507 Block Group 1. These census block groups were selected because these areas would all include land that would be withdrawn or acquired as part of FRTC modernization and they all contain areas within the 65 dBA DNL or greater contours.

The identified minority and low-income communities and the comparison groups are sparsely populated rural areas (Table 3.15-2). Several of these census block groups have densities of less than one person per square mile (Table 3.15-2) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2017) as compared to the State average of 28 individuals per square mile. Lyon County Block Group 1 Census Tract 9602.02 has the highest projected density of any of the relevant census block groups at six individuals per square mile (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2017) (Table 3.15-2).

Under Alternative 1, noise in excess of 65 dBA DNL occurs over minority populations in Mineral County and over low-income populations in Mineral and Pershing counties (Figure 3.15-2).

Alternative 1 would include the acquisition of private parcels within Mineral County Block Group 1 Census Tract 9708 associated with the proposed B-17 expansion area and Pershing County Block Group 1 Census Tract 9601 associated with the proposed B-20 expansion area. Mineral County Block Group 1 Census Tract 9708 is an area designated as a minority and low-income population. Pershing County Census Tract 9601 is an area designated as a low-income population. Although census block groups in Churchill, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing counties may have private residences affected by noise in excess of 65 dBA DNL from aircraft approaching NAS Fallon, Alternative 1 would not change these approach corridors. As such, aircraft noise would be commensurate to existing baseline conditions, which were previously determined to not have a disproportionately high effect on any minority or low-income population (see Section 3.15.2, Affected Environment). Also, aircraft noise from the approach corridors

is not considered disproportionately high because these corridors overlap the comparison groups. For example, Churchill County Census Tract 9501 Block Group 1 would be beneath a larger portion of both of these corridors than affected minority and low-income populations. Further, Alternative 1 would not result in any air emissions or water discharges that would adversely affect these communities in a manner that would be greater than the comparison groups. Therefore, although there are minority and low-income populations within the affected area and there are significant impacts outlined within the EIS, implementation of Alternative 1 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations.

Although Alternative 1 would not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts on minority or low-income populations, the Navy has embarked on robust community outreach and tribal engagement programs as part of this EIS process and will continue to engage with affected communities throughout the public comment period. As detailed in Section 1.9 (Public and Agency Participation and Intergovernmental Coordination), the Navy held seven public scoping meetings and has kept residents informed throughout the process with mailings (both letters and postcards), newspaper advertisements, press releases, and a project website. Project documents have been made available at local public libraries as well as online at the project's website. Public outreach efforts will continue throughout the public comment period to inform and provide meaningful involvement to impacted environmental justice populations in the decision-making process. In the preparation of this EIS, the Navy engaged with 14 cooperating agencies, including 6 local counties, and 13 affected federally recognized Native American Tribes and 1 Tribal Council (refer to Appendix D, Public Involvement).

### **3.15.3.3 Alternative 2: Modernization of the Fallon Range Training Complex and Managed Access**

The Alternative 2 study area for environmental justice analysis is defined the same as under Alternative 1. Table 3.15-2 provides demographic and economic data for all of the census block groups either wholly or partially within this area. Census tracts, census block groups, incorporated places, and census-designated places are shown on Figure 3.15-2.

The only differences between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 are that Alternative 2 would allow additional public land uses within the Bravo ranges and restricted mineral resources development in the DVTA. Since all members of the public would be affected equally by these differences, Alternative 2 would have the same impacts on minority and low-income populations as Alternative 1 (see Section 3.15.3.2, Alternative 1: Modernization of the Fallon Range Training Complex). Therefore, although there are minority and low-income populations within the affected area and there are significant impacts outlined within this EIS, implementation of Alternative 2 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations. As described in Section 3.15.3.2 (Alternative 1: Modernization of the Fallon Range Training Complex) and Section 1.9 (Public and Agency Participation and Intergovernmental Coordination), the Navy has embarked on a robust community outreach program as part of this EIS process and will continue to engage with affected communities throughout the public comment period.

### **3.15.3.4 Alternative 3: B-17 Shift and Managed Access (Preferred Alternative)**

The Alternative 3 study area for environmental justice analysis is defined as any minority or low-income community that overlaps or is adjacent to proposed FRTC land or falls beneath the modeled 65 dBA DNL noise contours described in Section 3.7 (Noise). The Alternative 3 study area is similar to that of Alternatives 1 and 2; however, B-17 would have a different land and airspace configuration than

Alternatives 1 and 2 because Alternative 3 shifts B-17 farther southeast than Alternatives 1 and 2 (Figure 3.15-3). Alternative 3 would also use the same north and south approach corridors as Alternatives 1 and 2. It is anticipated that any resulting operational noise from using these corridors would be commensurate to baseline conditions because, as with Alternatives 1 and 2, this alternative would not increase the tempo or otherwise change the use of this corridor. Unlike Alternative 1, the Navy would not withdraw land south of U.S. Route 50 as the DVTA. Rather, the Navy proposes that Congress categorizes this area as a Special Land Management Overlay. This Special Land Management Overlay will define two areas (one east and one west of the B-17 range) as Military Electromagnetic Spectrum Special Use Zones. These two areas, which are public lands under the jurisdiction of BLM, would not be withdrawn by the Navy and would not directly be used for land-based military training or managed by the Navy.

