DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

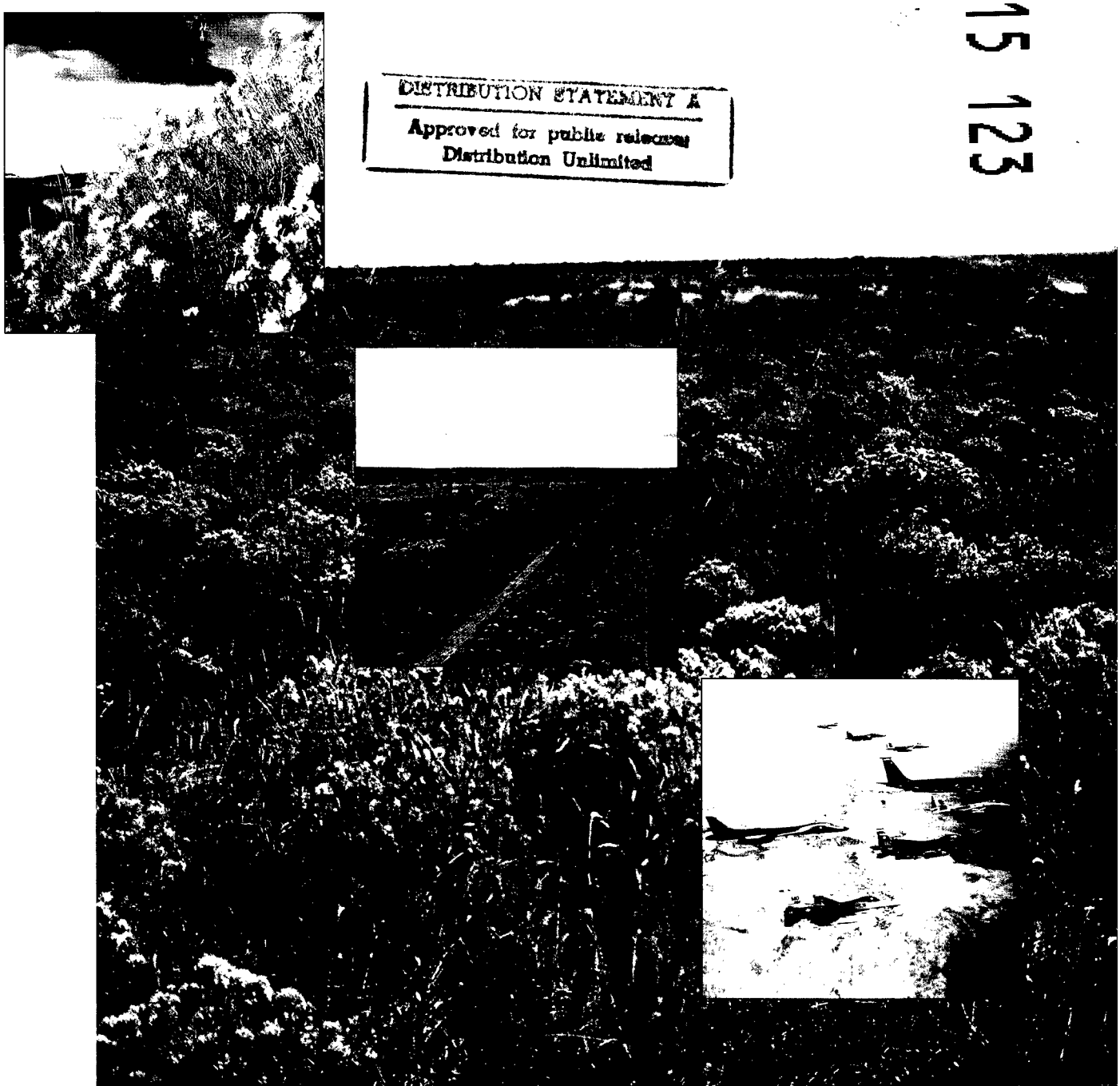
ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

JANUARY 1998 • VOLUME 2

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Summary of Contents by Volume

All volumes are listed and the contents of this volume are highlighted.

Preface Volume

- Readers' Guide: Summarizes EIS changes resulting from public comments and agency inputs
- Executive Summary: Summarizes the ETI EIS results
- Recommendation of Preferred Alternative: Identifies the Air Force Preferred Alternative
- Mitigation Measures: Describes actions to reduce environmental consequences and/or public or agency concerns

Volume 1

- Chapter 1: Describes purpose and need of the proposal to Enhance Training in Idaho
- Chapter 2: Presents the alternatives including no-action and three training range alternatives
- Chapter 3: Delineates the baseline condition of the affected environment for each environmental resource
- Chapter 4: Addresses the environmental consequences of the four alternatives, including cumulative impacts
- Chapter 5: Presents irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources if an action item were selected
- Chapter 6: Index

Volume 2

- Overview: Describes public review and comment response process
- Public and agency comments: Includes hearing testimony and written comments
- Response to comments: Responds to comments and/or identifies where responses can be found in the FEIS

Volume 3 (originally Volume 2 of the DEIS)

- Chapter 7: References
- Chapter 8: Persons and Agencies Contacted
- Chapter 9: List of Preparers
- Chapter 10: Consultation Information
- Chapter 11: List of Repositories
- Appendices A through N: Technical appendices and reports and information, in addition to that contained in the body of the FEIS, required for compliance with Federal Land Policy Management Act

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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13. ABSTRACT *(Maximum 200 words)*

The ETI Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluates four alternatives to enhance training for aircrews of the 366th Wing based at Mountain Home AFB, ID. The EIS was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It also has appendices to meet requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and its associated regulations for public land withdrawals. The Final EIS includes analyses of the potential environmental consequences of each alternative on airspace, noise, safety, hazardous materials, earth resources, water resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, land use, recreation and visual resources and socioeconomics. The findings indicate that potential environmental impacts from any one of the range development alternatives include increased aircraft-related noise in the expanded portions of the MOAs, decreased aircraft-related noised in portions of existing MOAs, negligible to moderate impacts on habitat for wildlife and vegetation, disturbance to cultural resources eligible or potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and possible environmental effects of range alternatives combined with past, present and future projects or actions. The Juniper Butte Alternative was recommended as the Air Force's preferred alternative.

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ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Volume 2

Comments and Responses

January 1998

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VOLUME 2
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INTRODUCTION

This volume contains comments received from federal, state, and local agencies, and the general public during the public hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and during the entire DEIS comment period. The comment period began on May 8, 1997 and closed on September 8, 1997. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), public and agency comments were reviewed and incorporated into this Final EIS. These public and agency comments will be used by the decisionmaker for the project evaluation.

Comment and Response Process

Comments on the DEIS were generated through both written correspondence and verbal testimony during the DEIS public comment period. The following process was used for reviewing and responding to these comments:

- All comment letters and verbal testimony were reviewed carefully and assigned a unique number. This number was also assigned to the commentor.
- Within each comment letter or testimony, substantive comments were identified and bracketed. These bracketed comments were then reviewed by a resource specialist and provided an individual response. Three guidelines were used for determining substantive comments.

    1. The comment questioned the proposed action, alternatives, or other components of the proposal.
    2. The methodology of the analysis or results were questioned.
    3. The use, adequacy, and/or accuracy of data were questioned.

    Due to the similarity of many comments, some comments were assigned the same response.

- The individual bracketed comments were assigned a response code corresponding to a specific response. These responses (and codes) were organized according to resource. For example, all responses to comments regarding biological resources were grouped together, and likewise for each resource covered in the EIS. The responses to comments appear in the Response section of this volume.

Many letters received were form letters or duplicates of one another. These letters were also assigned a unique number. However, only one example of each type of form letter or duplicate letter received was printed in the document.

An alphabetical directory of commentor's names, with their associated comment, was also generated and is provided in this volume.

Locating Your Comment Letter or Public Testimony

Two directories are provided to locate your name. The first directory provides an alphabetical listing of commentors by last name. The second directory only provides a listing of individuals who submitted a form or duplicate letter. After locating your name, note the number in the third column. This number was assigned to your comment letter and is stamped on the upper right-hand corner of the letter.

The comment letters are printed in numerical order and are organized into four sections: written comments, verbal comments, agency and cooperating agency comments. Public comment letters begin with 0001; verbal comments begin with 8000; and agency and cooperating agency comment letters begin with 9000.

If a number appears in the fourth column, that means you submitted a form letter, and the number tells you which form letter example to locate.

Locating Responses to Comments

All comment letters were given a response code. Response codes are printed next to one or more bracketed areas in the left margin of the comment letters. The response codes are listed below. Responses are found in the Response section of this volume.

Resource	Response Code
General	GE
Purpose and Need	PN
Process	PR
Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives	DP
Airspace	AU
Noise	NO
Safety	SF
Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste Management	HZ
Earth Resources	ER
Water Resources	WR
Air Quality	AQ
Biological Resources	BI
Cultural Resources	CU
Land Use and Transportation	LU
Recreation and Visual Resources	RV
Socioeconomics	SO

DIRECTORY OF COMMENTORS

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Abrams	Jeff	0294	
Acee	Jim & Susan	0796	
Ackleson	Scott	0088	0015
Adams	Michael	0329	
Adams	Kathleen	0397	
Adams	Walter K.	1043	1021
Adams	Cora M.	1044	1032
Addison	Rick	0549	0015
Albedyll	Robert	1064	1023
Alexander	Cindy	0579	
Alff	Mike	0047	0015
Alger	Donna K.	1069	1023
Allans	F.	0976	
Allen	Woodrow	0438	0015
Allen	Patrick	0613	0015
Allen	Elaine	0996	
Allen	John	1165	
Allen	Edwina	8148	
Allison	Glen	0924	
Allister	Pamela	0354	
Allister	Pamela	8124	
Allred	Judith	1076	1021
Almgrew	Mark J.	0689	0015
Almond	Greg	0168	0015
Alsobrooks	Carl & Dolores	0947	
Ambrose	Joseph	0664	0015
Amys	Gerald	0087	0015
Anderson	Wallace E.	0076	0015
Anderson	Frank & Stacey	0348	
Anderson	Jack	0423	0015
Anderson	Brett	0483	0015
Anderson	Glenn E.	0598	0015
Anderson	Stewart	0890	
Anderson	Iris	1151	
Anderson	Norm	8134	
Andreis	Arthur J.	0669	0015
Andresen	Leila Hinton	1206	
Andrew	Nancy G.	0128	0015
Andrews	Richard & Judith	0407	
Ashby	Raymond & Paula	0769	
Ashford	John	0803	
Asper	Paul	0143	0015
Ater	Gail	8022	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Ater	Gail	8031	
Atwood, Jr.	Stanford	0619	0015
Bachelder	Carol	0554	
Bachman	Frank & Cindy	1193	
Bachman	Lynne	0883	
Bahls	Peter	0702	
Balcerak	Theresa	0856	
Baldwin	Fred	0389	0015
Balken	Shane	0327	
Banfield	W. David	0187	0015
Barger	Jerry L.	0529	0015
Barker	Richard	0940	
Barlow	John	1010	0853
Barnett	Vern	1142	
Barney	Jeff	1166	
Barringer	John	8120	
Barry	Charles	0455	0015
Barry	Warren	8035	
Bartlett	R.W.	8023	
Bartlett	Lee	0353	
Bartley	Bruce	0841	0015
Barton	D. Michael	8106	
Barton, Jr.	Robert B.	0516	
Barton, Jr.	D. Michael	8115	
Batchelder	Patricia	0556	
Bauer, Jr.	Max	0043	0015
Baum	Robert	1056	1021
Baumm	Darwin D.	0041	0015
Bear	Robert	8062	
Beardall	David L.	0066	0015
Becker	Kurt	1107	
Belisle	Betty	1091	0853
Bell	Ronald W.	0058	0015
Bell	Carl	0204	0015
Bender	Robert	1205	
Bender	Eve	1210	1205
Bennett	Larry K.	0111	0015
Bennett	Trevor	1081	
Bent	Julia	0923	
Bentley	Clint	0580	0015
Bentz	Laurice	0732	
Bentz	Laurice	0733	
Bergh	Jan	1187	1186
Bergh	Dave	1188	1186
Bermen	John F.	0119	0015
Bermensolo	Claude	0254	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Bermensolo	Al	0275	
Bermensolo	Claude	1049	1032
Bermensolo	Claude	1050	1021
Bermensolo	Claude	1051	1021
Bermensolo	John	1063	1021
Bermensolo	Oledeen	1066	1021
Bermensolo	Alan	8004	
Best	Michael R.	0700	0015
Best	Cindy	1059	1023
Bettas	Richard A.	0686	0015
Beyer	Steven C.	0444	0015
Bezdeka	Tom	1012	
Biaggne	Russ	1147	
Bideganeta	John F.	8006	
Biggs	Teresa	0278	
Billings	Barbara	0978	
Bingen	Michael J.	0488	0015
Black	Laurie	0246	
Black	Paul M.	0474	0015
Black	Laurie	8015	
Black	Lena	8059	
Blackburn	Joseph M.	0538	0015
Blackmore	William R.	0477	0015
Blaisdell	Robin	0349	
Blaisdell	Robin	8140	
Blanton	Lowell	0008	
Blier	Wayne M.	0272	
Blough	Marvin & Mary	1085	
Boehlke	Gary	1079	
Boester	Robert	8086	
Bond	Raymond	0195	0015
Borchert	Nick	0273	
Bordeleau	Jacques	0891	
Borel	Michael J.	0379	
Boswell	JoAnn	0874	
Boucher	Joe	0667	0015
Bower	Craig A.	0216	0015
Bower	John	1067	1021
Bowling	Richard	0296	
Box	Roy	0595	0015
Boyd, Jr.	E.A.	0161	0015
Boyer	Sylvia	1073	1021
Boyles	Jean	0305	
Brack	Judy	0855	0853
Brackett	Bert	1173	
Bradburn	Jill	0915	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Brady	Del	0120	0015
Brammer	Tim	0576	0015
Brandow	Barry	0662	0015
Branting	Jason	1095	
Brasher	Rick	0034	0015
Bray	Gene E.	0632	
Breland	Frank	0468	0015
Briley	John	0933	
Brodersen	Bill	8012	
Brodesser	Joe	0473	0015
Bromley	Michael	0666	0015
Brookover	Gordon	1041	1021
Brooks	Randy C.	0132	0015
Brower	Terry L.	0411	
Brown	Ron	0005	
Brown	Kenneth	0589	0015
Brown	Janie	1018	
Brungardt	Joe	0013	
Brungardt	Joe	1169	
Brust	Dennis	0577	0015
Buhler	Michael	0173	0015
Buhrer	Gayle	1128	
Bukowski	Grace	1143	
Bukowski	Grace	8052	
Bukowski	Grace	8068	
Bullock	Ann	0942	
Bureau of Land		9005	
Burick	R.J.	0081	
Burke	Charles	0954	
Burnett	Gregory	0603	0015
Burnham	James	1164	
Burnham	Jim	8094	
Burns	John	9006	
Burrell	Garold F.	1138	
Burrows	Bill	0992	0015
Busboom	Roger A.	0626	0015
Bush	Edward	1029	1021
Bush & Anne Marie Hill	Anne	1030	1021
Bush-Clark	Jenny	0359	
Bush-Clark	Jenny	8125	
Butler	C. Danny	0197	0015
Butsack	Raymond L.	0372	
Cabala	Jack	0877	0015
Caccia	John	8026	
Cacdac	Manuel A.	0661	0015
Cain	Mitch	0049	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Caldbrisi	Dominick	0542	0015
Camiccia	Don	0169	0015
Camp	Heidi	0979	
Capocaccia	John	0647	0015
Caporale	Louis A.	0545	0015
Caputo	Paula	0871	
Cardozo	William	1003	
Carlson	Robert T.	0403	
Carlson	Phyllis	0498	0015
Carlson	A. Oscar	0688	0015
Carollo	Jim	0713	0015
Carpenter	Damara	0225	
Carpenter	Damara	8049	
Carroll & Janneen Day	Mark	0838	
Caterson	Denee	0906	
Caughlin	Elizabeth	0306	
Caughlin	Elizabeth	8075	
Caywood	John	0795	
Chambers	Thomas F.	0424	0015
Chambers	John	0921	
Chandler	Asa	0984	
Charnesky	James	0443	0015
Chase	James L.	0419	0015
Chase	Larry	1042	1023
Chastain	Curtis S.	0061	0015
Chelstrom	Tom	0907	
Chiappone	Robert	0643	0015
Chisholm	Bill	0415	
Chisholm	James	1055	1023
Christ	Corrine	0253	
Christensen	Robert C.	0112	0015
Christensen	Howard Lynn	0758	0015
Christensen	Ann	0975	
Christenson	Fred	8073	
Christiano	Angelo	0470	0015
Church	Fred	0396	
Citizen	Concerned	0743	
City of Kuna		9003	
Clare	Rita	0987	
Clark	John	0071	0015
Clark	William	0324	
Clark	William	0330	
Clark	G.T.	0374	
Clark	Lori	0400	
Clark	Jason	0783	
Clark	Bill	0914	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Clark	Bill	8150	
Clemens	Glen & Alice	0826	
Cochrane	Barbara	0849	
Cody	Pat	0392	
Cole	Vicki	0401	
Collie	W.R.	0092	0015
Colson	Robert	1031	1021
Conley	R. Dean	0506	0015
Connell	Stephen P.	0018	0015
Connolly	John	0659	0015
Conradsen	R. Kent	0665	0015
Cooley	Gina	1015	
Coons	Robert E.	0493	0015
Cooper	John & Joon	0555	0413
Cooper	Paul & Viola	1000	
Corbus	Wanda L.	1045	1021
Cornwell	Wesley L.	0067	0015
Cotner	Jerry B.	0465	0015
Couchum	Carol	0317	
Couper	Charles M.	8011	
Couper	Charles M.	8013	
Cox	MaryAnne	0835	
Crate	Arthur	0515	0015
Craven		0905	
Creely	Andrew	0501	0015
Cresse	Barbara	0256	
Cresse	Jerre	0264	
Cresto	Joe	0145	0015
Crist	Roger E.	0872	
Crocker	Nan	1006	
Crum	David H.	0131	0015
Crum	J. Kirk	0375	
Cullen	James A.	0211	0015
Currey	Larry	0478	0015
Currier	R.L.	0085	0015
Currier	David L.	0544	0015
Czoschke	Steve	0487	0015
Dahm	Richard T.	0540	0015
Dakins	Maxine	0842	
Dale	Gretchen	0983	
Dan	Carrie	8043	
Dan	Carrie	8067	
Dann	Carrie	1182	
Dapolito	George M.	0090	0015
Davies	Karin	0848	
Davis	Warren G.	0391	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Davis	Charles	0740	
Davis	Eric	1179	
Dean	Mariann	0716	0015
Decker	Fredric	0606	0015
Decker	Corey	1184	
Denfeld	Kay	0629	
Denison	Mr. & Mrs. J.	0836	
Densley	Clair	8008	
Denton	M. Rodney	0165	0015
Dick	Richard	0338	
Diehl	Larry L.	0657	0015
Dietrich, Jr.	Michael	1021	
Diez	Randy	0823	
DiGrazia	Robert	0248	
DiGrazia	Mary Kay	0384	
DiGrazia	Robert	1180	0015
DiGrazia	Robert	8038	
Dinger	Randy	0819	
Dodson	Guy	0321	
Dollar	Dow	0191	0015
Doster	Glenn	0870	
Douenberg	Jim	0420	0015
Downer	John R.	0656	0015
Downing	Greg	0955	
Dredge	Richard	0063	0015
Dreeszen	Doug & Patricia	0133	0015
Dressel, Jr.	Paul	0448	0015
Driver	Philip	0612	0015
Drott	Earl	0072	0015
Drum	Rado O.	0210	0015
Dube, Jr.	Rene J.	0510	0015
Dubs	Roger D.	0212	0015
Dubs	Arthur R.	0219	0015
Dufault	Renee	8055	
Duke	Beth M.	0016	
Dull	Rex	1140	
Durr	Kim	0410	
Dusick	Donald R.	0062	0015
Eastlake	Bill	0963	
Eaton	Jerrie	0091	0015
Ebbs	Robert F.	8005	
Ebersberger	Arthur D.	0430	0015
Ebertz	Kirk & Pam	0909	
Eckel	Natalie M.	0571	0015
Eckert	Armand	0245	
Eckert	Armand	8014	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Eddy	Charles H.	0368	
Edington	C.C. & Ruth	1082	
Edwards	Steve	0064	0015
Egan	Nancy	0236	
Einhaus	Bob	0980	
Ellis	Gary G.	0627	
Ellison	Brian	0949	
Elsinger	Cyril G.	0699	0015
Elswood	Jackie	1112	
Embry	Judith	0964	
Emmen	Keith	1126	
Engel	N.	0060	0015
Entsminger	Frank & Sue	0876	0015
Erickson	James O.	0592	0015
Escalanti	Leight	0286	
Eshelman	Harold	0610	0015
Esper	Vaughn	0642	0015
Everest	Craig	0897	
Everton	Clyde & Frances	0291	
Everton	F.P.	0811	
Farace	Tony	0499	0015
Fargason, III	William H.	0520	0015
Farley	Bill	0447	0015
Farrer	C. Robert	0658	0015
Fauci	Joanie	8113	
Feiglstok	Randy	0918	
Feldman	Murray	1191	
Fenske	Ronald J.	0209	0015
Fereday	Jeff	0335	
Feriani	Ralph	0596	0015
Fetzer	Kurt A.	0479	0015
Fischer	C.	0812	
Fischman	Ken	1141	
Fisher	Jack	8085	
Fite	Katie	8103	
Fitzpatrick	Mark	0583	0015
Flanagan	Michael	0899	
Fletcher	Janice	0685	
Flocchini	James	0939	
Florence	Frank	0394	
Flores	Guadalupe	1005	
Flynn	Bill	0432	0015
Fontenot	Donald W.	0889	
Foreyt	William J.	0167	0015
Foster	Donald (Fred)	0259	
Foundation for North		1131	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Fouse	William C.	0671	0015
Francis	Maria	0790	
Franick	Sherri	0604	0015
Frechette	Ray	8074	
Freed	William	0055	0015
Freepartner	Maryann	0788	
Freske	Douglas	0386	
Freudenthal	Jacque	1096	
Frickert	James F.	0476	0015
Friedly	Jay R.	0744	0738
Friedly	Sandy	0745	0738
Friends of the Bruneau		1178	
Frizzell	Bruce S.	0373	
Frost	John D.	0735	0015
Fry	Todd	0624	0015
Fry	George A.	0668	0015
Fudge	John	0378	
Fuller	Margaret	0997	
Gabrick	James R.	0136	0015
Gallagher	Michael	0880	0853
Gardner	Paul A.	0587	0015
Gardner	Nikki	0938	
Gardner	Marvin	8081	
Garrison	Ralph	0489	0015
Gates	John	0074	0015
Gaugler	Dale	0466	0015
Gavin	Rodney	1024	1021
Gayer	Mrs. Paul	0746	
Gazda	Ted J.	0511	0015
Gehrke	Craig	8102	
Georges	Linda	0822	
Gerdes	Ronald H.	0093	0015
Gerg	Ken	0070	
Gerritsen	Jeff	1176	
Gholson	Beverly	0932	
Giacomazzi	Joseph	0102	0015
Gibson	Amanda	0231	
Gibson	Amanda	0232	
Gibson	Amber	0233	
Gibson	Lucille Haynes	0241	
Gibson	Amanda	0299	
Gibson	Lucille Haynes	1172	
Gibson	Lucille Haynes	8036	
Gibson	Terry	8040	
Gibson	Amber	8047	
Gibson	Amanda	8048	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Gibson	Debbie	8064	
Gibson	Terry	8065	
Gibson	Terry	8071	
Gidel	Arthur F.	0882	
Gilbert	Tad	0721	0015
Gillhouse	Stephen J.	0075	0015
Glaccum	Ellen	1139	
Glass	Doyle	0206	0015
Glass	George H.	0377	
Godfrey	William S.	0628	0413
Goller	Brian	1181	
Goller	Brian	8024	
Goller	Brian	8099	
Goodnight	William	0322	
Gordan	Robert	0153	0015
Gordon	Daniel	0720	0015
Gourash	Richard W.	0645	0015
Gourley	Bob	0607	0015
Graf	Richard & Lujean	0844	
Green	Marta	8017	
Greene	Cheryl	0228	
Greenfield	Suzanne	1009	0853
Greybush	Joseph N.	0548	0015
Griffin	John	0982	
Griffith	John	0564	
Griffith	Erin	0703	
Griffith	John & Jineen	0704	
Grimm	Greg	0118	0015
Gross	Susan A.	0270	
Gross	John D.	0271	
Gross	Starla	0679	0558
Gross	Starla	0680	0559
Grundman	Paul J.	0471	0015
Grunwald	Ronald P.	0437	0015
Gubler	Richard N.	0158	0015
Guilford	Chuck	0884	
Gundersen	Lorraine	0006	
Gundersen	Lorraine	0974	
Haak	Amy	0355	
Haak	Amy	1135	
Haak	Amy	1155	
Haak	Amy	8132	
Haas	David	0734	0015
Hall	Gary	1161	
Hall	Patricia	8092	
Hall	Dale	8093	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Hallenbeck	SRA Steven	0572	0015
Hamilton	David B.	0198	0015
Hamilton	Mike	1027	1021
Hamilton	Mona	1035	1021
Hamilton	Bill	1048	1023
Hammann	Linda	0865	
Hanchor	Leilani	0320	
Hansand	Larry	0588	0015
Hansen	Eric & Sue	0114	0015
Haraghey, Jr.	Harold	0393	
Harmon	Elizabeth A.	0707	
Harms	Dr. John	0356	
Harms	George R.	0539	0015
Harms	John	8131	
Harris	Donna	0847	
Hart	Lee	0141	0015
Hart & Mike Corbett	Gail	0638	
Hartzler	Jeffrey	0601	0015
Hatcher	James E.	0144	0015
Hausrath	Anne	8118	
Haverkorn	David	0159	0015
Hawk		0920	
Hawley	Mr. & Mrs. Perry	0829	
Hayden	Terry	0950	
Hayes	Justin	1115	0853
Hayes	Marjorie	8122	
Heath	W.A.	0749	
Heddens	Camelia	0850	
Hedrick	Kelly	1022	1021
Heft	David L.	0536	0015
Heidt	Barry	0285	
Henderson	Wayne	0799	0015
Henderson	Janet	1075	1032
Hendren	Patrick	0755	0015
Henrickson	Terri	8083	
Henry	Richard E.	0026	0015
Henry	Dwayne	0234	
Hensel	David	0674	
Herndon	Anne	0886	
Herndon	Anne	1101	
Herrington	Ruth	0786	
Herrington	Ruth	0931	
Heughins	Russell	8080	
Heughins & Jack Trueblood	Russell	1162	
Hightower	Lyman	0263	
Hilbert	H.	0417	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Hill	John F.	0099	0015
Hill	Kingsley	0123	0015
Hill	Steven D.	0469	0015
Hill	Matt	0853	
Hill	James	1185	1184
Hill, Jr.	William S.	1208	
Hilliard	Susan	1057	1023
Hinton	Warren L.	0240	
Hixon	Ananya	0860	
Hnetynka	Jerry	0692	0015
Hoalst	Preston	0810	
Hodges	Dennis & Tracy	0003	
Hoehner	Carl G.	0194	0015
Hoffman	Jim	0467	0015
Hogan	Mary	0708	
Hohn	Bruce A.	0463	0015
Holland	Allan A.	0040	0015
Hollimon	Peter W.	0531	0015
Hollister	James R.	0020	0015
Holman	R. Gayle	0663	0015
Holton	Nancy	0277	
Holton	Mike	0279	
Holton	Norman L.	0280	
Holworthy	J. Craig	0622	0015
Holzbager	Robert A.	0399	
Hooper	John W.	0482	0015
Hopkins	Steve	8136	
Horn	Edwin	0238	
Hornung	William J.	0452	0015
Horowitz	Stephen	0840	
Hosford	W.E.	0177	0015
Hotter	Donald	0611	0015
House	J. David	0126	0015
Howard	Harry C.	0019	0015
Howard	Bob	0541	0015
Howard	Rich	0730	
Howard	Ted	8045	
Howard	Ted	8066	
Howe	C.W.	0458	0015
Hoye	Jack	0687	0015
Hubbard	Donald	0082	0015
Hubbard	R. Bruce	0083	0015
Huffsmith	Robert S.	0599	0015
Hughes	William F.	0867	
Hummel	Kay	0357	
Hummel	Kay	8129	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Hunter	Ray	0966	
Hunter	Mary Ann	0967	
Huntington	Danna	1023	
Hurley	Sean	0683	0559
Hurley	Sean	0684	0558
Hutchins	John	0573	0015
ID Fish & Game		9004	
ID Museum of Natural		9001	
Idaho Bird Hunters, Inc.		1163	
Idaho Consumer Affairs,		0364	
Idaho Rivers United		1083	
illegible		0310	
illegible		0712	0015
illegible		0738	
illegible		0742	
illegible		0859	
illegible	George	1037	1021
illegible	John	1040	1021
illegible	Nicholas	1071	
Ingersoll	Gary R.	0445	0015
Iverson	Hal	0981	
Jackson	Johnson	0226	
Jackson	Richard	0265	
Jackson	Robert	0425	0015
Jackson	Mark A.	0697	0015
Jackson	Johnson	8063	
Jacobs	Kerwin	1158	
Jacobson	Keith	0404	
Jacobson	Carl	0514	0015
Jahanbani	Jan R.	1209	1205
Jakubowics	Steven	1148	
Jakubowics	Steve	8101	
Jamieson	Gary F.	0522	0015
Jay	Elisabeth	0793	
Jayne	Gerald	0917	
Jenkins	Charles A.	0150	0015
Jenkins	Ronald	0553	0015
Jensen	Wade	0137	0015
Jensen	Susan	0406	
Jensen	Jack	0561	
Jensen	Jeffrey A.	0594	0015
Jepson	Ben	1088	
Johnson	Frantz	0456	0015
Johnson	Lawrence C.	0535	0015
Johnson	R.B.	0718	0015
Johnson	Melvin	0748	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Johnson	Terry	0789	
Johnson	Kent	0968	
Johnson	Everett	0993	0015
Johnson	Chris	1132	
Johnston	Lahsha	0343	
Johnston	Nick	1174	
Johnston	Lahsha	1183	
Johnston	Lahsha	8032	
Johnston	Lahsha	8056	
Johnston	Lahsha	8077	
Johnston	Nick	8078	
Johnston	Nick	8144	
Jones	Rob	0011	
Jones	Mark S.	0121	0015
Jones	Jayne L.	0289	
Jones	Shannon	0300	
Jones	Jessie	0315	
Jones	Tonia	0318	
Jones	Michael	0845	
Jones	James W.	1019	
Jones	George	1046	1021
Jones	Allen	1113	0853
Jones	Robert	1153	
Jones	Robert G.	8010	
Jones	Dianne	8107	
Jones	Michael	8108	
Jones	Jim	8117	
Joralemon	Patricia	0773	
Jorgenson	Tony E.	0139	0015
Juchem	Garnet	0913	
Juhl	Patrick	0190	0015
Jussila	Jeffrey	0166	0015
Kallman	Glenda	0858	
Keck	Daryl	1117	
Keeline	Jim H.	0653	0015
Keiser	Don	0660	0015
Kellam	Janet	0640	
Keller	Russell & Lori	0633	0413
Kellogg	Howard	0723	0015
Kelly	Jennifer	0833	
Kelly	Jeff	0995	
Kieckbusch	Mark	0989	
Kiernan	Robert	0309	
Kiernan	Bob	8079	
Kilgo	Walter M.	0054	0015
King	Sen. Robbi	8069	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Kirk	Ronald D.	0581	0015
Kirkpatrick	Joanna	0930	
Kitchens	Jack & Jeri	0557	0413
Klineburger	Bert	0096	0015
Kluth	Dan	0766	0015
Knight	Chester	0533	0015
Knoblock	Robert	1109	
Knotts	Cloey	1054	1021
Knudtsen	Karen	0188	
Kobe	Dana	0785	
Kober	Ronald A.	0497	0015
Koerwitz	Tom	0138	0015
Kohler	Edward P.	0199	0015
Koldewey	Larry	0014	
Koldewey	Larry	1097	
Kollmeyer	Shannon	0142	0015
Kordiyak	David	0775	
Kotan, Jr.	John A.	0586	0015
Kresge	Bob	1171	
Kreycik	Hale	0065	0015
Krissoff	William B.	0926	
Kroner	Lud	0534	0015
Krosch	Bruce A.	0827	
Krus	Dennis	0186	0015
Kruse	Mary Ann	1105	
Kubeja	Judy	0869	
Kuflak	Butch	0023	0015
Kuhlman	Elizabeth H.	0888	
Kuhn	Wolfgang	0623	0015
LaBrie	Roger	0127	0015
LaFemina	James & Jill	0339	
Lagegren	Ken & Ginna	0635	
Lamparelli	Frank	0821	
Langenfeld	Jerry	0948	
Langworthy	Helen	1086	
Larabee	Cheryl	0802	
Latham	John Pat	0171	0015
Lauer	Kevin D.	0593	0015
Laverty	Kent	0316	
Lawton	Randall	0798	0015
Leedy	Richard	0602	0015
Leibenguth	Guy	0646	0015
Lenkner	Charlie	8028	
Leonard	Jay	1028	1023
Lerew	Greg	0184	0015
Lewis	Suzanne	0334	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Lewis	Gregg	0639	
Lewis	Suzanne	8135	
Light	Harry	0266	
Linderborn	Carol M.	0824	
Linderman	Catherine	1130	
Linders	Scott	0164	0015
Link	Charles	0960	
Littleton	J.T.	0428	0015
Lock	Ellen	0934	
Locke	Walt	1133	
Longley	Bee	0021	
Lopez	Sergio	0670	0015
Lott	Liz	1058	1023
Louderback	Bill	0346	
Louderback	Bill	0350	
Love	Steven	1104	
Loy	Fred W.	0214	0015
Lucas	Laird	8130	
Luginbill	Betty	0928	
Lumpkin	Ken	0446	0015
Luntey	Robert S.	0244	
Luntey	Robert	8020	
Lutz	Bruce J.	0146	0015
Lyndaker	Billy	0342	
Lyndaker	Bryan	0361	
Lyndaker	Bryan	8121	
Lyons	William J.	0652	0015
Maas	Helen	0857	
Mabbett	Charles	0894	
Majesty	R.F.	0084	0015
Majors	Gene S.	0537	0015
Mancuso	Michael	1099	
Mancuso	Michael	8141	
Manning	Edith	0229	
Manning	F.M.	0750	
Manning	Edith	8057	
Manning	Claire	8138	
Marcum	Pamela	0314	
Mareusen	Kent	1032	
Marks	Dale	0922	
Marshall	Donald	0125	0015
Martin	Dan	0155	0015
Martinez	Joanne	1078	1021
Marzinelli	Marty	0830	
Mascaro	Stephen	0086	0015
Mastronardi	Robert	0614	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Matthews	M.K.	0690	0015
Maughan	Ralph	1119	
May	Larry	0945	
Mays, Jr.	Robert	0605	0015
McAulay	Kris	1074	1021
McBride	Rex	0079	0015
McCarthy	Ken	1103	
McCarthy	John	8104	
McCasker	Tom	0784	
McClintock	Ralph	0283	
McCorry	John & LeAnne	0649	0015
McCosker	Roger	0148	0015
McCoy	Rodney	0972	
McDonald	Thomas G.	0724	0015
McDonald	Monty	1047	1021
McDrew	Richard M.	0422	0015
McEnaney	Robert	1144	
McEnaney	Robert	1156	0247
McEnaney	Robert	8088	
McEuen	Timothy	0582	0015
McEwen	John C.	0202	0015
McFall	Marjory R.	0887	
McGiboney	Margrit	0817	
McGlinsky	Lee & Al	0360	
McIntosh, Jr.	John E.	0490	0015
McIntyre	James T.	0106	0015
McKibbell	Ronald E.	0179	0015
McKinley	Russ	0898	
McKinney	Jonnah	0298	
McLeod	Charles P.	0863	
McMannes	Alan	0543	0015
McMaster	Darlene	0068	
McMaster	Michele	0414	
McNeely	Alan	0304	
McNellis	Chris	0387	
Mead	David	8037	
Means	Jon	0441	0015
Mecham	Lonnie L.	0178	0015
Melville	Chi	0797	
Mercer	Lee	8089	
Meredith	Jerr	0402	
Meredith	Mike	1114	0853
Metz	Pamela A.	0122	0015
Meyer	Christopher	1008	
Meyr	Herbert	0292	
Meyr	Herbert	0332	0292

