

# Intergovernmental Executive Committee

## Fallon Range Training Complex

### Final Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024

2:00 p.m. PST

**Virtual Meeting and In-Person at the:**

**Nevada Department of Agriculture**

405 21st St.

Sparks, NV 89431

This meeting was also held virtually pursuant to NRS 241.023.

Join the meeting online: <https://mantech.zoomgov.com/j/1604507273>

Call in by phone: 1-669-254-5252

Webinar ID: 160 450 7273

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, the Agenda for this meeting was posted at the following locations: State of Nevada Website (<https://notice.nv.gov/>), the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Modernization website ([www.frtcmodernization.com/IEC](http://www.frtcmodernization.com/IEC)), the Clearinghouse website (<http://clearinghouse.nv.gov/>), and the Churchill County Administration Building (155 Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406).

Please Note:

- Public Comment was limited to three (3) minutes per person. The Committee reserves the right to reduce the time or limit the total time allowed for public comment.
- Presentations should be approximately 15 minutes in length plus 15 minutes for questions and answers.
- Items on the agenda may be taken out of order, combined, or removed, or discussion delayed, at the direction of the Committee.
- Documentation and supporting agenda items are available on the FRTC website at [www.FRTCmodernization.com/IEC](http://www.FRTCmodernization.com/IEC)

<b>Intergovernmental Executive Committee (IEC) Elected Positions</b>				
<b>Government/Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>In Person</b>	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
Nevada Department of Agriculture	Chair J.J. Goicoechea	√		
Churchill County	Vice Chair Myles Getto	√		
<b>IEC Members</b>				
<b>Government/Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>In Person</b>	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
Department of the Navy	Shane Tanner, Captain	√		
Department of the Navy	Dan Muller, Commander			√
Bureau of Land Management	Jon Raby, State Director			√
Bureau of Land Management	Kim Dow, District Manager	√		
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Colleen LaBelle, WNA Superintendent		√	
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Amy Roberts, Realty Specialist		√	
Nevada Department of Wildlife	Mark Freese, Administrator		√	
Nevada Department of Wildlife	Matt Maples, Administrator, Data and Technology Services Division			√
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	James Settelmeyer, Director			√
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Chad Stephens, Deputy Director			√
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Dominique Etchegoyhen, Deputy Director	√		
Nevada Department of Agriculture	J.J. Goicoechea, Director	√		
Nevada Department of Agriculture	Doug Farris, Division Administrator			√
Nevada Division of Minerals	Rob Ghiglieri, Administrator	√		
Churchill County	Myles Getto, Commissioner	√		
Churchill County	Jim Barbee, County Manager	√		
Lyon County	Scott Keller, Commissioner	√		
Lyon County	Andrew Haskin, County Manager		√	
Mineral County	Tina Manzini, Commissioner			√
Pershing County	Shayla Hudson, Commissioner			√
Pershing County	Larry Rackely, Commissioner			√
Nye County	Bruce Jabbour, Commissioner (1069)			√
Nye County	Meagan Labadie, Natural Resources Director			
Eureka County	Rich McKay, Commissioner			√
Eureka County	Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager		√	

Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe	Cathi Tuni, Chairwoman			√
Walker River Paiute Tribe	Andrea Martinez, Chairman			√
Walker River Paiute Tribe	Elveda Martinez, Water Resources Coordinator		√	
Yomba Shoshone Tribe	Marisa Weaselboy			√
Yomba Shoshone Tribe	Darryl Brady, Chairman	√		
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Steven Wadsworth, Chairman			√
Lovelock Paiute Tribe	Alfred Happy, Chairman			√
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Warren Graham, Tribal Chairman and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer			√
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Debbie O'Neil, Vice-Chairwoman			√
Battle Mountain Band Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Clorinda Guzman, Chairwoman			√
Elko Band Council Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Danena Ike, Chairwoman			√
Elko Band Council Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Leah Brady, Council Member			√
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes	Lanina Bell, Chairperson			√
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony	Daryl "Doug" Gardipe, Chairman			√
South Fork Band Council Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Duane Garcia, Chairman			√
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	Serrell Smokey, Chairman			√
Wells Band Council Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Andrea Wood, Vice Chairwoman			√
Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada	Judy Rojo, Chairwoman			√
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe	Randi Lone Eagle, Chairwoman			√
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe	Nedra Crane, Vice Chairwoman			√
Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Vacant			
Yerington Paiute Tribe	Elwood Emm, Chairman			√

