



PUBLIC SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization: Expansion of Land Ranges, Airspace Modifications, and Public Land Withdrawal Renewal Environmental Impact Statement

FINAL

22 February 2017

**Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization Environmental Impact Statement
Public Scoping Summary Report**

This report summarizes the public involvement and stakeholder outreach activities conducted by the U.S. Navy (Navy) for the *Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization: Expansion of Land Ranges, Airspace Modifications, and Public Land Withdrawal Renewal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*. The purpose of public involvement was to notify and inform stakeholders and the public about the Proposed Action, and to provide opportunities for the public to comment on the scope of the analysis, including environmental issues and potential viable alternatives. Outreach and involvement efforts were conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Navy guidance.

Summary of Activities

A. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The following materials provided notification to the public of the Navy’s intent to prepare an EIS, hold public scoping meetings, and receive comments. Additional notifications were disseminated to inform the public of an extension of the comment period. Public notices can be found on the [Public Notices page](#).

Federal Register Notices

A joint Notice of Intent and Notice of Scoping Meetings was published in the *Federal Register* on Aug. 26, 2016. The Bureau of Land Management published a Notice of Withdrawal Application in the *Federal Register* on Sept. 2, 2016. At the request of the public, the Navy extended the public scoping period to Dec. 12, 2016, and a Notice of Extension of Public Scoping Period was published in the *Federal Register* on Nov. 10, 2016.

Newspaper Advertisements

Display advertisements were placed in local newspapers, both to advertise the Notice of Intent and to notify the public of upcoming scoping meetings. Publications generally occurred in three series. The first series of advertisements was published to coincide with publication of the *Federal Register* notice. A second series was published five to 10 days before the scoping meetings, and a third series published the three consecutive days before, including the day of, the scoping meeting. Adjustments were made for weekly and biweekly newspapers according to the newspaper’s publication frequency.

Newspaper	Scoping Meeting Location and Date	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Dates
Lahontan Valley News	Fallon (Oct. 3, 2016)	Fallon, Fernley, Lahontan Valley, and Highway 50 corridor	Friday, Aug. 26, 2016 Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2016 Friday, Sept. 16, 2016 Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016 Friday, Sept. 23, 2016 Friday, Oct. 7, 2016
Lovelock Review-Miner	Lovelock (Oct. 4, 2016)	Pershing County, including Lovelock and Imlay	Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2016 Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016 Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016 Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2016

Newspaper	Scoping Meeting Location and Date	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Dates
Nevada Appeal	Reno (Oct. 4, 2016)	Reno and Carson City	Friday, Aug. 26, 2016 Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016 Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016 Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2016 Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016 Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016 Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016 Friday, Oct. 7, 2016
Reno Gazette-Journal	Reno (Oct. 4, 2016)	Reno, Sparks, Spanish Springs, Fernley, Dayton, and Yerington	Friday, Aug. 26, 2016 Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016 Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016 Monday, Sept. 26, 2016 Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016 Monday, Oct. 3, 2016 Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016
Battle Mountain Bugle	Austin (Oct. 5, 2016)	Lander County, including Austin	Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2016 Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016 Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016 Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2016 Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016
Eureka Sentinel	Eureka (Oct. 6, 2016)	Eureka County	Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016 Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016
Mineral County Independent News	Hawthorne (Oct. 7, 2016)	Hawthorne, Walker Lake, Schurz, Mina, Luning, Montgomery Pass, and Marietta	Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016 Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016
Tonopah Times-Bonanza	Gabbs (Oct. 7, 2016)	Various areas throughout Nevada, including Gabbs and Nye Counties	Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016 Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016 Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016

A display advertisement announcing the public comment period extension was placed in the newspapers listed below.

Newspaper	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Dates
Battle Mountain Bugle	Lander County, including Austin	Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016
Eureka Sentinel	Eureka County	Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016
Lahontan Valley News	Fallon, Fernley, Lahontan Valley, and Highway 50 corridor	Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016
Lovelock Review-Miner	Pershing County, including Lovelock and Imlay	Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016
Mineral County Independent News	Hawthorne, Walker Lake, Schurz, Mina, Luning, Montgomery Pass, and Marietta	Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016
Nevada Appeal	Reno and Carson City	Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016
Reno Gazette-Journal	Reno, Sparks, Spanish Springs, Fernley, Dayton, and Yerington	Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016 Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016
Tonopah Times-Bonanza	Various areas throughout Nevada, including Gabbs and Nye Counties	Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016

Postcard Mailers

A postcard mailer providing information on the public scoping meetings, the Proposed Action, and how to submit comments was mailed first-class to 589 tribal staff, individuals, landowners, and organizations on Aug. 25, 2016. A second postcard mailer announcing the public comment period extension was mailed first-class on Nov. 14, 2016, to 700 elected officials, government agencies, tribal staff, individuals, landowners, and organizations.