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Meyr	Herb	8087	
Mick	Terry	0759	0015
Milar	Jean	1007	
Miller	Major F.	0221	0015
Miller	Leo	0267	
Miller	Doug	0303	
Miller	Michael J.	0412	
Miller	R. Scott	0427	0015
Miller	George	0475	0015
Mink, Jr.	Harlan	9009	
Minnis	Sarah E.	0636	0413
Misner	Mike	0958	
Misner	Mike	1080	
Mode	David L.	0651	0015
Monahan	Arthur R.	0033	0015
Monasterio	Frank	0957	
Mondal	Kenneth	0943	
Monroe	Larry	0193	
Monroe	Larry	8046	
Moody	Gerald K.	0517	0015
Moody	J.	0885	
Moore	Gary	0301	
Moore	William	1100	
Morgan	Max G.	0134	0015
Morgan	Julie	0313	
Morgenroth	Earl E.	0192	0015
Morris	Marty	0030	0015
Morris	Randall E.	8021	
Morris	Randall	8033	
Mosco	Don	0053	0015
Moubray, Jr.	P.D.	0618	0015
Moyer & Gene Ratcliff	Judy	0837	
Munter	Andy	1004	
Murray	Jeffrey W.	0015	
Murray	Robert A.	0160	0015
Muse	Jim	0180	0015
Myers	Bill	0089	0015
Nannini	Mike	8044	
Naveran, Jr.	James E.	0765	0015
Neace	Thomas F.	1168	
Neff	Stan	0140	0015
Nehls	Jeff	0694	0015
Nelson	Norm	0741	
Nelson	Dan	0752	
Nelson	Morlan	0864	
Nelson	Robert	0962	

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Neumann	David	0416	
Newell	Charles	1175	
Newman	J. Curtis	0152	0015
Newman	Leni	0751	
Newton	Nola	0261	
Newton	Gary	0262	
Nibler	George	1154	
Nicholas	Gary	0991	
Nichols	Sandie	1070	
Nickels	Greg	0590	0015
Nicklos	Colleen	0405	
Nielson	Peter	8147	
Nielson	Peter	8152	
Nissl	Jan	0739	
Nolt	Leonard	1013	
Norman	Ronald A.	0157	0015
Nourse	Mary Ellen	8123	
Obenchain	Phillip	0563	
O'Brien	John L.	0174	0015
O'Brien	Kathy	0919	
O'Crowley	Janet	8039	
O'Donnell	Dennis	0500	0015
O'Lennon	Beth & Bill	0862	
Oliver	Greg	0201	0015
Oliver	Kevin	0756	0015
Olson	James	0290	
Olson	Warren E.	0717	0015
Olson	Earl & Roberta	1020	
Olson	James	8098	
Olson-Elle	Dana	0754	
O'Neal	Rosalind	0902	
Osborn	Winthrop	0001	
Osborn	Marlene	0002	
Osborne	Dwight	0408	
Oslund	Bob	1195	
Osminski	Steve	0459	0015
O'Very	Patrick	0804	0803
Owel	David	0107	0015
Owyhee Canyonlands		0242	
Owyhee Canyonlands		1192	
Owyhee County		9002	
Owyhee County		9010	
Pacini	Robert J.	0710	0015
Pahlisch	Dennis	0116	0015
Painter	Gary V.	0453	0015
Paiva	James	1203	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Paiva	James	8058	
Paiva	James	9008	
Palmer	Ann	0196	0015
Palmer	Michael	0532	0015
Palmgren	Lois	0323	
Pardue	S.O.	0547	0015
Park	Nicholas	1125	
Parker	Joe	0706	
Parr	James	0366	
Parrott	Mike	0696	0015
Partin	L.	1122	
Partin	S.	1152	
Patterson, Jr.	W.D.	0454	0015
Pederson	William	0584	0015
Pedrotti	Daniel A.	0728	0015
Pellegrino	Kraig	0518	0015
Pepper	Frank	0530	
Perry, Jr.	Wylie	0149	0015
Perschel	Robert	1200	
Peter	Duenner	0879	0853
Peters	Jack W.	0503	0015
Petersen	Craig	8002	
Petersen, Jr.	Grant	0839	0834
Petersen, Sr.	Grant	0834	
Peterson	Polly	0333	
Peterson	J. Reed	1038	1021
Peterson	Barry J.	1061	1021
Peterson	Polly A.	8146	
Petrofsky	Joseph G.	0779	
Pettit	Kara	8109	
Petty	Norman	1062	1023
Petty	Louise	1065	1021
Pfeifer	Ed	0767	0015
Pflumm	Ronald H.	0105	0015
Phillips	Terry R.	0757	0015
Phillips	Andrew	1093	0853
Pic'l	Dean R.	0376	
Pierce	Robert & Deanna	0442	0015
Pilling	Tim	0578	0015
Pippin	Sophia	0295	
Pomeroy	Betsy & Nelson	0560	0413
Pomeroy	Tom	0893	
Pomeroy	Mrs. J.N.	1124	
Poor	David	0308	
Poorman	Paul	0358	
Poorman	Paul	0828	

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Poorman	Paul	8128	
Post	R.E.	0217	0015
Post	William	0985	
Potts	Stanley	0108	0015
Potts	Stanley	1094	
Powers	Harold	0970	
Prater	Margie	0831	
Pressley	Peter	0973	
Pressman	Kent	0925	
Pressman	Peter	0935	
Pressman	Brooke	0936	
Pressman	Sage	0937	
Price	V.H.	0492	0015
Price	Harry & Eunice	0999	
Pringle	H.L.	8018	
Prior	Eleanor Little	8050	
Prior	Joe	8060	
Prouty	Fred	8001	
Puella	Marjorie	8061	
Purdy	Brad	0325	
Purdy	Karen	0345	
Purse	Craig	0486	0015
Radzinski	John G.	0698	0015
Ragains	Larry	1177	
Rainey	Scott	0977	
Rains	Charlotte	1159	
Ralls	Kenny	1190	1186
Ramm	Michael W.	0527	0015
Ramsay	James W.	0103	0015
Ransford	Ken	1017	
Rath	Madeleine	1016	
Rau	Karen	1026	1023
Rayborn	Steve & Pam	0012	
Rayburg	S. Mark	0025	0015
Raymond	Paul	1072	1021
Reaves	C.J.	1060	1023
Redfern	Robert & Bertilia	0737	
Reed	William G.	0151	0015
Rees	Rod	8016	
Reeves	John	0101	0015
Rehmeyer	James	0302	
Reid	Nancy	0929	
Reinhart	Richard	0038	0015
Renner	Charles R.	0714	0015
Reyment	Sheryl	1077	1021
Reynolds	Catherine J.	0381	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Reynolds	Brian	0385	
Reynolds	W. Duane	0709	
Reynolds	Duane	0941	
Reynolds	Dale	0998	
Reynolds	Don	8000	
Rice	Dennis	0390	
Richardson	Glen	0369	
Richardson	Julie	0961	
Richmond	Kathy	0413	
Ridgway	D.N.	0109	0015
Rielley	Bernard	0297	
Ring	Christopher	0156	0015
Rivers	Kathleen	0009	011
Rivers	Larry	0648	0015
Roberts	Tristan	0843	
Roberts	Frank A.	0927	
Roberts	Barbara	0956	
Robinson	Katherine	0337	
Robinson	Greg	0451	0015
Robinson	Robby R.	0722	0015
Robinson	Michael J.	0726	0015
Rockefeller	Gordon	0073	0015
Rockwell	Ronald	0094	0015
Rogers	Tavis	0502	0015
Rogers	David R.	0655	0015
Rom	O. Everett	0398	
Rosapepe	John	0007	
Rose	LaDawna	0222	
Rose	LaDawna	0223	
Rose	Glenn	1087	
Rose	LaDawna	8053	
Rosin	Roger	0597	0015
Ross	Cliff	0761	
Roth	Char	1002	
Rowan	Fred	0600	0015
Rowder	Bryan	1118	
Rudd	W. Steven	0959	
Ruffino	Frank	0525	0015
Ruprecht	Karl	0239	
Ruprecht	Paul	0249	
Ruprecht	Jennifer	0250	
Ruprecht	Karl	0251	
Ruprecht	Judy	0903	
Rusnak, Jr.	Richard	0825	
Russell	Mark	1186	
Rust	Steven K.	1160	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Rutherford	Thomas	0512	0015
Ryan	Calvin	0551	0015
Ryan	David J.	0747	
Sabin	Patrick	0189	0015
Salzhauer	Charles & Cynthia	0504	0015
Sanders	Winton	0284	
Sanders	W.W.	0347	
Sanders	C. Pitt	0491	0015
Sanders	Kevin	0881	0853
Sanders	Gary	0904	
Sarriugarte	Thomas	0312	
Sarriugarte	Tom	8096	
Sather	Thomas C.	0507	0015
Sauder	Gerald K.	0725	0015
Scales	Laura A.	0892	
Schad	Aaron	0042	0015
Schiermeier	Tom	8027	
Schilz	Mark & Carolyn	1129	
Schlegel	Stephen	0585	0015
Schmalz	Donald	0570	0015
Schmidt	William	0574	0015
Schmidt	John & Eliza	0631	0413
Schoenborn	Gary	0370	
Schomberg	James	0485	0015
Schommer	Tim	0182	0015
Schrade	Jeff	0022	
Schultz	Brian	0208	0015
Schultz	Elizabeth J.	0681	0559
Schultz	Elizabeth J.	0682	0558
Schumacher	Hans	0484	0015
Schutte	Theodore H.	0077	0015
Schutte	Kathy	0078	0015
Schwabrow	Wayne	8100	
Schwalbe	Sue	0787	
Schwartz	Michael	0854	0853
Schweigert	Dan	0693	0015
Scissons	Ralph	8054	
Scolari	Jerry	0480	0015
Scott	Brenton	0200	0015
Scott	Tammy	0215	0015
Scott	Sybil M.	0521	0015
Scott	Stanley	0558	
Scott	Stanley	0559	
Scrivens	Carl M.	0181	0015
Searles	John M.	0044	0015
Selby	Paul & Tami	0673	0015

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Semtner	Walter L.	0097	0015
Sentah-Stetson	Eliah	0630	0413
Sessions	Gary	0569	0015
Sevy	Bob	0994	
Shaffer	Paul	0340	
Shaffer	Paul	8133	
Shaft	Stewart	0220	0015
Shankweiler	Nancy	0794	
Sharples	Jeff	1146	
Shaw	Harry T.	0024	
Shay	Brent	0230	
Shay	Sharon	1167	
Sheehan	Traci	0781	
Sheffield	Donald R.	0505	0015
Shelley	Jeremiah	1189	1186
Sherman	Rick	0048	0015
Shewmaker	Glenn	8034	
Shields	Bill & Kynette	0449	0015
Shue	Dorothy	0770	
Shue	Gary	0774	
Shulters	Jacqueline	0782	
Shultz	Lisa	0293	
Shultz	Lisa D.	0344	
Shultz	Lisa	8029	
Shultz	Lisa	8127	
Shultz	Lisa	8153	
Siiteri	Kati	0814	
Simek	Ronald L.	0546	0015
Simonds	Grant	1202	
Simpson	Mike	0457	0015
Singer	Roger	1199	
Singer	Roger	8076	
Skeen	Jay	0912	
Skiles	Jay L.	0056	0015
Skinner	Dennis	0615	0015
Skinner	LCDR Jon A.	0861	0015
Sklenicka	Carol	1111	
Skochko	Zachary	0176	0015
Skold	Doug	0129	0015
Slattery	William R.	0098	0015
Sleeger	Preston	9011	
Slickers	Jane	0971	
Smith	Matthew	0069	0015
Smith	Art	0257	
Smith	Fred G.	0268	
Smith	Elizabeth Ann	0269	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Smith	Christa	0276	
Smith	Timothy	0429	0015
Smith	Matt	0566	
Smith	Richard & Delores	0567	
Smith	Horace	0644	0015
Smith	Arthur H.	0719	0015
Smith	J. Dorsey	0727	0015
Smith	Jesse	0768	0015
Smith	Christopher	0771	
Smith	Deanna	0772	
Smith	Ken	0808	
Smith	Todd	0818	
Smith	Traci Lynn	0896	
Smith	Bill	0910	
Smith	Jo	0911	
Smith	Molly	0969	
Smith	Eleanor	0988	
Smith	Arnold J.	1053	1023
Snake River Alliance		0247	
Snyder	Ed	0986	
Soboslai	Joell	1068	1023
Somple	John M.	0711	0015
Sonnenberg	Dean	0080	0015
Sonnenberg	Dean	1121	
Sope	Milo	0235	
Sope	Lenora	0237	
Sope	Reginald	8042	
Sope	Tommy	8095	
Speakes, Jr.	Leland	0100	0015
Speakes, Jr.	Leland	1145	
Spencer	John R.	0367	
Spies	Edward	0395	
Spitler	Darryl	0801	0015
Splittgerber	Loren L.	1034	1021
Spohn	Mevin	0205	0015
St. Cyr	Napoleon	0846	
St. John	Mary	0944	
Stamper	Gary	0621	0015
Stanasheck	Patrick	0760	0015
Stange	Sandra	0807	
Stapp	Catherine	0568	0413
Stapp	Dr. Catherine	0762	0015
Stark	Ray	8072	
Stedman, Jr.	Ed	0172	0015
Stein	Brad	0336	
Stephan	Martin	8091	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Stephenson	Ronald R.	0037	0015
Stevens	Robert	0609	0015
Stewart	Margaret	0243	
Stewart	Yvonne B.	0287	
Stewart	Mark	0965	
Stewart	Margaret	8019	
Stewart	Margaret	8025	
Stewart	Margaret	8030	
Stewart, Jr.	Donald	0288	
Stilwell	Diana	0311	
Stilwell	Nikki	1136	
Stockdill	Rod	0519	0015
Stoltz	Robert	1116	
Stone	Stew	0113	0015
Stone	Ruby	8116	
Stopol	Richard	0990	
Story	Jay	1092	0853
Stover	Michael J.	0213	0015
Strapp	Catherine	0227	
Street	Paul S.	0815	
Streeter	Robert	0326	
Streeter	Jack	0352	
Streeter	Jack	0365	
Streeter	Jack	8111	
Streeter	Hartley	8142	
Streeter	Jack	8143	
Strickland	Marvel	1090	0853
Stringer	Clifford	0010	
Strong-Carpenter	David	0805	
Stucker	Donald	0252	
Studebaker	William	1120	
Studwell	Pete	0494	0015
Sullivan	Patrick J.	0057	0015
Sullivan	Dale	0951	
Survil	Robert J.	0800	0015
Swanson	Rick	0705	
Swanson	John	1110	
Swanson	John	1204	
Swanstrum	Jeff	1197	
Swearingen	Debbie	0255	
Swearingen	Ron	8007	
Sweeney	Colleen	1137	
Szczech	Heather	0852	
Tadina	Gerald	0162	0015
Tahl	Marilyn	0780	
Tamm	Don	0433	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Tarran	Fred S.	0051	0015
Tate	Pat	0809	
Taylor	Robert V.	0218	0015
Taylor	Susan	0806	
Teich	Garland N.	0701	0015
Telesmanic, Jr.	Joseph	1134	0015
Terk	David B.	0104	0015
Thacker	Katie	0418	
Thacker	Cy	8041	
Thacker	Cy	8070	
Thodos	John R.	0207	0015
Thomas	Kirsten	0224	
Thomas	Andrea	0319	
Thomas	Garfield	0617	0015
Thomas	Peggy	0908	
Thomas	Tim	0952	
Thomas	Arnold	8051	
Thompson	Glenn	0110	0015
Thompson	Joanne	0634	0413
Thompson	Vince	0832	
Thompson	Lyman E.	1025	1021
Thornburgh	Eileen	0637	
Thorne	Judy	0675	
Thornhill	Henry	0154	0015
Thurow	Russ	1170	
Thurow	Russ	8110	
Tiddens	Ehno	0027	
Tindall	Jim	0260	
Todd	Brent R.	0495	0015
Todd	Charlie	0528	0015
Tomich	Sava	0031	0015
Tonsmeire	Joe	1211	
Torres	Michael	0650	0015
Towner	Eugene L.	0523	0015
Townsend	Danny	0124	0015
Townsend	Barclay	0163	0015
Townsley	Steve	0776	
Traub	Michael R.	0524	0015
Trefaller	Kenneth	1036	1021
Tremblay	Jody A.	1194	
Tremble	Dave	0032	0015
Trembly	O.N.	0695	0015
Trost	Charles H.	0562	
Troxel	Timothy S.	0371	
Tull	Mary J.	0866	
Tuller	Gary	0258	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Tuohy	Gary R.	0045	0015
Turcotte	Roger	8105	
Turk	Jonathan	0729	
Turnage	Dan	0575	0015
Turnbull	David	0851	
U.S. Environmentarotection		9000	
Ulshafer	Jeanne A.	0281	
Ulshafer	Bob	0282	
Uptain	Ray	1150	
Uptain	Phyllis	1201	
Utt	Edith	1098	
Vaa	Spencer	0620	0015
Valentine	Rodney	1084	
Van Buskirk	Owen G.	0736	
Van Thomme	Allan	0715	0015
Vanasche	Tom	0185	0015
Vanatta	Dirk N.	0450	0015
VanThull	Chris	0778	
VanZandt	Stephen	0868	
Vaughn	K. Craig	0130	0015
Vaughn	Doris	1089	
Verdun	Patricia	0777	
Vermeire	Jennifer	0677	
Vermeire	Jennifer	0678	
Vest	John & Susanna	0616	0015
Vita	Edward	0095	0015
Wadley	Verl	8137	
Wadley	Verl	8154	
Waite	Dr. Jerald T.	0017	0015
Wakeman	Larry G.	0439	0015
Walker	Mallory	1207	
Walker	Hal	8009	
Wall	Don	0608	0015
Walters	Gerald	0383	
Walters	Gerald	8114	
Wandtke	Denis	0117	0015
Ward	David	0039	0015
Ward	Frederick	0328	
Ward	Cotton	0382	
Ward	Eleanor	0873	
Ward	Janet	8139	
Ward	Frederick	8145	
Ware	Donald G.	0508	0015
Warrick	Steven	8149	
Wasfy	Mark	0331	
Wasserburger	John T.	0059	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Waterstrat	Steve	1127	
Watters	Ron	0753	
Watts	John	0409	
Wear	Gary D.	0036	0015
Weaver	Tamela	1011	
Weber	Robert	8097	
Weber	Robert	8151	
Weeks	Mike	0462	0015
Weeks	Marke	1052	1021
Weeks	Cynthia	1106	
Weida	William J.	0363	
Weida	Bill	8126	
Weinrich	Stanley A.	0460	0015
Weiss	Graham G.	0029	0015
Welch	David	8084	
Welch	David	8112	
Weller	Lewis	0203	0015
Wendt	David	0875	0015
Werner	Paul	1149	
Westervelt	Susan	1014	
Westin	Chi-E-Shenam	0028	
Wetherell	Dennis	8003	
Wheatlake	F.C.	0509	0015
Wheeler	Phillip L.	0550	0015
Wheeler	Robert	1033	1021
Whelan	James E.	0625	0015
Whitacre	Kathleen	1198	
White	Sue	0004	
White	T.R.	0170	0015
Whitehead	R.L.	0421	0015
Wilcomb	Richard	1039	1021
Wilcox	Irene	0791	
Wilkie	Dean E.	0431	0015
Wilkins	Carley D.	0434	0015
Wilkins	Katie D.	0435	0015
Wilkins, Jr.	Sam L.	0135	0015
Williams	Jack & Cindy	0388	
Williams	Michael G.	0481	0015
Williams	Floyd	0691	0015
Williams	Roger	0953	
Williams	Roger	8082	
Williams, IV	Marion D.	0526	
Williamson	Toi	1157	
Wilmet	M.J.	0654	0015
Wilson	John R.	0050	0015
Wilson	Wendy L.	0362	

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Wilson	William E.	0380	
Wilson	William G.	0461	0015
Wilson	George L.	0552	0015
Wilson	Jack	0792	
Wilson	Wendy	8119	
Winston	Ethan	0813	
Wisdom	Joyce	0820	
Wisniewski	Ron	0035	0015
Withers	John V.	0183	0015
Witteman	Roberta	1102	
Witthuhn	Dan	0641	0015
Wodzisz	Robert H.	0764	0015
Wolf	Valerie	0816	
Wood	Royce	0052	0015
Wood	Clara	0763	0015
Wood-McKean	Susan	1001	
Woodward	Harold T.	0147	0015
Woosley	Charles W.	0731	
Word	Ruth	0676	0413
Workman	Beth	0565	
Workman	Beth	1196	
Wornus	Mark	0175	0015
Wurman	Len	0046	0015
Wylie	Chris	8090	
Wyllie	Jane	0341	
Wyllie	Jane	1108	
Yoder	Brenda	0900	
Yoder	Tim	0901	
Yohe	Robert	9007	
Yonkura	Kevin	0426	0015
York	Vickie D.	0351	
Young	Mari	0274	
Young	Paul A.	0472	0015
Young	Anthony	0878	0853
Youtz	Karena	1123	
Zabel	Betty Lou	0946	
Zagst	John	0672	0015
Zastrow	Mark E.	0513	0015
Zenz	John V.	0591	0015
Zettel	Steve	0440	0015
Ziegler	Sandy J.	0464	0015
Zimet	Andrew	0916	
Ziminski	Richard	0496	0015
Zimmerman	Thomas L.	0436	0015
Zuckert	Judi	0895	

DIRECTORY OF FORM LETTERS

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Ackleson	Scott	0088	0015
Adams	Walter K.	1043	1021
Adams	Cora M.	1044	1032
Addison	Rick	0549	0015
Albedyll	Robert	1064	1023
Alff	Mike	0047	0015
Alger	Donna K.	1069	1023
Allen	Woodrow	0438	0015
Allen	Patrick	0613	0015
Allred	Judith	1076	1021
Almgrew	Mark J.	0689	0015
Almond	Greg	0168	0015
Ambrose	Joseph	0664	0015
Amys	Gerald	0087	0015
Anderson	Wallace E.	0076	0015
Anderson	Jack	0423	0015
Anderson	Brett	0483	0015
Anderson	Glenn E.	0598	0015
Andreis	Arthur J.	0669	0015
Andrew	Nancy G.	0128	0015
Asper	Paul	0143	0015
Atwood, Jr.	Stanford	0619	0015
Baldwin	Fred	0389	0015
Banfield	W. David	0187	0015
Barger	Jerry L.	0529	0015
Barlow	John	1010	0853
Barry	Charles	0455	0015
Bartley	Bruce	0841	0015
Bauer, Jr.	Max	0043	0015
Baum	Robert	1056	1021
Baumm	Darwin D.	0041	0015
Beardall	David L.	0066	0015
Belisle	Betty	1091	0853
Bell	Ronald W.	0058	0015
Bell	Carl	0204	0015
Bender	Eve	1210	1205
Bennett	Larry K.	0111	0015
Bentley	Clint	0580	0015
Bergh	Jan	1187	1186
Bergh	Dave	1188	1186
Bermen	John F.	0119	0015
Bermensolo	Claude	1050	1021
Bermensolo	Claude	1051	1021