Table 3.15-2 provides demographic and economic data for all of the census block groups and other census areas that were identified as being either wholly or partially within the environmental justice study area (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017d). Alternative 3 would have the same impacts on Lyon County Block Group 1 Census Tract 9602.02, Mineral County Block Group 1 Census Tract 9708, Yomba Tribal Reservation in Nye County, and Pershing County Block Groups 1 and 2 Census Tract 9601, as Alternative 1. Therefore, as with Alternatives 1 and 2, Alternative 3 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations within these census areas.

As with Alternative 1, Alternative 3 would include the acquisition of private parcels within Mineral County Block Group 1 Census Tract 9708 associated with the proposed B-17 expansion area, which is an area designated as a minority and low-income population. However, implementation of Alternative 3 would not be considered disproportionately high when compared to other affected areas. For example, the expansion of the DVTA within Churchill County Census Tract 9501 Block Group 1 would also include the acquisition of private land that is currently being used as a private residence. Like Alternatives 1 and 2, there are no sensitive receptors where minority and low-income populations may congregate (e.g., churches, schools) within the proposed B-17 expansion area. Also, Alternative 3 would not result in any air emissions or water discharges that would adversely affect Mineral County Block Group 1 Census Tract 9708 in a manner that would be considered disproportionately high when compared to the comparison groups.

Alternative 3 would not involve the potential relocation of State Route 839. Under this alternative, the Navy would potentially relocate approximately 12 miles of State Route 361 and approximately 18 miles of the Paiute Pipeline outside B-17. The exact routing of the relocation efforts is not yet known. These efforts could potentially have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on Mineral County Census Tract 9708 Block Group 1 and the Gabbs Census Designated Place. However, any adverse impacts could be short term and low level, and could be offset by beneficial economic impacts on minority and low-income populations because of the need for local labor, materials, and supplies during the estimated one-year construction phase. Follow-on, site-specific NEPA document(s) would be required to analyze the impacts of any feasible options, which would include analyzing any potential impacts on minority and low-income populations.