Stakeholder and Tribal Letters and Additional Correspondence

Stakeholder and tribal letters were mailed first-class on Aug. 25, 2016, and via certified mail to tribal contacts, to 26 federal, state, and local elected officials and government agencies, and to tribal chairs of 17 federally recognized tribes and one intertribal council. A second tribal letter announcing the public comment period extension was sent via certified mail to the same tribal contacts. In addition, letters were sent in January 2017 to individuals who requested an extension of the comment period, but from whom the Navy had not yet received comment letters.

News Releases

Naval Air Station Fallon and the Bureau of Land Management distributed news releases to media outlets on Aug. 25, 2016, and Sept. 1, 2016, respectively. The news releases provided information on the public scoping meetings, Proposed Action, and how to submit comments. The Naval Air Station Fallon media distribution list included:

- KOLO 8 News television, news@kolotv.com
- KRNV 4 News television, reno-krnv-feedback@sbgvtv.com
- KTVN 2 News television, producers@ktvn.com
- Nevada Appeal newspaper, atrumble@nevadaappeal.com
- Reno Gazette-Journal newspaper, kscott@rgj.com
- Associated Press, ssonner@ap.org
- KNPB public broadcasting, tony@knpb.org
- NewsReview.com, bradb@newsreview.com

B. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETINGS

Project Website

A project website was established to provide the public with project information and to accept comments electronically. The project website went live on Aug. 26, 2016. The project notifications, fact sheet booklet, posters, informational maps, scoping meeting brief and audio file, frequently asked questions, and video were posted on the website. The website was periodically updated with project announcements, additional informational maps, and other updates. The project website address is www.FRTCModernization.com.

Stakeholder and Tribal Briefings

Naval Air Station Fallon personnel held briefings with stakeholders and federally recognized tribes. Below is a summary of the stakeholder and tribal briefings to date. Briefings will continue throughout the development of the EIS development.

Stakeholders and Tribes	Date
Churchill County District 2 Commissioner Pete Olsen and Churchill County Manager Eleanor Lockwood	May 11, 2016
Churchill County/State Lands	June 14, 2016
Congressional Staff Delegation (Fallon Range Training Complex)	June 17, 2016
U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Sacramento, CA)	June 17, 2016
Churchill County District 3 Commissioner Carl Erquiaga	July 27, 2016
Bureau of Land Management (Carson City, NV)	July 28, 2016
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Reno, NV)	Aug. 3, 2016
Congressional and Governor Staffs	Aug. 22, 2016
Nevada State Senator; Fallon Mayor; and Churchill, Mineral, Nye, and Lyon County Commissioners	Aug. 24, 2016
Churchill County Commissioner	Aug. 25, 2016
City of Fallon Mayor and Staff	Aug. 25, 2016