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Bermensolo	John	1063	1021
Bermensolo	Oledeen	1066	1021
Bermensolo	Claude	1049	1032
Best	Michael R.	0700	0015
Best	Cindy	1059	1023
Bettas	Richard A.	0686	0015
Beyer	Steven C.	0444	0015
Bingen	Michael J.	0488	0015
Black	Paul M.	0474	0015
Blackburn	Joseph M.	0538	0015
Blackmore	William R.	0477	0015
Bond	Raymond	0195	0015
Boucher	Joe	0667	0015
Bower	Craig A.	0216	0015
Bower	John	1067	1021
Box	Roy	0595	0015
Boyd, Jr.	E.A.	0161	0015
Boyer	Sylvia	1073	1021
Brack	Judy	0855	0853
Brady	Del	0120	0015
Brammer	Tim	0576	0015
Brandow	Barry	0662	0015
Brasher	Rick	0034	0015
Breland	Frank	0468	0015
Brodesser	Joe	0473	0015
Bromley	Michael	0666	0015
Brookover	Gordon	1041	1021
Brooks	Randy C.	0132	0015
Brown	Kenneth	0589	0015
Brust	Dennis	0577	0015
Buhler	Michael	0173	0015
Burnett	Gregory	0603	0015
Burrows	Bill	0992	0015
Busboom	Roger A.	0626	0015
Bush	Edward	1029	1021
Bush & Anne Marie Hill	Anne	1030	1021
Butler	C. Danny	0197	0015
Cabala	Jack	0877	0015
Cacdac	Manuel A.	0661	0015
Cain	Mitch	0049	0015
Caldbrisi	Dominick	0542	0015
Camiccia	Don	0169	0015
Capocaccia	John	0647	0015
Caporale	Louis A.	0545	0015
Carlson	Phyllis	0498	0015
Carlson	A. Oscar	0688	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Carollo	Jim	0713	0015
Chambers	Thomas F.	0424	0015
Charnesky	James	0443	0015
Chase	James L.	0419	0015
Chase	Larry	1042	1023
Chastain	Curtis S.	0061	0015
Chiappone	Robert	0643	0015
Chisholm	James	1055	1023
Christensen	Robert C.	0112	0015
Christensen	Howard Lynn	0758	0015
Christiano	Angelo	0470	0015
Clark	John	0071	0015
Collie	W.R.	0092	0015
Colson	Robert	1031	1021
Conley	R. Dean	0506	0015
Connell	Stephen P.	0018	0015
Connolly	John	0659	0015
Conradsen	R. Kent	0665	0015
Coons	Robert E.	0493	0015
Cooper	John & Joon	0555	0413
Corbus	Wanda L.	1045	1021
Cornwell	Wesley L.	0067	0015
Cotner	Jerry B.	0465	0015
Crate	Arthur	0515	0015
Creely	Andrew	0501	0015
Cresto	Joe	0145	0015
Crum	David H.	0131	0015
Cullen	James A.	0211	0015
Currey	Larry	0478	0015
Currier	R.L.	0085	0015
Currier	David L.	0544	0015
Czoschke	Steve	0487	0015
Dahm	Richard T.	0540	0015
Dapolito	George M.	0090	0015
Dean	Mariann	0716	0015
Decker	Fredric	0606	0015
Denton	M. Rodney	0165	0015
Diehl	Larry L.	0657	0015
DiGrazia	Robert	1180	0015
Dollar	Dow	0191	0015
Douenberg	Jim	0420	0015
Downer	John R.	0656	0015
Dredge	Richard	0063	0015
Dreeszen	Doug & Patricia	0133	0015
Dressel, Jr.	Paul	0448	0015
Driver	Philip	0612	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Drott	Earl	0072	0015
Drum	Rado O.	0210	0015
Dube, Jr.	Rene J.	0510	0015
Dubs	Roger D.	0212	0015
Dubs	Arthur R.	0219	0015
Dusick	Donald R.	0062	0015
Eaton	Jerrie	0091	0015
Ebersberger	Arthur D.	0430	0015
Eckel	Natalie M.	0571	0015
Edwards	Steve	0064	0015
Elsinger	Cyril G.	0699	0015
Engel	N.	0060	0015
Entsminger	Frank & Sue	0876	0015
Erickson	James O.	0592	0015
Eshelman	Harold	0610	0015
Esper	Vaughn	0642	0015
Farace	Tony	0499	0015
Fargason, III	William H.	0520	0015
Farley	Bill	0447	0015
Farrer	C. Robert	0658	0015
Fenske	Ronald J.	0209	0015
Feriani	Ralph	0596	0015
Fetzer	Kurt A.	0479	0015
Fitzpatrick	Mark	0583	0015
Flynn	Bill	0432	0015
Foreyt	William J.	0167	0015
Fouse	William C.	0671	0015
Franick	Sherri	0604	0015
Freed	William	0055	0015
Frickert	James F.	0476	0015
Friedly	Jay R.	0744	0738
Friedly	Sandy	0745	0738
Frost	John D.	0735	0015
Fry	Todd	0624	0015
Fry	George A.	0668	0015
Gabrick	James R.	0136	0015
Gallagher	Michael	0880	0853
Gardner	Paul A.	0587	0015
Garrison	Ralph	0489	0015
Gates	John	0074	0015
Gaugler	Dale	0466	0015
Gavin	Rodney	1024	1021
Gazda	Ted J.	0511	0015
Gerdes	Ronald H.	0093	0015
Giacomazzi	Joseph	0102	0015
Gilbert	Tad	0721	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Gillhouse	Stephen J.	0075	0015
Glass	Doyle	0206	0015
Godfrey	William S.	0628	0413
Gordan	Robert	0153	0015
Gordon	Daniel	0720	0015
Gourash	Richard W.	0645	0015
Gourley	Bob	0607	0015
Greenfield	Suzanne	1009	0853
Greybush	Joseph N.	0548	0015
Grimm	Greg	0118	0015
Gross	Starla	0679	0558
Gross	Starla	0680	0559
Grundman	Paul J.	0471	0015
Grunwald	Ronald P.	0437	0015
Gubler	Richard N.	0158	0015
Haas	David	0734	0015
Hallenbeck	SRA Steven	0572	0015
Hamilton	David B.	0198	0015
Hamilton	Mike	1027	1021
Hamilton	Mona	1035	1021
Hamilton	Bill	1048	1023
Hansand	Larry	0588	0015
Hansen	Eric & Sue	0114	0015
Harms	George R.	0539	0015
Hart	Lee	0141	0015
Hartzler	Jeffrey	0601	0015
Hatcher	James E.	0144	0015
Haverkorn	David	0159	0015
Hayes	Justin	1115	0853
Hedrick	Kelly	1022	1021
Heft	David L.	0536	0015
Henderson	Wayne	0799	0015
Henderson	Janet	1075	1032
Hendren	Patrick	0755	0015
Henry	Richard E.	0026	0015
Hill	John F.	0099	0015
Hill	Kingsley	0123	0015
Hill	Steven D.	0469	0015
Hill	James	1185	1184
Hilliard	Susan	1057	1023
Hnetynka	Jerry	0692	0015
Hoehner	Carl G.	0194	0015
Hoffman	Jim	0467	0015
Hohn	Bruce A.	0463	0015
Holland	Allan A.	0040	0015
Hollimon	Peter W.	0531	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Hollister	James R.	0020	0015
Holman	R. Gayle	0663	0015
Holworthy	J. Craig	0622	0015
Hooper	John W.	0482	0015
Hornung	William J.	0452	0015
Hosford	W.E.	0177	0015
Hotter	Donald	0611	0015
House	J. David	0126	0015
Howard	Harry C.	0019	0015
Howard	Bob	0541	0015
Howe	C.W.	0458	0015
Hoye	Jack	0687	0015
Hubbard	Donald	0082	0015
Hubbard	R. Bruce	0083	0015
Huffsmith	Robert S.	0599	0015
Hurley	Sean	0684	0558
Hurley	Sean	0683	0559
Hutchins	John	0573	0015
illegible		0712	0015
illegible	George	1037	1021
illegible	John	1040	1021
Ingersoll	Gary R.	0445	0015
Jackson	Robert	0425	0015
Jackson	Mark A.	0697	0015
Jacobson	Carl	0514	0015
Jahanbani	Jan R.	1209	1205
Jamieson	Gary F.	0522	0015
Jenkins	Charles A.	0150	0015
Jenkins	Ronald	0553	0015
Jensen	Wade	0137	0015
Jensen	Jeffrey A.	0594	0015
Johnson	Frantz	0456	0015
Johnson	Lawrence C.	0535	0015
Johnson	R.B.	0718	0015
Johnson	Everett	0993	0015
Jones	Mark S.	0121	0015
Jones	Allen	1113	0853
Jones	George	1046	1021
Jorgenson	Tony E.	0139	0015
Juhl	Patrick	0190	0015
Jussila	Jeffrey	0166	0015
Keeline	Jim H.	0653	0015
Keiser	Don	0660	0015
Keller	Russell & Lori	0633	0413
Kellogg	Howard	0723	0015
Kilgo	Walter M.	0054	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Kirk	Ronald D.	0581	0015
Kitchens	Jack & Jeri	0557	0413
Klineburger	Bert	0096	0015
Kluth	Dan	0766	0015
Knight	Chester	0533	0015
Knotts	Cloey	1054	1021
Kober	Ronald A.	0497	0015
Koerwitz	Tom	0138	0015
Kohler	Edward P.	0199	0015
Kollmeyer	Shannon	0142	0015
Kotan, Jr.	John A.	0586	0015
Kreycik	Hale	0065	0015
Kroner	Lud	0534	0015
Krus	Dennis	0186	0015
Kuflak	Butch	0023	0015
Kuhn	Wolfgang	0623	0015
LaBrie	Roger	0127	0015
Latham	John Pat	0171	0015
Lauer	Kevin D.	0593	0015
Lawton	Randall	0798	0015
Leedy	Richard	0602	0015
Leibenguth	Guy	0646	0015
Leonard	Jay	1028	1023
Lerew	Greg	0184	0015
Linders	Scott	0164	0015
Littleton	J.T.	0428	0015
Lopez	Sergio	0670	0015
Lott	Liz	1058	1023
Loy	Fred W.	0214	0015
Lumpkin	Ken	0446	0015
Lutz	Bruce J.	0146	0015
Lyons	William J.	0652	0015
Majesty	R.F.	0084	0015
Majors	Gene S.	0537	0015
Marshall	Donald	0125	0015
Martin	Dan	0155	0015
Martinez	Joanne	1078	1021
Mascaro	Stephen	0086	0015
Mastronardi	Robert	0614	0015
Matthews	M.K.	0690	0015
Mays, Jr.	Robert	0605	0015
McAulay	Kris	1074	1021
McBride	Rex	0079	0015
McCorry	John & LeAnne	0649	0015
McCosker	Roger	0148	0015
McDonald	Thomas G.	0724	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
McDonald	Monty	1047	1021
McDrew	Richard M.	0422	0015
McEnaney	Robert	1156	0247
McEuen	Timothy	0582	0015
McEwen	John C.	0202	0015
McIntosh, Jr.	John E.	0490	0015
McIntyre	James T.	0106	0015
McKibbell	Ronald E.	0179	0015
McMannes	Alan	0543	0015
Means	Jon	0441	0015
Mecham	Lonnie L.	0178	0015
Meredith	Mike	1114	0853
Metz	Pamela A.	0122	0015
Meyr	Herbert	0332	0292
Mick	Terry	0759	0015
Miller	Major F.	0221	0015
Miller	R. Scott	0427	0015
Miller	George	0475	0015
Minnis	Sarah E.	0636	0413
Mode	David L.	0651	0015
Monahan	Arthur R.	0033	0015
Moody	Gerald K.	0517	0015
Morgan	Max G.	0134	0015
Morgenroth	Earl E.	0192	0015
Morris	Marty	0030	0015
Mosco	Don	0053	0015
Moubray, Jr.	P.D.	0618	0015
Murray	Robert A.	0160	0015
Muse	Jim	0180	0015
Myers	Bill	0089	0015
Naveran, Jr.	James E.	0765	0015
Neff	Stan	0140	0015
Nehls	Jeff	0694	0015
Newman	J. Curtis	0152	0015
Nickels	Greg	0590	0015
Norman	Ronald A.	0157	0015
O'Brien	John L.	0174	0015
O'Donnell	Dennis	0500	0015
Oliver	Greg	0201	0015
Oliver	Kevin	0756	0015
Olson	Warren E.	0717	0015
Osminski	Steve	0459	0015
O'Very	Patrick	0804	0803
Owel	David	0107	0015
Pacini	Robert J.	0710	0015
Pahlisch	Dennis	0116	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Painter	Gary V.	0453	0015
Palmer	Ann	0196	0015
Palmer	Michael	0532	0015
Pardue	S.O.	0547	0015
Parrott	Mike	0696	0015
Patterson, Jr.	W.D.	0454	0015
Pederson	William	0584	0015
Pedrotti	Daniel A.	0728	0015
Pellegrino	Kraig	0518	0015
Perry, Jr.	Wylie	0149	0015
Peter	Duenner	0879	0853
Peters	Jack W.	0503	0015
Petersen, Jr.	Grant	0839	0834
Peterson	J. Reed	1038	1021
Peterson	Barry J.	1061	1021
Petty	Louise	1065	1021
Petty	Norman	1062	1023
Pfeifer	Ed	0767	0015
Pflumm	Ronald H.	0105	0015
Phillips	Terry R.	0757	0015
Phillips	Andrew	1093	0853
Pierce	Robert & Deanna	0442	0015
Pilling	Tim	0578	0015
Pomeroy	Betsy & Nelson	0560	0413
Post	R.E.	0217	0015
Potts	Stanley	0108	0015
Price	V.H.	0492	0015
Purse	Craig	0486	0015
Radzinski	John G.	0698	0015
Ralls	Kenny	1190	1186
Ramm	Michael W.	0527	0015
Ramsay	James W.	0103	0015
Rau	Karen	1026	1023
Rayburg	S. Mark	0025	0015
Raymond	Paul	1072	1021
Reaves	C.J.	1060	1023
Reed	William G.	0151	0015
Reeves	John	0101	0015
Reinhart	Richard	0038	0015
Renner	Charles R.	0714	0015
Reyment	Sheryl	1077	1021
Ridgway	D.N.	0109	0015
Ring	Christopher	0156	0015
Rivers	Larry	0648	0015
Rivers	Kathleen	0009	0011
Robinson	Greg	0451	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Robinson	Robby R.	0722	0015
Robinson	Michael J.	0726	0015
Rockefeller	Gordon	0073	0015
Rockwell	Ronald	0094	0015
Rogers	Tavis	0502	0015
Rogers	David R.	0655	0015
Rosin	Roger	0597	0015
Rowan	Fred	0600	0015
Ruffino	Frank	0525	0015
Rutherford	Thomas	0512	0015
Ryan	Calvin	0551	0015
Sabin	Patrick	0189	0015
Salzhauer	Charles & Cynthia	0504	0015
Sanders	C. Pitt	0491	0015
Sanders	Kevin	0881	0853
Sather	Thomas C.	0507	0015
Sauder	Gerald K.	0725	0015
Schad	Aaron	0042	0015
Schlegel	Stephen	0585	0015
Schmalz	Donald	0570	0015
Schmidt	William	0574	0015
Schmidt	John & Eliza	0631	0413
Schomberg	James	0485	0015
Schommer	Tim	0182	0015
Schultz	Brian	0208	0015
Schultz	Elizabeth J.	0682	0558
Schultz	Elizabeth J.	0681	0559
Schumacher	Hans	0484	0015
Schutte	Theodore H.	0077	0015
Schutte	Kathy	0078	0015
Schwartz	Michael	0854	0853
Schweigert	Dan	0693	0015
Scolari	Jerry	0480	0015
Scott	Brenton	0200	0015
Scott	Tammy	0215	0015
Scott	Sybil M.	0521	0015
Scrivens	Carl M.	0181	0015
Searles	John M.	0044	0015
Selby	Paul & Tami	0673	0015
Semtner	Walter L.	0097	0015
Sentah-Stetson	Eliah	0630	0413
Sessions	Gary	0569	0015
Shaft	Stewart	0220	0015
Sheffield	Donald R.	0505	0015
Shelley	Jeremiah	1189	1186
Sherman	Rick	0048	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Shields	Bill & Kynette	0449	0015
Simek	Ronald L.	0546	0015
Simpson	Mike	0457	0015
Skiles	Jay L.	0056	0015
Skinner	Dennis	0615	0015
Skinner	LCDR Jon A.	0861	0015
Skochko	Zachary	0176	0015
Skold	Doug	0129	0015
Slattery	William R.	0098	0015
Smith	Matthew	0069	0015
Smith	Timothy	0429	0015
Smith	Horace	0644	0015
Smith	Arthur H.	0719	0015
Smith	J. Dorsey	0727	0015
Smith	Jesse	0768	0015
Smith	Arnold J.	1053	1023
Soboslai	Joell	1068	1023
Sompple	John M.	0711	0015
Sonnenberg	Dean	0080	0015
Speakes, Jr.	Leland	0100	0015
Spitler	Darryl	0801	0015
Splittgerber	Loren L.	1034	1021
Spohn	Mevin	0205	0015
Stamper	Gary	0621	0015
Stanasheck	Patrick	0760	0015
Stapp	Dr. Catherine	0762	0015
Stapp	Catherine	0568	0413
Stedman, Jr.	Ed	0172	0015
Stephenson	Ronald R.	0037	0015
Stevens	Robert	0609	0015
Stockdill	Rod	0519	0015
Stone	Stew	0113	0015
Story	Jay	1092	0853
Stover	Michael J.	0213	0015
Strickland	Marvel	1090	0853
Studwell	Pete	0494	0015
Sullivan	Patrick J.	0057	0015
Survil	Robert J.	0800	0015
Tadina	Gerald	0162	0015
Tamm	Don	0433	0015
Tarran	Fred S.	0051	0015
Taylor	Robert V.	0218	0015
Teich	Garland N.	0701	0015
Telesmanic, Jr.	Joseph	1134	0015
Terk	David B.	0104	0015
Thodos	John R.	0207	0015

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Thomas	Garfield	0617	0015
Thompson	Glenn	0110	0015
Thompson	Joanne	0634	0413
Thompson	Lyman E.	1025	1021
Thornhill	Henry	0154	0015
Todd	Brent R.	0495	0015
Todd	Charlie	0528	0015
Tomich	Sava	0031	0015
Torres	Michael	0650	0015
Towner	Eugene L.	0523	0015
Townsend	Danny	0124	0015
Townsend	Barclay	0163	0015
Traub	Michael R.	0524	0015
Trefaller	Kenneth	1036	1021
Tremble	Dave	0032	0015
Trembly	O.N.	0695	0015
Tuohy	Gary R.	0045	0015
Turnage	Dan	0575	0015
Vaa	Spencer	0620	0015
Van Thomme	Allan	0715	0015
Vanasche	Tom	0185	0015
Vanatta	Dirk N.	0450	0015
Vaughn	K. Craig	0130	0015
Vest	John & Susanna	0616	0015
Vita	Edward	0095	0015
Waite	Dr. Jerald T.	0017	0015
Wakeman	Larry G.	0439	0015
Wall	Don	0608	0015
Wandtke	Denis	0117	0015
Ward	David	0039	0015
Ware	Donald G.	0508	0015
Wasserburger	John T.	0059	0015
Wear	Gary D.	0036	0015
Weeks	Mike	0462	0015
Weeks	Marke	1052	1021
Weinrich	Stanley A.	0460	0015
Weiss	Graham G.	0029	0015
Weller	Lewis	0203	0015
Wendt	David	0875	0015
Wheatlake	F.C.	0509	0015
Wheeler	Phillip L.	0550	0015
Wheeler	Robert	1033	1021
Whelan	James E.	0625	0015
White	T.R.	0170	0015
Whitehead	R.L.	0421	0015
Wilcomb	Richard	1039	1021

Last Name	*First Name*	*Comment Letter*	*Form Letter*
Wilkie	Dean E.	0431	0015
Wilkins	Carley D.	0434	0015
Wilkins	Katie D.	0435	0015
Wilkins, Jr.	Sam L.	0135	0015
Williams	Michael G.	0481	0015
Williams	Floyd	0691	0015
Wilmet	M.J.	0654	0015
Wilson	John R.	0050	0015
Wilson	William G.	0461	0015
Wilson	George L.	0552	0015
Wisniewski	Ron	0035	0015
Withers	John V.	0183	0015
Witthuhn	Dan	0641	0015
Wodzisz	Robert H.	0764	0015
Wood	Royce	0052	0015
Wood	Clara	0763	0015
Woodward	Harold T.	0147	0015
Word	Ruth	0676	0413
Wornus	Mark	0175	0015
Wurman	Len	0046	0015
Yonkura	Kevin	0426	0015
Young	Paul A.	0472	0015
Young	Anthony	0878	0853
Zagst	John	0672	0015
Zastrow	Mark E.	0513	0015
Zenz	John V.	0591	0015
Zettel	Steve	0440	0015
Ziegler	Sandy J.	0464	0015
Ziminski	Richard	0496	0015
Zimmerman	Thomas L.	0436	0015

WRITTEN COMMENTS

000001

June 3, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

RE: Enhanced Training in Idaho

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

I would like to express my support for the Air Force's plans in Idaho.

The Air Force is a vital part of the Idaho economy, but its presence here goes beyond dollars. The people of Idaho are proud to participate in providing adequate means for the proper defense of the nation. We are proud to have the 366th Wing located at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, and understand fully the need for this unit to have proper training facilities in close proximity to Mountain Home AFB.

I, therefore, endorse efforts to provide an expanded training range, as proposed in the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft EIS, for the Air Force and the Idaho Air National Guard. I believe that Air Force activities in the Owyhee County desert area would not have any significant impact on the environment, either its flora or its fauna, and is highly appropriate for the activities considered. I believe that those impacts that have been identified to date can be properly mitigated with careful selection of an impact area site and a minimum of restrictions regarding the use of chaff, flares and flight operating areas and times. Adequate training can be provided with minimal impact on the environment.

This proposal has a number of merits, but by carefully listening to the concerns raised it seems more than reasonable that the Air Force can find ways to deal with those concerns and still have a premier training facility available.

The proposed no-drop target areas and the use of threat emitter sites should not pose a problem to public health or safety, and the space required to site them is not likely to be significantly disruptive to the environment.

The airspace modifications realigning the MOAs seem to enhance and smooth out the boundary making it more useable and making it easier for military pilots to negotiate the area, and civilian pilots to transit the MOA.

Historically, there has been little problem between military and civilian flights, and I would expect the good relationship between military and civilian pilots operating in the area to continue.

The proposed restrictions on supersonic flight and canyonlands overflights appear appropriate and reasonable.

Finally, the suggestion in the proposal to expand wildlife resource management efforts and monitoring in the area result in a plan that appears to be beneficial to the Air Force, the people of Idaho, and the wildlife and habitat of the area.

It is my opinion that this plan has considerable merit and should be vigorously pursued.

Sincerely,

WINTHROP B. OSBORN
1850 NORTH 7TH EAST
MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO 83647

000002

June 3, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

RE: Enhanced Training in Idaho

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

I would like to express my support for the Air Force's plans in Idaho.

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It is my opinion that this plan has considerable merit and should be vigorously pursued.

Sincerely,

Marlene Osborn

MARLENE OSBORN
1850 NORTH 7TH EAST
MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO 83647

000003

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Hodges
362 7th Ave. North
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208)733-2094

June 2, 1997

GE-1 U.S. Airforce/BLM:

My husband and I want to make it known that we vehemently oppose your recent proposal, "Enhanced Training in Idaho." We do not feel that military operations should be performed in the Owyhee's back country. This area should remain as is in order to protect wildlife and the quiet solitude of the area. Aircraft noise and Range operations would harm the area.

Our question to you is this: How many times do we the people of Idaho have to tell you that we do not want a bombing range in southern Idaho, before you finally get the message?

Sincerely,
Dennis & Tracy Hodges

Dennis and Tracy Hodges

Sue White
Box 3428
Ketchum, Idaho 83340

000004

June 15th 97

GE-1 Dear Sirs,

Please do not permit a Bombing Range in the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Please use your current ranges in Utah & Canada you have already destroyed.

Sincerely,
Sue White

Attn: US Air Force / Bureau of Land Management

RON BROWN
815 S. Owyhee
Boise, Idaho 83705

000005

June 2, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Re: Air Force Training Range

The minority has a right to their views and to be heard. And they have been. Not only have they been heard, they have been listened to. Not only have they been listened to, they have been pandered to. As testimony to that fact consider that several years, tens of thousands of man hours and many millions of dollars have been expended trying to appease their voice. Governors have devoted large portions of their time to finding reasonable compromises. Plans have been rewritten and then rewritten again in an effort to satisfy them. Studies, upon studies, upon studies have been conducted. There have been scores of meetings. The media has devoted thousands of columns of space, over these years, in presenting their views. THEY HAVE BEEN HEARD. But they will *not* stop.

Another voice has *not* really been heard. The majority of the people affected by the training range. Because of the thunder of just a few, most of whom have little, if any, direct connection to the area involved, the voice and views of thousands upon thousands of Americans has been drowned out. The pilots, whose training is critical to their very lives. The 10,000 people who depend, for their livelihood, on the Airbase which depends on a training range. People who own homes and businesses that would be worthless without the presence of the military. The Nation itself, which *must* have a superior force with which to defend itself.

Enough is enough! How much longer must we listen to theories of the psychological stigmatization of animals in the region that just might be affected by overflight? When can we, finally, concentrate on what is best for the pilots, the community, the State, and the Nation? When will we give Governors, and Senators, and Congressmen, and townspeople the same attention as we have given a handful of unreasonable environmentalists? When will we stop debating whether the noise of a plane is a greater threat to the psychosis of an antelope than hunting season is or that running for their lives from imported predators may be? When can we just start counting noses of people and give the *majority* a break for a change?

The minority has spoken. They have been heard. They will not stop speaking. Can we please stop listening?

Ron Brown
815 S. Owyhee
Boise, Idaho 83705
208-331-0814
Office - 384-4042

Ron Brown
a lifelong Idaho resident

GE-1 000006

1703 E. Amity Rd
Nampa, Idaho 8368
June 3, 1996

USAF - BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

The Owyhee Canyonlands, especially the Bruneau / Jarbridge River Canyo will be changed forever if the Bombing Range plan is effected.

Please, no bombing range in this yet unsullied corner of Idaho. The Animals will continue to live without the unprecedented din; the flora will not succumb to such a degradation. Stay out. No Bombing Range!!

Respectfully,
Lorraine C. Henderson

000007

John Rasapepe
2821 Heather Place
Boise, Idaho 83702

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Ms/Sir:

Please count me as opposed to your proposal for Enhanced Training in Idaho. I believe the Air Force needs to include a complete and supportable training need analysis to the public - before we can make an informed choice. I am opposed to any increase in airspace levels in the Owyhee Canyonlands.

PN-1

Sincerely,

Joe Rasapepe

June 11, 1996

000008

U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 COMMENTS RE MHAFB TRAINING RANGE

My very real concern is that the radical enviro-extremists are, once again, going to dictate public policy involving America's national defense and security, and further trample on the civil and constitutional rights of all American citizens.

Rather than go into the lengthy and sordid background of the enviro-terrorist movement/establishment, I want to point out that we have only to compare the near-hysterical propaganda against the Air Force Range, little or none of it based on verified fact, to the history of other military ranges.

One very prime, impressive example of this is the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range in southwest Arizona. It's huge, hundreds of square miles, many, many times larger than that proposed for MHAFB. It's been there since World War II and extends from about 20 miles east of Yuma, parallel to Interstate-8, nearly to Casa Grande, south to the Mexican border in the West, with variable southern borders eastward. It's clearly depicted on AZ road maps.

The range accommodates Luke AFB, Davis Monthan AFB, the former Williams AFB in Arizona. It additionally serves Yuma Marine Air Base and air activity from Nellis AFB at Las Vegas and is sometimes used in international military exercises.

For decades BMGAFR has been BUSY! BUSY! There is live bombing and gunnery, aerial combat training, air/ground support training, supersonic flight of all kinds, sonic booms, everything that supports and adds to America's military efficiency and national defense. One has only to look back at the Gulf War to see what properly trained and supported air power can do.

Despite everything the ultra left-wing national media and their socio-political collaborators can do and say to disparage America and her military and other national defense and security organizations, the facts, the proof, is in recent history.

Despite everything the enviro extremists say and do, their "sky is falling," gloom-and-gloom wailings, their sabotage and terrorist activities, the environment, wildlife, farming, ranching, way-of life, everyday living, family living, are all in great shape in and around the BMGAFR in Arizona.

-2-

Having spent many winters as a snowbird in and around that military reservation since 1976, I know that hunting, fishing, the wildlife, desert bighorn sheep, antelope, deer, coyotes, game birds, raptors, rattlesnakes, lizards, packrats, all desert-type flora and fauna are thriving.

The Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge adjoins the range on the south, as does the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, with multi-thousands of visitors. Arizona hiway 85 bisects the range and motorists are advised to remain on the hiway during certain hours. The range abuts the huge Papago Indian Reservation on the southeast, in which regular air activity occurs.

Yet all life goes on in good stead. Towns and villages flourish. Cattle and sheep prosper. Tourists tour and recreate. Bombs burst. Cannon roar. Machine guns rattle, but it's all swept away on the desert wind, and life goes on.

The Arizona desert terrain is much like that of southern Idaho, northern Nevada and southeast Oregon. Their terrain is no more environmentally unique than Arizona's. More the opposite.

I urge our state and national leaders and responsible, knowledgeable citizens to do what needs to be done and not allow the radicals, the extremists, the hysterics, those with mean, ulterior motives to dictate, through social terrorism, our society's needs.

Lowell D. Stanton
~~1000 No. Liberty, #59~~ 4900 Sunderland Drive
Boise, Idaho 83704

000009

KATHLEEN E. RIVERS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 3331
KETCHUM, ID 83340

May 29, 1997

U. S. Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Re: Bombing Range Expansion

GE-1 Dear Sir/Madam:

I strongly oppose any expansion of the Mountain Home Air Force Bombing Range. In this relatively peaceful time and this time of spending cutbacks, expansion of the bombing range is ridiculous. I find it interesting that social services, recreation funding, and environmental spending all suffer during budget cutback time while at the same time this expansion is proposed.

Additionally, the proposed area is a fragile and pristine area that should not be used to test bombs at any time. Wildlife, natural vegetation, antiquities and recreation will be negatively impacted by such a move. Idaho is truly the "gem state" due to the vast amount of remote, pristine, untrammeled land in the state. In this time of increasing overpopulation and crowding of the earth, this resource of pristine, quiet, open space becomes more and more valuable every day. That is the future of Idaho! The long term view should be to preserve this extremely valuable asset because, if protected, the beautiful lands of Idaho will sustain Idaho's economy into the far future. DO NOT RUIN IT BY THIS PROPOSED EXPANSION. TAKE A LONG VIEW! PLEASE!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Rivers

Kathleen E. Rivers

Strike Fly Tyers

000010

Fly Tying Material

CLIFFORD H. STRIKER
333 MAPLE ST
NAMPA, ID 83686
(208) 466-0426

19 May 1997

Capt. Melissa Miller
366 OG/DA
Mountain Home AFB, ID

GE-1 I have just completed my reading and study of the Community Report of Enhanced Training in Idaho.

I compliment the Dept. of the Air Force for this condensed easy to read report of the DEIS.

We as a Nation cannot afford Alternate A No Action. I would be pleased with plan. B C or D. However I feel there would be less opposition to plan B or D because of the proximity to Duck Valley Indian Reservation and being closer to some wet land areas and the Big Horn Sheep.

The type of training exercises now used really cause minimum damage to wildlife and endangered plant life. I have hunted and fished in some of this area for many years and find the greatest damage to the area is overgrazing not aircraft training or recreational use.

We are proud of the fine record of training by Mt Home AF Base and the Idaho National Guard over the years. None that at any time in history we are faced with global actions that may require immediate action that can only be provided by groups like Mt. Home & Idaho National Guard.

It is time consuming and wasteful expense to not be able to use facilities for training in this immediate area.

I have had the privelage to spend three active duty tours in Air Force Reserve As Aircraft Maintance Officer at Mt. Home AF Base and I have experienced the dedication of these people.

You are permitted to include any of my comments as supporting your actions.

Respectfully submitted,

CLIFFORD H. STRIKER Lt/Col AF Ret. Ret.

United Fly Tyers — Boise Valley Fly Fishermen



110000
000011

Rob Jones
2478 East Elm Avenue, Salt Lake, Utah, 84109-1331

Date: May 31, 1997

U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 I am writing to urge you to abandon plans for the so-call Enhanced Training in Idaho. It would truly be enhanced. Enhanced and highly excessive noise pollution, enhanced chaffing of public lands, enhanced disruption of public land users - wild, domestic, and human, enhanced disruption of radio frequencies, enhanced opportunity for aerial collisions, enhanced disruption of solitude and other recreational opportunities, enhanced squandering of our precious fuel supplies, and a host of yet to be forecast enhanced single-abuse of public lands by a powerful but insensitive special interest group. No bout the BLM, widely known as the Bureau of Mining and Leasing, can now also claim the moniker, the Bureau of Bombing and Lethargy in protecting public land.

I suppose I should count myself as fortunate for enjoying the solitude and wild character of this area. Instead, I find myself troubled by the abuse of public lands by a military-industrial complex with the support of the BLM. Where is the stewardship? I urge you to abandon plans for the so-call Enhanced Training in Idaho.

Cordially, Rob

Rob Jones

000012

June 4, 1997

To US Air Force BLM
Concerning Bombing Range:

GE-1 My Husband & I can not attend the public meeting in Twin Falls this week but we feel a strong need to express our opinions. Being avid boaters of the Owyhee & Bruneau Rivers, we know just some of the immense beauty, pristine and uniqueness of this country. To allow anyone to bomb it, be friend our foe, would be unthinkable, wrong & horribly illegal. These high desert, canyon & waters are too special to be used for target practice. Please reconsider your thoughts & go elsewhere for your testing.

Steve & Pam Rayborn
Box 34, Hailey Id. 83333

000013

June 3, 1997

GE-2 Dear Sir;

The Air Force has once again raised the issue of expanding its training facilities in southwest Idaho. It is time for those of us who value the Owyhees as a source of solitude and recreation to once again raise our voices in opposition to this plan.

The Owyhee Plateau is a remarkable region. There, it is still possible to find quality, uncrowded outdoor recreational opportunities. This region includes several wilderness study areas and rivers recommended for wild and scenic designation. All of this within a relatively short drive of several hundred thousand people.

I spend a lot of time in the Owyhees. I estimate that one-third to one-half of my trips are marred by aircraft overflights. I can assure you that this greatly detracts from the quality of the experience; especially on those occasions when the flights continue over an extended period of time.

In the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Air Force makes several claims regarding the noise factor. They say that most of the area will experience less noise than at present because the planes will be able to spread themselves more evenly under the new range configuration. They claim that most people, when polled, do not rate the average noise level expected on the range as "annoying." These statements must be

NO-24 examined more thoroughly. First, the EIS does not include noise data for instances when several planes of the composite wing will be training together as a unit. Such training exercises could produce noise levels far louder and for longer duration

NO-2 than those cited in the EIS. Secondly, the people polled regarding noise annoyance did not include those seeking the solitude of a wilderness experience. Surely, someone in an urban setting is far less likely to feel annoyed by a given level of sound than is a person seeking and expecting a wilderness experience.

Some range proponents claim that the expansion is needed to save the lives of aircrew. The military brass has clearly stated several times over the past few years that the Air crews stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base are extremely well-trained and that additional training facilities in southwest Idaho are not a necessity.

DP-1 If the present in-state and out-of-state facilities do not provide adequate training, why would the Air Force have moved the composite wing to Mountain Home? Surely they wouldn't have selected a site where lack of training could jeopardize the lives of their people.

000013

PN-1 The burden of proof in this matter should rest with the Air Force. They should be required to prove that the Enhanced Training RAnge is necessary and worth the sacrifice of a major recreational area near a rapidly growing region. In my opinion, they have failed on both counts.

In the final analysis, the decision on this issue is clearcut. This unique expanse of public land is far more valuable as a source of recreation and wildlife habitat than as an expanded training facility.

Sincerely,

Volus J. Brungardt

Joe Brungardt

cc: U.S. Air Force/BLM
Gov. Phil Batt
Rep. Helen Chenoweth
Rep. Mike Crapo
Sen. Dirk Kempthorne
Sen. Larry Craig

000014

June 5, 1997

177 Washington Street North
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301.

GE-2 Gentleren:

I want to thank you people for taking the time to read my letter and to listen to my thoughts pertaining to the Air Force Bombing Range.

I am very concerned for the future of the Owyhee Desert. This is Idaho Country. I do not want to lose these areas that should be accessible to the general Idaho People. Once those beautiful areas of Desert, Mountains and Owyhee Rivers along with the different types and kinds of Wildlife will be gone to the People of Idaho if this new Bombing Range goes into effect.

I also wonder if any true studies have been made

000014

2

DP-2 from past history of what has taken place on the Bombing Ranges that are now in effect. I say true studies or material that has records of what has taken place for twenty to forty years of use at a Bombing Range.

