

Notable Changes Between the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement

This section summarizes key information that has changed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) between the Draft and Final versions of the EIS.

- **Abstract**
 - Added the United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service to the list of cooperating agencies.
- **Chapter 2, Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives**
 - The U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) followed the Public Lands Survey System, which is based upon a grid layout. A description of the grids is used to define the area for withdrawal. The Weapons Danger Zones (WDZs) are modeled based on a curve. In order to fit the grid to the curve, the Navy refined the areas impacted along the WDZs into successively smaller grids in accordance with the rules of the Public Lands Survey System.
 - The proposed B-16 withdrawal Surface Danger Zone has been corrected to now correctly show the extent of the weapons safety zone associated with the proposed expanded training area (see Figures 2-2, 2-11, and 2-15).
 - Although the nature and overall scope of the Proposed Action have not changed, acreages for withdrawal and acquisition of each Bravo (B) range and the Dixie Valley Training Area were updated in Table 2-6, in all applicable locations in Chapter 2, and throughout the Final EIS to reflect the refinement (referred to throughout the document as “adjustment”) of the area requested for withdrawal and proposed for acquisition under Alternative 3. The acreage changes reflect better cadastral data that defines the land requested for withdrawal in greater detail.
 - Figures comparing the proposed withdrawal areas as depicted in the Draft EIS to the newly-refined areas (as referenced in the bullet just above) have been added to the Final EIS Alternative 3 (See Figures 2-13 and 2-14).
 - More-detailed information has been provided regarding the proposed process for determining payments for losses due to cancelled or modified federal grazing permits and allotment improvements, valuation and processing of valid existing mining claims, process for transfer of water rights, as well as new information regarding the proposed hunting program at B-17.
- **Section 3.1, Geological Resources**
 - Added information on Salt Cave to Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences sections, including adding its location on Figures 3.1-5, 3.1-6, and to figures in Section 3.11 (Cultural Resources) as applicable.
 - Under the No Action Alternative, the Navy added the following statement, where appropriate, “However, any future uses would be subject to all applicable Federal, state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances, which may permanently or temporarily minimize impacts.”

- **Section 3.3, Mining and Mineral Resources**
 - Further discussion has been provided concerning the process by which it would acquire valid existing mining claims within the areas proposed for withdrawal or requested for acquisition, in addition to offering nominal payments for claims within such areas that have not been validated. This process covers valid existing mining claims, patented mining claims, and unpatented mining claims, to include any unvalidated claims for which only nominal payments would be offered (see Section 3.3.4.2, Alternative 1: Modernization of the Fallon Range Training Complex).
- **Section 3.4, Livestock Grazing**
 - The discussion of Animal Unit Months (AUMs) that was in Section 3.4.1.3.1 (Determining Loss of Animal Unit Months) has been moved to Section 3.13.1.3.1 (Determining Loss of Animal Unit Months) of the Socioeconomics section. This move was made in order to avoid potential confusion about the Navy's valuation process for losses to permittees as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action. This process would be conducted on a case-by-case basis subsequent to any such ultimate implementation. AUMs were used as a metric for calculating the socioeconomic impact to the agricultural industry and therefore are more appropriately discussed in Section 3.13 (Socioeconomics).
 - Further discussion of the valuation process for losses resulting from permit cancellation has been added and can be found in Section 3.4.3.2.6 (Process for Determining Payment Amounts for Losses Resulting from Permit Cancellation), as well as Section 3.4.3.3.6 (Process for Determining Payment Amounts for Losses Resulting from Permit Cancellation) and Section 3.4.3.4.6 (Process for Determining Payment Amounts for Losses Resulting from Permit Cancellation).
 - Revised the restrictive analysis for determining potential AUMs lost based on new information regarding distance to water. Incorporated changes here as well as in Section 3.13 (Socioeconomics).
- **Section 3.5, Transportation**
 - The Supporting Study: Transportation Study (see <https://frtcmodernization.com/>) was completed for the re-route option of State Route 361 in late Fall 2018. The results of the study were incorporated into and analyzed in the Final EIS.
- **Section 3.7, Noise**
 - Added uniform distribution of population tables and percent of Census Tract/Block overlapped by DNL levels at or above 65 dBA.
 - Inserted Census Tract/Block figures with noise contours overlaid on the census tracts.
 - Performed additional aerial image evaluation at a 1:15,000 scale to identify potential sensitive receptor locations. Inserted applicable information into the Final EIS analysis.