Stakeholders and Tribes	Date
State Senator James Settelmeyer	Aug. 29, 2016
Senator Dean Heller Staff	Aug. 31, 2016
Senator Crescent Hardy Staff	Sept. 6, 2016
Mineral County Commission	Sept. 8, 2016
New Nevada Resource	Sept. 20, 2016
Federal Aviation Administration Operations Group (Renton, WA)	Sept. 20, 2016
Pershing County Commission	Oct. 5, 2016
Churchill County Commission	Oct. 6, 2016
Walker River Paiute Tribe Vice Chairman	Oct. 11, 2016
Fallon Tribal Consortium (attended by Fallon Paiute Shoshone, Walker River Paiute, Lovelock Paiute, Pyramid Lake Paiute, and Yomba Shoshone tribes)	Oct. 14, 2016
Fallon Rotary Club	Oct. 18, 2016
Navy League Fallon	Oct. 19, 2016
Eureka County Airport Authority	Oct. 21, 2016
Eureka County Commission	Oct. 21, 2016
Nye County Commission	Oct. 24, 2016
Nevada Division of Wildlife	Oct. 27, 2016
Senator Dean Heller Staff	Nov. 1, 2016
Churchill County District 1 Commissioner Bus Scharmann	Nov. 1, 2016
Battle Mountain Tribal Consortium (attended by Battle Mountain, Duckwater Shoshone, and South Fork Band tribes)	Nov. 2, 2016
State Land Use Planning Advisory Council Eureka	Nov. 4, 2016
Rawhide Mine	Nov. 8, 2016
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Nov. 8, 2016
Blue Ribbon Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition	Nov. 9, 2016
Churchill Economic Development Authority	Nov. 9, 2016
Nevada Lieutenant Governor	Nov. 15, 2016
Nevada Division of Minerals	Nov. 15, 2016
David Hollman, Grazing Permittee	Nov. 21, 2016
Lander County Commission	Jan. 12, 2017

Project Phone Line

A dedicated phone line was set up for this project to receive voice messages and went live on Aug. 25, 2016. The phone number is 775-426-4081. Voice messages were reviewed and logged daily during business hours, and return calls made, when applicable. The voicemail greeting was recorded as follows:

“Thank you for calling the Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization project line. Please leave a message with your name, phone number, time, and date of your call, and your question, and a Navy representative will return your call. Please note that formal official public comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are not accepted via this phone line; instead, submit comments on the EIS online at www.FRTCModernization.com or by mail at Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest; Attention: Code EV21.AK; 1220 Pacific Highway; Building 1, 5th Floor; San Diego, California 92132. Thank you for your interest in this project.”

Public Scoping Meetings

The Navy held seven scoping meetings from Oct. 3, 2016, through Oct. 7, 2016, at the locations listed below.

Location	Date and Time	Address
Fallon	Oct. 3, 2016 3 to 7 p.m.	Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406
Lovelock	Oct. 4, 2016 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Pershing Community Center, 820 Sixth St., Lovelock, NV 89419
Reno	Oct. 4, 2016 5 to 7 p.m.	Neil Road Recreation Center, 3925 Neil Rd., Reno, NV 89502
Austin	Oct. 5, 2016 5 to 7 p.m.	Emma Nevada Town Hall, 135 Court St., Austin, NV 89310
Eureka	Oct. 6, 2016 5 to 7 p.m.	Eureka Opera House, 31 S. Main St., Eureka, NV 89316
Hawthorne	Oct. 7, 2016 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Hawthorne Convention Center, 950 E St., Hawthorne, NV 89415
Gabbs	Oct. 7, 2016 5 to 7 p.m.	Gabbs School Gymnasium, 511 E Ave., Gabbs, NV 89409

Each public scoping meeting was held in an informal open-house format where members of the public could arrive at any time during the event. Each meeting was two hours in duration, with the exception of the Fallon meeting, which was four hours in duration. Staff at the welcome station greeted guests and encouraged meeting attendees to sign in and be added to the project mailing list. A fact sheet booklet, comment form, and room station layout were distributed to attendees, along with verbal direction on the general flow of the poster stations and availability of commenting methods. Other handouts made available included a copy of the scoping meeting schedule.

Poster stations were set up around the room offering visual displays, fact sheet booklets, and comment forms. Subject matter experts staffed each poster station to answer questions and provide project information.

A comment station with tables, chairs, pens, and comment forms was provided to facilitate the public completing and submitting written comments at the meeting. A certified court reporter also was available to record oral comments. Individuals could submit completed comment forms at the meeting or mail them to the address provided on the comment form. Meeting attendees were also informed that they could submit comments via the project website.

Information prepared to support the public scoping process and the scoping meetings can be found on the [Public Information Materials page](#).

Presentation

About 30 minutes after the start of the scoping meeting, an approximately 45-minute presentation was given by the Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Fallon and the EIS program manager for U.S. Pacific Fleet. A moderator opened and closed the presentation, reminding attendees about the various commenting methods and inviting attendees to resume viewing the poster stations when the presentation concluded. Chairs were set up to accommodate attendees during the presentation. A PowerPoint presentation was prepared. The court reporter transcribed the presentation. An audio recording of the presentation was made at the Hawthorne meeting and posted on the project website for members of the public who were unable to attend a scoping meeting. Because of the 4-hour duration of the Fallon meeting, the presentation was repeated during the second half of the meeting. The following outreach materials were developed for use during the public scoping period.