Also has the people making judgment need to study the the land by taking a float trip down the Owyhee River, or to fully cover the land by horse or four wheel drive to get to know this land and the animals that live on this land that we are talking about. Also there needs to be a true study the different types and kinds of Birds of Prey and what effect this Bombing Range will have on them and the Animals that roam this area. I spent most of the summer of 1950 helping to build

BI-1

000014

3

Barb wire fences around the Air Force Bombing Range that is still being used today. I have a large concern for the noise level of the Supersonic Booms and for the Bright Lights from flares being dropped at night to locate the Bombs. I have seen Eagles leave their nests for good because of the Supersonic Sounds. Also a number of Birds of Prey eggs were broken or cracked due to the high level of noise. Also Beef Cows grazing in pasture out side the Bombing Range went crazy running around like they were drunk or completely out of control due to the noise and the bright lights from the flares. Do Beef Cows act this way won't also the wild Animals living around the Bombing Range. A number of Beef Cows aborted their

BI-2

4 000014

young due to noise and sounds caused by the Air Force Jets along with the bright lights that are dropped at night. I truly feel in my heart that these cattle problems were caused by the Air Force. Jets. Beef Cows abort their young wait also the wild Animal Mothers that roam outside the bombing area. Also what problems will this fly zone cause to the general public. By number of homes in the past had cracked walls due to the Supersonic noise of Air Force Jets. I have no scientific proof of these things in the past. Last year the Castleford School had several windows blown out of the school building and causing large cracks in several walls of the school building. The people who live in Castleford will

BI-2

NO-23

5 000014

tell you what caused these cracks Air Force Jets.

Air Force Jets can fly around the world if needed by refueling in mid air.

Therefore why can't the Mountain Home Air Force use the Nevada and Utah Bombing Range. Idaho land is too great to gamble. Once we the Idaho People lose it, it will be gone for ever. I do not think Idaho can afford to lose it.

PN-2

You people have a giant task ahead of you. Please study every detail so that you can decide for the people of Idaho what is best for the State of Idaho.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely yours

000015

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been working with the Air Force over the proposed development of a supersonic battlefield. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement the Foundation finds that the project will be detrimental to bighorn sheep populations in Southwestern Idaho. Your support is needed. Please sign this letter, add your comments and mail to the address listed.

Clip here

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 **To Whom it May Concern:**

As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Jeffrey W Murray

Name Jeffrey W Murray
Address 16470 Gail DR
City Honey Creek State IA Zip 51542

Comments:

June 4, 1997 000016

US Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Id. 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen,

This is the third time the Air Force has attempted to expand a bombing range in Sweet West Idaho, & for the third time I am wanting to let both the Air Force and BLM know that I am TOTALLY OPPOSED to such an expansion.

I am opposed because

① The Air Force themselves has stated that the 366th Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base is the most combat-ready wing in the World, and that any expansion of a bombing range is NOT NECESSARY. Why spend tax dollars for something that is not necessary?

② Idaho's economic future depends on tourism, and keeping the expansion of tourism, and keeping our wildlife, wildlife and deserts in a desirable condition to attract tourists is vitally important — while overflights & the accompanying noise created by a expanded bombing range do not enhance a pristine vacation experience for river trips.

③ While certain groups maintain that bighorn sheep are unaffected, numbers of sheep have decreased in Owyhee County, Oregon since the composite wing was established at Mountain Home in 1992.

④ An expansion of the bombing range is an unnecessary & enormous expense at a time when welfare programs are being cut, in many instances for people who will never be able to fend for themselves, & for children.

⑤ Any implementation of the "Enhanced Training in Idaho" will mean more harassment and habitat degradation for wildlife such as bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and sage grouse.

For these reasons I am irrevocably opposed to the creation & expansion of bombing and electronic combat ranges in Southern Owyhee County.

Sincerely,
Beth M. Duke

June, 1997

000017

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Jerald T. Waite DVM

Name Dr. Jerald T. Waite
Address Box 8 Veterinary Blvd
City Fenton, State Iowa Zip 50539

Comments: The Harm that a Bombing range would cause in reducing or eliminating this historic Bighorn Sheep Habitat is not worth destroying the ecosystem in that area.
Very Sincerely
Dr Waite

June, 1997

000019

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Harry C. Howard

Name Harry C. Howard
Address RR2 Box 3
City Warren, Minn. State Minn. Zip 56762
Comments: I am a farmer - but in World War II was a Naval aviator. I also have hunted Idaho back in the 50's - I'm sure any supersonic whatever - as well as training flights will be very detrimental to the wild sheep population. over -

As vital as our military training programs are - There must be areas that would be far better suited for training, where it would not impact so much wildlife, & is a beautiful area - but as a defender of our country - I also believe our wildlife do deserve consideration too! Please try to find a much less wildlife occupied area!
Thank you very much -
former Navy Lt. Harry C. Howard

P.S. I love to fly - but I also love to hunt!

June, 1997

000020

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. move the training range some pl
Sincerely, also. this only makes its proposed impact it's i
Signature Required this people who currently own the ground (who are i country and influential people can become wea

Name James R. Hollister
Address 113 W 43
City Boise State ID Zip 83714

Comments:

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE
BEE LONGLEY

000021

GE-1 I am dead set (still) against expansion of any bombing ranges in Idaho. The beautiful lands of Owyhee & Bruneau don't need to be bombed. The cold war is over withdraw bombing"
Bee Longley

CONDOMINIUMS • HOMES • RENTALS • SALES
BOX 635 • SUN VALLEY, ID 83353 • 208-622-3510

000022

Jeff Schrade
1879 East Laurelwood Drive
Eagle, Idaho 83616
(208) 939-9458

June 9, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Friends:

I want you to know that I support the military's efforts to expand their operations in Idaho.

My uncle served two tours in Vietnam in a pararescue unit of the U.S. Air Force. Much of his life in that war was spent going into hostile environments behind enemy lines. Upon arriving at the appropriate location in a helicopter, he would work to rescue pilots and crew members who had been shot down. On one occasion, he found one of his best friends stripped naked, hung upside down and tortured to death by the Viet Cong.

I don't want that same type of horror to happen to any American soldier -- ever again. I believe that the "Enhanced Training in Idaho" effort will enable our pilots to fly safer as they learn how to kill the enemy and avoid being shot down.

I know the Air Force and others have made great efforts to protect Idaho's environment and reduce their impacts on our state. I am very appreciative of those actions. But I recognize that there will still be impacts -- increased noise, possible conflicts with wildlife and what some view as visual impairments. To me, those are acceptable costs that pale in comparison to value of training the American pilots who protect this nation. If the cost of pilot training means impacting a few wild sheep and disturbing people as they raft down the river, to me, that is an acceptable cost. In short, freedom isn't free and I'm willing to pay the price. I believe most Idahoans feel this way.

I have worked for as an aide to U.S. Senator Jim McClure and U.S. Senator Larry Craig. From 1991-1995, I was the Republican County Chairman of Bonneville County (Idaho Falls). I currently serve as Governor Phil Batt's aide on Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory affairs. The views I have expressed here are my own.

Sincerely,

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000023

GE-3 To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Signature Required

Butch Kuglak

Name BUTCH KUGLAK

Address 666 LONGFELLOW

City HERMOSA BEACH State CA Zip 90254

Comments: PERHAPS THERE IS AN ARE IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA OR NEW MEXICO OR TEXAS THAT WOULD SERVE THIS PURPOSE AND WOULD POSSIBLY [redacted] DETER ILLEGAL IMAGRATION THANKS

000024

3184 South 1200 East
Hagerman, Idaho 83332
June 11, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir:

I am against the expansion of the Mountain Home Air Force Bombing Range in Owyhee County for three primary reasons. 1. Expanding the bombing range is poor use of tax payer money. 2. Expanding the bombing range is harmful to the land. 3. Expanding the bombing range is harmful to wildlife. Below are my reasons for taking this position.

1. (a) Expanding the bombing range would be a waste of taxpayer money because there are already thousands of acres set aside for bombing range in the nearby area. Is the Air Force not smart enough to make use of the existing areas if they really wanted to? (b)Expansion is an increased burden on the taxpayer and adds to the national debt. I have to balance my checkbook, the government should do likewise. (c) Many of those in the forefront for expansion stand to have monetary gain from the expansion - it's a bring Federal Dollars to Idaho type of attitude. If we don't get the money someone else will! (d) How many millions of dollars have already been spent on the push for expansion that could have been spent on improving the existing areas? (e) If the range is not expanded will our National Security cease to exist - I think not!

2. (a) Expanding the bombing range will be harmful to the land because more roads will be built, structures will be put in place and the bombing practices will destroy land and vegetation. Silt and debris will end up in the Bruneau River and Big Jacks Creek. (b)There is no way that a bombing range will increase the quality of the land and water in the area - it's a one way road to destruction. (c) Setting aside a bombing range takes away public access to the area. There is and ever increasing trend to remove land from public use and an ever increasing demand for more use of land by the increasing public.

3. (a) Expanding the bombing range can only be harmful to wildlife. It can not be a benefit to them. (b) I have walked many miles in the Bruneau River and Big Jacks Creek areas and I have seen the decline of the Sage Grouse, expanding the bombing range will not help improve their number. (c) I have seen the Big Horn Sheep, Deer and Antelope in the area and expanding the bombing range will not benefit there lives - The sonic booms will only increase their stress. (d) The aluminized fiber chaff is bound to enter or effect the wildlife's food chain - it is not the recommend diet for birds and mammals.

I believe the Air Force is smart enough to make use of the existing bombing range. I believe the Air Force can save taxpayer money by using the existing bombing range. I believe the Air Force can protect the land and wildlife by using the existing bombing range. If they really want to.

Sincerely,
Harry T. Shaw
Harry T. Shaw

GE-1 June 12, 1997 000027

Comments on the Air Force's Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal.

I am against enlarging air space for people at MHAFB to practice air ~~warfare~~ combat for several reasons.

I believe they already have enough space. No more space is not needed and would be a waste of money. This is peacetime so let the animals and people affected live and enjoy the peace.

It's not morally right the peace and security of the home and family would be invaded unnecessarily.

I live in Meridian and occasionally I hear a sonic boom or the roar of a military plane and it curdles the cream of Senator Kempthorne every time. It makes life miserable miserable. It's not that important and should not be allowed.

What we are really talking about here is the future of the economy in Southwestern Idaho and the politics of Sen Kempthorne + Craig + Gov. Batt. They don't give a damn about the local citizen.

Sincerely, Ehno Tibbens

EHNO TIBBENS
813 E. 2
Meridian, Id 83642
888-7702
Former Lt. Army Air Corps in 1944.

Peace be with you!

000028

ILOWAN'S CHILDREN, INC
P.O. Box 1976 **Boise, Idaho 83701**

Public Relations Director
United States Air Force
P O Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

June 8, 1997

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

We, Ilowan's Children, as a church, use the Owyhee Desert as our Sacred Home. We go there for retreats, 10-30 people at a time. We hold sacred ceremonies with over 100 people in attendance. The Owyhee Desert is a private place of vision quests and seeking. The Owyhee canyon lands and desert is the Heart and Holder of the sacred. It is our religious center and we have accepted guardianship over certain places to keep them protected from destruction and uses that would close the spiritual openings that are there.

Open, free land, that is not developed and controlled is becoming very rare, as you know. The sacred centers in the Owyhee desert and canyon lands have been in use for 10,000 years as places of healing and vision. They are irreplaceable! Our world is such now that when a spiritual center closes it is no more. There are no longer many options, as in the past, for a new location to be found. There are no more places left!

We ask that you do not expand your over flight areas, or expand the use of what you already do. It seems that just south of us you control most of Nevada and parts of southern California for your training needs. Idaho has nothing you need for national security that is not offered in Nevada, except convenience. So we ask that you withdraw your proposal and utilize the other areas already available to you.

Sincerely,

Chi-E-Shenam Westin,
Priest
Ilowan's Children

And the following members of Ilowan's Children:

Shyashka Westin
Camille Thom
Alesha Cripe
Douglas C. Burns

Edward Bimes
Peter Tano Rikito 000029
HC 42 Box 1577 Boise ID 83706
Elaine Reed
Kathy Abrams
Richard Lillard
Marcos Recinos
Randall E Kaufman
2800 Bogus Basin Rd
Boise, ID 83702.
Johann Holton
521 N. 13th #6
Boise/Idaho 83702
Russ Moon
5331 Hill Rd
Boise ID 83703
Ron Hall
P.O. Box 3112
Boise Id 83703
Lelelauk Tano Rikito
HC42 Box 1577
Boise, ID 83706
Debra Davis 3715 Sunset 83702
Rebecca Boyle

GE-3 June, 1997 000032

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Dave Thom LLC
Address 334 Michigan St
City Sturgeon Bay State WIS Zip 54235

Comments: Please Help us, nature is hard enough on these animals, Let's all work together to ensure that our grandchildren can see these animals in

000033

ARTHUR R. MONAHAN
86-15 Broadway
Elmhurst, NY 11373

June 10, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 Gentlemen:

As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Very truly Yours,
Arthur R. Monahan
Arthur R. Monahan

June, 1997

000034

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management:
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Rick Basher
Address 105 S. Mohave
City Peyson State AZ Zip 85541

Comments: Sheep are one of America's Treasures Please do the "American Thing" and respect them and their environment.

June, 1997

000035

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

6-10-97

Name Ron Wisniewski
Address 5491 Heights Ravenna Rd.
City Fruitport State MI Zip 49415

Comments: I am a FNAWS member

June, 1997

000044

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required John M. Searles

Name JOHN M. SEARLES
Address G 1366 SPRINGBORON DRIVE
City FLINT State MI Zip 48532

Comments: The wildlife community of the entire U.S is looking at this unique Eco-issue!

June, 1997

000048

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Rick Swanson
Address 13730 6000 Rd
City Montrose State CO Zip 81401

Comments: As a professional wildlife biologist in Colorado for 26 years I have worked on numerous military training & wildlife conflict projects. I sincerely suggest the USAF and BLM look for other alternatives. Human based disease from sheep are notoriously prone to stress induced diseases from subsonic intrusions or low flying aircraft. NEPA regulations require reasonable alternatives or mitigation. It's the law.

June, 1997

000050

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

John R. Wilson DDS

Name JOHN R. WILSON DDS
Address 325 College Lane
City Rock Springs State WYO Zip 82901
Comments: Our country's Bighorn Sheep populations are a precious treasure which need to be zealously guarded — Thank you!

June, 1997

000051

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Fred S. Terran

Name FRED S. TERRAN
Address 3043 BANNOCK DRIVE
City PROVO State UTAH Zip 84604
Comments:
I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT SHEEP IN THIS AREA, AND TO ACCOMPANY A FRIEND ON ANOTHER HUNT. I THINK IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE LOSS IF WE CANT PASS THAT OPPORTUNITY ON TO OUR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

000054

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been working with the Air Force over the proposed development of a supersonic battlefield. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement the Foundation finds that the project will be detrimental to bighorn sheep populations in Southwestern Idaho. Your support is needed. Please sign this letter, add your comments and mail to the address listed.

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Walter M. Kilgo

Name WALTER M. KILGO
Address 4600 Greenville Ave Ste 237
City DALLAS State TX Zip 75206
Comments: Surely you can find somewhere else for your project that won't adversely impact our wild sheep. THANKS,

000061

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been working with the Air Force over the proposed development of a supersonic battlefield. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement the Foundation finds that the project will be detrimental to bighorn sheep populations in Southwestern Idaho. Your support is needed. Please sign this letter, add your comments and mail to the address listed.

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name [illegible]
Address [illegible]
City [illegible] State [illegible] Zip [illegible]
Comments:
[illegible]

000061

CURTIS S. CHASTAIN
801 HELEN STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76180-1351
817.498-1012
FAX 817.498-1012

GE-1 To whom it may Concern,

We grew a fine in the Air Force since 1987, Both active duty and reserves, my father was a test pilot who died in an accident over the Nevada Ranges. My background is Air Force. I have most things that in strains we cling to my heart, however, I am an avid sport hunter and in the same token am thrilled to the conservation and or preservation of any game population. I would finish offend the environment. Our country has a lot of duties the most of which is the wildlife. Elk and many organizations have worked so hard to bring back the herds we almost mythical herds to the tune of the church. Love find another spot for supersonic flights where the environment won't be adversely impacted.

Yours,

000063

CARTY & DREDGE, PA
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

11 June 1997

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PO BOX 329
BOISE ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom It May Concern:

I am a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. I'm concerned about the impact of the United States Air Force's proposed enhanced training plan. The environmental impact statement contains a provision which has been referred to as the "no action alternative." In essence this provides that no development of a tactical and/or electronic air combat bombing range will take place in southwestern Idaho. I believe that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game needs to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California bighorn sheep populations in this area. Support of the "no action alternative" would further this goal.

Also, I believe that the United States Air Force should be required to reach an agreement with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game which would provide relief from supersonic and subsonic overflight during the annual hunting season and during lambing season.

Very truly yours,

Richard Kim Dredge

RKD/jmk

University Quay Building • 960 Broadway – Suite 415 • Boise, Idaho 83706
Telephone (208) 342-3501 • Facsimile (208) 342-3548

June, 1997

000064

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom It May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Steve Edwards

Name STEVE EDWARDS
Address 5288 SCENIC RIDGE TR.
City MIDDLETON State ID Zip 83662

Comments: PLEASE TAKE THIS LETTER TO HEART! THE FUTURE OF THE LOCAL SHEEP POPULATION RESTS IN YOUR HANDS. DON'T LET THE CANDLE BURN OUT ON THIS VALUABLE - RESOURCE. THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.

June, 1997

000067

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Wesley L Cornwell

Name WESLEY L. CORNWELL
Address P.O. BOX 895
City CASCADE State ID Zip 83611

Comments: I HAVE SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS IN THIS AREA AND THERE IS ALREADY FAR TOO MUCH ACTIVITY OUT THERE. THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH TIME AND MONEY AND THAT BRAIN ENERGY SPENT TO LET THE SHEEP POPULATION ESTABLISHED AND THERE IS NO REASON TO DESTROY IT ESPECIALLY IN THE MANNER (SUGGESTION) HAVE THEM FLY OVER MTN HOME AND BOISE SINCE NOISE DOESN'T SEEM TO BOTHER THEM. AT LEAST THEY DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BOTHER THE SHEEP !! WHEN IT DOES, MOST OF THEM MAY BE DEAD AND THEY WON'T NOTICE ANYTHING EVEN LESS A SQUADRON OF FIGHTERS OVERHEAD (PROOF OF THIS) LOOK WHERE THEY LIVE. LEAVE OUTSIDE AREA ALONE AND GO AWAY!

Darlene McMaster

000069

3623 Tulare Drive
Boise, Idaho 83706

June 12, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Greetings,

I am opposed to the simulated air-battle field over Elmore and Owyhee counties because of the environmental impact. This is one of the wildest regions in the lower 48 states and I strongly feel we should protect it. It is time that the military change their thinking regarding protection of our country. Protecting our environment is as essential to survival as is preparing for war.

Sincerely,

Darlene McMaster

Darlene McMaster

June, 1997

000070

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Ken Berg

Name Ken Berg
Address P.O. Box 247
City Emporium State PA. Zip 15834

Comments: Despite some people in Washington D.C. — I want To see The United States maintain a Strong Defense — but it
PN-2 [seems that White Sands N.M. already has the Air Space — Maybe what is being proposed could be done in that area??

June, 1997

000076

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Wallace E. Anderson

Name Wallace E. Anderson
Address 2029 23rd Avenue
City Rice Lake, State Wisconsin Zip 54868

Comments: Very important that the re-establishment of the trapping and transplanting program be continued, and no supersonic and and subsonic overflight during lambing season.

June, 1997

000077

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Theodore H. Schutte

Name Theodore H. Schutte
Address 5559 180th St
City Sibley State IA Zip 51249

Comments: Wildlife is a very valuable resource to the American people. The wild sheep in the Western U.S. are such a Majestic animal and all efforts should be taken to maintain and increase their population. Ted Schutte

June, 1997

000081

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

R J Burch

Name R. J. BURCH (GRAND SLAM #915)
Address 1600 CAMINO REDONDO
City LOS ALAMOS State NM Zip 87544

PN-2 Comments: DEAR SIRS:
WHY CAN'T YOU USE THE EXISTING RANGE OVER THE KOFA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE N.E. OF YUMA, AZ? IT WOULD GIVE YOUR BOYS SOME EXTRA FLIGHT TIME FROM MOUNTAIN HOME AFB. T.R.

June, 1997

000083

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom It May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

R B Hubbard

Name R Bruce Hubbard
Address PO Box 574
City Salem State Utah Zip 84653

Comments: We need to re-establish sheep in all areas for the future of all!

June, 1997

000084

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom It May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Russell F Majesty

Name R F MAJESTY
Address 150 SOUTHFORK CR
City COPY State WY Zip 82414

Comments: As an Airforce veteran, I fully appreciate the necessity to maintain every aspect of training flexibility. However, this should not be necessary to [illegible] one resource to create another

June, 1997

000085

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

R L Currier

Name R L Currier
Address 918 Ozk St.
City Fargo State N.D. Zip 58102

Comments: Southwestern Idaho is the finest wild sheep producing area in the world. Please don't destroy it! I assisted in transplanting 40 sheep from there to No. Dakota 3 years ago.

June, 1997

000091

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Jerrie Eaton
Address P.O Box 360
City Elma State WA Zip 98541

Comments: I help fund Bighorn Sheep projects thrag FNAWS and fully support a transplanting progra

June, 1997

000092

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

W.R. Collie

Name W.R. COLLIE
Address 11240 HWY AA
City NEOSHO State MO Zip 64850

Comments: PLANNING & SCHEDULING TOGETHER WILL BE A STEP FORWARD FOR ALL CONCERNED. A LITTLE WILL GO A LONG WAY.

June, 1997

000094

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name RONALD ROCKWELL
Address 16116 S. QUINTERO WAY
City AURORA State CO Zip 80017

Comments:
I STRONGLY AGREE WITH THE POINTS OF THIS LETTER.

June, 1997

000097

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Walter L Semtner

Name WALTER L SEMTNER
Address HC01 BOX 215
City ST. MARIES State ID Zip 83861

Comments: I don't want the government to develop the bombing range any further at Mountain Home. In fact, I think the range could be reduced in staff + size because there is no threat of war. Our tax dollars could be used better elsewhere. I don't want development of a supersonic battlefield in southwestern Idaho because it will be harmful to our bighorn sheep population there.

June, 1997

000098

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

William R. Slattery

Name WILLIAM R. SLATTERY
Address 5134 ROAD 154
City GLENWOOD SPRINGS State COLO Zip 81601

Comments: I am a big supporter of wild sheep and would like to see the air Force work with the Idaho Fish & Game Dept.
Sincerely, W. R. Slattery

June, 1997

000104

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom It May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

David B. Terk

Name DAVID B. TERK
c/o AMERICAN BEVERAGE CO
10003 INDUSTRY DRIVE
Address SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78217-6548
City ____ State ____ Zip ____

Comments: The loss of just one sheep is also a loss to the quality of our lives.

June, 1997

000105

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom It May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Ronald H. Pelham

Name RONALD H. PELHAM
Address 14021 W. 55TH TERR.
City SHAWNEE State KS Zip 66216

Comments: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE COMPATIBLE WITH OUR RESOURCES.

000107

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom It May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,

David Owel

Name DAVID OWEL
Address 24625 6TH AVE.
City GOBLES State MI Zip 49055

Please support our wildlife & our hunting heritage.

June, 1997

000108

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Stanley Patts

Name STANLEY PATTS
Address BOX 611
City STOUF State IDAHO Zip 83469

Comments: I am a Licensed Outfitter in Little + Big Jacks Creek + have watched the sheep stress from Low Level Flights! Stanley

June, 1997

000110

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name GLENN THOMPSON
Address 54064 CSAH 20
City Pennerville State MN Zip 56362

Comments: Let's Preserve what we have!

June, 1997

000112

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Robert C Christensen

Name Robert C Christensen
Address 5504 Bethel Church
City Saline State Mi Zip 48176

Comments: It seems to me the Air Force is being totally irresponsible to even consider establishing another operation detrimental to the inhabitants when downsizing current operations and not fully utilizing existing training areas.

June, 1997

000114

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Sue A. Hansen - Eric J. Hansen

Name Sue A. Hansen - Eric J. Hansen
Address 4835 N.W. Arcadia Street
City Corvallis State Oregon Zip 97330

Comments: We're dedicated supporters of both our country's wildlife and military. And we're confident an answer can be found that will benefit our favorite animal - the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep - and the service personnel who have fought for our freedom. Keep working together!

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000115

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Glen E. Nuinez
Address 834 W. Timbercreek Way #805
City Salt Lake City State UT Zip 84119

Comments: Please don't harm the sheep. One day myself or your kids or grandkids might want to watch or hunt them.

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000119

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name John F. Berman M.D.
Address 10768 Wasatch Blvd
City Sandy State Utah Zip 84092

Comments: I'm a fan of the Air Force and understand need for training - would appreciate understanding of steep habitat because folks value sheep hunting - Thank you!

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000123

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Kingsley D. Hill
Address 6940 N. 76 ST.
City Milwaukee State Wisconsin Zip 53223

Comments: Please save these Sheep for our Grandchildrens future.

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000128

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Nancy G Andrew
Address PO Box 1347
City Brawley State CA Zip 92227

Comments: I hope all parties would work together for the benefit of wildlife & their habitats. Please advocate for wildlife.

June, 1997

000130

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name K CRAIG VAUGHN
Address 4857 Fairlawn Circle
City Boulder State CO Zip 80301

Comments: Please do the right thing!

June, 1997

000131

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name DAVID H CRUM
Address 2893 ARDEN CIR.
City CASPER State WY Zip 82609

Comments: Wild sheep are very sensitive animals and the type of tactical activity you plan for the area would be very detrimental to them.

June, 1997

000137

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Wade Sensen
Address 4021 Springs Dr
City Rock Springs State WY Zip 82901

Comments: Thankyou for your help, IN our goal to putting More Sheep ON the MOuntain

June, 1997

000138

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Tom Koerwitz
Address 17069 53rd St NE
City Rogers State MN Zip 55374

Comments: If you can't halt flights during the lambing season - can't you train elsewhere during that time. Thanks?

June, 1997

000139

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Tony E. Jorgenson

Name TONY E. JORGENSON
Address 2376 S FERNDALE DR.
City BIGFORK State MONTANA Zip 59911

Comments: The U.S. Fish + Wildlife Service, + U.S. Forest Service have just shut shut N.W. Montana down to the public on National Forest lands to help the grizzly bear + wolf. Now its time to do anything possible to help the Bighorn Sheep, which is presently probably the most sought after big game animal in North America.

June, 1997

000145

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Joe Crecto

Name Joe Crecto
Address 474 Nichols Ln.
City Midvale, Utah State Utah Zip 84532

Comments: Please send me a copy of the Decision Record. Thanks

June, 1997

000146

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Bruce J Lutz

Name Bruce J Lutz
Address P.O. Box 24
City Mohton State Id Zip 83540

Comments: We hope for compromise. No adverse effect to Sheep or other wildlife

June, 1997

000151

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

William G Reed

Name WILLIAM G. REED
Address 1202 JUSTIN ST
City PEARCE AZ State AZ Zip 85625

Comments: Not necessary — We are all adults!

June, 1997

000158

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Richard N. Gubler DDS

Name Richard N. Gubler DDS
Address 9882 Ludwig Street
City Villa Park State Calif Zip 92861

Comments: Let's think of the wildlife

June, 1997

000162

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Gerald Tadina (916)221-7770
Address 258 Ridgetop Dr.
City Redding State Ca Zip 96003
Comments: I hold myself available to you Should you desire any input or assistance
thank you

June, 1997

000163

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Barclay H Townsend

Name Barclay H Townsend
Address 242 Sykesville Road
City Wright Tp Town State NJ Zip 08562

Comments: Thank you very much for your Time in this matter

June, 1997

000166

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Jeffrey L. Jussila

Name JEFFREY L. JUSSILA
Address 6520 Mt Carrol St.
City Coeur d'Alene State Id Zip 83814

Comments: Please Help us preserve our California Bighorn Herd and establish New Herds. For all to enjoy.

June, 1997

000170

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

T.R. White

Name T.R. White
Address 1007 Sunset Drive
Healdsburg, CA 95448
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Comments: I SPENT 20 YEARS AS A FIGHTER PILOT IN THE MARINE CORPS. THIS RANGE IS NOT NEEDED.

June, 1997

000172

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Ed Stedman, Jr

Name ED STEDMAN, JR
Address 10 BELLEWHARE GARDENS
City BEAUMONT State TX Zip 77706

Comments: I WOULD NOT LIKE THIS ACTION TO AFFORD OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE. I THINK MITIGATE IS THE KEY WORD. EOS

June, 1997

000173

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Michael Buhler

Name Michael Buhler
Address 148 GRANT ROAD
City RIDGWAY State PA Zip 15853

Comments: I THINK IF MR. CHUCK YEAGER WAS ASK, HE WOULD SAY, THE FOUNDATIONS AND THE AIR FORCE'S GOAL COULD BE ACHIEVED. IF THEY WORK TOGETHER

June, 1997

000177

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely,
Signature Required

William E. Hosford

Name W.E. Hosford
Address 1892 W. Pierce St.
City Burns State OR Zip 97720

Comments: I have hunted sheep in this area in 1981 & 1995. The first trip was much more peaceful with just a few flying B52 now and then. During 1995 sonic blasts were common, causing all wildlife (deer, antelope, & sheep) to be very nervous - While I was in the bottom of Deep Creek a sonic boom caused large rocks to become dislodged

and crash down into the canyon- I realize these Training flights are important and the upper Owyhee is one of the most remote areas in the U.S. I feel, because of 33 years of experience in Fish & Wildlife Management for the State of Oregon these flights have a very negative effect on the upper Owyhee's wildlife populations. especially during the breeding, fawning, kanbing and bird nesting Seasons! Like humbing season.

Thanks for sharing my thoughts'

Sincerely,
William E. Hosford
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
retired

June, 1997

000181

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Carl M Scrivens

Name Carl M Scrivens
Address Star Route - Box 75
City Jackson State Wyoming Zip 83001

Comments: I believe the United State Air Force Could find a more suitable place, that would not disturb wildlife, for a bombing range.

June, 1997

000182

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Timothy J Schommer

Name Tim Schommer
Address RT 1 Western Hgts # 41
City Baker City State OR Zip 97814

Comments:
Get those darn planes out of bighorn habitat! They don't need to play there!

June, 1997

000183

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

John V. Withers

Name JOHN V. WITHERS
Address 28540 Hwy. 31
City Paisley State Ore. Zip 97636

Comments: This is extremely important to the future of Bild Sheep.

June, 1997

000185

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required Tom Vanasche M.D.

Name Tom Vanasche
Address 37731 NE Bond Rd.
City Albany, State Or Zip 97321
Comments: Please support the Idaho Fish & Game Depart and let them know what is best for Idaho. We need this critical habitat for bighorns and not for bombs. Thank you

000188

4621 Shirley
Boise, Idaho 83703
June 13, 1997

U. S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Air Force and BLM,

The Owyhee Canyonlands is one of the largest relatively undisturbed wilderness sites in the U. S., being home to the California Bighorn with the Duck Valley Indian Reservation nearby, and is personally my favorite recreational area in Idaho. As you can guess, I am opposed to any range expansion in this area, but my reasons are not limited to the immeasurably valuable assets of this region nor to the immorality of the expansion's impact on the Native American population of Duck Valley.

The Air Force itself has come out on record to say the range is not a necessity. Just this year, General Peck stated that the 366th is "the most combat capable unit anywhere in the world right now." And the Department of Defense stated the same as recently as 1995. Also, the Air Force knew full well *before* it brought the 366th Wing to Mountain Home that range expansion was not likely since the Big Springs proposal had recently been put down. Remember, the 366th was brought here AFTER there was much public outcry against this first range expansion proposal. So, chronologically, the Air Force proposed a range expansion (the Big Springs proposal) and was defeated, *then* the 366th came to Mountain Home AFB and became the most elite composite air wing in the world, and without more air space. Yet the Air Force claimed they needed more space (the proposed North and South Idaho Training Ranges), and was defeated once again. Nevertheless, General Peck was able to make his honest assessment of the 366th being the most combat capable fighting unit in the world today. Obviously, the Wing is operating at utmost efficiency right now without any more range space, thus range expansion is not necessary. From the chronology of events, it can even be argued that the 366th was brought to Mountain Home AFB to force range expansion despite the numerous conservationist and recreational groups and individual citizens, such as myself, against expansion into the Owyhees.

PN-9 And so now the Air Force, in its efforts to find any reasonable argument to support range expansion, sites the cost of air travel to Utah and Nevada. They declare financial savings if more air space is available in Idaho near Saylor Creek. I submit that this argument is highly debatable, and I would certainly question

000188

any cost analysis done by the Air Force. I read the previous EIS put together by the Air Force and found it highly flawed regarding the data with which I was most knowledgeable. This was true apparently across the board regarding the sheep population, noise, impacts on Duck Valley, etc. if you sat through the hearings and listened to the testimony of scientists and experts in these fields. Therefore, I would very seriously question any Air Force generated numbers showing substantial savings that might possibly validate range expansion in the Owyhees.

