



File Code: 1950

Date: September 26, 2014

Dear Interested Party;

As the Responsible Official, for the Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment (EA), I've decided to designate an additional opportunity for a public comment. This designated period will run until October 10, 2014. The Forest Service is preparing to adopt this EA prepared by the Navy.

PROPOSED ACTION

The project proposes to allow by issuance of a Special Use Permit of three Operation of Mobile Electronic Warfare Training System (MEWTS) mobile emitters in the Olympic Peninsula on USFS lands (existing roads) to facilitate training in the Olympic MOAs and Warning Area at 12 (twelve) sites. The enclosed map shows the project's proposed locations on the Pacific Ranger District.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to sustain and enhance the level and type of EW training currently being conducted by Navy assets using the Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC), to provide the ability to accommodate growth in future training requirements, and to maximize the ability of local units to achieve their training requirements on local ranges. The Following identifies the EW training and needs that will be met by establishment of the Pacific Northwest EW Range: (1) EA-18G and EA-6B Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) personnel and Fleet Squadron Personnel training requirements; (2) support of basic and intermediate EW training for all user requirements of the NWTRC, primarily the locally assigned air, surface, and subsurface units; (3) live training, augmented by virtual training; (4) support of unit EW certifications and sustainment level training; (5) maximization and balance of local unit quality of training with local unit quality of life; (6) reduction in costs of training by conducting more training locally; and (7) reduction in the use of fossil fuel consumption from transit to and from training sites outside the state of Washington.

Those wishing to provide input and have standing (eligibility) during the future Objection period for this project must be submitted to the project lead Greg Wahl at 1835 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia, WA 98512. If you have any questions regarding the details of this proposal or have comments, please contact Greg Wahl at gtwahl@fs.fed.us or (360) 956-2375. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.



Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Those submitting electronic copies must put the project name in the subject line, and must either submit comments as part of the e-mail message or as an attachment only in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf) or Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf), and can do so to the following e-mail address: comments-pacificnorthwest-olympic-pacific@fs.fed.us . In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed above, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses, will be rejected.

The EA is available for review on-line at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/olympic/landmanagement/projects>

As a Federal Agency, the USDA and US Forest Service always strives to inform and engage the public on all actions on the Olympic National Forest. We aim to include the widest spectrum of public input throughout any project's process. If you know of anyone who may have input to this project, please communicate with them on the value we place on hearing from them.

Sincerely,



DEAN R. MILLETT
District Ranger

Enclosure



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2

Figure 1-1: Northwest Training Range Complex Study Area



1

Figure 1-2: Proposed Emitter Sites in the Olympic Military Operations Area