Posters

Eleven posters were developed and included the following topics:

- Welcome
- Importance of Naval Air Station Fallon and the Fallon Range Training Complex
- Proposed Action and No Action Alternative
- Map of the current Fallon Range Training Complex
- Proposed airspace modifications and map
- Bravo-16 Range proposal and map
- Bravo-17 Range and Dixie Valley Training Area proposal and maps
- Bravo-20 Range proposal and map
- Environmental stewardship
- Environmental resources to be analyzed
- Overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process

The posters were on display during the scoping meetings and posted on the project website. In response to stakeholder inquiries received at the Fallon, Lovelock, and Reno meetings, a grazing allotments map poster was produced and shared beginning with the Austin meeting and was posted on the project website. Additional maps were developed and posted on the website in response to public requests.

Fact Sheet Booklet

The 16-page fact sheet booklet included the following topics:

- About Naval Air Station Fallon and the Fallon Range Training Complex including its mission
- Importance of training at the Fallon Range Training Complex
- The Fallon Range Training Complex study area
- Airspace at the Fallon Range Training Complex
- Purpose and need of the project
- Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative

- Proposed expansion and public access/safety
- Environmental resources to be analyzed
- Environmental stewardship
- Overview of the NEPA process and opportunities for public involvement

The fact sheet booklet was distributed to scoping meeting attendees and posted on the project website.

Handouts

A comment form and room layout handout were distributed to scoping meeting attendees. The comment form allowed attendees to submit written comments at the meeting or return it via postal mail any time during the extended scoping comment period. The room layout provided an orientation of the poster stations set up around the room. A copy of the front of the postcard showing the scoping meeting schedule was also produced as a half-page handout.

Media Kits

Media kits were prepared to provide the media with project information in one convenient packet and included the fact sheet booklet, copy of a stakeholder letter, Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register*, news release, and comment form. Persons identifying themselves as media at the scoping meetings received a media kit.

Project Video

An approximate 5-minute video was produced for the Fallon Range Training Complex emphasizing the importance of the range complex and the need for modernization. The video was shown on a laptop and monitor, available with headphones, as a first station at the scoping meeting. The video was also projected onto a large screen prior to the presentation. The video was posted on the project website and can be found [here](#).

C. SUMMARY OF SCOPING MEETING ATTENDANCE AND ISSUES HEARD

In total, 338 people attended seven public scoping meetings. Twenty-one written comment letters and 15 oral comments were submitted at the meetings.

The information below reflects the number of attendees and the number of verbal and written comment letters received at each scoping meeting. (A summary of all public comments received is presented in Section D). Media attendance reflects the persons who identified themselves as media. Topics reflect the key points discussed with subject matter experts or provided as a written or oral comment at the scoping meetings.

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Fallon Monday, Oct. 3, 2016	129	8	10
Media Attendance:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel 2 • Channel 8 • Lahontan Valley News • Progressive Rancher Magazine 			