What it really comes down to is sacrificing this valuable land for the greed and convenience of the Air Force. They want more space in Idaho, but they have said they don't need it. When they've been denied, they've changed their proposals. But the facts remain the same: Any range expansion anywhere in the Owyhees will alter and destroy too much forever due to the roads that will need to be built, the emitter sites that will need to be installed, the potential fires from chaff, the tremendous increase in chaff, the increased impact of the sonic booms on the wildlife and the residents, and the locking up of 12,000 acres of land that is rich historically, culturally, environmentally and recreationally. In totality, this IS NOT A SACRIFICE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE, *especially if it is not needed.*

Finally, what really, really bothers me is that the Air Force has been defeated numerous times for variations on the theme of range expansion, in public testimony, in the courts, and in the law of ethics, yet they keep coming back with yet another proposal, year after year. Each section of each EIS has been extremely flawed; the tremendous negative impacts of the range expansion are hard to lie about convincingly. Yet the Air Force comes back with yet another expansion proposal, this time 3-5 proposals. Does the Air Force think we are stupid, and is the Air Force's plan to divide and conquer until they get what they want in Idaho?? That's how it appears, and I highly resent these obvious implications. The Air Force is wasting a lot of money in the process, when they should be seeking to develop a bigger range elsewhere, given the number of times they've been defeated here.

To clarify, I would like to state that I am not opposed to the Air Force; in fact I'm proud of their world class capability and the job they do preserving our freedoms. But the Air Force is generating a lot of bad feelings among people like me in Idaho and elsewhere with its heavy handedness on this issue and their relentless pursuit of an expanded range that appears to be really the first step in a giant land grab effort. It is time for the Air Force to admit defeat on the issue of range expansion in the Owyhee Canyonlands and put their efforts elsewhere. This land is simply way too valuable for way too many reasons, and the Air Force needs to come to terms with this fact and quit wasting everybody's time and money on the issue of range expansion anywhere in the Owyhees.

Most sincerely, Karen Knudtsen

~~000133~~

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management 6-11-97
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen:
I am writing to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared in connection with the Enhanced Training in Idaho program as proposed by the United States Air Force.

I reside on a small ranch in Nevada located at geographical coordinates; N 41° 43.45', W 115° 58.45' (NAD 27). This is approximately 10 miles south of Mountain City, Nevada, and is located on Trail Creek. This is shown on the Salt Lake City Sectional Aeronautical Chart, edition of April 24, 1997, and is indicated simply as "RANCH".

My concern is noise. I have been in communication with the Air Force and the Idaho Air National Guard the past several years concerning low flying jet aircraft passing over my residence. This frightens livestock and is quite disturbing to me. I reside here because of the peace and quiet. It is a remote spot with a gentle, pastoral environment far removed from the stress and turmoil growing in the world today. Hermit I might very well be but I value this tranquillity above everything else.

For quite some time my complaints and pleas were routed to a public affairs office at Mountain Home Air Force Base. My impression was they only tried to be pleasant until they could get me off the telephone. Eventually I was able to contact other persons that seemed more able and willing to work on my problem with the low flying aircraft; Col. Billy Richie at Mountain Home
AFB and Captain Glenn Eberle in Boise with the Idaho ANG.

In reviewing the EIS it would appear some of the proposed alternative actions would generated increased military aircraft traffic in the vicinity of my residence. Although it has been declared a "Noise Sensitive Area" the altitude restriction is only 1,500 feet above ground level. Table 4.2-1a in the EIS indicates the noise from the type aircraft that would use the new training sites would be between 91 and 104 db at the operational level above ground. A table in Section 3.2 shows this level of sound to be very loud. Indeed it is.

I am advised by Col. Richie and Mr. Kent Apple, airspace manager for the 366th Wing that the Military Training Routes, IR 302/IR 305 are proposed to be adjusted in such a manner that they would be farther away from my place. Accomplishing this together with raising the operational altitudes over my "Noise Sensitive Area" to coincide with the limits proposed for the Paradise MOA, 14,500 to 18,000 feet MSL would seem to mostly resolve my problems with the disruption from noisy aircraft.

-1-

000193

Beyond that I found the EIS document burdensome and difficult to read. It tended to be repetitious and was riddled with acronyms. (Alas! I see I been driven to using them.) You might offer it to those suffering from sleep disorders as I observed a strong tendency to fall asleep during my attempts to wade through it all. Nonetheless I do appreciate receiving the documents and also the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Sincerely,

Larry Monroe
HCR 35 Box 40
Mountain City, Nevada
89831-9700
702-763-6020

June, 1997

000195

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Raymond A Bond

Name Raymond A Bond
Address 2901 Skyway Ave.
City Butte, State MT Zip 59701-8220

Comments: I am not in favor to develop a tactical & electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho due to the end of the Cold War, cutting our defense budget by eliminating air force based across the U.S. and cutting the size of our armed forces. The taxpayers don't need the added expense of this development and the sheep don't need us

June, 1997

000197

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required C Danny Butler

Name C Danny Butler
Address 2086 W. 14200 So.
City Riverton State Utah Zip 84065

Comments: There is many places where this Training can be done leaving the sheep Habitat in balance with Nature.
Thanks C Danny Butler

June, 1997

000199

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Edward P. Kobler

Name Edward P. Kobler
Address RR1 Box 54M
City Hubbardsville State N.Y. Zip 13355

Comments: Surely some realistic terms can be worked out between the US Air Force, Dept of Fish & Game that will benefit the sheep & other wildlife.

June, 1997

000205

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name MELVIN R. SPOHN
Address 304 Prairie
Downers Grove, IL 60515
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Comments: We must stop taking the Habitat away from our wildlife. There isn't much left.

June, 1997

000210

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Rado O. Dunn
Address P O Box 25661
City Colo-Spgs State CO. Zip 80936

Comments:
If you have ever WATched, or had A chance To hunt A wild sheep. you

June, 1997

000211

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required J. A. Cullen.

Name James A. Cullen
Address 107 Pagaotuck Ave
City East Moriches State NY Zip 11940

Comments: Please Help Preserve The Bighorn Sheep Population. This is Very Important To Everyone Concerned! ONE

June, 1997

000213

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Michael J. Stever
Address 124 Bogie Mesa Ct.
City Las Vegas State Nevada Zip 89108

Comments:
Transplant sheep to other ranges.

June, 1997

000217

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

R. E. Post

Name R. E. Post
Address 1100 FLANDERS PLACE
City St. Joseph State MI Zip 49085-2510

Comments: I am a retired Navy Jet fighter pilot - Please consider our position strongly in this matter.

June, 1997

000219

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Arthur R. Dunbar

Name
Address 1133 S. Riverside
City Medford State OR Zip 97501

Comments: See above problems and in support of North American wild sheep.

June, 1997

000220

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Stewart N. Shaft

Name Stewart N. Shaft
Address 5920 E. 115th St.
City Northfield State MN Zip 55057

Comments: Hopefully we can work together on this for the benefit of wild Sheep. Thanks!

000222

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training In Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: Rose **First Name:** LaDawna
Address: box 53
City: Owyhee **State:** N.V **Zip:** 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

GE-1 **Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:**
My name is LaDawna rose. I'm a shoshon paiute from owyhee NV. I get very scaird of all the jets flying around. When my great grandmother was dieing, bless her soul, she only ate Native foods. She said the white man foods didn't taste good she ate very little so what ever she wanted to eat. My family would make it for her, and now it makes me feel sad to think of how you the people don't think it's very important if you scare our animals off, or effect their coming into this world. My great grandmohter also used herbs and ate berries to make her feel better. My family and I would go out and pick what she needed to make tea, smuge, or just to have incase she, or any of her family members needed it. These herbs and roots are also found in the owyhee desert. It makes me sad to think some day we will be cut off from going to the owyhee desert, by locked gates and the beautiful animals and birds scared off by the loud jets. I would hate to have a bombing range close by! All of us(the native people)dont want to loose our native ways ! We take care of our land , animals , & our selves!!!!

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**

To print, click on the printer icon

rose 1

000223

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: ROSE First Name: LADAWNA
Address: po box 53
City: Owyhee State: NV Zip89832:

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 If the bombing range continues the animals & birds will die. My people may die also I dont want to die because I would love to live a long life like other native people My family would love to live a pieceful loving life!!!!!!

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

000224

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: Thomas First Name: Kirsten
Address: 421
City:Owhyee State: N.V Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Member of the Shoshone Paiute tribe

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I wish there no sonic booms. I do not want know sonic booms around my house

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

000225

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: Carpenter First Name: Damara
Address: box 27
City: Owyhee State: N.V Zip:89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 MY name is Damara Carpenter I'm from Owyhee N.V a member of the Shoshone-Paiute tribes. I don't like the noise of the sonic booms ,the way the shake the windows,or how the scare the little one's ,and wake them up from there naps. A sacred site should stay sacred and not be disturbed. It may not mean a lot to you but it means a lot to us.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

000226

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

GE-2 Last Name:Jackson
First Name:Johnson

Address: Po box 220
City: Owyhee State: NV Zip:89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Duck Valley Assembly of God church

I have a concern about the noise that the aircraft may make. Before, the representatives of Idaho and the Air Force stated that there were no low level flights and no sonic booms over the reservation ... They were wrong. Also, the wildlife and the domestic livestock of the people on and off the reservation are at risk (their newborn/young). Studies in and around Fallon,NV have shown that the wildlife and the domestic livestock are very much affected by low level flights and the accompanying noise. My final concern is for the way that the bombing range is "appropriated." In the last session, the state of Idaho and the Air Force tried to circumvent federal law, by bypassing congress. Doesn't it take an act of congress to establish a bombing range.

BI-5

PR-10

In the last proposal, the state of Idaho and the Air Force may have implied that the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (as well as various other environmental agencies) were the enemy for opposing the bombing range. Our Indian people have given their lives in support of this countries' wars. We have some enlisted even today, in various arms of the military. A few times the wars and/or battles were won because of some Indian peoples' languages being used as "code". If we do oppose any of the proposals, it is very unfair to imply that we are "enemies" to either the Air Force and/or the state of Idaho. I feel that the Air Force (and other branches of the military) should publicly state (that regardless of the support or opposition that we give), that we are not in any way your enemies. I feel very strongly that in the last proposal that it was very much implied by the Air Force, and the state of Idaho.

There is a mention of "adding" additional air-space and/or dropping points in Idaho and Nevada. If the Air Force is allowed to add additional air-space and/or dropping points, WHEN WILL IT STOP???? If the Air Force is allowed to have any of the 3 proposals, why not just leave it at the one proposal that is accepted? I feel that the Air Force may use the acceptance of any of the proposals as a "license" to appropriate more air-space

DP-12

000226

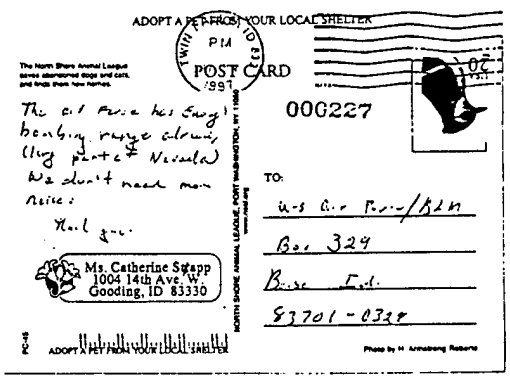
and/or dropping points whenever they feel like it. If this is the case, I would oppose any and all of the proposals. It seems like land is being lost to greed.....again.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

GE-1



000228

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: Greene First Name: Cheryl
Address: P.O. Box 25
City: Owhyee State: NV Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

GE-1 I think my personal opinion of the Enhanced Training in Idaho is excellent. For the Air Force because it enhances individual training and provides special skills that is needed. I think that the more the Air Force becomes advanced in technology the opportunity is greater for each individual who is in the Air Force.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

000229

omputer Comment Form8
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: Manning
Address: P.O Box
City:Owyhee State: NV Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe
Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I would like to say that I fear for the future life for my little 3 year old daughter when I think of how close this proposed bombing range is to our homeland. I also think of my ancestors who have sacrificed their lives for the land that the USAF would like to expand on. It seems apparent that the Air Force already has enough of this land to "practice" on. Please leave us alone and let our sacred lands remain sacred.
Is it not so that the USAF already flies completely around us?

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the h printer Icon shown above.

000230

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: shay First Name: brent
Address:
City: owhyee State: nv Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I WISH THE WHITE MEN WILL DIE FOREVER AND THE INDIANS HAD FOOD FOREVER AND THAT THEY ARE HAPPY

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

shay 1

000231

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: Gibson First Name: Amanda
Address: P.O. Box 27
City: Owyhee State: NV Zip:89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

GE-1 My name is Amanda Gibson. I live in Owyhee N.V. I am a member of the Shoshone Paiute Tribe. I don't like the sonic bombs. They are very ugly. They make me jump and they hurt my ears. It makes the school shake. It is ugly. It is not supposed to be here. I don't like it when they come while I am praying. They shouldn't be flying over us at our sakred sites at the Owyhee desert. I also don't like the way they scare my animals. I want them to leave.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

Comm-frm 1

000232

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name:GIBSON First Name: amanda
Address: pobox27
City: owynee Statenv Zip:89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 If the boming range will continue all of the animals will die.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

Comm-frm 1

000233

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: Gibson First Name: Amber
Address: p.o. box 27
City: Owyhee State: Nevada Zip:89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

GE-1 My name is Amber Gibson . I' m from owyhee nevada . I'm a member of the shoshone-paiute tribe. I enjoy living in owyhee it is a very peaceful and quiet it is a beautiful place. I like going to the desert and praying , look ing at the sacred sites , it is very beautiful out it has a lot of wildlife and if the jets start flying over us it is going to be destroted so I think we could do with out the jets.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

Comm-frm 1

000234

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name: HENRY First Name: Dwayne
Address:
City: Owyhee State: NV Zip:83932

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 My name is Dwayne Henry and I don't Like the sonic booms nether dose my brothers or my sisters. My uncle has a farm near the traning area and his hourses get spoked by the sonic booms . we want it to stop!!!!

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

Comm-frm 1

000235

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/09/97

Last Name:Sope First Name:Milo

Address:
City: Owyhee State: Nv Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 White men are killing our animals and taking away our land!

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

Comm-frm 1

000236

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Duck Valley Indian Reservation

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 06/09/97

GE-1 I am a concerned citizen and a tribal member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Our cultural is our way of life. The federal government is constantly diminishing our survival and well-being. Years ago and presently treaties have not been kept. The way of life for our ancestors were halted by confining them to so-called reservations. The land is being constantly taken and our land now confined to reservation is also being proposed for the bombing range. I believe that there is sufficient training areas for the military. There are proposed cuts in the budgets for military (DOD). How can you (DOD) fund and balance the budget deficit for the nation by constantly increasing the cost. I oppose all three proposed training ranges.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Nancy Egan

Address: PO Box 112 Owyhee, NV 89832
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000237

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Human Development Center Owyhee Nev.

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 9, 1997

PN-2 Why can't you go on using your old bombing ranges?
PN-6 Don't that enough? Why can't you use computers for training. Why can't you all practice these things way overseas where there aren't any beings around.
God put us on this earth for a reason he also put plants and animals here for a reason. If he didn't want people or plants or animals to live on this earth he wouldn't have put us here.
Keep America Clean, why pollute it, here you guys go. Save money you guys are spending it.
You guys have no respect at all, no respect for people, animals the land etc. Then you kill everything. do you guys think you'll live?? I don't think so. I'd rather die of natural causes, rather than be killed.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Lenora Sope

Address: P.O. Box 323 Owyhee, Nev. 89832
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000238

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: HDC Owyhee Nevada

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6-9-97

GE-1 I am from the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe and I reside here on the Duck Valley Ind Reservation. I have families on both reservation and this effects both Reservations, which I dont like at all. You guys have no respect, are taught no respect have no respect at all

*** Please Print ***

Name: Edwin Horn

Address: PO Box 323 Owyhee Nev. 89832
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000239

KARL RUPRECHT
1510 PRINCETON
TF ID 83301

GE-1 Dear U.S. Air Force and Bureau of Land Management:

Isn't the heavy citizen opposition to the "Enhanced Training in Idaho" proposal in conservative Idaho a good indication that these public lands have far too high a value to convert them to a bombing range?

Why is Mountain Home Air Force Base wasting taxpayers' money by again and again proposing an unneeded and unpopular bombing rangein Idaho's pristine canyon country?

I am writing in regards to the Air Force's newest proposal, "Enhanced Training in Idaho," which would convert Idaho's public canyonlands into a Tactical Bombing Range/Drop Zone. As a citizen of the United States and Idaho I am very much opposed to this expansion for several reasons.

Mountain Home Air Force base began pushing this expansion in the late 1980s when the Cold War was winding down and cuts in the military put the future of Mountain Home Air Force base in jeopardy. Offering the military a huge chunk of Idaho's public lands as a bombing range seemed a powerful lobbying tool that would ensure the current base's safety. Because of the enormous outcry from Idaho's citizens and the U.S. Government's need to reduce the federal budget rather than expand, Mountain Home Air Force Base has been denied this land grab twice since then. Regardless, the Mountain Home Air Force Base has remained open, showing that an expanded bombing range in Idaho's canyonlands is NOT necessary for the future well-being of the base. The Air Force has admitted that this expansion is not necessary for national security or a well-trained Air Force. It would simply be a feather in the cap of Mountain Home Air Force Base, a superfluous pork barrel proposal that is simply not needed. Why is Mountain Home AFB wasting taxpayers' money by again and again proposing an unneeded and unpopular bombing range in Idaho's pristine canyon country?

Because this bombing range is not necessary for the future well-being of Mountain Home Air Force Base or for national security, it is an insulting slap in the face to the people of Idaho who enjoy this natural playground. Because the population of Southern Idaho is still small, the locations of favorite fishing holes, hunting areas, canyon narrows, caves, petroglyphs, and secluded undeveloped hot springs are closely guarded secrets. So, of course, the Owyhee County canyonlands are yet to gain the national recognition of Southern Utah's national parks or California's Joshua Tree. But these canyonlands are a jewel in the desert, and Idaho's local communities know it. Why else would such a conservative state fight so hard against this bombing range? To lose this land forever would be a horrible mistake. These canyons are much too valuable to be used for a bombing range.

Sincerely, Karl Ruprecht

000240

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: _____

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6-6-97

GE-1 I would like see the Ranges go to Effect and Every man Fe them and like air force needs them

*** Please Print ***

Name: Warren L Dexter

Address: PO Box 141 Twin Falls Id 83301
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000241

GE-1 Attention: Enhanced Training in Idaho

I know you would like to play with your ever more expensive toys in your own back yard. But you have a perfectly adequate play ground just a few blocks down in Nevada. So try to expand your concept of protection to include peace and quiet for wildlife, native americans and an occasional hiker trying to remember how man should live in his environment.

Sincerely

Lucille Haynes Gibson
Box 2489
Ketchum, Id. 83340

000242

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS COALITION
P.O. Box 653 - Boise, ID 83701 - 343-8153

Enhanced Training in Idaho Not Needed and Illegal

GE-2 The Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) proposal is the fourth attempt by the Air force to establish a high-threat supersonic battlefield and bombing range in Idaho for composite force exercises.

NOT NEEDED:

PN-1 The Air Force has repeatedly argued, on the record, that they do not need additional training facilities in Idaho. They contend that the range represents "enhancement, not necessity," and that the training needs of the composite wing are being fully met with facilities currently available to it. Composite Wing Commander, General Peck has stated, "We are the most combat capable unit anywhere in the world right now." That's with current training opportunities.

PN-14 An Auditor's Report issued by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense completed in 1995 concluded that additional training in Idaho was not necessary. It stated that the training needs of the composite wing can be met with existing ranges and that the creation of a range in Idaho would duplicate existing training resources. It pointed out that the Air Force had not established the training requirements for the composite wing nor had they proved why existing training ranges cannot continue to provide composite force training. The report also stated that the cost benefit analysis used to justify the Idaho range was not valid.

When the Air Force brought the composite wing to Mtn. Home they stated publicly that existing facilities could provide the wing with the training it needed, and they have.

PN-14 The Air Force is currently downsizing. With fewer pilots and aircraft to train than in the past, existing ranges are under-utilized.

The Secretary of Defense has never certified that this proposed range is necessary for national defense.

ILLEGAL:

In the spring of 1992, the Greater Owyhee Legal Defense coalition filed suit against the Air Force challenging the legality of their Air Force in Idaho EIS. GOLD argued that the Air Force had violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by separating the evaluation of composite wing training from the evaluation of the wing beddown at Mtn. Home AFB.

DP-4 On May 9, 1995, Federal Judge Edward J. Lodge ruled in GOLD's favor. Judge Lodge wrote that the Air Force EIS was, "an abuse of discretion or otherwise not in accordance with [the] law." He ordered that the EIS be returned to the Air Force and the cooperating agencies to, "conduct a combined EIS that includes an analysis of both the Idaho Training Range and the Composite Wing."

Without complying with the court's order to conduct a combined EIS, the Air Force has put forward yet another proposal for composite force training in Idaho. Changing the name and altering the location of some of the components within the region of impact, the Air Force argues that there is no relationship between the current ETI proposal and past proposals. Therefore, they argue, the court order does not apply.

Never-the-less the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) states:

> "Cumulative actions, which when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts... should be discussed in the same impact statement."
>
> "Cumulative impacts...result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions..."
>
> "Connected actions...are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification and therefore should be discussed the same impact statement."

The Air Force has not complied with the court's order of 1995. The current proposal is not a combined EIS. We feel that this is illegal because it attempts to go forward with the establishment of additional new training facilities for the composite wing through a fragmented process without conducting the combined EIS ordered by the court and required by NEPA.

BI-6 The Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition has discovered that the Air Force is withholding damaging biological information that they discovered in their studies for the current ETI draft EIS. We also believe that their noise analysis is inadequate and based upon bad
NO-1 science. This casts further doubts upon the validity and the legality of the current EIS.

The Air Force has established a history of attempting to conceal the impacts of their proposals through the use of poor science, the failure to disclose impacts, and failure to evaluate the cumulative impacts of related actions.

000243

PERSONAL TESTIMONY ON THE ENHANCED TRAINING RANGE
(MORE ACCURATELY KNOWN AS THE BOMBING RANGE EXPANSION)
ATTEMPT # 4

TWIN FALLS PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 5, 1997

GE-2 I am Margaret Macdonald Stewart and have been a resident of Idaho for 26 years.

Before I begin my comments on the current Draft EIS of the proposed bombing range expansion at Mountain Home AFB, I would like to comment on two very glaring actions by the Air Force that discourage public comment.

First: This is the fourth attempt by the Air Force since 1989 to needlessly expand their existing bombing range at Mt. Home AFB. At each of the previous public hearings in Twin Falls, the public testimony times were in both the afternoon and evening. This set-up allowed people with families and children to come to the hearing and testify during the day when they were not engaged in family activities. Today, we are allowed only one 3-hr. testimony time - only in the evening. When I called the AFB to inquire about the reasons behind having the public testimony time cut in half, I was told it was to accommodate the greatest number of people in testifying. Half the testimony time gives the greatest number of people the opportunity to testify at a public hearing!!? I don't think so. If this is the logic that our Air Force is using to encourage public input into this proposal, then we, the people who pay their salaries, are indeed in trouble. I demand a full and reasonable justification for the elimination of the afternoon testimony time at the Twin Falls Public Hearing.

Second: I hold before you one of two identical newspaper ads placed in the Twin Falls Times-News within the last 10 days, where the Air Force "requests your participation in the public comment process for the Draft EIS for the bombing range expansion in Idaho proposal." Please note, that without a magnifying glass, this ad is nearly unreadable. A smaller font could not be found, and a more uninviting ad cannot be found in the entire newspaper. If you are going to spend our tax dollars on advertising these hearings, make the ads at least readable, and make them eyecatching enough to make people want to read them. As it is, this is a total waste of our money.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS:

000243

PN-5 (1) Even though there was a request by Congress several years ago for the military to do a National Needs Assessment on all military land and air expansions requests, the Air Force still has not done so. I request that a National Needs Assessment be done covering all branches of the military, since several branches will be using the same areas.

PR-3 (2) I request that the public comment period be extended beyond the August 6th date. The Draft EIS is a large document, and it will take more than two months to read and digest the material adequately for many people to make an informed decision. I might add, that
PR-4 many people who have received Draft and Final EISes in the past, have still not received their copy. I had to call and request a copy and was given no reason why my name had mysteriously disappeared from your computer list of people that have requested an EIS.

DP-4 (3) With this "new" EIS, the Air Force is, once again, not complying with a federal court order to look at the whole picture of the 1992 arrival of the composite wing at Mt. Home AFB and the training needs of those warplanes. With even the slightest bit of intelligence, it is obvious that the arrival of these warplanes and their subsequent training needs are two closely linked actions. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), any two actions that are clearly linked, must be addressed in one single EIS. Just by changing the name of the proposal from its' 1993/4 name, does not get the Air Force off the hook of having to comply with a federal court order. Get with it, guys. You're not above the law.

PR-13 (4) I request that the EIS states who the one single entity is that takes full and final responsibility for any potential "accidents" or damage which may occur on or near the bombing range, ie: range fires from dropped flares, bombs accidentally dropped outside
NO-18 the designated target areas, etc. As you know, a school in Castleford, Idaho was severely damaged by a sonic boom a year or so ago, and the Air Force has said that, A) it was not caused by the Air Force, and B) if it was, we are not responsible. Castleford has not been able to afford to have the extensive damage repaired, and is no longer able to get insurance because of their closeness to the potentially damaging bombing range. I thought the Air Force needed to train to protect the citizens of the country. Looks to me like they are hurting the citizens, and then denying their guilt. With the Air Force managing the land for the Bureau of Land Management, the Idaho Air National Guard operating the bombing range and emitter sites, military units from foreign countries training at the range, highly sophisticated warplanes from other states (Top Gun fighter pilots now based less than 300 miles away in Nevada, and the Air Combat Command from the Utah Test and
PR-13 Training Range) all training in Idaho Air Space, exactly who is in control of the whole shebang and who has final responsibility for what happens in and near the bombing range? I want an answer.

NO-4 (5) Averaging the noise from jet warplanes over a 24-hr. time period is not accurate, nor is it realistic. Jet noise in the wilderness is jet noise as it is heard, on the spot. You need to realistically re-do your noise analysis, eliminating the misleading "24-hour averaging" program.

000243

PR-14 So far, the Air Force has exhibited a voracious appetite, and enough is never enough. The citizens of Idaho need to have a guarantee that *if* this bombing range expansion is allowed, this will be the last request for expansion.

And Finally, the Air Force itself has said that they do not need this bombing range expansion. They want it because it would be an "enhancement" to their training. Mighty flimsy reasoning to spend hundreds of millions of dollars and effectively destroy one of this country's most exquisite national treasures. You have said that the 366th Wing at Mountain Home AFB is the most combat ready unit in the world right now, and that existing ranges in nearby Nevada and Utah are adequate to meet the training needs for Mt. Home AFB. Just keep doing what you're doing at the ranges you already use, and you'll still be the most combat ready unit in the world. The Air Force has said that Mt. Home AFB is one of the top 3 bases in the country, so there is no fear that it will ever close. This expansion plan for the bombing range is not insurance against closing. It is pure greed.

I am a patriotic American. I do not want our military eliminated. I do not want Mt. Home AFB to close. All I ask is for justifiable and moral and ethical behavior on the part of our military in their pursuit of protecting the American people. This does not include lies, deceit, and deception. Again, I expect answers to all my requests. I request the no action alternative

Margaret Macdonald Stewart
Box 2404
Ketchum, ID 83340

Margaret Macdonald Stewart

000244

4395 River Road
Buhl, Idaho 83316
June 5, 1997

U. S Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-1 Gentlemen:

I appreciate the opportunity to once again comment on an environmental impact statement related to expansion of the Air Force mission near Mt. Home, Idaho.

I have reviewed the document entitled **Enhanced Training in Idaho - Community Report** dated April 1997 and base my comments on information provided in that report.

On page 31 there is a chart listing the potential effects of each of the four alternatives, A, B, C and D considered in the environmental impact statement. Alternatives B, C and D have varying negative effects on the environment which in my opinion are not worth risking in an attempt to achieve some improvement in Air Force training which is already considered excellent.

Alternative A lists no adverse effects. Consequently I strongly support the no action Alternative A which will spare this ecologically and recreationally important area in Idaho from further indignities that would be inflicted by training range expansion.

Sincerely yours,

Robert S. Luntey

Robert S. Luntey

7168 E. 4900 N
Buhl, ID 83316

Report By Armand Echeat - page 1/2. 000245

GE-2 I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE AIR FORCE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

SECOND, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE AIR FORCE FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THE COMMUNITY REPORT WHICH MADE REVIEWING THE PROPOSAL MUCH EASIER.

THIRD, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE AIR FORCE FOR A MUCH MORE PROFESSIONAL APPROACH TO THE EIS AND TO THE FOUR PROPOSALS LISTED.

HOWEVER, I STILL HAVE CONCERNS WHICH I'M NOT SURE HOW YOU MIGHT RESOLVE.

NOISE

FIRST IS THE NOISE LEVEL. IN YOUR COMMUNITY REPORT YOU STATE "THE EFFECTS OF OVERFLIGHTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT TO PRECLUDE RECOMMENDING AREAS FOR WILDERNESS STUDY) I SIMPLY DISAGREE. EITHER YOU ARE WRONG ON THAT POINT OR THE BLM IS WRONG. WHAT YOU ARE ADVOCATING IS A "NOISY WILDERNESS" WITH THE PLANES BUT NOT THE TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES. IT IS AN EITHER/OR SITUATION. YOU CAN'T HAVE BOTH.

LU-1

NO-15 IT APPEARS THE AIR FORCE IS NOT YET READY TO ADMIT THAT THE AIR CRAFT HAVE NOISE EFFECT. YOU QUOTE AN EIS FOR AN OREGON WILDERNESS STUDY THAT STATES THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THESE LOW LEVEL MILITARY FLIGHTS...ON A VISITOR'S PERCEPTION OF SOLITUDE IS QUITE TEMPORARY BUT EXTREME FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME (ONE MINUTE OR LESS). THESE FLIGHTS DO NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT, LONG LASTING ADVERSE EFFECT ON A VISITOR'S OPPORTUNITY TO FIND SOLITUDE."

RV-1 FIRST HAVE YOU SURVEYED VISITOR'S TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS? SECOND THAT STATEMENT ASSUMES THERE WAS ONLY "ONE" OVERFLIGHT. AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE MANY FLIGHTS DURING THE DAY AND THE NOISE POLLUTION IS CONSTANT SO MY PERCEPTION IS THESE FLIGHTS DO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT, LONG LASTING ADVERSE EFFECT. THIRD IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN OUT THERE WHEN A HUGE SONIC BOOM ECHOS THE CANYONS FOR MINUTES A PERIOD OF A TIME OR WHEN YOU FALL TO THE GROUND TRYING TO PROTECT YOUR EAR DRUMS, THE MENTAL EFFECT LASTS MORE THAT MINUTES. WHY DOESN'T THE AIR FORCE JUST SIMPLY ADMIT THAT THE NOISE EFFECT IS SUBSTANTIAL AND CAN HAVE LONG LASTING EFFECTS, AT LEAST FROM A MENTAL STANDPOINT.

NO-18 ALSO, THE AIR FORCE SEEMS UNWILLING TO ADMIT THAT NOISE CAN CAUSE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. IT COULD HAVE ADDED TO ITS MITIGATION LISTS THAT IT WILL BE WILLING TO FIX STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS WHEN THEY OCCUR. TAKE THE CASTLEFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR INSTANCE. THE GYMNASIUM WAS STRUCTURALLY DAMAGED DUE TO AN ALLEGED OVERFLIGHT YET THE AIR FORCE REFUSES TO ADMIT IT. NOW YOU ARE WANTING US TO BELIEVE THAT NOISE EFFECTS ARE MINIMAL?

FURTHER, I HAVE A FARM 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF BUHL AND IT IS VERY CLOSE TO THE TWIN FALLS COUNTY LINE. PERSONALLY, I DO NOT WANT THIS IN MY BACK YARD. YOU CAN "AVERAGE" ALL THE NOISE LEVEL YOU WANT. IT STILL COMES DOWN TO THE HIGHEST NOISE LEVEL AT A SPECIFIC MOMENT WHICH YOU DO NOT REPORT ON AND WHICH IS OUR GREATEST Concern

Report by Armand Echert - page 2/2. 000245

CONCERN. PLEASE PUT IN MITIGATION TO CURE DAMAGE.