***IEC Liaisons and Support***

<b>Government/Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>In Person</b>	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
Naval Air Station Fallon	Toni Burton, Tribal Coordinator	√		
Naval Air Station Fallon	Robin Schofield, Community Planning and Liaison Officer	√		
ManTech	Allison Turner, Moderator	√		

### **Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call of Committee Members**

- IEC Chair J.J. Goicoechea called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.
- Ms. Toni Burton, NAS Fallon Tribal Coordinator, called roll. The list of attendees/absentees is above.

### **Verification of Agenda Posting**

- The agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with NRS 241.020.

### **Approval of Agenda**

- No additions or corrections to the agenda were received. Captain Shane Tanner, NAS Fallon, motioned for approval of the agenda; IEC Vice Chair Myles Getto, Churchill County, seconded the motion. The agenda was approved with no changes.

### **Public Comment**

- IEC Chair J.J. Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments on the agenda, noting a three-minute time limit per person. No public comments were received during this comment period. The public comment period was closed.

### **New/Old Business**

- *FRTC Website Update.* The modernization website is frequently updated with the most current schedule and status of commitments. A new webpage for frequently asked questions and answers (FAQs) is now available, and currently includes general FAQs and real-estate specific FAQs. Questions regarding mining issues will be added in the future.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes from Sept. 18, 2024**

- Captain Tanner motioned for approval of the September meeting minutes; Vice Chair Getto seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### **Discussion/Possible Action: BLM Update**

*(Please refer to the presentation slides in the IEC member package for additional details from the presentations)*

Ms. Kim Dow, BLM District Manager, updated the IEC on the BLM implementation strategy. Ms. Dow informed the IEC of BLM's recent hiring of additional staff to support this project.

### *Grazing Actions*

Mr. Mark Mazza, Assistant Field Manager for the Winnemucca Stillwater Field Office, provided an update on grazing actions.

- The current focus for grazing is a desktop analysis for the Animal Unit Month (AUM) reductions for the two B-16 grazing permits.
- BLM is also working on monitoring allotments for all withdrawal-affected allotments (B-16, B-17, and B-20). The AUM reductions for B-16 are based on GIS mapping data and the rationale documented in the supplemental grazing study in the Navy's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

- Based on regulations, decisions for new permits would be two years after notifications are received. That equates to July 13, 2025, for the Horse Mountain allotment and May 9, 2025, for the Lahontan allotment. The annual grazing season for these allotments begins Nov. 1 and ends March 31.
- Monitoring plans will be a summary of all data needed to issue a fully processed grazing permit. Where more substantial changes could be implemented, such as new range improvements, faster rotations, changes in grazing dates, etc., data would be collected by BLM and through contracts and partner agreements.
- The current plan is for an initial reduction of AUMs for B-16 affected allotments, then a fully processed grazing permit based on the new boundary. Once grazing changes are in place, monitoring would occur for three years.
- Monitoring of allotments affected by B-16 will start after fences are in place and cattle are limited to new boundary.
- The plan for B-17 and B-20 is to fully process the permits so the full suite of changes, such as the dates, pastures, AUM numbers, and range improvements could be implemented once the grazing closure begins.
- With the current timeline, all permits would be fully processed by 2031.

### *Cadastral Update*

Ms. Kathryn Dyer, BLM Acting Field Manager, provided an update on cadastral efforts.