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters		
<p>Topics Discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing allotments and management of grazing lands that could be lost as a result of the proposed withdrawal • Private property with improvements on Bravo-20 • Request for maps displaying townships and ranges • Access to private parcels in Bravo-20 • Request for alternate routes through Bravo-20 and Bravo-16 • Noise concerns from Naval Air Station Fallon and overflight noise • Fires from military training (Who provides firefighting services and restoration? Who pays?) • Impacts on water and water resources • Concerns about the potential public access closure of Dixie Valley Training Area • Access to hunting sites (primarily in Dixie Valley Training Area and Bravo-17) • Access to geothermal sites • Impacts on tarantula migration • Off-highway vehicle use and impacts from closing of the ranges • Impacts on mineral and mining claims and investments • Compensation for grazing lands, water, and investments that could be lost as a result of the proposed withdrawal • Potential impacts on bighorn sheep • Potential impacts on sage grouse and sage grouse habitats • Bravo-17 property claims issues (from previous Bravo-17 withdrawal); potential for compensation by the Navy 					
<p>Attendees:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churchill County • Churchill County Democrats • Churchill County Farm Bureau • Churchill Economic Development Authority • City of Fallon • Eureka County • Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe • Lyon County Sheriff's Office • Mayor of Yerington </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining claim holders • Nevada Cattlemen's Association • Nevada Department of Wildlife • Nevada Farm Bureau • Nevada Trappers Association • Nevada Waterfowl Association • Ranchers • Fallon Tea Party • Walker River Paiute Tribe • Residents and interested individuals </td> </tr> </table>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churchill County • Churchill County Democrats • Churchill County Farm Bureau • Churchill Economic Development Authority • City of Fallon • Eureka County • Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe • Lyon County Sheriff's Office • Mayor of Yerington 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining claim holders • Nevada Cattlemen's Association • Nevada Department of Wildlife • Nevada Farm Bureau • Nevada Trappers Association • Nevada Waterfowl Association • Ranchers • Fallon Tea Party • Walker River Paiute Tribe • Residents and interested individuals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churchill County • Churchill County Democrats • Churchill County Farm Bureau • Churchill Economic Development Authority • City of Fallon • Eureka County • Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe • Lyon County Sheriff's Office • Mayor of Yerington 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining claim holders • Nevada Cattlemen's Association • Nevada Department of Wildlife • Nevada Farm Bureau • Nevada Trappers Association • Nevada Waterfowl Association • Ranchers • Fallon Tea Party • Walker River Paiute Tribe • Residents and interested individuals 				

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Lovelock Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016	16	0	1
Media Attendance:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winnemucca Publishing Company 			
Topics Discussed:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socioeconomic impacts and Payments in Lieu of Taxes • Possible conflict of Bravo-20 expansion and Pershing County Economic Plan • Impacts on mineral and mining claims and investments • Railway Spur Development through Bravo-20 			
Attendees:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lovelock Paiute Tribe • Pershing County • Pershing Gold Corporation • Residents and interested individuals 			

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Reno Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016	52	1	3
Media Attendance:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reno Gazette-Journal • Channel 4 • Progressive Rancher Magazine 			
Topics Discussed:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing allotments and management of grazing lands that could be lost as a result of the proposed withdrawal; request for a grazing allotment map • Request for alternate routes through Bravo-20 and Bravo-16 • Impacts on water and water rights • Concerns about eminent domain at Bravo-20 • Concerns about lack of cooperating agencies • Request to post the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan on website • Access to hunting sites (primarily in Dixie Valley Training Area and Bravo -17) • Off-highway vehicle use and impacts from closing of the ranges • Concerns regarding impacts on mineral and mining claims • Navy compensation for grazing lands, water, and investments that could be lost as a result of the proposed withdrawal; also Payments in Lieu of Taxes • Non-Navy oversight of Navy biological resource management • Requests for GIS (Geographic Information System) data • Request for analysis of possibility of multi-use of the expanded areas • No public notice for miners • Request by Lovelock-Paiute for access to archaeological sites and natural areas 			

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Attendees:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife Elko Mining Group Friends of Nevada Wilderness Geological Society of Nevada Great Basin Resource Watch Miners Nevada Bighorns Unlimited Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Nevada Commission on Off-highway Vehicles 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nevada Division of Minerals Nevada Division of Water Resources Nevada Farm Bureau Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition Nevada Waterfowl Association Nevada Wildlife Alliance New Nevada Resources Grace Potorti (prior Rural Alliance for Military Accountability) Residents and interested individuals 	

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Austin Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016	22	1	1
Media Attendance:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 			
Topics Discussed:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing allotments and management of grazing lands that could be lost as a result of the proposed withdrawal Minerals and geothermal development impacts Sonic boom and noise impacts Cultural impacts Socioeconomic impacts on airport Secondary effects on property values 			
Attendees:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congressman Mark Amodei staff Duckwater Shoshone Tribe Nye County Commissioner Lander County Ranchers Senator Dean Heller staff 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toiyabe Guns Town of Kingston University of Florida Yomba Shoshone Tribe Residents and interested individuals 	

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Eureka Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016	13	3	1
Media Attendance:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 			
Topics Discussed:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing allotments and management of grazing lands that could be lost as a result of the proposed withdrawal Minerals and geothermal development impacts Sonic boom and noise impacts Impacts on sage grouse from low-flying aircraft Socioeconomic impacts of sale of lands 			