POLLUTION

[redacted]. I AM STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE 27,000 1"x 1"x 7" ALUMINUM BUNDLES WHICH WILL BE RELEASED EACH YEAR. HOW MANY [redacted] THE EIS DOES NOT ADDRESS THEIR LONG TERM EFFECT. HOW FAR DOES THE METALLIC MATERIAL FLOAT IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND HOW FAR WILL THE WIND BLOW THESE HAIR-LIKE MATERIAL. [redacted]

SF-3

EMITTER SITES

THE EIS STATES THE EMITTERS WOULD NOT BE AT A LEVEL OR DURATION THAT POSES A HAZARD TO HEALTH YET THEY SAY THAT WARNING SIGNS WILL BE POSTED. THE REPORT NEEDS TO ADDRESS THE PURPOSE OF THE WARNING SIGNS. ALSO, THE REPORT DOES NOT ADDRESS WHAT THE INTERFERENCE WOULD BE WITH PRIVATE TELEPHONE AND ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS. SINCE I LIVE CLOSE TO THE AIR FIELD BOUNDARY, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

SF-2

ROADS

[redacted] EXCESSIVE. THE REPORT DOESN'T DEFINE INFREQUENT NOR DOES IT IDENTIFY THE ROADS THAT WILL BE CLOSED. IT ALSO TALKS ABOUT AN INFREQUENTLY USED RECREATION SITE WILL REQUIRE THE USE OF AN EXISTING ALTERNATIVE ACCESS ROAD. WHICH SITE IS THIS? IT SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED.

LU-2

RV-9

I ALSO DISAGREE THAT RECREATION USE WOULD NOT INCREASE AS A RESULT OF ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. I AM CERTAIN THAT NO STUDY WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THIS STATEMENT. IN FACT, I CHALLENGE YOU TO TRACK TRAFFIC FOR A YEAR ON AN INFREQUENTLY USED ROAD AND THAN TRACK IT A YEAR LATER. I WOULD BET YOU A DOLLAR THAT YOU ARE WRONG. After Improvement

CONCLUSION

THE AIR FORCE HAS DONE A MUCH BETTER JOB IN PREPARING THE EIS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ITEMS MENTIONED ABOVE. IT SHOULD ADDRESS THOSE CONCERNS. IF IT DOES, I WOULD ACCEPT ALTERNATIVE C - THE GRASMERE SITE. IF IT DOESN'T, I WOULD RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE A - THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE.

000246

Laurie Black
P.O. Box 455
Glenns Ferry, ID 83623

June 5, 1997

GE-2 Comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for "Enhanced Training in Idaho"

In March of 1989, I was the editor of a small weekly newspaper when the original concept of a million-acre "world class" bombing range was introduced to the public. This plan was announced to about forty interested persons sitting in a small meeting room in a restaurant in Mountain Home, Idaho. I became a member of the BLM citizen's working group, read thousands of pages of printed material and drove countless miles to attend dozens of meetings. Members of the citizens working group and the public attending the environmental impact meetings asked for a national assessment of all military-controlled air space and lands within the United States borders. This information was deemed necessary to determine the necessity of increased military presence in Idaho. The information was never attained and the proposal was ultimately scrapped.

In 1993, I was employed by the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley as editor of their tribal monthly newspaper. At that time, Idaho legislators were lobbying with the air force to gain a new configuration of land and air space in the southwest corner of the state. Once again, I read thousands of pages, attended dozens of meetings, and was amongst those who requested a national needs assessment plan in order to see if this proposal was necessary. Once again the information was never attained and the proposal was ultimately scrapped.

Now, in 1997, I am travelling the miles, reading the pages and attending the meetings for yet another proposal to increase military lands and control of the air space surrounding them. I have in my possession literature representing nearly $7 million of the taxpayers' money; literature consisting of the Air Force and the legislators attempt to rationalize their desire for more land and more money.

PN-1 At no time in the last eight years of these proposals have I seen a statement of need from either the local or national level military or legislative personnel.

If this current proposal of "Enhanced Training in Idaho" is to become a reality, thousands of acres of land currently owned by the people of the United States will have to be formally withdrawn by approval of the National Congress. For a third and hopefully final time, I request that the final Environmental Impact

PN-5 Statement of Enhanced Training in Idaho contain an statement of congressional intent to produce or procure a national inventory of all military lands and controlled air space in the United States to be completed before a final decision is made regarding this proposal.

- 30 -

Submitted 6/5/97
Laurie Black

000247

Snake River Alliance

June 5, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management:

The Snake River Alliance Education Fund submits the following comments on the Air Force's *Enhanced Training In Idaho* Environmental Impact Statement. What follows is a summary of our views.

The Snake River Alliance is an Idaho-based grassroots environmental peace group that has been working on behalf of its members for nearly two decades. The Alliance has over 1200 dues paying memberships. Many of our members will be directly impacted by the proposed Air Force actions.

Over seven years ago, an Alliance representative testified at a hearing much like today's, opposing the Air Forces proposal to withdraw nearly two million acres of land and the accompanying airspace for Air Force operations. Many years before that proposal ever reached the hearing stage in 1990, the notion of expanded use of the Owyhee region by the US Air Force was spawned. The idea of expanded training was developed at a time in the early 1980's when the threats confronting the Department of Defense were far more considerable than they are today. The world's military situation has changed since then, and it has changed for the better. These changes must be reflected in the Air Force's proposal--but are not.

The Air Force in Idaho has proceeded for the last decade upon the notion that the Cold War still wages. The Cold War might be over, but if this proposal comes to fruition, the Air Force will be inadvertently waging war upon those whom they are here to serve. The residents of Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada will be the ones who are being asked to bear this legacy.

Westerners are not the only ones being forced with the burden of accommodating the will of the Air Force. Across the nation the Air Force is expanding ranges. In places like Alaska, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania citizens are being asked to let the Air Force and the Department of Defense acquire lands within their state.

PN-1 The EIS does not reflect what the needs are which drive the acquisition of this airspace and land within the United States. It is imperative the EIS discuss what specific factors are driving the Air Force to acquire more training space.

The 366th Wing is not an island upon itself. Like any US military force, it gets its marching orders from the Pentagon. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process clearly requires that actions that are connected together, such as policies dealing with the expansion of training capabilities, must be fully discussed within an EIS. The Department of Defense is the chief agency coordinating these efforts, therefore the EIS must disclose what is the foundation for this policy of expanded training throughout the nation and how is that policy related to the proposed expansion of training within the

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Snake River Alliance

Owyhee's. Without such a thorough explanation, the proposed EIS cannot begin to get off the ground.

The Air Force states this latest proposal reflects a new willingness on the part of the Air Force to accommodate the needs of the residents, the users, and the inherent wildlife values present within the Owyhee region. The Air Force might be withdrawing less land, but they are asking for nearly as much airspace as they did in the first proposal--a proposal that nearly everyone agreed to be wildly excessive.

The use of airspace by the Air Force is the one thing a training range needs above all other things. After all, we are talking about planes. The Air Force could ask to withdraw as little as one acre in this EIS and still this proposal would be inherently flawed. This issue is not necessarily about how much land the Air Force asks for--as significant as that action is--the issue is the withdrawal of nearly two million square miles of airspace for the exclusive use of the Air Force will cause irrevocable harm to the land and the wildlife that now reside within this unique region. General Billy Mitchell, the founding father of air combat said *'those who control the air, control the ground.'* The only difference in this case is the Air Force will not be just waging war abroad, but for all intensive purposes they will be waging war in the Owyhee's. Once the Air Force controls the airspace of the Owyhee's, it will be the Air Force that will call the shots for every user beneath that airspace.

The Air Force might claim that all they need is a few thousand acres for their operations, but history has shown that this is probably only the beginning of a larger land grab. The Grasmere sight is one example of the Air force being unable to honor the promises they make. The Grasmere sight was leased to the Air Force by the Bureau of Land Management to be used as a singular pad that would host a portable radar station. The Air Force violated the lease by constructing a number of permanent structures including buildings, towers, and diesel generators—all which clearly violated the wilderness values of the area. The BLM gave the Air Force notice that the Grasmere site was in violation of the law. The Air Force's response was to ask BLM to expand the Grasmere site.

The Air Force has not demonstrated a history of being a good steward of public land. The Grasmere sight is one example of the Air Force having difficulty recognizing the letter of the law.

PR-15 As in the Grasmere experience, each proposed emitter site has the potential of being a launching pad for something bigger. In this environmental impact statement, there are few measures that would deter the Air Force to expand their proposal in a similar fashion if the Air Force is granted a favorable Record of Decision.

DP-13 The EIS also fails to describe possible mitigative measures that could be implemented in case the Air Force creates unforeseen impacts the EIS does not currently address. For instance, if a military plane violates the air space guidelines, there are no provisions for enforcement. In 1996, military planes operating within the current air space initiated sonic booms that permanently damaged a number of structures in Castleford, Idaho. The Air Force still refuses to acknowledge error in this matter. The potential for more egregious violations will only increase if the Air Force conducts proposed wide scale battles involving multiple air crews described in the EIS.

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Snake River Alliance

Besides these concerns, this EIS fails to primarily:

NO-4 1) The EIS seriously fails to accurately describe the actual impacts of noise within the region caused by aircraft operations. Supersonic booms and low level military flights will cause unique and severe impacts upon the wildlife, cattle, residents, and recreational users of the region. By averaging the total volume of noise, the Air Force completely fails to address the actual impacts of noise. As one Alliance member put it, "Well just because the average temperature of my oven might be 70 degrees, doesn't mean I can stick my head in the oven at anytime and be all right."

NO-2 Besides averaging the noise volume, the model that predicts annoyances is seriously flawed. The Air Force is using a model that measured annoyance levels based upon the experiences of residents in the suburbs affected by civilian air traffic. The Owyhee region is not a suburb. The Air Force should have noticed that California Bighorn sheep do not live in the suburbs. Rafting the Bruneau River does not constitute a suburban experience. The EIS must use a model that accurately describes the impacts of noise upon a sparsely populated area inhabited by unique wildlife resources that are accustomed to silence..

BI-7 2) The EIS fails to address the cumulative impacts of military operations upon the wildlife within the affected areas. Not only did the Air Force fail to address the actual impacts, they failed to use data provided to them by their own contractors who clearly observed that Air Force operations within the region caused severe stress upon California

BI-32 Bighorn Sheep. The EIS fails to implement biological studies that observe the potential impacts that will occur in regard to wildlife and plants.

LU-3 The EIS fails to address impacts that might occur within the Wilderness Study Areas that will most likely violate the wilderness nature of these areas. For instance, expansion of airspace over Jacks Creek, a Wilderness Study Area, is not fully examined

DP-5 3) The EIS uses figures for the baseline that are not accurate if not completely in violation of the law. The 9th Circuit Federal Judiciary ruled that the Air Force must actually analyze the impacts of locating the composite wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base. The baseline figures in the EIS represents activity after the beddown of the composite wing. The baseline figures must represent what it was like before the composite wing was operating in Idaho.

In other words, this EIS is just one more step by the Air Force to fragmentize the NEPA process. The Air Force has conveniently moved the composite wing to Mountain Home without the proper NEPA approval. This is the case in the relocation of the B-1B's to Mountain Home.

So by the time this EIS was written, the Air Force is seemingly operating upon the premise that the composite wing has always been at the in Mountain Home Air Base. It has not always been this way. It probably seems that way for many of the Air Force personnel propounding this latest bombing range proposal, but most of these personnel have not been part of this process for the last decade. But many Alliance members have been involved for the last decade. We demand that the Air Force follow the order of the federal court and the guidelines within NEPA and actually analyze the total impacts of

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Snake River Alliance

locating the composite wing at Mountain Home. When they do that, in full compliance of the law, might the Air Force be allowed to entertain the notion of expanding the role of the composite wing in Idaho.

DP-26 4) The EIS does not describe how many crews outside Mountain Home Air Force base will be using the range. Air Force representatives have causally mentioned that this range will from time to time be used by outside crews. There is no detailed listing in the EIS about how many more sorties there will be by Air Force crews not from MHAFB. The

DP-35 Idaho National Guard, who will be managing the electronic range, states in one of their publications on April 1997 that, "A-10 pilots and C-130 aircrews" will be using the range. The publication goes on to state the electronic range will also be used by "Apache and Blackhawk aircrews from Idaho's Army National Guard, U.S. Navy fliers, NASA crews, and Canadian pilots." There is no analysis of what will be the cumulative impact

DP-7 within the EIS. Particularly, the EIS needs to examine the impact that Apache helicopter operations could have upon the Owyhee region..

It is time for the Air Force to follow the laws the rest of us honor.

At the first bomb range EIS hearing, a representative for the Snake River Alliance Education Fund presented comments opposing the Air Force's proposal to expand their presence in southwest Idaho. Those comments are as relevant as they were seven years ago:

> Perhaps this bomb range idea was concocted by someone thousands of miles away, who had never stepped foot in Idaho. Perhaps someone flew over the Owyhee country, looked down, and said, "Not much down there...how about a bomb range?" But we are here to tell you that the Owyhee is not empty, ugly, useless space. Remote? Yes. Rugged? Yes. And worth every bit and maybe more as a square foot of Manhattan? Yes.

We request that the Air Force return to work and assess those criteria which the Ninth Circuit Federal Court expected the Air Force to do concerning the realignment of the 366th Wing. The Snake River Alliance Education Fund further asks the Bureau of Land Management and the Air Force to choose the only ethical and legally acceptable option at this time--no action.

Sincerely,

Margaret Macdonald Stewart

For the Snake River Alliance Education Fund

4

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I would like to thank the USAF for the opportunity to comment tonight on the ETI Draft EIS. My name is Robert DiGrazia. I was born in Elko Nevada, and educated in Wells Nevada. I served three years in the US Army. I was offered a Regular Army commission before ending my time in the service in 1977. I am a practicing dentist in Boise, Idaho. I am very active with the hunting community in Idaho. I have held numerous leadership positions within the State of Idaho including President of the Idaho Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and State Finance Chairmen for the Hunting Community this last fall concerning Proposition 2 on the 1996 ballot. I am a past president of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep serving in that capacity in 1993. I would like to make clear that my comments tonight reflects my own personal concerns and should not be considered policy of the Sheep Foundation specifically and consequently my comments will be limited to the three minute time frame.

I would like the purveyors of this process to realize that under the National Environmental Policy Act that "cumulative actions, which when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulative significant impacts and should be discussed in the same impact statement, further connected actions that are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification and therefore should be discussed in the same impact statement."

DP-7 With the beddown of the 366th composite wing at MHAFB with the Air Force in Idaho EIS, the EA to switch the B52 to the B1 bomber, the addition of the ETI process I feel that these are cumulative actions, interdependent and should be considered under one comprehensive EIS. For example, since the transfer of the F 111's to Cannon AFB and the establishment of the composite wing, the baseline concerns for noise, recreation, and economics continually is being shifted. It is a shift which I firmly feel can not be tolerated by the residents of this area, and those who frequent the area.

This high desert steppe ecosystem provides economic sustenance to many ranchers, some of whose families have worked this land for over 100 years investing not only in their base properties but the public lands. In the DEIS there is mention that some property owners, ranchers, will see an

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impact to their ability to use public lands. Coupled with the fact that they choose to live in this quite wilderness environment, the increase in noise which will increase by about 20 % will be disruptive and inappropriate. The property owners of this area should be aware that at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts homeowners were reimbursed for the loss of property value by takings clause in legal clarifications. The USAF currently overflys this area, but with an approved ETI EIS the noise is going to become untolerable. Your property values are going to decrease, and some ranchers are going to loose their ability to use public lands. These are real economic losses. But you need to understand that their are economic gains also specifically to the business community in Mountain Home and Boise. With the land use compatibility present now, and the annoyance anticipated with an increase to a level of 65 db, it is important to realize that if this were the case in Boise with current level of building codes, acoustic protection in structure or personal protective gear would be required. Ranchers, hunters, and others are being asked to simply tolerate this. This is unfair.

PN-14 This proposal with these ramifications is being presented when the GAO and the Air Force Inspector General in official reports states a range is not needed. Further this range is being pursued even with the Base Commander stating before the Idaho Legislature that the 366th wing is the most combat ready wing in the world, and that this range would only enhance their training.

DP-8 In analyzing alternatives, all alternatives are tied to airspace expansion and electronic emitter sites. Under NEPA, I feel this does not provide for adequate alternatives. Each and every impact site in Alternative B, C, and D are tied to the electronic emitters, no drop sites, and other drop sites. All alternatives B, C, and D are also tied to MOA expansion into Nevada and over the Big and Little Jacks Creek complexes. I can not accept any air space expansion into the Jacks Creek complexes. This is the only Bighorn sheep habitat in Owyhee County that is not currently being overflown

BI-4 supersonic and low level. When the DEIS states that "total number of sheep observed in this herd has declined since 1993 while lamb:ewe ratios have increased from 1994 levels" is misleading. It is important to realize the fact that there has been dispersal to Big Jacks Creek and to Castle Creek. This herd is flourishing and the IDFG has instituted new hunting

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opportunities since 1993 in Big Jacks Creek. This herd has done so well and opportunity to take a trophy ram is present. So much so that a Hunter recently purchased the Idaho Bighorn Sheep tag for $31,000 solely to hunt this unit.

DP-9 Also missing in the DEIS concerning the MOA expansion into Nevada and Idaho is the environmental assessment of all aspects of economics, habitat, and social implications.There is no habitat enhancement plan designed for a completely new proposal with unknown results. These areas are going to experience the total impact of the 366th wing since inception.

DP-14 There is absolutely no base line to compare. It is an impact that will be again intolerable, inappropriate and unacceptable. The BLM, IDFG and others need to define these base lines.

Through past history, in these related EA's and EIS, problems have occurred. Mitigatory design and avoidance has been implemented in this EIS. Specifically the tribal community was so affected by the AFI EIS, that restrictions were placed over tribal lands for low level and supersonic flight. To deconflict these impacts, Air Space expansion over the Jacks Creek complexes, and into Nevada has been proposed in the ETI EIS. I find it unfair to deconflict one party and place confliction on another party. This is not example of good mitigatory response.

My testimony and concerns are lengthy, I will submit the entire text by the August deadline, but in closing I would like to quote some citizens involved personally in the Dixie Valley Nevada "most of the neighbors are gone now, and their homes, along with all signs of their toil is extinguished. This valley shows little sign of a war, but there was one. It lasted five long years, day in and day out, and the cost to preserve a way of life, individual freedoms, and a republic , came dear to many. The Navy brought their supersonic high threat battle field to this valley in the summer of 1982. We were all aware that our military needs to train to be the best, and with this we do not argue, for we want them to be strong and a formidable force for freedom. But not at the sacrifice of our own citizens It is not unpatriotic to demand that the military protect our way of life instead of destroying it. Dixie Valley Nevada turned into a living hell, But do not think it will be the last to be lost. Be on guard, for the

000248

remoteness and isolation of the High Desert Ecosystem in Southwest Idaho is very well what the military is invading.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/05/97

Last Name: Ruprecht **First Name:** Paul
Address: 1520 Princeton drive
City: Twin falls **State:** IDAHO **Zip:**83301

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Outdoorsmen and FISHERMEN

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 Being a fisherman, I should hate to see these magnificent ,wild trout streams go to pot. Getting "chaff " rained down on my secret fishing hole. For some reason catching precious trout ripped to shreds and deformed by whatever is in those bombs doesn't thrill me . I say keep Idaho wild.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**
- **To print, click on the printer icon shown above.**

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/05/97

Last Name: Ruprecht **First Name:** Jennifer
City: Twin Falls **State:** ID **Zip:** 83301

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

GE-1 U.S. and Idaho citizen, public land user. I am strongly opposed to the ETI. I very much enjoy hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking in the proposed area. The area is filled with beautiful, meandering canyons, spring flowers, the smell of fresh sage, and a variety of animals(i.e. bighorn sheep, mountain lions, fish, birds, etc.) If the ETI goes into effect, all the beauty would be lost. The canyons would be charred; The flowers gone; The animals would no longer roam such a beautiful, and peaceful place.

I enjoy the proposed area for recreational use would not appreciate the proposed area to be used for the ETI. I believe there is no strong benefit for the ETI, especially with the sites in Utah and Nevada already acknowledged. Why do we need more? The proposed ETI is simply a convenience. Don't be lazy!

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/05/97

Last Name: Ruprecht **First Name:** Karl
Address: 1520 Princeton Dr.
City Twin Falls **State:** ID **Zip:** 83301

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

U.S. and Idaho citizen, public land user

GE-1 **Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:**
I oppose the ETI because it is not necessary for national security or the well-being of mountain home air force base or the economic well-being of mountain home. The ETI will decrease the recreational and environmental value of the land. This area is one of the most beautiful and serene places in the U.S. and should not be used as a bombing range aka enhanced training system. Many areas affected by ETS have future potential as designated wilderness , wild and scenic rivers, and even national parks. I fear that the enactment of ETS will limit or harm the chances of this area to achieve the above mentioned titles or status. This will have dire economic effects on Idaho, oregon, and nevada. What if Yellowstone Park was a bombing range? I am also concerned about the affects ETS will have on the environment since these areas have bighorn sheep, mountain lions, elk, redband trout, and beautiful wildflowers. ETS is bad for Idaho

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training In Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/05/97

Last Name: Stucker First Name: Donald
Address: 223 Ranch View West
City: Jerome State: Idaho Zip:83338

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent? None

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

I am a local resident of the Twin Falls, Idaho. I am a Army National Guard Helicopter Pilot, and Fish and Game Department Conservation Officer. My Fish and Game patrol area includes Juniper Butte and Clover Butte. My personal concerns center upon the local fish and wildlife populations.

I have major concerns for the local native species of wildlife in the area. Specifically, my main concerns are for Bighorn Sheep, Sage Grouse, and Mountain Quail. These species are affected by human interactions in many different ways. Here are main concerns that I would like to see addressed in the final EIS:

SF-4 1) Increases in fire frequency will keep the local habitat in non-native, non-climax flux. I feel this will contribute to the further decline of Sage Grouse and Mountain Quail in the area.

BI-9 2) Increases in jet noise has been shown to disturb sheep populations which are a wilderness orientated species.

BI-10 3) Increases in human presence will adversely impact all of the native fish and wildlife populations.

PN-1 I think that the Air Force needs to publicly justify the need for the Enhanced Training in Idaho. If there is truly a need for the expanded range, then I would support it. I think that the Grasmere site should not be seriously considered as an alternative due to the potential impacts upon this site. I feel that the Juniper and Clover Butte sites are the only feasible sites to be considered. Of these two sites, I feel that Juniper Butte should be the selected site for the expanded range. I feel that this alternative will minimize the impact upon the local fish and wildlife populations. Thank You for considering my viewpoint.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

June 3, 1997
Last Name: Christ First Name: Corrine
Address: PO Box 1245
City: Mt Home State: ID Zip: 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
None

GE-1 I am in favor of having the Training Range which would be most cost effective for the Air Force. I want the training available for the aircrews to be able to complete their mission and come home safely. I am in favor of what ever it takes to defend our country and our military personnel.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Bermensolo First Name: Claude
Address: 550 E 15th N
City: Mtn Home State: ID Zip: 83648

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
NONE

GE-1 COMMENTS: The Air Force has addressed all issues concerning the training range. I feel that the information that was printed has satisfactorily answered all issues. The three proposals have given substantive evidence that there are no adverse conditions regards to habitat, noise, etc. In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the three proposals for the training range.

000255

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Swearingen First Name: Debbie

Address: 1795 N6E
City: Mountain Home State: ID Zip: 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

GE-1 I want to express my full support for the Enhanced Training Range proposals. I feel the Air Force has worked very hard to to get input from all parties who have had concerns about previous proposals. I have taken part in many prior hearings and feel confident that the Air Force has done all they can to work toward some choices which would work well for the environment and our country.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Cresse **First Name:** Barbara
Address: 1355 Owyhee Dr.
City: Mtn Home **State:** ID **Zip:** 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Private.

GE-1 COMMENTS: I fully support the Enhanced Training in Idaho. Immediate and close access to training areas is vital to our aircrew.

cresse 1

000257

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Smith **First Name:** Art
Address: 1630 N 6 E
City: Mountain Home **State:** ID **Zip:** 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

GE-1 Being a native Idahoan and a veteran of World War II, to me the sound of aircraft overhead is the sound of freedom.

The area in question is an area well known to me. Having hunted, fished, and hiked in the whole broad scene. One thing I've wondered about : Owhyee County is composed of 3,000,000 acres. How can 12,000 acres of BLM land be such an issue? Obviously, I'm totally in favor of the training range, regardless of placement.

smitha 1

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Tuller **First Name:** Gary
Address: P.O Box 837
City: Mountain Home **State:** ID **Zip:** 83648

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Small Business Owner

GE-1 COMMENTS: Totally in favor of the training range in the current status. I believe all environmental conditions have been answer. I feel it is good for our national defense and local economy.

tuller 1

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Foster **First Name:** Donald (FRED)
Address: 1820 N 5th East
City: Mtn Home **State:** Id **Zip:** 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

GE-1 Comment
I've looked through and read most of the Info sent .
I think the Air Force and everyone else did an excellent job.

I am in favor of the range. If proposal D will work for the Air Force--- GO for it.

F R E D

Foster 1

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Tindall First Name: Jim
Address: 875 S 3rd W Bee St.
City: Mountain Home State : ID Zip: 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

GE-1 I am for it. The Cloverdale would be better reference. The Cloverdale that is on the West side of the road would be better.

Comm-frm 1

000261

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name:Newton First Name: Nola
Address: P.O. Box 131
City: Hammett State: ID Zip: 83627

GE-1 What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

We are long time residents of Mountain Home and have always been supportive of the Air Force Base remaining here.

I feel the Air Force has attempted in every way possible to address any and all concerns.

With the military facing more cuts it is no longer cost effective for our Air Force personnel to have to fly to Vegas or Hill Air Force Base for their training, nor is it as safe. I say approve the Enhanced Training Range and let's keep the Air Force in Idaho.

Newtonn 1

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name:Newton First Name: Gary
Address: P.O. Box 131
City: Hammett State: ID Zip:83627

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

GE-1 I am strongly in favor of expanding your training range. This will help you train more economically and enhance your training time and effectiveness. We live in Hammett, get quite a few flying over us. We do not think the noise is excessive, in fact we enjoy hearing the jets.

Newtong 1

000263

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Hightower, Lyman First Name: Delores,Larry,Charles
Address: Route 1 Box 843 Trailer 3
City: Mountain Home State: ID Zip: 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

GE-1 In regards to the bombing range we can see no outward harm that can be done. There will be certain days the will be able to fly and certain days they will not when grazing is full. I can see no harm to live stock or to the wildlife As they will not be dropping live bombs they are only simulated bombs. I do not understand why the environmental services are so against this. As we are for the bombing range and the adjacent ground they are needing. As our Air Force pilots need more area to fly in because of the new types of planes. We are all for it!

Comm-frm 1

000264

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Cresse **First Name:** Jerre
Address: 1355 Owyhee Dr.
City: Mtn Home **State:** ID **Zip:** 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Private

GE-1 Comments:
I agree with the need for additional training area locally for Air Force Combat Training air-to-air and air-to-ground is a absolute necessity for economical and realistic training . I speak as a former Air Force Pilot who is well acquit with flying training requirements in the most realistic training environment.. I think the Air Force has jumped through enough hoops and we need to get on with a decision and establishment of the Idaho Enhanced Training Range. Let's Go!!

cresseJ 1

000265

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/03/97

Last Name: Jackson **First Name:**Richard
Address: 1485 Rosewood St.
City: Mountain Home **State:** ID **Zip:** 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

I represent myself

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I have observed the aircraft perform practice strafing runs at Saylor Creek with deer less than .5 miles away. The deer didn't' move or even look at where the sound was coming from. They continued with their walking and appeared to be unbothered by the jet noise. I am for the range as it will have minimal impact on the local animal population.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**
- **To print, click on the printer icon shown above.**

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/03/97

Last Name: Light **First Name:** Harry
Address: 1720 N 4th E
City: Mountain Home **State:** ID **Zip:** 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

none

GE-1 After years of attempting to get a realistic training range, the Air Force is presenting a effort that will ensure future realistic training. Everyone who was interested had a chance for input on the location of the sites. This proposal offers three choices that meet their needs as well as environmental concerns.

Location of the sites provides minimum impact on wildlife. The Air Force presence will be minimal. Areas where noise will bother wildlife will find the planes flying much higher. Canyon lands will be avoided.

The restrictions will protect wildlife, give solitude to those who desire it, and allow the Air Force to get the training they need. I support the EIS and find it to complete and thorough to meet and satisfy most demands, fair or not.

Comm-frm 1

000267

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/03/97

Last Name: Miller **First Name:** Leo
Address: 585 E 10th N
City: Mtn Home **State:** ID **Zip:** 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
None

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 Dear Sirs

I have received the information, I have studied it and attended all the meetings.

I find no adverse effect to the environment and no un-acceptable noise levels. The habitat should not be effected.

I therefore support the proposal as presented without any reservation.

Respectfully,

Leo Miller

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**
- **To print, click on the printer icon shown above.**

miller 1

000268

Fred G Smith
950 Holiday Dr
Mountain Home ID 83647-2321
208-587-8796

6/1/1997

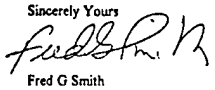
GE-1 I wish to state that I support the establishment of the Enhanced Training Range as outlined in the Air Force Community Report.

What concerns I might have had in the past have been considered fully in the proposal

I have a preference although no objections to any of the three locations I feel the Clover Butte location has the least affect on wild life and wetlands, although the Juniper Butte location is almost equal.

Please record me as a supporter of the project.

Sincerely Yours



Fred G Smith

000269

Elizabeth Ann Smith
950 Holiday Drive
Mountain Home Id 83647-2321
208-587-8796

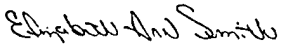
June 3, 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

GE-1 After a review of the Enhanced Training In Idaho community report I fully endorse the proposal to establish the training range in Idaho.

I would prefer the Clover Butte location as it appears to have the least affect on the animal population. My second preference is the Juniper Butte location all though all could be acceptable.

Sincerely Yours

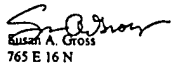


Elizabeth Ann Smith

000270

June 3, 1997

GE-1 I support the Enhanced Training in Idaho project. The specific issues of concern addressed during the public comment periods in 1996 have been addressed by the Air Force and appropriate measures taken. Noise has been recently addressed in the media as a major issue but it appears noise does not increase significantly but, in fact, decreases in some areas. I hope you will proceed with a favorable Record of Decision, identifying the alternative deemed best by the Air Force.

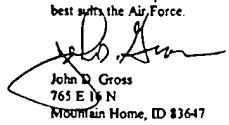


Susan A. Gross
765 E 16 N
Mountain Home, ID 83647

000271

June 3, 1997

GE-1 I support the Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal. The Air Force has addressed the specific issues of concern raised by commenters to the best of their ability. The mission readiness of the 366 Wing is critical and high quality training is the most important component of mission readiness. Please proceed with a favorable Record of Decision on Alternative B, C or D, which best suits the Air Force.



John D. Gross
765 E 16 N
Mountain Home, ID 83647

000272

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Mountain Home

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 7/11/97

GE-1 I'm in support of the Draft EIS and looking forward to the base being built. The base has had a positive impact on the town of Mtn. Home and the state of Idaho.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Wayne McBride

Address: 2800 W 14th S Mountain Home ID 83647
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000273

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Mtn. Home

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 8/3/97

GE-1 I am in favor of the draft EIS. As a native of Mountain Home, I understand the necessity of the air force base in Mtn. Home. I know the economic impact that the base brings to the town as well as the entire state. It is important for the base to receive the ranges in order to further bring the benefits to the town of Mtn Home and the state of Idaho. When I graduated from high school there were just over 7,000 people then just three years later the town has grown to what it is now. I understand the environmental issues involved but know that there is little detrimental impacts that will undergo the abiotic and biotic communities of the area. Even with the air force there the ecological systems will thrive. I support the EIS

*** Please Print ***

Name: Nick Borchert

Address: 415 N 7th 8th East Mtn. Home ID 83647
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000274

Mari Young
415 North 8th East
Mtn. Home, Idaho 83647

To Whom It May Concern:

GE-1 As a resident of Idaho, I support the training range concept in Idaho and, having read what I feel are pertinent parts of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I support the findings of the statement. I believe that the Air Force has already proven itself to be a good steward of Idaho land and that they will continue to utilize any Idaho range with responsibility and respect. I believe quite strongly that adequate training range is necessary for the proper training of our military. It is also important that such a range be available to the Air Force within a reasonable amount of time and without wasting other resources.