- **Section 3.8, Air Quality**
 - Flares and chaff have been added to the list of potential fire inducers.
 - Added a clause that summarizes the effects of Hazardous Air Pollutants on ambient air quality and added a paragraph describing the average prevailing wind speed and direction for different times of the year.
- **Section 3.9, Water Resources**
 - Added “water rights” to the list of water resources components analyzed in this section.
 - Information has been added discussing the process by which water rights would be valued for payment in Section 3.9.3.2 (Alternative 1: Modernization of the Fallon Range Training Complex, Disposition of Water Rights and Water Wells) and Section 3.9.3.5.3 (Proposed Mitigation).
 - Updated the data in all figures and text showing water rights following a re-evaluation of existing rights by the Navy and Bureau of Land Management.
- **Section 3.10, Biological Resources**
 - Additional survey data was incorporated as surveys were completed during the Fall 2018, Winter 2018, Spring 2019, and Summer 2019, and are available as Supporting Studies on the FRTC Modernization EIS website (<https://frtcmodernization.com/>).
 - The discussion has been revised to include citations to additional studies addressing impacts to sage grouse.
 - The Navy is proposing to fund a study that would be conducted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (in cooperation with the Navy) to monitor behavior of sage grouse on leks during aircraft overflights.
- **Section 3.11, Cultural Resources**
 - Revised this section between the Draft EIS and Final EIS based on comments received during the public comment period as well as comments from Cooperating Agencies and Tribal Participants during the National Environmental Policy Act process.
 - Revised the discussion of the Study Area from a discussion of the Area of Potential Effect to Potential Impact Areas (PIAs), a term analogous to the NHPA Section 106 Area of Potential Effect. The present analysis, however, differs from Section 106 to the degree that it (1) considers a wide array of proposed actions that at present are not defined enough to be undertakings per 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800.16(y), as well as (2) considers the impact to a wider range of cultural resources than National Register of Historic Places eligible or potentially-eligible historic properties.
 - The PIAs addressed in this document are based on activities associated with the Proposed Action to holistically assess potential impacts to cultural resources. PIA boundaries are defined in consideration of potential impacts to cultural resources from ground disturbance; vibrations from sonic booms, aerial target strikes, and military expended material strikes; visual and auditory intrusions; and changes in access (see Figure 3.11-2, Figure 3.11-3, Figure 3.11-4, and Figure 3.11-5).

- Added information regarding the Navy Section 106 consultation. The Navy has also updated the process to amend the current 2011 Programmatic Agreement to support operations and activities associated with the Proposed Action.
- Added and analyzed data from the completed Class III Cultural Resources Inventory (see Supporting Study: Class III Cultural Resources Inventory available at <https://www.frtcmodernization.com>) of new target areas and convoy routes under Alternative 3.
- A draft of the proposed Amended Programmatic Agreement Among Naval Air Station, Fallon, Nevada, The Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Identification, Evaluation and Treatment of Historic Properties on Lands Managed by Naval Air Station, Fallon, has been added to Appendix D (Memoranda, Agreements, and Plans).
- Further analysis of anticipated impacts associated with bombing training has been added to the discussion of Training Activities, with respect to both target/buffer areas and non-target areas.
- After discussions with interested Indian Tribes, the Navy acknowledges that there is a potential for significant impacts to access under all action alternatives. The discussion of Public Accessibility-related impacts in the Final EIS has been revised to indicate that impacts to tribal access to cultural resources may be significant.
- **Section 3.12, Recreation**
 - The Draft Memorandum of Agreement for the proposed bighorn sheep hunt program at B-17 between the United States Department of the Navy Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center and Naval Air Station Fallon and the State of Nevada, Nevada Division of Wildlife, has been added to Appendix D (Memoranda, Agreements, and Plans), and appropriate updates and references to it have been added to this section.
- **Section 3.13, Socioeconomics**
 - Revised the restrictive analysis for determining potential AUMs lost based on new information regarding distance to water.
 - Tables from Section 3.4 (Livestock Grazing) were inserted into the Socioeconomics section along with the discussion on Determining Loss of Animal Unit Months, now found in Section 3.13.1.3.1 (Determining Loss of Animal Unit Months). AUMs were used as a metric for calculating the potential socioeconomic impact to the agricultural industry and therefore are more appropriately discussed in this section.

- **Section 3.14, Public Health and Safety and Protection of Children**
 - Historical fire data was added to the section as available, and figures were created on a range by range basis to more accurately show the data on wildfire potential in the expanded range areas.
 - The Draft Outline of the Wildland Fire Management Plan has been added to Appendix D (Memoranda, Agreements, and Plans), and appropriate updates and references to it have been added to the EIS.
- **Chapter 4, Cumulative Impacts**
 - Only routes B-2 and B-3 of the I-11 project are included in the figures and analysis in Chapter 4, as the other routes have been removed from consideration following the recently completed planning and environmental linkage study done by the Nevada Department of Transportation.
 - Projects suggested during the public comment period were researched, assessed, and incorporated as applicable into this chapter.
- **Chapter 5, Management Practices, Monitoring, and Mitigation**
 - Added tables to each resource section discussing the management practices, monitoring, and mitigations suggested by cooperating agencies, tribal participants, and in public comments received during scoping and the commenting period on the Draft EIS, along with the Navy's responses for each suggestion indicating whether it was adopted or not, including reasoning for considering but not adopting the suggestion as applicable.
- **Appendices**
 - A summary of Tribal Correspondence and additional correspondence items have been added to Appendix B (Tribal Correspondence).
 - Updated correspondence items have been added to Appendix C (Agency Correspondence).
 - Draft EIS Appendix D (Public Participation) has been changed to Appendix E (Public Participation).
 - Created a new Appendix D (Memoranda, Agreements, and Plans), which contains the drafts of proposed memoranda, agreements, and plans between the Navy and stakeholders as available for the Final EIS.
 - A new Appendix, Appendix F (Public Comments and Responses), has been added to the Final EIS and presents all comments submitted to the Navy during the Draft EIS public commenting period, the Navy's responses, and where applicable, notations to where the EIS has been modified.

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