- B-16 status: On schedule. Four surveys were filed on Sept. 25, 2024. BLM continues to work on the remaining survey services. The Sand Canyon Road realignment right-of-way (ROW) will determine timelines for the northwest boundary surveys.
- B-17 and B-20 status: Planning is underway. BLM is supporting Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest (NAVFAC SW) with the development of a contract to survey and locate 120 miles of range boundary for fencing requirements. BLM planning is underway for areas requiring Federal Authority Surveys. The Final Draft of the Statement of Work and Cost Estimate were transmitted to the Navy on Oct. 31, 2024.
- Section 2907(b) of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) addresses public purpose conveyances to Churchill County and the City of Fallon. Land conveyances are in progress and the preliminary coordination meeting was held with Churchill County and representatives of Resource Concepts, Inc. (RCI). Fifteen Land Surveyor Reports were submitted to the BLM Carson City District Office and one is pending subject to coordination.
- Section 2907(c) of the NDAA addresses exchanges between Churchill County and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and is in progress. Ten survey reports transmitted to the BLM Carson City District Office.
- Section 2922 of the NDAA addresses conveyances to Lander County and is in progress. Preliminary coordination with Lander County and the U.S. Forest Service was completed in January 2024. The U.S. Forest Service will execute all survey needs for Forest Service lands. BLM will confirm any survey needs for parcels to be conveyed in coordination with BLM Winnemucca District.
- Section 2988 of the NDAA addresses the resolution of Walker River Paiute Tribe claims and has not yet been initiated. Survey actions cannot be initiated until the required environmental assessment by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is complete and trust lands are identified. Once the tribe determines the lands for transfer, then survey needs will be identified and coordinated.

- Section 2989 of the NDAA addresses land to be held in Trust for the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe and is in progress. BLM Land Status Records were updated to show the new lands held in Trust. Required surveys are underway.

### *Real Estate Update*

Ms. Shedra Rakestraw, BLM Assistant Real Estate Manager for the Carson City District, updated the IEC on five real estate actions.

- State Route 361 Realignment
  - Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is the lead agency and is working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and BLM. NDOT has collected data and initiated environmental screening efforts. BLM, NDOT, and FHWA held an onsite field visit of the proposed SR-361 realignment on Sept. 10. Another onsite field visit may be scheduled. BLM attended the public meeting at Gabbs High School on Dec. 3, 2024, where questions from the public were answered. Once CA Group Inc. finishes baseline studies and reports, the BLM Interdisciplinary Team will review.
- B-16 Sand Canyon Road Realignment
  - BLM is the lead agency on the Environmental Assessment (EA). The closure and realignment of a portion of the existing Sand Canyon Road will impact the community. The NEPA baseline contract was awarded, and a kickoff meeting was held with the contractor, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and BLM on Nov. 18, 2024. The contractor will conduct baseline surveys through spring of 2025. Next, BLM and BOR will discuss road maintenance options.
- Section 2988 – Bureau of Indian Affairs – Walker River Paiute Tribe
  - BIA is the lead agency for the Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) with a 1-year timeline. The ESA is valid for six months (180 days) after it is completed, the ESA was submitted May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and the six month timeline expired Nov. 4, 2024. BLM will wait to hear from BIA and the Walker River Paiute Tribe to determine how to move forward. BIA and the Walker River Paiute Tribe have been in communication.
  - Chair Goicoechea asked if the ESA would be renewed as is beyond the 180 days of validity. Ms. Dow stated that a review would be required for the ESA, it doesn't automatically update as is. It will have to be reviewed to ensure the information is still accurate and then be resubmitted.
  - Ms. Elveda Martinez, Walker River Paiute Tribe, stated that there were "environmental issues" on their respective land parcel and the tribe's council was requesting cleanup. Ms. Dow stated that BLM and the Bureau of Indian Affairs would clean up.
- Section 2907 – Land Conveyances and Exchanges
  - Identified for land exchange are 25,386 acres of Churchill County lands and 13,920 acres of federal lands. Section 2907 also identifies 6,892 acres of federal land for conveyance to Churchill County for the purpose of constructing a new fire station, expanding the wastewater treatment facility, operating at existing gravel pits and rock quarries, and constructing and operating public recreational facilities. Approximately 212 acres will be conveyed to the City of Fallon. BLM submitted questions to DOI solicitors for opinion about the flexibility on land exchanges. BOR and Churchill County are discussing priority parcels to be exchanged. Meetings will be scheduled with Churchill County to discuss priorities, timelines, and next steps.
- Section 2908 – Checkerboard Resolution Area