I would like to see the responses for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement go through the proper steps for completion of the process and the finalization of the Idaho training range.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mari Young

000275

ORAL TESTIMONY
ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO
ALAN BERMENSOLO

GE-1 GOOD EVENING ~~LADIES AND GENTLEMEN~~ Col.,

MY NAME IS ALAN BERMENSOLO. I AM A RESIDENT OF MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO. I'VE LIVED HERE FOR 39 YEARS.

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE AIR FORCE FOR THE WORK THEY HAVE DONE AND THE TIME THEY HAVE SPENT IN LISTENING TO, AND ADDRESSING THE CONCERNS OF ***ALL*** THE CITIZENS OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY DURING THE SCOPING PROCESS THAT BEGAN IN JANUARY 1996. THE SCOPING MEETINGS YOU HELD IN JUNE AND JULY OF LAST YEAR HELPED SHAPE THE ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO ALTERNATIVES AND EVEN PRODUCED AN ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVE THAT MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED. CONGRATULATIONS FOR LISTENING AND MITIGATING BY AVOIDANCE AS WELL

000275

AS MITIGATING BY DESIGN AS YOU ASSEMBLED EACH OF THE ~~FOUR~~ 3 ALTERNATIVIES.

THE TESTIMONY I OFFER IS ON TWO ~~PARTICULAR~~ ISSUES.

NUMBER ONE: I AM A MULTI-ENGINE, INSTRUMENT RATED, PRIVATE PILOT. I TRAVEL OFTEN ON BUSINESS TO NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. MY ROUTES OF FLIGHT TAKE ME THROUGH THE OWYHEE AND PARADISE M O As. THERE IS RUMOR, FALSE INFORMATION, THAT MODIFYING AND\OR ADDING TO THOSE M O As WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ~~PRIVATE~~ GENERAL AVIATION AND SMALL AIRCRAFT. THOSE THAT KNOW THE FACTS REALIZE THAT A MODIFICATION OF THE M O A's HAS *NO NEGATIVE IMPACT.* PERSONALLY, I WOULD RATHER FLY THROUGH AN ACTIVE M O A, UTILIZING THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM PROVIDED BY SALT LAKE CENTER, OR MOUNTAIN HOME APPROACH CONTROL, WHO WILL PROVIDE VFR FLIGHT FOLLOWING, THAN THROUGH UNCONTROLLED AIRSPACE IN VFR CONDITIONS.

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NUMBER TWO: I AM AN AVID UPLAND BIRD HUNTER. I HAVE HUNTED SAGE GROUSE AND CHUCKAR PARTRIDGE THROUGHOUT THE OWYHEE CANYON LANDS INCLUDING THE JARBIDGE AND BRUNEAU RIVERS, MARY'S CREEK, JACK'S CREEK, DICKSHOOTER CREEK, YATAHONEY CREEK, BATTLE CREEK, AND ALL FORKS OF THE OWYHEE RIVER SINCE 1982. I HAVE SEEN LOW FLYING F-111's, F-4's, F-15s, AND F-16's. I HAVE SEEN CHUCKAR, SAGE GROUSE, WILD HORSES, ANTELOPE, DEER, COYOTES, CATTLE, RATTLE SNAKES, *AND* CALIFORNIA BIG HORN SHEEP, *COEXISTING AND GETTING ALONG JUST FINE* WITH ~~LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT~~. MILITARY AIRCRAFT ON LOW LEVEL TRAINING ROUTES AS LOW AS 500 FEET AGL.

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1995 WHILE HUNTING CHUCKAR AT THE CONFLUENCE OF BATTLE CREEK AND THE OWYHEE RIVER, I SPOTTED THREE CALIFORNIA BIG HORNS ON THE WEST CANYON WALL OF BATTLE CREEK. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, A FLIGHT OF TWO F-4s CROSSED OVERHEAD BETWEEN 500

000275

AND 1000 FEET AGL. THE BIGHORN'S DIDN'T MOVE. THEY DIDN'T EVEN TURN THEIR HEADS. THEY WERE NOT BOTHERED BY THE LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT. THEY STARTLED AND SCURIED UP THE WALL ONLY AFTER I EMPTIED MY TWELVE GUAGE SHOTGUN ON A COVEY OF FAST MOVING CHUCKAR~~PARTRIDGE~~.

I CONTEND AND BELIEVE THAT *HUNTING PRESSURE*, EITHER FOR BIG GAME OR FOR BIRDS, AND MANS PRESENCE IN GENERAL, HAS *A MUCH MORE DETRIMENTAL* IMPACT ON THE CALIFORNIA BIG HORN SHEEP POPULATION THAN DO AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT LOW LEVEL FLIGHTS OVER THE OWYHEE CANYON LANDS.

I SUPPORT THE AIR FORCE'S ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO PROPOSAL. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY.

ALAN T. BERMENSOLO
P.O. BOX 12
455 EAST 18TH NORTH
MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO 83647
208 587 3558

000276

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, Id

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6/12/97

GE-1 Of Course this is NO!! AGAINST 100%!! We been out in this beautiful country I heard & watched the impact on the Animals/wildlife of just a hint of roaring planes flying by. NOT only was this place here before us it should be there after us. We don't need this, Stay Away! Let the animals roam IN PEACE!

STAY away!

*** Please Print ***

Name: Christa Smith

Address: 5101 Blue Jay Loop Nampa Id 83687
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U S Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000277

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise Idaho

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6/12/97

GE-1 This training range is unneeded & unwanted & the Air Force knows this but is trying to wear the opposition down. For the 3rd time I will tell NO I don't want this bombing range. The EIS is so full of flaws & rhetoric. I do not believe anything that is printed from the Air Force. I myself have been out in the Owyhee River Canyon & seen for myself (& most definitely HEARD) your planes dogfighting in the canyons & dropping chaff in an area (#6) that this is not supposed to be happening in. And you expect me to believe anything the Air Force says. I think NOT! Do us all a favor & drop & forget this unwanted bombing range.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Nancy Holton

Address: 4708 Richardson (Street Address) Boise ID 83705 (City/State/Zip Code)

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000278

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, ID

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6/12/97

GE-1 E.I.S.? --- E-I-E-I-O!

Hats over it guys. This is getting old & annoying! Perhaps your plan is headed to the Bush of no return. Please terminate now the wasting of the taxpayers time & money for something that just doesn't fly.

No pun intended.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Teresa Riggs

Address: 1615 Poplar 00 (Street Address) Boise, Id. 83704 (City/State/Zip Code)

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000279

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6-12-97

GE-1 I'M HERE "AGAIN", AND STILL WONDERING WHAT PART OF NO YOU PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND.

*** Please Print ***

Name: MIKE HOLTOM

Address: 6515 POPLAR ST. (Street Address) BOISE ID 83704 (City/State/Zip Code)

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000280

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, Idaho

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 12, 1997

GE-1 Am opposed to any Additions West of Saylor Creek range & west of Grasmere Highway

Used to fly in B-24's over all this country and am not opposed to the Air Forces, But am opposed to any addition to the Air Space in the Owyhees.

They have enough ranges in Nevada, Utah, California they can fly to. Cross they think it is a done deal but will have a lot of hard feelings if they go thru with it.

Leave the Indians alone!!!!!!

*** Please Print ***

Name: Norma L. Holton

Address: 6511 Holiday Drive (Street Address) Boise, Idaho 83709 (City/State/Zip Code)
Boise, Idaho 83709

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000281

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise Idaho BSU

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 12, 1997

GE-1 I am against the Bombing Range. I'm sure it will do damage to the environment and also the wild sheep population. The sheep have their own habitat which will be ruined by the noise of the planes. The wildlife will be running forever every time planes appear.

Also my husband & I own A Taxidermy business in Boise, and it certainly will hurt our business.

This is the third time I have voted against this issue. We think it's solved and the AirForce keeps bringing it to the surface again.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Jeanne A. Ulshafer

Address: 10250 Ustick Rd Boise, Id 83704
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000282

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise Idaho BSU

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 06-12-97

GE-1 I want to say that I very much am opposed to any bombing range in the Owyhee Area.

This continued practice (Bombing & Low fly ones) has depleted my income as a taxidermist here in Boise, Idaho.

I don't see the Air Force compensating me for my loss of income due to the stress made on all of the big game (antelope, deer & Col. Bighorn Sheep) and lessening of game by my clients to harvest.

Go elsewhere, preferably out of State. We need less government in this state not more and we need our wild lands!... not low flying stress on humans & wildlife.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Bob Ulshafer

Address: 10250 USTICK RD. BOISE, Idaho 83704
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000283

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, Id

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6-12-97

GE-1 No Training Ranges Needed.

This Only Part Of A Huge Land Grab By The AirForce In All Of The Western States.

The Cold War Is Over, In Case You Haven't Heard.

There Is No Need For This Land.

The Air Force Should Be Cutting Back, Not Expanding.

I Feel The Air Force Should Be Paying The State Of Idaho For The Loss Of Wild Sheep That Has Occurred In The Last 3 Years Alone (Approx 1000 Sheep The Stress From Jet Traffic & Noise Has Caused To Die Of Death.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Rachel McClintock

Address: 4984 Chinden Blvd, Boise, Id 83714
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000284

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, ID.

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Date: 6/12/97

GE-1 As past president of the Idaho Bird Hunters, Inc. our Group has voted to oppose this bombing range. Our mission is to enhance and perpetuate upland game birds in Idaho. Your proposals will impact gamebirds. The Sage Grouse in particular is in declining numbers and does not need the human intrusion and potential loss of habitat due to fire. The airspace in Nevada and Utah is vast and the Air Force has not demonstrated a true need for this proposal there is just to many negative impacts to Owyhee County! Fires, habitat loss, human intrusion, wildlife loss, impact to proposed wilderness areas, Native American disturbance, and the fact the Air Force has a negative history of lieing with the public at their Nevada sites.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Winston Sanders

Address: 1810 Courtney Boise ID. 83705
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000285

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: BSU.

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6/12/97

GE-1 Briefly, I can understand why the USAF wants this to continue. It keeps them busy on many levels. However I believe the Owyhee Area is more important as a wilderness for people to experience. The Owyhee is a biologically diverse eco-wonderland. I know this for a fact having recently spent many days on the S. Fork & East Fork of the Owyhee River. If the USA were threatened by any country in the world right now I could possibly justify this training, but we're not so let's summarize and say NO!

*** Please Print ***

Name: Barry Heidt

Address: I'm moving and presently don't have an address - for now
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000286

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, Idaho

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 12, 97

GE-1 I mostly am concerned with the health of my family who lives on the Duck Valley Resovation. I'm also concerned with the safety of animal and children in the Duck Valley ~~Resav~~ Resorvation

*** Please Print ***

Name: Leigh Escalanti

Address: HC34-470-9 Elko, NV 89801
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000287

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, Idaho

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 12, 1997

GE-1 My suggestion would be to utilize the (Alternative D) Juniper Butte area. I live on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation & enjoy the peaceful community. Many would say that the sonic booms (shaking, rattling, glass breaking, etc) are not that bad, that they are exaggerated. They are not.
Please leave the Canyonlands alone, & consider alternative D.
Thank you.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Yvonne B. Stewart

Address: Hwy 225, P.O. Box 857, Owyhee, NV 89832
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000288

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 12 97

GE-1 I some feel as a Peace Officer the Alternative 8B could best be served. One: As possibly a deterrant to the growing Drug Problem that exist now on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.
two: I'd rather see it (Alternative B) here than elsewhere such as Montana.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Donald Stewart

Address: PO Box # 257 Owyhee NV 89832
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000289

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise - BSU

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6/12/97

GE-1 I strongly object to extending the bombing ranges for 3 reasons

1- I dont see how we can speak of peace & prepare for war.

2. Extension of low-level flights impinges on people - mostly Indian families.

3. It would be a desecration of nature - endangered species and grasslands. The noise would be unbearable.

*** Please Print ***

Name: JAYNE L JONES

Address: 1958 Wood Duck Dr Boise - 83706
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000290

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management 7 Jun 97
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the opportunity to review the draft EIS for the proposed Weapons Delivery and Electronic Warfare Range, referred to as "Enhanced Training Idaho." Having done so I have prepared a number of comments (enclosed) that I would like considered as part of the review process and made a part of the official record. I would also like my vote for Alternative "A" be recorded.

Sincerely;

James Olson
3231 Waterwheel Rd
Emmett, Idaho 83617

000290

Draft EIS Enhanced Training Idaho
Comments

1. In spite of overwhelming public opposition to past training range expansion efforts and Department of Defense Inspector General reports in both 1993 and 1995 confirming existing training ranges are adequate to meet training needs of Mountain Home and stipulating a new range would be redundant, the Air Force seems to have blatantly gone on to develop ETI. It has been reported that the Air Force has not complied with a legal ruling handed down by Federal Judge Edward Lodge in May 1995 regarding conducting a combined EIS. Such willful disregard of the public's wishes, the DOD Inspector General and a Federal Judge seems to be at least dereliction of duty on the part of those responsible.

PN-1 PN-14 Recommendation: Before any further action is taken to pursue ETI the Secretary of the Air Force should document a "need" for ETI with the DOD and explain to Idaho's citizenry why their wishes as well as those of the Department of Defense Inspector General and a Federal Judge have been disregarded.

PN-8 2. The draft EIS indicates one reason for ETI is due to range scheduling problems at other ranges. This was the same ruse contained in the previous Idaho Training Range(ITR) proposal. The DOD audit report of the ITR proposal mentioned above indicated no scheduling conflicts could be documented. Also, management responsibility for the UTTR was transferred to the Air Combat Command in 1995 reducing the possibility of scheduling conflicts.

Recommendation: Unless the Air Force can provide documentation to substantiate the allegations, recommend they be deleted from the EIS.

PR-19 3. The draft EIS infers another reason for ETI is due to the long distances to distant ranges(page 1-40). The same DOD audit indicated the Air Force estimates of distant flight times was overstated by about 30 minutes. Inflated estimates have been included in the latest ETI proposal. There seems to be somewhat of a paradox in regard to the statements about distant ranges being too far to enable required training. During the Gulf War one of the first strikes by F16 aircraft was about 3 hours duration, included in

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flight refueling operations, and knocked out 10 SAM sites. If the 366th is sincere about wanting to train the way they expect to fight, perhaps they should place more emphasis on long range flying to distant ranges. It would seem recent combat experience has shown that to be a realistic scenario.

Recommendations:
a. That a correlation be made between the projected flight times and sorties to distant ranges contained in the draft EIS versus the number of training flying hours allocated to the 366th Wing by aircraft.
b. That a similar comparison be made for local sorties by aircraft for SCR versus the new range proposals.

4. Page 1-16 indicates ETI will ensure protection of the environment and cultural resources. Since the ETI will result in such things as new MOA's that will result in new(pg 4-215) low altitude high speed flights over Wilderness Study Areas, Bighorn Sheep, constructing or improving 77-80 miles of roads, installation of powerlines, construction of Emitter sites and Drop and No Drop Zones, etc., etc., etc, an explanation seems only fitting.

DP-36 Recommendation: That an explanation be furnished as to how the ETI could possibly ensure protection of the environment and cultural resources when so many ground disturbance operations will be undertaken. The fact that some sites were not chosen seems irrelevant.

5. On page 1-20 there is an indication that "a realistic training environment includes the ability to practice a wide variety of ordnance deliveries...." The 12,000 acre proposed training target under Alternatives B, C and D will only allow use of 25 pound practice bombs.

PN-10 Recommendation: That the Air Force explain how it expects to accomplish the required realistic training under any ETI alternatives. Is there a classified plan to use live ordnance at a future date?

6. On page 1-21 there is mention of building No Drop Targets including grain silos and agricultural buildings. Page 4-207 includes remarks indicating the 12,000 acre range site would resemble a large ranching operation or small commercial/industrial area.

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DP-15 Recommendation: That the Air Force explain why it plans to build a target range that resembles agricultural and ranching operations. Are they the sort of targets the Air Force trains to attack?

7. Page 1-22 states realistic training must include simulation of SAM's and AAA sites. Smokey SAM's and the AAA Visual Cueing Systems are routinely used for that purpose. The draft EIS indicates "fireworks type aerial charges(e.g. Smokey surface-to-air missiles(SAMs) are stored in a small metal building" at SCR.

DP-16 Recommendation: That an explanation be furnished regarding the use of these devices including whether they will be used as part of ETI? If not, recommend an explanation be furnished as to how realistic training will be obtained without their use?

8. Page 1-8 includes some quotes regarding the importance of Composite Wings to help explain the importance of the 366th Wing. The other two other Composite Wings at Pope AFB and Moody AFB are now being disbanded, therefore the significance of the composite wing concept may have been overstated.

PN-11 Recommendation: Since two of the three composite wings are being disbanded, request clarification be furnished in regard to the overall importance of composite wings.

PN-12 9. Page 1-38 includes remarks about the loss of training time flying to southern training ranges. The Table on page 1-39 attempts to show comparisons of flight times based on a computer model that seem highly suspect. For example, page 4-215 indicates an F16 traveling an average speed of 480 KTAS would travel 9.2 miles in one minute. A quick calculation easily shows it would only take 20 minutes to get to South UTTR and back. Thus, the indication that without refueling on a 1 hr and 39 minute flight, combat training time would only be 14 minutes seems patently misleading. I suspect all the training times in Table 1-39 are way out of order. Such disparity would confirm past findings of the DOD IG who reported "five of six average flight profile durations in the analysis were overstated by about 30 minutes."

Recommendation: That the Air Force recalculate flight times from Mountain Home to distant ranges so as to be credible.

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10. Page 1-41 includes remarks that "the narrow gap between the Reservation and the MOA...can be effectively used only to transit from one MOA to another." Such a remark seems to be highly misleading in that the distance is actually about 15NMs. Since alternative D includes adding about 2NMs to the east edge of an existing MOA to provide adequate airspace to approach the new target from the east it seems absurd for the Air Force to call 15NMs a "narrow gap."

PN-13 Recommendation: That the comments regarding the 15NM space between the Reservation and the MOA be changed to more correctly define the true situation.

DP-34 11. Page 1-48 addresses National Guard Helicopter operations as being beyond the scope of this EIS. Since the helicopter operations involve both the existing SCR and the Triangle Training Area in the Owyhee Mountains, believe it would be illegal for the Air Force to not include the helicopter operations as part of the ETI EIS under the NEPA process. The fact that National Guard A10 and C130 aircraft are included but not helicopters makes no sense.

Recommendation: That the Air Force reconsider their prior decision and expand the ETI EIS to include the National Guard helicopter operations.

DP-18 12. Page 1-49 indicates that a report on water requirements was unnecessary since the Air Force proposes to use no water from the lands. Believe such a decision may have been premature since elsewhere in the EIS plans are to construct a sewage treatment plant(page 2-44) and to store 50,000 gallons of non-potable water(page 2-47) to support range maintenance operations. I find it hard to believe that the Air Force would plan on building a multimillion dollar training range and not have an on site source of drinking water for the troops.

Recommendation: That the Air Force revisit the water issue to determine where the troops will get drinking water.

13. Page 2-16 indicates training schedules will be Monday through Friday 260 days a year. It further indicates about 85 percent will be done between 9AM and 4PM; 9-11 percent between 4-10PM and the remaining 4-6 percent after 10PM. The National Guard A10 and C130's will train on weekends about two times a month. Recognizing

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the importance of training the way they plan on fighting it does not seem to be very realistic to conduct the bulk of training during normal business hours. Based on the stated training schedule one can easily conclude there certainly is no need for an expanded training range to support the A10 and C130 operations.

DP-19 Recommendation: That the Air Force make it perfectly clear the ETI is not needed to support Idaho National Guard A10 and C130 operations.

14. Page 2-72 indicates plans are to drop an estimated 25,243 flares and 48,896 Chaff bundles per year on the training range. As a minimum the end caps from the flares and up to 3 million aluminum coated fibers from each chaff bundle will ultimately float to the ground.

LU-16 Recommendation: That a determination be made if the release of such material onto public and private lands violates private property rights, BLM litter restrictions and Idaho's litter laws. If the answer is found to be yes to any of the above, recommend the planned use of flares and chaff be deleted from the proposal.

15. Page 2-19 indicates flare release "altitude restrictions provide considerable buffer against inadvertent low releases that might result in burning material contacting the ground." Page 3-24 indicates use of flares "constitutes minimal risk." Page 3-34 indicates under "normal circumstances no burning material comes in contact with anything on the ground."

SF-9 Recommendation: That an explanation as to what constitutes a "considerable buffer" be included and clarify what is meant by "minimal risk." Would also like to know if there is any history of flares starting fires when dropped over training ranges in Idaho or elsewhere since I suspect they would represent the other than normal circumstances.

16. Pages 2-20 and 2-21 address the number of sorties the 366th flies to distant ranges including 1500 to Nellis, 300 to Fallon and 700 to UTTR plus about another 10,000 local for a total of about 12,500. Reports of flying hours allocated to Mountain Home for training was 23,470. Thus, one could estimate that each sortie would average about 2 hours. The fact that the 366th has had so

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many aircraft deployed overseas in itself negates any need for an expanded local training range.

PN-9 Recommendation: Since flying hours allocated to the 366th are the controlling factor, recommend a cost analysis be conducted that would identify the cost of ETI, including the EIS, versus each planned sortie.

DP-21 17. Page 2-34 indicates the Air force plans to compensate grazing permittees with money or in kind compensation which could include acquisition of private lands.

Recommendation: That this entire matter be fully explained in regard to the amount of money involved and precisely what private lands are involved.

18. Page 2-34 indicates 95 percent of the 25 pound practice bombs are expected to drop within the 300 foot drop target within the 12,000 acre range. Since plans are to drop 6,364 bombs, the 5 percent that can be expected to fall outside the drop zone(page 2-72) is 320. Since cattle will be allowed to range inside the 12,000 acre area but outside the 300 foot zone, I suspect some may be hit by bombs.

DP-22 Recommendation: That an analysis be made to figure out how many head of cattle can be expected to be hit by practice bombs in the 12,000 foot area on an annual basis. Also, the Air Force should explain if and how it intends to compensate ranchers for livestock losses.

19. Page 2-40 addresses the planned use of heaters and propane tanks, up to 2,000 gallons, at several No Drop Zones and elsewhere as part of the ETI. The EIS makes no mention as to who will fill these tanks or how these potential sources for fire hazards will be accommodated other than to say adherence of hazardous material storage and use would be monitored....(page 4-54).

SF-13 Recommendation: Due to the extreme concerns for fire in the open range it seems reasonable to recommend that details surrounding the planned storage and use of propane and all other hazardous materials be explained in depth not merely that they will be monitored.

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20. Page 2-44 describes the planned use of a three strand fence, 2 strands of barbed wire and one smooth on the bottom. The fence is referred to as a "wildlife fence." Since antelope are known to not go over or under fences, it is unclear if studies have been done with the fence in question to see if antelope will indeed go over or under it.

BI-11 Recommendation: That documentation be furnished to support that antelope will go over or under the type of fence described.

21. Page 2-46 addresses concerns about theft and vandalism. Since all the range facilities will be in rather remote areas of Owyhee

DP-23 County, will the Air Force expect the Owyhee County Sheriff to provide service for the new range operations?

Recommendation: That this matter be addressed as part of the EIS process so the Owyhee County residents will know in advance how much of their Sheriff's time will be spent in support of the Air Force operations.

22. Page 2-47 indicates one 1200 gallon fire truck and two pick up trucks with 200 gallon slip on tanks will be available to support fire suppression. It goes on to indicate all maintenance personnel will be qualified in fire suppression duties. Recognizing the remoteness of the range operations it seems the fire suppression planning is rather laissez-faire. Residents of Kuna found out just how severe range fires can be only a couple of years ago. The EIS even refers to range fires that can burn several hundred acres an hour(page 3-90).

DP-24 Recommendation: That the extent of fire training required to combat range fires be determined with the BLM and that the Air Force agree that all personnel performing range maintenance operations receive such training before being allowed on the range. The adequacy of the planned fire fighting equipment should also be reevaluated.

23. Page 2-54 indicates roads will not be used when weather conditions do not permit travel. In this era of 4 wheel drive vehicles travel over back roads can be done during some of the most messy road conditions. Therefore believe such a generalization could be subject to interpretation to include even the worst of conditions so long as a person had a 4 wheel drive vehicle. Should traffic be stopped after a half inch of rain, one inch, or what? Since road maintenance agreements are still pending believe this could be a significant issue.

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DP-38 Recommendation: That the Air Force qualify what it means by "when weather conditions do not permit travel."

24. Page 2-65 thru 2-68 addresses planned sorties/sortie operations both local and at distant ranges with an inference that some would be reduced radically, Nellis down 684, UTTR down 389, Fallon down 131. Since such reductions would obviously have an impact on the distant range operations it would be interesting to know if the distant ranges are aware of the planned reductions. What sort of impact will the reductions have on their keeping their training ranges viable. It could be they might be trying to justify range expansions similar to ETI based on their support of the 366th. We certainly would not want that to happen would we?

DP-45 Recommendation: That the Air Force stipulate if the planned reduction in 366th sorties to distant ranges have been coordinated with those responsible and identify what the impact will be on the distant range operations.

25. Page 2-72 mentions what to do with regard to hung ordnance but nowhere does the EIS address the inadvertent release of ordnance. It would seem that inadvertent release of BDU-33 and similar 25 pound practice bombs with their explosive cartridges has been overlooked in the draft EIS.

SF-5 Recommendations: That the Air Force specify what sort of reporting and investigation, if any, is required when ordnance, including practice bombs, are inadvertently released from aircraft. Also recommend the Air Force identify the number of inadvertent releases of ordnance from the types of aircraft involved in the ETI for the past five years. Since the public is being asked to support the ETI proposals it seems reasonable that the public be furnished such information.

26. Page 2-74 mentions Laser targeting and the need to certify what hazard control measures will be required. On page 3-27 some restrictions for Laser operations are mentioned including use around reflective materials including water and ice. Based on some of the materials being planned for use as part of the construction effort it would seem that there has been no consideration given to the use of Lasers. It's as though the use of lasers as part of ETI is addressed

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without any coordination with regard to construction of building with reflective material.

SF-6 Recommendation: That the planned use of Lasers be reevaluated against planned construction materials so as to minimize restrictions should ETI go forward. Recommend the Laser certification be an integral part of the range development proposal not after the fact which seems to be the current practice.

27. Page 2-75 indicates grazing permits issued by the BLM and the State of Idaho would be terminated. Since the State Land Board and Idaho State Law restrict awarding grazing leases to ranchers, it is unclear how state grazing leases will be taken away from the current permittees. The Land Board does not allow environmental groups to obtain grazing leases to improve habitat and increase the financial return to the school endowment fund. Therefore it will be interesting to see how they can possibly take a grazing permit away

DP-39 from a rancher to build a bombing range. Since the Land Board members are independent elected officials, the Governor does not have the authority to guarantee the Air Force that state grazing leases will be taken away from current permittees for a bombing range.

Recommendation: That before moving forward with the EIS process, the Air Force should meet with the Land Board at a scheduled public meeting to discuss the issue to find out if they will agree to take grazing permits away from the current permittees for the new bombing range.

28. Page 2-75 also indicates the Air Force will determine what grazing levels will be compatible with Air Force operations.

DP-25 Recommendations: That the Air Force specify what those grazing levels will be. Also define what fees will be charged. Should the Air Force elect to not allow livestock grazing, recommend the fenced in areas be used as exclosures to monitor variations in habitat between grazed and ungrazed range.

29. Page 2-94 indicates around 18 personnel will be needed to operate the new range. With the ongoing budget concerns and manpower reductions it seems strange the 366th can come up with 18 people to operate the new range. It seems questionable the Air

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Force could support such a vast array of range facilities with only 18 people.

DP-26 Recommendation: That the Air Force identify where the manpower will come from in the EIS. Since the viability of range operations will be predicated on proper manning it seems reasonable to expect the Air Force to explain to the public where they will get the people to run the range including costs.

30. Page 2-76 indicates construction of the new range could take three to four years. Based on the recent decision to deactivate the only other two Composite Wings in the Air Force, the EIS doesn't

DP-27 mention what will happen if the 366th is also deactivated at some later date.

Recommendation: That the Air Force indicate if they would still go forward with ETI if the 366th Composite Wing were disbanded since any possible justification to continue would go away.

31. Page 2-95 mentions a Battle Lab being assigned to Mountain Home AFB. Since it is referred to in the EIS it seems only appropriate that details regarding how this new lab came about

DP-28 including funding, manpower, etc. The draft EIS was unclear if the lab is being created as part of ETI.

Recommendation: That the Air Force explain the Battle Lab including an explanation as to how it evolved, funding, manning, etc.

32. Pages 3-13 mentions civil aviation and some controls in place to prevent mishaps including VFR, military flight restrictions for two miles on either side of Hwy 51, which is under part of the Owyhee MOA, etc. Page 3-14 indicates procedures have "generally been effective in accommodating the BLM and IDFG flights." The term "generally" infers that everything does not always go smoothly. Also mentioned is the fact that a number of ranchers and private aircraft owners operate out of Grasmere, Owyhee and Riddle airfields. It would seem, with the planned expanded MOA's and increase in high speed sortie-operations, the potential for a mishap will increase significantly. I recall just last winter hearing about an Animal Damage Control flight in the area that caused a problem. The EIS doesn't really address this issue.

AU-6 Recommendation: That the Air Force conduct a definitive analysis as to the potential increase for an accident involving civilian aircraft in all areas where airspace use by the military will be increased or expanded under ETI and report the findings in the final EIS.

33. Page 3-35 identifies the CXU-3A/B Cold Smoke Cartridges to be used at the new ETI ranges. Considerable effort has been made throughout the EIS to emphasize that the cartridges only produce smoke.

HZ-2 Recommendations: That the Air Force make the Hazardous Component Safety Data Statements for the Cold Smoke Cartridge an integral part of the EIS so that the public can see for themselves what the hazards of the cartridges really are. Also provide data with regard to the CXU-3A/B Cartridges not functioning properly and any reports of the cartridges causing any fires.

34. Page 3-42 makes no mention of the 30MM ammunition used by A10 aircraft at SCR.

HZ-1 Recommendation: That information regarding the 30MM ammunition be added to the final EIS.

DP-37 35. Page 3-70 mentions that water pipelines traverse the proposed Clover Butte and Juniper Butte sites. However, no mention is made as to how the range development or bombing will impact the water pipelines.

Recommendations: That the Air Force provide an explanation as to how the pipelines will be accommodated if ETI is approved.

BI-12 36. Pages 3-155 and 3-156 indicate that plans are to conduct mule deer and antelope surveys during the winter of 1997 in the Clover Butte, Grasmere and Juniper Butte areas plus the no drop targets and emitter sites. The purpose will be to determine the animal's winter populations. Page 3-153 indicates under ROI Three, "the wintering area for the herd of nearly 6,000 pronghorn is unknown." Since the wildlife populations are not known it seems unconcionable anyone would state the impact on wildlife would be "negligible or low" as done in the draft EIS under Biological Resources 4.8.

Recommendation: That the Air Force refrain from making any decision to go forward with ETI until such time adequate wildlife

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surveys, including Sagegrouse, have been conducted and the results made available to both the Idaho Fish and Game and the public for review and comment.

37. Page 3-246 indicates that 1991 recreational use in just the Jarbridge MOA was 22,500 people. Estimates regarding recreational use for the entire area impacted by ETI were not given. Estimates used in the previous Air Force bombing range proposal for portions of the Owyhee MOA was 18,807 from the same BSU 1991 survey. Thus, using 1991 data for just part of the area revealed 41,000 people. Since Idaho's population has grown by leaps and bounds since 1991 current figures would be significantly higher. It seems unjustifiable for the Air Force to pursue building a new bombing range without obtaining current viable data regarding recreational use. The fact that the population of Ada and Canyon counties has virtually been exploding the past few years should be of concern to the Air Force regarding their latest range expansion proposals. Even the Idaho Department of Commerce has indicated tourism is the number 3 industry in the state and recreation reflects the trend(page 3-252).

RV-2 Recommendation: That the Air Force obtain current viable data regarding numbers of people using the areas affected by ETI and reconsider the impact ETI will have on the general public.

SO-1 38. Page 3-287, Table 3.12-18 reflects Controlled Hunt information for Management Units 41 and 46 for 1995, however the data is incomplete in that no data are furnished for the General mule deer hunts held in the same Units. Thus any attempt to use the financial data is misleading.

Recommendation: That the Air Force obtain complete data if they intend to use it as a basis for making socioeconomic decisions.

BI-14 39. Page 4-112 indicates a study is underway to determine the noise impacts on Bighorn sheep. It has been reported separately the study has been completed and that the Air Force has misled the public by not releasing data that would show a significant noise impact on a herd of bighorn sheep.

Recommendations:
a. That the Air Force release the true study results regardless of whether they support their range proposals.