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Attendees:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eureka County Commission Eureka County School District National Cattlemen’s Beef Association 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranchers/farmers Sheriff Residents and interested individuals 	

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Hawthorne Friday, Oct. 7, 2016	33	0	4

Media Attendance:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desert Report Magazine Mineral County Independent News 			

Topics Discussed:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about the Navy’s response time from public phone line; request to insert language on the website about phone call return time Concerns about Poinsettia geothermal plant Access to water by animals (local and migratory) Concerns about the increased area needed for public safety Concerns that hazardous areas (from bombs and chemicals) would increase I-11 corridor and impacts from modernization effort Chem-trails and dispersal of hazardous materials Payments in Lieu of Taxes reduction Access to off-highway vehicle areas Request for assistance in funding main Town Meeting Hall (USO building) Concerns regarding disproportional economic benefits in comparison with other counties Potential impacts on bighorn sheep Potential impacts on hunting Reno-to-Vegas race course access Tourism impacts Request for the Navy to look into Nellis Air Force Base as an alternative site 			

Attendees:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawthorne Airport (KHTH) Mineral County NCH/El Capitan (Lodge & Casino) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walker River Paiute Tribe Residents and interested individuals 	

Site	Attendance	Oral Comments	Comment Letters
Gabbs Friday, Oct. 7, 2016	73	2	1
Media Attendance:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonopah Times 			
Topics Discussed:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing allotments and management of grazing lands that could be lost as a result of the proposed withdrawal • Concerns that hazardous areas (from bombs and chemicals) would increase • Concerns regarding disproportional economic benefits in comparison with other counties • Cumulative impacts from other proposed military expansions nearby (i.e., Nellis Air Force Base) 			
Attendees:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best in the Desert Racing • Gabbs School • Yomba Shoshone Tribe • Residents and interested individuals 			

On the sign-in sheet, attendees were asked how they heard about the meeting so the Navy may enhance future notification efforts. Below is an approximate tally summary of the responses.

Source	Number of Responses (Percentage of Responses)
Word of Mouth	76 (44%)
Newspaper/Newspaper Advertisement	31 (18%)
Email – Unspecified Source	18 (11%)
News – Unspecified Source or Other Bulletin	14 (8%)
Website/Social Media/Internet	12 (7%)
News – Television	9 (5%)
News – Radio	7 (4%)
Postcard Mailer	3 (2%)
<i>Federal Register</i> Notice	1 (1%)
Total Responses	171 (100%)

D. PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

The public scoping period was planned to run from Aug. 26, 2016, to Nov. 25, 2016. In early November, the Navy provided a comment period extension through Dec. 12, 2016. Throughout the public comment period, a total of 328 comment letters were received. Comment letters were submitted via the project website's electronic comment form (181), postal mail and email (111), in writing at the scoping meetings (21), and orally (15) at the scoping meetings.

Summary of Public Comments

This section is intended to illustrate the main issues heard from the public during the public meetings and submitted during the comment period; it is not meant to capture all aspects of the comments or to serve as a legal record.

Each comment letter was reviewed and broken down into specific topics which were then categorized by resource area. One comment letter may include comments on multiple resource areas. The breakdown of comments, ranked by most referenced resource area, is provided below:

Resource Area	Number of Comments	Percentage of Comments
Land Use (total)	285	18%
<i>Minerals and Mining (specific)</i>	105	7%
<i>Grazing (specific)</i>	101	6%
<i>Land Use (not grazing, minerals, or mining)</i>	79	5%
Proposed Action	219	14%
Recreation (total)	206	13%
<i>Recreation (not Off-Highway Vehicle or hunting)</i>	82	5%
<i>Hunting (specific)</i>	73	5%
<i>Off-Highway Vehicle (specific)</i>	51	3%
Socioeconomics	162	10%
Biological Resources	88	6%
Water Resources and Quality	68	4%
NEPA Process/Public Participation	63	4%
Other	62	4%
Alternatives Development	56	4%
Utilities/Infrastructure	50	3%
Transportation	48	3%
Cultural Resources, including Native American Traditional Resources	43	3%
Airspace and Aviation	37	2%
Airborne Noise	33	2%
Mitigation	30	2%
Public Health and Safety	30	2%
Comment Extension Request	20	1%
Hazardous Materials/Wastes	19	1%
Cumulative Impacts	15	1%
Air Quality/Climate	13	1%
Soils	11	1%
Environmental Justice and the Protection of Children	9	1%
Total	1,567	100%

This comment summary provides a brief overview of the general issues or concerns expressed by the public. Comments are organized first by range-wide issues, followed by issues specific to a certain range.