- The focus for DOI, Churchill County, and landowners in Churchill County is to consolidate federal land and non-federal land ownership in Churchill County. BLM and BOR met monthly to discuss agency processes for consideration and the creation of a checkerboard implementation strategy plan. A draft plan will be presented to Churchill County and feedback will be requested. Resource Concepts Inc. submitted a market analysis. BLM is working with resource staff to gather additional information on affected areas in the checkerboard area.

### **Discussion/Possible Action: Navy Update**

*(Please refer to the presentation slides in the IEC member package for additional details from the presentations)*

- **Introduction**

Captain Tanner introduced Ms. Marie Dreyer, the temporary FRTC Modernization Program Manager, who has stepped in for Ms. Liz Barris. He also introduced Navy presenters and the agenda. Captain Tanner signed a one-year extension for the Programmatic Agreement and progress has been made on the Tribal Access Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

- **Legislative/Implementation Update**

Ms. Dreyer provided an overview on the FRTC modernization, the military construction (MILCON) program, FY25 plan updates and Year 3 implementation goals, an overall range overview, and where to find more information.

- FRTC Modernization Overview:
  - The overview slide presented a map that showed each task that must be completed to expand each range and the anticipated year of completion.
  - This overview shows each large-scale task, infrastructure project, and funding source used to complete each task.
- Year 3 Implementation:
  - The Navy has made five offers for private land acquisition for Dixie Valley Training Area and B-17; four are in escrow.
  - Two offers have been made for B-16 grazing payments.
  - The Navy has initiated procurement of contracts to start B-16 fencing construction.
  - The Navy is in the pre-planning NEPA stage for B-16 range improvements.
  - Initial notifications are underway for B-20 private land acquisition.
- Year 3 Non-Range-Specific Tasks:
  - The integrated natural resources management plan (INRMP) will be completed by May 2025 and NEPA actions will start.
  - The Wildland Fire Management Plan will be completed by September 2025.
  - New conservation law enforcement officers will be hired. Once the advertisement for those jobs is available it will be announced via an email blast through the FRTC Modernization website.
  - Sage grouse noise pilot study draft data summary for FY24 underway.
- Long-range plan is dependent of funding, NDAA appropriations happening at the year expected, and actions of stakeholder partners.

- Project website is updated quarterly; please see the Project Updates page for most current information. The Project Updates page has been updated to be arranged by range and non-range specific topics to make it easier to track progress.
  
- **Natural Resources Update**  
 Ms. Ann Schofield, NAS Fallon conservation manager, updated the IEC on the Navy's natural resources program.
  - Sage Grouse Noise Study: First year of field work concluded in summer 2024. The U.S Geological Survey (USGS) and Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) are monitoring leks both inside and outside current airspace. Airspace has not changed, but it will in the future. Monitoring the leks is to establish a baseline. Field work included use of sound recorders and video cameras to get a better sense of behavioral responses to aircraft overflights. The second year of the pilot study is fully funded. An initial analysis report planned for late January 2025.
  - Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP): Draft will be available for stakeholder review in late January. More time was needed to revise goals and objectives, update list of species, and incorporate newly listed species like the Dixie Valley toad and species that are under review, such as the monarch, the Pinyon jay, and the pygmy rabbit. Once the INRMP is near a final draft, a NEPA analysis of the plan will begin. The INRMP will not be signed until NEPA analysis is complete.
  - Wildland Fire Management Plan (WFMP): A draft plan is expected to be available for stakeholder review late January or February 2025. The Navy has evaluated fire risks on the expanded ranges and determined where new fuel breaks may be appropriate. An EA is planned for the revised WFMP and will be awarded in 2025. The Navy will work with the USGS Fire Science Center to integrate the latest scientific information.
  