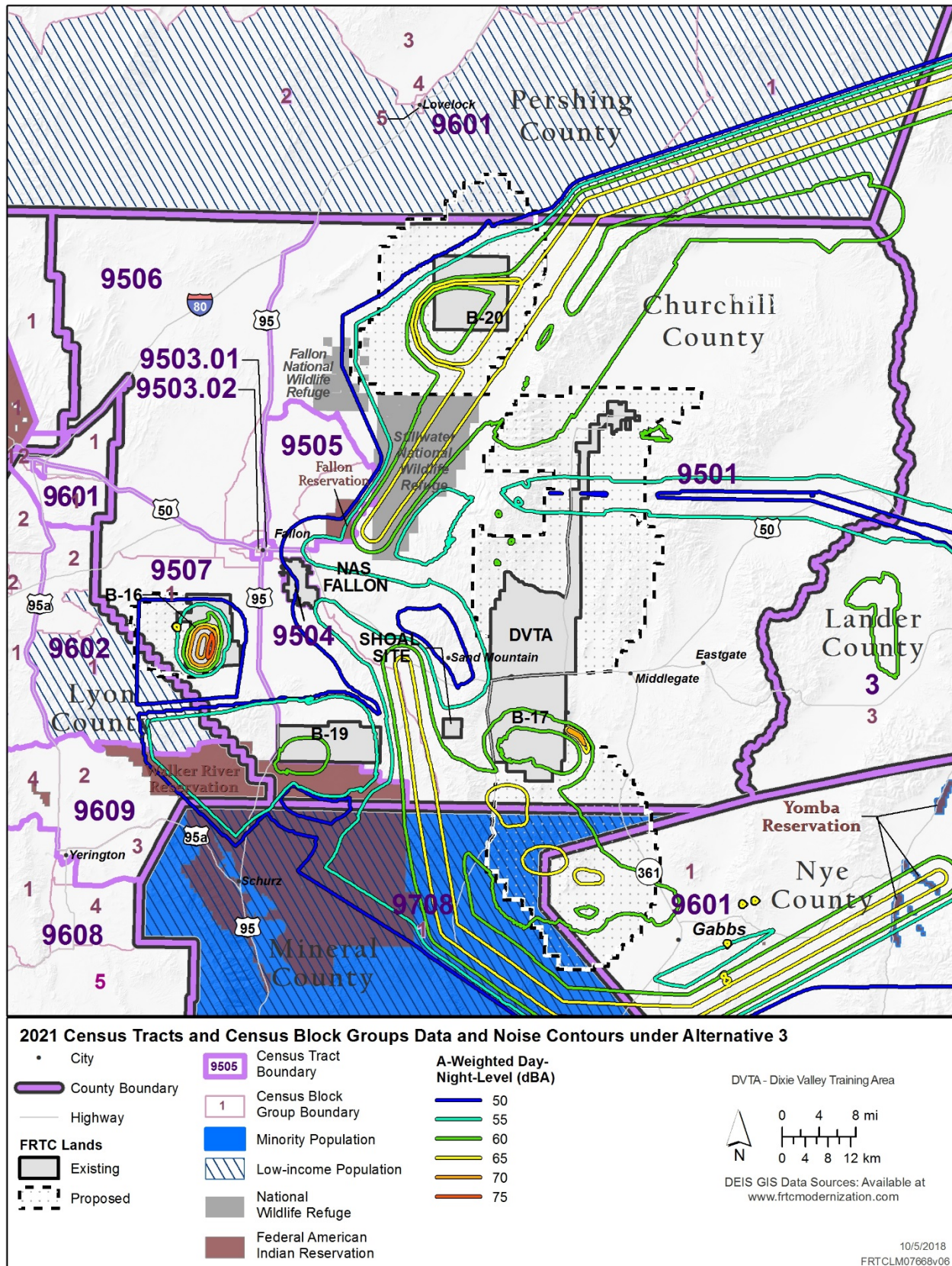


Figure 3.15-3: 2021 Census Tracts and Census Block Groups Data and Noise Contours Under Alternative 3

Although there are minority and low-income populations within the affected area and significant impacts outlined within this EIS, implementation of Alternative 3 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations. As described in Section 3.15.3.2 (Alternative 1: Modernization of the Fallon Range Training Complex) and Section 1.9 (Public and Agency Participation and Intergovernmental Coordination), the Navy has embarked on a robust community outreach program as part of this EIS process and will continue to engage with affected communities throughout the public comment period.

**3.15.3.5 Proposed Management Practices, Monitoring, and Mitigation**

Consistent with Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (February 11, 1994), the Navy’s policy is to identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its actions on minority and low-income populations.

**3.15.3.5.1 Proposed Management Practices**

No management practices are warranted for environmental justice based on the analysis presented in Section 3.15.3 (Environmental Consequences).

**3.15.3.5.2 Proposed Monitoring**

No monitoring measures are warranted for environmental justice based on the analysis presented in Section 3.15.3 (Environmental Consequences).

**3.15.3.5.3 Proposed Mitigation**

No mitigation measures are warranted for environmental justice based on the analysis presented in Section 3.15.3 (Environmental Consequences). The Navy acknowledges that there may be impacts that have yet to be defined and will continue to develop and incorporate mitigation measures as necessary.

**3.15.3.6 Summary of Effects and Conclusions**

Table 3.15-3 summarizes the effects of the alternatives on environmental justice.

**Table 3.15-3: Summary of Effects and Conclusions for Environmental Justice**

<b>Summary of Effects and National Environmental Policy Act Determinations</b>	
<b>No Action Alternative</b>	
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proposed Action would not occur and the existing legislative withdrawals would expire on November 5, 2021.</li> <li>• Minority and low-income populations are located within the Study Area; however, naval activities would generate less noise at B-16, B17, or B-20 than current conditions.</li> </ul>
<b>Impact Conclusion</b>	The No Action Alternative would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations. Therefore, no significant environmental justice impacts would occur.

**Table 3.15-3: Summary of Effects and Conclusions for Environmental Justice (continued)**

<b>Summary of Effects and National Environmental Policy Act Determinations</b>	
<b>Alternative 1</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minority and low-income populations have been identified in the Study Area. Aircraft noise is not considered disproportionately high because aircraft noise also overlaps the comparison groups.</li> <li>• Would not result in any air emissions or water discharges that would adversely affect minority or low-income communities in a manner that would be greater than the comparison groups.</li> <li>• Although there are minority and low-income populations within the affected area, implementation of Alternative 1 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations.</li> </ul>
<b>Impact Conclusion</b>	Alternative 1 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations. Therefore, no significant environmental justice impacts would occur.
<b>Alternative 2</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minority and low-income populations have been identified in the Study Area. Aircraft noise is not considered disproportionately high because aircraft noise also overlaps the comparison groups.</li> <li>• Would not result in any air emissions or water discharges that would adversely affect minority or low-income communities in a manner that would be greater than the comparison groups.</li> <li>• Although there are minority and low-income populations within the affected area, implementation of Alternative 2 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations.</li> </ul>
<b>Impact Conclusion</b>	Alternative 2 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations. Therefore, no significant environmental justice impacts would occur.

Table 3.15-3: Summary of Effects and Conclusions for Environmental Justice (continued)

Summary of Effects and National Environmental Policy Act Determinations	
Alternative 3	
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minority and low-income populations have been identified in the Study Area. Aircraft noise is not considered disproportionately high because aircraft noise also overlaps the comparison groups.</li> <li>• Would not result in any air emissions or water discharges that would adversely affect minority or low-income communities in a manner that would be greater than the comparison groups.</li> <li>• Although there are minority and low-income populations within the affected area, implementation of Alternative 3 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations.</li> </ul>
Impact Conclusion	Alternative 3 would not cause disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations. Therefore, no significant environmental justice impacts would occur.

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