Range	Issue/Concern
Range-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in flight paths and increases in noise impacts, and associated impacts on wildlife species • Payments in Lieu of Taxes • Impacts on the airfield near Austin (instrumented approach) • Loss of tax revenue from land withdrawal • General expansion into public land resulting in loss of public access, especially for recreational activities (off-highway vehicle), and minimizing multiple use • Impacts on wilderness study areas and wildlife populations, especially the sage grouse • Concerns about current investments made to improve water supplies (small and big game guzzlers) and habitat • Loss of mine claims/mineral exploration and access to grazing land, and subsequent revenue loss • Concern that there is not an attempt to use other Navy and military services installations to conduct training rather than expanding the Fallon Range Training Complex • Unexploded ordnance concerns • Impacts on general aviation from special use airspace, restricted airspace, etc. • Restrictions on geothermal energy • Limitations for land/home owners to build/expand on their property, and market value decline • Impacts on county master plans • Impacts on the underground water table from training with explosive ordnance and increased fire risk, and other hazardous materials concerns • Impacts on cultural resources, especially on vision quest sites • Impacts on water rights • Approach for property proposed for purchase
Bravo-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded area closed to public use resulting in limitations to off-highway vehicle access and other recreation uses • Closed access to cultural sites • Availability of water to local fauna • Closure of various roads • Impacts on the existing grazing allotments and economic losses • Impacts on water rights • Impacts on property value • Impacts on chukar habitat

Range	Issue/Concern
Bravo-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion would require a new highway (closure of Route 839) • Prime hunting ground in southern portion (Sand Springs, Monte Cristo, Fairview, and Slate Mountain ranges) would be closed • Large area closed to off-highway vehicle/recreation/wildlife viewing • Grazing allotment closure • Closure of roads for seasonal races • Original Bravo-17 property claims issues • Impacts on sage grouse populations • Impacts on big game (bighorn sheep herds), small game, and avian species, including impacts on threatened and endangered species • Availability of water to local fauna and impacts on existing water developments • Impacts on mineral and mining claims • Impacts on planned transportation improvements (utility corridor for transmission lines, and railroad) • Concerns about road closures for general public use • Loss of access to historical sites (Rawhide) • Impacts on tarantula migration • Impacts on water rights • Access to current communication infrastructure currently at Fairview Peak • Impacts on cultural resources, including historic mining districts • Loss of access to geothermal resources and investments
Bravo-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing issues with legacy/historical off-range ordnance • Impacts on chukar habitat
Bravo-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on wildlife refuges • Loss of development on private parcels • Access through Bravo-20 eliminated • Railway Spur Development would be impacted • Availability of water to local fauna • Impacts on wildlife, especially in wildlife refuges, from both ground and air activities • Impacts on Churchill County and Nye County Payments in Lieu of Taxes funding and property tax revenue • Impacts on water rights • Impacts on grazing allotments • Impacts on mineral and mining claims • Impacts on geothermal leases • Impacts on cultural resources • Impacts on migratory birds

Range	Issue/Concern
Dixie Valley Training Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining/geothermal closures • Loss of mineral and mining claims • Loss of prime hunting sites • Impacts on sage grouse populations • Potential impacts on roads • Impacts on Churchill County and Nye Payments in Lieu of Taxes funding and property tax revenue • Impacts on water rights • Impacts on grazing allotments • Impacts on waterfowl and shorebird migrations • Impacts on big game (bighorn sheep herds), small game, and avian species, and endangered species • Impacts on cultural resources • Impacts on infrastructure improvements (utility corridor)
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for scoping comment period extension by 60 or 90 days (with the majority of comments referring to the original Nov. 25, 2016, comment period deadline) • Inadequate information available on the project website • Requests for additional maps