- **Cultural Resources Update**  
 Mr. Mike Baskerville, archaeologist at NAS Fallon, updated the IEC on the Navy's cultural resources program.
  - B-20 cultural resource inventory survey: The total inventory area is 118,000 acres. Archaeological crews have inventoried approximately 75,443 acres (approximately 65%) to date. Inventory has documented sites along the margins of B-20 expansion area. Each field crew has a minimum of one Native American Archaeological Technician assigned. The Navy is contracting with a new company to complete the inventories for the 40,000 remaining and any private lands purchased in the future.
  - B-17 cultural resource survey: Work has commenced on the inventory of 241,025 acres within the B-17 expansion area. Approximately 36,827 acres have been inventoried, contracts have been awarded to cover the remaining area. A draft work plan has been developed for tribal participation in these inventories, and it is in process of being forwarded to the tribes for their review and comment.
  - Documented Results:
    - B-16 cultural resource inventories located and documented 193 cultural properties.
    - Property types include:
      - Lithic scatters



- Quarries (including two obsidian)
    - Pictograph sites
    - Historic roads
    - Refuse scatters
    - Mines
    - Corrals
  - Ethnographic and Traditional Cultural Properties Studies: The Navy reviewed the Ethnographic Study and is currently reviewing the Traditional Cultural Properties report. Once the Navy has completed its review, the reports will be sent out to the Tribes for review.
  - Fallon Programmatic Agreement (PA) and Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) development: The Draft PA is complete and was sent to Tribal, county, and local governments and interested third parties. The revised draft was sent to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review. The 2011 PA has been amended to remain in effect until Dec. 24, 2025. It is expected that a new PA will go into effect before that time. Development of a new ICRMP has started. The Draft ICRMP was expected in December 2024 but the Navy received lots of requests for additional information from the contractor, draft is now expected in the next 2-3 months.
- **Tribal Engagement Update**

Ms. Toni Burton, NAS Fallon Tribal Relations Coordinator, updated the IEC on the Navy's Tribal Engagement program.

    - Cultural Resource Survey Reorganization: The Navy is restructuring the method of surveys to enhance data collection of Tribal perspectives on sites and areas of traditional cultural importance. Tribal monitors will field-review existing survey results while providing additional Tribal perspective. A draft work plan is being sent out to the Tribes, the Navy is looking for feedback on it and to work with the Tribes to produce a final product.
    - Draft PA: The PA has been extended to December 2025. Feedback from tribes will be requested on a new draft version that will be sent out. Once Tribal elections have settled the Navy will reach out to the Tribes to ensure feedback and input is being received from the Tribes.
    - Tribal Access MOA: The purpose of the MOA is to establish a procedure for accessing ranges that captures the needs of both Tribes and the Navy. The Navy received feedback from the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and is moving to a final draft MOA. Currently waiting on signature from the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and then the Navy will move forward with reaching out to other Tribes for signatures.

**Call for Agenda Items for Next IEC Meeting**

- The Navy will provide an update on the mining claims and payment process.

**Scheduling of Next IEC Meeting**

- The next IEC meeting will be held during the weeks of March 10-21. A poll will be sent out for the members to vote for their preferred date and time.

## **Public Question and Comment**

During the public question and comment session, two questions were typed into the Zoom Q&A by Anonymous Attendees:

- Is there a hard date when the Slate Mountain vicinity will be closed to the public?
  - Ms. Schofield recommended viewing the schedule on the project website, as that is the most current estimate of when that area will be closed.
- There was a sonic boom in Fallon last Friday. Was that part of your stage grouse noise study? Was the aircraft in the supersonic operating range in Dixie Valley.
  - Captain Tanner stated that there was a sonic boom, it was not part of the sage grouse study, and it occurred in the supersonic area. Ms. Schofield added that there are not prescribed flights for the noise study; they are using actual training operations to monitor sage grouse in their natural environment.
- No further public questions or comments were made during this comment period. The public comment period was closed.

## **Adjourn**

- Chair J.J. Goicoechea called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Captain Tanner made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Getto. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.