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b. Also recommend an investigation be made into whether there has been a willful attempt to mislead the public and that the persons responsible be punished accordingly.

40. Page 4-154 indicates under cumulative effects that "the long-term effects of overflight noise on wildlife populations are largely unknown." Based on this statement it would seem only prudent that the Air Force, as part of its Good Neighbor campaign, would terminate all further consideration of ETI until such time this required data is obtained.

BI-15 Recommendation: That either ETI be terminated or a decision to move forward be held in abeyance until such time the long term effects of overhead noise on wildlife caused by military aircraft can be determined.

41. Page 4-191 addresses the management policies for WSA's and states in part that "the noise levels and associated aircraft overflights effects are temporary and reversible by nature, leaving no permanent evidence of human use. Therefore, the proposed action should not conflict with nonimpairement management policies." With such a gobble-de-gook statement it should surprise no-one if the Air Force decided to fly Mark 2 over a hospital quiet zone. I say there is something wrong.

Recommendation: That the Air Force reevaluate the above quoted comments and consider writing something that makes sense to the average person.

42. Page 3-27 addresses how range operations at SCR are sometimes curtailed during periods of high fire risk. Since similiar risks will exist at the new range, without benefit of all the fire breaks, it seems reasonable to try and determine how frequently operations might be impacted at the new range by the severe threat of fires.

SF-8 Recommendation: That the Air Force identify the number of times SCR has been closed down due to severe fire risks over the past several years.

43. Except for the identification of a few weeds as part of the biological inventory, the EIS is virtually silent in regard to the spread and control of weeds throughout the entire ETI area. With the amount of planned construction including road building, power lines

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and frequent vehicle travel by range personnel, believe the EIS is deficient in regard to potential for weed distribution and control measures which is a major concern throughout Idaho.

BI-16 Recommendation: That the Air Force expand the EIS to address the weed control issue and explain how they plan on controlling the spread of weeds and if they intend to provide long term financial support to Owyhee County's weed control agency.

44. The issue of noise is a central concern with regard to ETI. Noise pollution is a growing concern and it seems needlessly deceptive for the Air Force to say that noise will not be a significant impact to either man or beast. That by averaging noise out over 24 hours and saying the number of sorties will decrease thereby further reducing the noise is sheer nonsense. It is my understanding the noise analysis used in the EIS is flawed in regard to the noise issue. The enclosed guide prepared by retired Air Force Colonel, Dr William J. Weida identifies the shortcomings.

NO-15 Recommendation: That the Air Force stop trying to mislead the public and be candid and honest enough to just say "there will be one hell of a lot of noise that most everyone will find annoying." Suspecting the Air Force will not do so, recommend the Air Force either reaccomplish the noise analysis in the EIS using Dr Weida's guidance or attempt to refute the points made by Dr Weida in his guide.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Everton First Name: Clyde and Frances
Address: 5720 Becliffe Court
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83704

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

Enter your comments below:

GE-2 Our experience with the Air Force and the Air National Guard in the State of Oregon has been that the personnel do not always abide by the regulations which specify the altitude at which the aircraft are to fly. As a consequence innocent persons have been seriously injured by animals "spooked" by low-flying aircraft. And at last report nothing has ever been done to compensate the injured parties

BI-17 This is an instance of domestic animals adversely affected by low-flying aircraft because human beings were involved. How is it possible to measure the adverse affects that low-flying aircraft have on wild animals? It is extremely important if the human race is to survive that a balance of the flora and fauna is maintained. We know that much of our natural habitat has been disturbed and destroyed by greed.

As an arm of our government it seems that the Air Force should be aware of its responsibility to preserve our open space and natural habit. The so-called enhancement of the Mountain Home Air Force Base training range in my opinion is destruction of our natural habitat and open space rather than preservation.

DP-30 It is well and good to have regulations that specify certain restrictions, but what process is in place to control or punish personnel who do not abide by the regulations? The Air Force has been much in the news lately because the commanding officer's orders have not been followed. How can we be sure that the commanding officer's orders be obeyed in a training range maneuver?

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We are convinced that no addition should be made to the present training range at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

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Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Meyr First Name: Herbert
Address: 570 E 16th N
City:Mountain Home State: ID Zip: 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
President of Idaho Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and on the board of the Idaho wildlife council. Retired Lt Col of USAF.

Enter your comments below:

GE-2 The first subject is the F-111 history of MHAFB.

1. Most low level training in F-111 was done on low level routes not in the MOA. The Owhyee MOA was divided into Owhyee low and high in the late 1970's. The majority of the F-111 sorties were flown in Owhyee Hi at 10,000 feet MSL and above.

AU-3 The elimination of MTR VR 1301 and VR 1302 Route segments was really no change. The Owhyee low lead aircraft use the entire MOA in route to Saylor Creek Range.

2. Page 1-21 no drop targets there is no description of simulated weapon deliveries DP-40 i.e. minimum altitude, air speed, and noise ect. Page 1-39 The majority of time expended over use of the ETI is just the return flight time from the UTTR.
3. Supersonic flight was not part of the defense base closure and realignment commission recommendations.
4. Page 2-49: Emitter sites - BI, AV, AQ, BD, AU, AI, AF, AG, should not be used in the winter or spring due to conflicts with sage grouse. Also, ND-5, ND-4, ND-7, and ND-8 are in critical sage grouse habitat or next to it and should not be BI-18 constructed at all. Doing any of the above violates the Idaho sage grouse recovery plan.

AU-4 5. Restricted areas are needed around no drop targets for civilian pilots DP-46 identification. The no drop targets at Grassmeir present a flight safety hazard and concentrate the noise over a sensitive wildlife area.

BI-19 6. MOA modifications - The expansion of Jacks Creeks is not covered in the RV-3 environmental analysis no biological recreational or other evaluation has been done. See Attachment 1 Jacks Creek Wilderness.

DP-35 7. Page 2-67. Composite wing training 30-40 aircraft exercises will increase from 21 to 41 per year. The DEIS does not evaluate the effects of such an exercise

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over the on e to two hour period. It is not correct to average the noise of 24 hrs and supersonic bombs over 1 yr. It is also wrong to average the sorties over 1 yr (260 flying days) See page 2-67.

DP-32 8. Page 2-72. What type of weapons deliveries will be done on the 12,000 acre bombing range? If 5 percent of the bombs (320) will fall outside the 300 acre impact site how will the cattle raise the area?

SF-3 9. Page 2-72. Title: Chaff Flares - The people at Duck Valley are being deceived. Chaff use will increase 30 to 55 percent west of Duck Valley and with the prevailing winds the chaff will end up on the reservation.

SF-6 10. Page 2-74. Laser Activity - The 12,000 acre target area is to small to safely use the combat mode of laser operations according to many document on the subject. It also will not be compatible with the promised grazing operations.

BI-20 11. Page 2-78. The ETI Proposal violates the mitigation measure in the table to 2-3-16 for wildlife especially sage grouse and also for the 640 acre no drop site next to the Bruneau Canyon.

DP-46 12. Page 2-80. Table 2-13-16 #10. Expanding the MOA just moves the disturbance over more critical wildlife habitat (big horn sheep) and the Jacks Creek Wilderness study area see Attachment 1.

BI-55 13. Page 3-82. Just because no drop (ND-8) and the emitter sites BK and AU are already developed it is not an excuse for not doing a biological survey of the area around the sites out to at least one mile due to noise and human intrusion. The area around ND-8 is sage grouse habitat and it is not a good site for the 5 acre emitter site.

BI-21 14. Page 3-122. Clover Butte is critical sage grouse habitat since almost 80 percent of the area east of the Bruneau has burned over the last 10 years.

BI-22 15. Page 3-124. The 640 acre no drop site is a wintering area for antelope and deer, plus upland game birds. No biological evaluation was completed on this site.

BI-18 16. Page 3-141. 33 sage grouse at Clover Butte equals 15 to 20 percent of the population east of the Bruneau River and are critical to sage grouse recovery in that area. The no drop target and the emitter site near Clover Butte violate the Idaho sage grouse recovery plan. Also see page 3-186.

17. Page 3-149. Table 3.8-16. The number of big horn sheep were only surveyed in BI-4 part of the drainage's. Big horn sheep have migrated as far as Castle Creek and Reynolds Creek from the little Jack's area. Most big horn sheep surveys concentrated on Ewe lamb ratios not population total.

BI-33 18. Page 3-154. Mule deer wintering areas and the numbers using it from Nevada depends on how severe the winter has been. By February most deer probably move back to Nevada.

BI-34 19. Page 3-156. Elk are already using ROI two from Nevada.

BI-12 20. Page 3-157and158. The draft EIS is not complete these surveys for deer and antelope will not completed until the winter of 1997.

21. Page 3-166. Upland Game Birds. Of the mourning dove is a migratory bird.
22. Page 3-169. Table 3.8-6. The Owhyee River supports a large population of Canada geese also water birds are concentrated on all the lakes and ponds in the area not just Duck Valley.

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DP-44 23. Page 3-214. Of the nature conservancy owns and manages the 45 ranch of the south fork of the Owyhee River for big horn sheep and other wildlife. The ranch is occupied year round. A buffer zone is needed around and over the ranch to reduce disturbance and to protect property values. No supersonic or low altitude should be allowed! The same is true of the ranch at Clover Crossing owned by the Bachman. Private property and year round residents in the Grassmeir area and Three Creek need to be avoided and imitigated just like Duck Valley.

LU-6 24. Page 3-232. A NCA is being proposed for the Owyhee Canyon Lands and the Bruneau Jarbige area. It is in draft form at the Dept of Interior in Washington D.C. See attachment 2 Titled: The Owyhee Canyon Lands Nation Conservation Area.

DP-42 25. Page 3-235. ACECs for big horn sheep - No midigation is proposed to avoid these areas during lamming season recommend noise levels be kept below 95 decibels and no supersonic flight.

RV-4 26. Page 3-241. There is no discussion of the centennial trail and its use.

AU-5 27. Page 4-7. The proposed restricted area around the 12,000 acre drop site is too small and gives private pilots a false sense of security, which is a flight safety hazard in the making.

NO-5 28. Page 4-11,13. Table 4.2-1a and 4.2-1b - Noise levels used for fighter aircraft are for cruising on MTRs not for aircraft maneuvering in MOA. Example, a F-16 in MOA should generate approximately 111 decibels at 1,000 feet not 97 as shown. This discrepancy makes the noise analysis and the hole DEIS worthless. See attachment 3. Title: F-16 SELs AS A FUNCTION OF SLANT RANGE.

NO-6 29. Page 4-11. Of the statement of 95 decibels is the startle response threshold for wildlife is contained in what 11th Air Force document? This document should be available to the public.

30. Page 4-15. Of the conditions 3 and 4 are not acceptable over the Jarbige and Bruneau Rivers, sage grouse while wintering and nesting and private property. The 640 acre site is too close to the Bruneau River and will create condition 4.

BI-18 31. Page 4-27. The use of diesel generators is unacceptable next to sage grouse habitat and violates the Idaho recovery plan.

NO-17 32. Page 4-31. Table 4.2-4. Averaging sonic bombs of 1 yr does not tell you anything or show the environmental effects. How many sonic bombs over a 1 to 2 hr period during a large combat exercise is better? Also, super sonic bombs may be more harmful on wildlife on certain times of the year. For example: sage grouse during breeding and nesting.

NO-5 33. Page 4-100. The wrong figure fighter aircraft was used in this illustration. F-16 maneuvering in the MOA has 500 to 1000 ft should generate approximately 110 decibels. See attachment 3.

BI-35 34. Page 4-108. Last paragraph. Studies on sage grouse and aircraft noise need to be done before the final EIS is completed. Clover Butte and Grassmier are critical sage grouse habitat for wintering and nesting. Many of the no drop targets and emitter sites violate the two mile buffer zone rule for sage grouse discussed in this document.

BI-28 35. Page 4-11. We are not talking about low levels of aircraft noise, but exposure to noise from 100 to 116 decibels at 500 ft. There is enough visual observation throughout the years that shows big horn sheep are disturbed by this extreme noise and in some cases moved to less desirable habitat.

BI-23 36. Page 4-131. Title: Noise - If the effect of long term exposure to over flights on game birds has not been investigated or is unknown a study is required before the final EIS. You can not just say "Impacts would remain the same when over flights would increase".

BI-24 37. Page 4-141. If 500 meters is the recommended avoidance of rapture species while nesting, then this should be part of the mitigation for wildlife in the draft EIS. Also, note if sonic bombs generate 111 -151 decibels, what is the effect on the nesting sage grouse?

RV-6 38. Section 4.11 Title: Recreations and Visual Resources. No acceptable mitigation is proposed for low level and supersonic flights over the rivers during the floating season or over the WSAs during prime recreational use.

39. The draft EIS on the ETI proposal is incomplete and deceiving. The BLM should reject this document as an acceptable environmental analysis of the supersonic high threat battle field being proposed. The only option acceptable to the organizations I represent is alternative A the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE.

Herbert C. Meyr
Lt Col USAF (Retired)

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/12/97

Last Name: shultz **First Name:** lisa
Address: 6836 Freemont
City: Boise **State:** ID **Zip:** 83704

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Myself!!!!

My position is that you have not convinced me that this training range is necessary!! I love the Canyonlands. I have lived in Idhao off and on since 1981. I have enjoyed the solitude of the desert and would be very sad if it were no longer available.

DP-4 Aside from the emtional arguments, I am concerned that you are in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act with the DEIS and its deficiencies you have failed to comply with the letter of the law. As a private citizen, if I had violated the law, I would be fined or imprisoned - what happens to you? You were told by a Federal District Court Judge to study this thing on a cumulative basis. You have not done that. You have fragmented, and pieced the information out in a way that suits your selfish agenda to have the classiest military playground in the world.

PR-23 What assurances can you give us that if given the go-ahead, other branches of the military and or forign armed forces won't come here and ride rough shod over any and all promises you may make regarding low-level flight excercises, supersonic flight, airspace, etc....

PR-17 What about the FAA - do you anticipate that your will be automatically given approval for all of this? I suppose so since you ar all part of the same team.

PR-16 And another real concern I have, ammong others, is that your timeline is crazy!! In your presentation you state that you plan to release the final EIS in September!!! Is it already printed and sitting in a warewhouse somewhere? You really don't give a hoot what concerns are raised by the public - this is obvious since you feel that you can deal with all oour concerns and then publish the final EIS in a matter of weeks. What do you take us for?

BI-12 One last thing, in the DEIS, you said that you would not be conducting the biological study on some of the BIG GAME - wildlife - unitl the winter of 1997. If that is part of the DEIS,

then how can you call it complete as of September of 1997???? AM I MISSING SOMETHING? How can you call something complete when it's NOT FINISHED?

Please rethink this thing! Don't spend another dollar of tax payer's hard earned money on this futile process!

PR-3 Also, please consider extending the public comment period. If you are really serious about public involvement in this process, it is imperative that more time be allowed. People that work for a living don't have time to carefullly read and resond to such a thick document in a matter of 90 days!!!

Thank you. An please, if you need to, look up the meaning of the work NO in the WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY>

000294

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: abrams First Name: jeff
Address: 4120 Banner
City: Boise State: ID Zip: 83709

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

private citizen

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I encourage the Air Force to adopt to no action action. I just visited this magnificent area. The delicate Duncan Creek drainage supports a diverse community of flora and fauna. I am sick that such a proposal has been conceived of in such a sensitive area. I have lived in Idaho for only four years. In this short period of time I have seen two training proposals come and go. Both have gone down to defeat due in part to public sentiment. It seems the Air Force is hell-bent on shoving this down the throats of the American public, not to mention the local people who have already voiced their opinions on numerous occasions. Please shelve this ill conceived project for good, and let the country enjoy the open space of solace that are the Owyhee Canyonlands.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

abramsja 1

000295

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Pippin First Name: Sophia
Address: 1421 Campus Lane # 238
City: Boise State: Id Zip83706

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
BSU

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I really don't see what all the commotion is about. I think that the AF should have it's bombing range. From what I have heard the damage is minimal to none and it will also aid the Air Force in training the people better so that , in the event of a war, they are better prepared on what to do.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

Pippin So 1

000296

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Bowling First Name: Richard
Address:4604 Maplewood
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83703

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 If the training range expansion is allowed to proceed based on the deceptions and the untruths, and they are many, that the public is being asked to trust without question. See you in court. I support alternative A. No action.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

Bowling 1

000297

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: rielley
First Name: bernard
Address: 1629 colorado
City: boise State: idaho Zip:83706

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

myself

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I believe we dont need this range. The fires that can start can cause cheat grass to take over the area

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

riellebe 1

000298

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name:mckinney First Name:jonnah
Address: po.box 484
City:OWYHEE State:owyhee n,v Zip89832:

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 My name is Jonnah McKinney. I am not from the Shoshone-Pauite tribe but I live here for 11 years now and my friend always coming to school and saying that when the bomb out there little parts of coals of fire are going on their grass and everyday at night they have to wet their grass because their grass does not have to get on fire. Their cows always get scared, and at my house they shake my windows at daytime in the jets scares me and it disturbs us at night or daytime, and why are they trying to bomb as they should practice somewhere else. They should buy a land and bomb that.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

Comm-frm 1

000299

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last gibson First Nameamanda
Address: poxbox27

City: owyhee State: nv Zip:89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 My name is Amanda Gibson, I am from Owyhee NV. I'm a member of the Sho-pau tribe. I don't like the way you guys thank this is your land. I don't like the way you scare me and my friends. I hate it when you brake the windows and walls. I don't like it when you bother our sacred sites. I don't like what you are practicing. I think you are practicing too close.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

gibsona 1

000300

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: jones First Name: shannon
Address: 4604 Maplewood
City: Boise State: Idaho 83703

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
None

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-2 I support no enhancement of the bombing range. No enlargement, no additional training flights. I support Alternative A. No Action.

I am an Idaho native. I am 43 years old and I have voted at every election. I am active in both my church, my city and my environment. I have enjoyed an active outdoor lifestyle. I am aware that the Big Horn Sheep population has diminished and in addition I am aware that Sage Grouse population is seriously declining.

PN-1 I do not believe that the Airforce has proven a need for an enhanced training range. I also am aware that the Airforce has not complied with Judge Lodge's ruling to do
PN-14 a combined EIS. The Airforce's own General has stated on record that there is no need for additional training facilities.

I do not believe the benefits of this Airforce project outweigh the negative impact. On Saturday, June 7, 1997 while in the Owhyee desert I counted 12 sonic booms in a three hour period. I believe this is detrimental. On a nine mile hike near Castle Creek Allotment in this same area I picked up enough Chaff to fill a regular small size baggie. In addition I do not want to see any additional roads built to provide access to training projects and I do not want to see the public lands fenced to provide private use for the Airforce. No action. No enhancement.

Thank you.

Comm-frm 1

000301

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Moore First Name: Gary
Address: 4278 Old Valley Hwy
City: Eagle State: Idaho Zip: 83616

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

none I am a concerned citizen and taxpayer

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I am in favor of the no action alternative. There are many reasons for this belief and position. I have heard many others during the hearings speak of these in many different ways. There is no point in repeating these. I have been against the expansion of the existing training from the beginning of the public dialog and I remain so today

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

Moorega 1

000302

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: REHMEYER First Name: JAMES
Address: 2404 MADISON
City: BOISE State: IDAHO Zip: 83702

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

I represent all myself and all people that enjoy the outdoors and do not want the the habitat destroyed.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 This idea of increasing the size of this bombing range is totally out of the question. There millions of small and large animals that will suffer from this. I enjoy the area and enjoying hiking and viewing the wildlife out in the Owyhee's. If more land is needed for this bombing, the land should be taken from areas where there is not going to be any creatures suffering. The sounds from these planes is just too loud and it is harmful to the animals. This land is too precious to be used for this bombing range.

This land is the ONLY land in Idaho that supports a population of California Big Horn Sheep. This resource along with the large numbers of deer and antelope should not be disturbed. I think that this land belongs to the people, the people that pay taxes. This cannot be taken away from us! If more practice is needed, more simulated practice techniques should be developed.

Please Save our land and animals from this abuse!!!!!

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

rehmeyja 1

000303

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Miller First Name: Doug
Address: 2404 Madison
City: Boise STATE: Idaho ZIP: 52802

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Myself and all who enjoy the outdoors

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I have lived in Idaho for approx. 4 years. I have dedicated the majority of my life to the outdoors and the preservation of wildlife. My understanding of this proposal, is that there will be a considerable amount of land taken over by the testing of bombing. This will obviously destroy habitat, wildlife and our environment.

Why don't we device an alternative plan. Which does not destroy our lands.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

miller 1

000304

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

GE-2 Last Name: McNeely First Name: Alan
Address: 4518 Jewell St
City: Boise State: ID Zip: 83706

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Private

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

NO-1 In the EIS the part considering sound was not properly done. The sound foot prints during sub sonic and super sonic flight are much larger during banking of aircraft. This
NO-7 was not taken into account. Also, the sound data assumes 25 db attenuation by buildings which do not exist in this area. Most people and none of the animals will be in buildings.
NO-2 The bases for the sound data compares aircraft noise to city noise when determining the degree of anoyance. No city noise exist out here the data should have been compared to near silence.
BI-32 Considering the effect of the aircraft noise on big horn sheep. Data unfavorable to the Air Force's position was omitted from the EIS. The Fish and Games data of the same study at the same time include four passes by aircraft. On the fourth pass the sheep are scared out of the Deep Creek drainage which is the highest level of stress they can express. Since this is a important area for them I can't believe the sheep can exist with the training range at west Grasmere. It was very dishonest of the Air Force to not include the whole study in the EIS. It is the moral equivalent of lying.
The complete data has been hidden from the public by the Air Force. It was made available by the Idaho Fish and Game who was present at the time.
Clover Butte site is the wintering area for one-third of the sage grouse on the east side of the Bruneau River. This is a valuable resource and should not be wiped out.
NO-1 The only remaining site is too near the Three Creek area and Castleford area to allow
NO-18 this much noise. This would be apparent if the data concerning the aircraft noise was properly compiled and honestly presented. Although this site is a much better target area than either of the two. Last Fall windows were broken in Castleford by a low level aircraft. B1B.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

mcneely 1

000305

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/12/97

Last Name: Boyles First Name: Jean
Address: 1714 N 7th St
City: Boisie State: ID Zip: 83702

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

GE-1 I feel the Air Force is training program is excellent as is. The Air Force does not need more airspace or land. I have been in some parts of the Owyee canyons and want to maintain this as wilderness.

boylesje 1

000306

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Caughlin **First Name:** Elizabeth
Address: 1206 North 5th Street
City: Boise **State:** ID **Zip:** 83702

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

GE-1 Myself

My family and I have enjoyed hiking, biking and boating in the Owyhee Canyonlands area for the past three years, ever since we first moved to Idaho from Colorado.

Our first experience of the Owyhee country occurred when we camped in the Bruneau-Jarbidge area, close to Murphy Hot Springs. The feeling that the land gives you is, for me, a defining moment for what it is to be an American. The open land, rolling clouds, scattered cattle and rugged, rocky canyons inspire the same feelings in me that must have inspired the pioneers, ranchers and early settlers of this wonderful country; feelings of freedom, of limitless possibilities, of open space in a crowded world, of hope.

My dream is that my son, too, will be able to go to this special land, the Owyhee Canyon country, as an adult, and truly understand why we, as Americans, are strong, diverse and forward-looking people. My dream is that we, as a nation, will have the same strength of character as our forefathers and will recognize the importance of setting aside this land as an important ingredient of America.

The Enhanced Training proposal, which includes low altitude flights, sonic booms, and simulated aerial warfare over the Owyhee country, is entirely inconsistent with this dream. I ask you, please, to use other, available training grounds and leave this pristine land for future Americans to enjoy. Of the alternatives, I therefore approve of Alternative "A", which implies no change from the current use.

Thank you.

Caughlin 1

000307

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/12/97

Last Name: Mason **First Name:** Tim
Address: 2295 Yale Lane
City: Boise **State:** ID **Zip:** 83706

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
NA

GE-1 I am completely against the proposal. Being a Native American myself and also an employee of the Federal Government. I am ashamed to work for the government for them allowing the bombing range to be Duck Valley. If it goes through, it will be another added wrong done to Native Americans. I certainly hope whoever is on the decision making process will not let this happen.

Comm-frm 1

000308

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Poor **First Name:** David
Address: 3664 Norfolk Way
City: Boise **State:** ID **Zip:** 83706

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

GE-1 Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:
My main concern is the effects of the noise of low-altitude overflights on the wildlife and environment of the Owyhees. I have worked near an air station, and the racket was incredible. To subject sensitive species, like the desert bighorn to this stress can't possibly be good for them. Efforts to help these animals reclaim their historic range would be set back by use of the area for an air force training range.
The training range proposal is also in conflict with the value of the Owyhees as a recreational resource for SE Idaho's growing population.
Thank you,

David Poor

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**
- **To print, click on the printer icon shown above.**

poor da 1

000309

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: kiernan **First Name:** Robert
Address: 806 north boundary
City: Nampa **State:** ID **Zip:** 83651

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I want to preface my statement by thanking the Council President of the City of Mountain Home for his labeling/calling me "an environmental whacko". The reason why I'm thanking him is because he is showing me how ignorant and greedy he is.

I spent 9 years of honorable service in the United States Army in Nike Hercules Air Defense Unit Under USARADCOM, protecting the northeast area of this country and citizens throughout against any communist threats during the cold war years. Also, I served 20 years in the Nampa fire department retiring as the Fire Marshall. So if he wishes to call me a whacko, free speech is part of what I was defending.

I have read many pages of the EIS and have tried to come up with testimony against many different portions dealing with facts and figures. I will give you credit for trying another approach on this bombing run, it almost worked, until I set the tome aside and got down to the real basics: The owyhee's are two special to disturb anymore than is being done now. I do not want you to take away my special church, my sanctuary, my special connection with earth mother, my only piece and quite. This entire area that I call the owyhee's has many special canyons and views to list but it is not only them it is several locations driving through the owyhees to reach some of these special areas. Some of the close encounters I have with wildlife are on the way to these areas. It could be anywhere along the route where I see bird habitat and I stop and delight in seeing an Idaho Mountain Blue Bird, a bunting or any of several birds. And as we proceed further on, we stop at a small ranchers resivor and take in viewing some waterfowl. These birds love the owyhees and its peace and tranquillity is why they are there to enjoy. We also have had several other close encounters with big game animals. So this makes the whole area driving to is as special as the destination itself.

Comm-frm 1

000309

Just because Idaho has lots of wide open spaces, doesn't not mean you can invade this space. Worldwide we are slowly destroying these precious areas. Man can not survive mentally without them. An example is, in Korea the red crowned and white naped cranes require large areas that are silent and open country with clean water. This has occurred in what is know as the DMZ in conjunction with the CCZ (Citizen Control Zone). This has over the years has become special habitat for this type of birds. Now because of economic boom like a sonic boom is changing the face of south Korea. The country is now talking about developing the buffer zone around this area by there ever expanding industry. Entering the area known as the CCZ it is an illusion of farm landscape but there are many army bases and fortifications every where you can see hills that have sentry posts and bunkers. 85% of Koreans that were polled said that they care more about the environment then the economic boom.

David Darlingtons book (The Mojave) a quote from this book is "What is the allure that draws one to the desert if L.A. is space the mohave is truly outerspace. Owing to its freedom from confinement the desert kindles a kind of ephipany an almost physical liberation, a sudden sensual delight of being.

In closing, my question to the military in general is who are we training to protect whether it be some nation in Europe or an oil rich nation in the desert than let us train their people which will train our pilots also but do it in their backyard with them sharing a major cost of this. Maybe the answer to some of the training problems which I know is necessary if we have flight simulators to train pilots in the basics of flying I am sure the technology is out there for computerized advanced battle maneuvers for in simulators also. All of this should save us lots of fuel and maybe it will keep us from invading the precious area in Alaska, known as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**
- **To print, click on the printer icon shown above.**

Comm-frm 2

000310

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/12/97

GE-2 **Last Name:** **First Name:**
Address:
City: **State:** **Zip:**

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

N/A

SF-1 Would like to see more studies and information regarding the effects of chaff on grazing cattle and the meat.

Also more studies on whether or not the chaff is biodegradable, how long is its half-life?

Thanks.

Comm-frm 1

000311

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Stilwell **First Name:** Diana

Address: 1811 North 30th St
City: Boise **State:** ID **Zip:** 83703

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I oppose the Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal. The Owyhee Canyonlands area is a valuable recreational resource and the proposed training activities would interfere with both human recreational opportunities as well as wildlife and other natural resources. The Bruneau and Jarbridge river canyons are some of the last remaining unspoiled rivers in the United States.

The Air Force stationed at Mt. Home served the United States very well in recent conflicts without benefit of this additional training range. They will continue to do so even if this new range is not established.

I urge the Air Force to explore all other alternatives to the proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho range and not to interfere with one of Idaho's last remaining wild areas.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**

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000312

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Sarriugarte **First Name:** Thomas
Address: 3362 E Dowling Mill Ct
City: Boise **State:** Id **Zip:** 83706

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I would like the training range to not be implemented. I would like the area proposed protected and not to have any overflights. I would like to see the Air Force use already existing facilities in the surrounding states to meet their training responsibilities and protect the lives of their pilots.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**
- **To print, click on the printer icon shown above.**

sarriug 1

000313

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/12/97

Last Name: morgan First Name: julie
Address: 1661 Dewey St.
City: Boise State: ID Zip: 83702

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
GE-1 Member, ICL. Member C.I.D

The Owyhee region is one of the most spectacular areas I've visited in the world. I am constantly amazed as I explore the desert, canyons, and mountains in the area. However, this is not the most important aspect of the Owyhees. The plant and animal life which exists in the area deserves to be preserved. The proposed bombing range will not allow this to happen. With these factors in mind, I submit that the proposed bombing range is neither necessary nor ethical.

Comm-frm 1

000314

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

GE-2 Last Name: Marcum First Name:Pamela

Address:1003 Strawberry Lane

City: Boise State: ID Zip:83712

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Committee for Idaho's High Desert

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

PN-2

PN-1 The Air Force has not proven there exists a need for the ETI. The UT and NV ranges are close enough for this expanded training for MHAFB. An auditor's report completed in 1995 concluded that additional training in Idaho was not necessary. The cost benefit
PN-9 analysis used to justify the Idaho ETI was not valid.

PN-14

Existing ranges are not underutilized due to current AF downsizing.

NO-2 The noise analysis in the EIS is not valid. It needs to be conducted in non-urban areas. The sounds of the sonic booms and low flying aircraft would ruin the solitude and serenity I pursue in this area.

As Sen. Reid has said, the military has 90% of the air space in NV already, and enough is enough. No more land grab by the Air Force, especially since there is absolutely no need for this ETI.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

marcum 1

000315

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/12/97

Last Name: Jones First Name: Jessie
Address: p.o. box 374
City: Owyhee State: Nevada Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
GE-1 Duck Valley Indian Reservation

I have lived in the Duck Valley Reservation my whole life and I feel that it is wrong to have a bombing range in the Reservation, because just think about the people that are living in that area. And if there is ever a war the boming range is the first thing that will probally will be bombed first and would if you lived there and there was a bombing range how would you like it if we were to bomb you?

Jones 1

000316

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

GE-2 Last Name: Laverty First Name: Kent
Address: 10492 Summerwind
City: Boise State: ID Zip: 83704

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
I work for the Idaho Wildlife Federation representing over 5000 members and affiliated club members, but my comments are also my own as an individual. Our membership and the individual clubs whom we represent oppose the alternative presented and favor the no action alternative.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

I support the no action alternative in this EIS. I am a native Idahoan and and a 7 year resident of Boise. I am concerned about the impacts of noise on mule deer, bighorn
BI-18 sheep, antelope, and sage grouse. I have reviewed the EIS, and the Air Force has no mitigation for impacts on sage grouse populations. The Air Force has not done any noise studies on the impacts of sage grouse leks, and the areas targeted are important sage grouse areas with healthy populations relative to the decline in the rest of the State.

Bighorn sheep exist in the Jacks Creek area and have not been subject to flyovers, and therefore are the only population of bighorns that have not been impacted by noise. I vehemently oppose any increase in Air Force activity over this area.

PN-1 The Air Force frankly admits that this range would be a convenience, not an absolute need for either the Composite Wing or Mtn. Home Air Force. I have heard the Wing Commander has said that Mtn Home Air Base is the most combat ready unit anywhere in the world. Why then should the public support increased flyovers over an area as sensitive as Little Jacks Creek or Clover Butte. Why should we accept the establishment of a high-tech, supersonic battlefield in one of the most unique ecosystems left in the lower 48 states?

Why should recreationists, native americans, hunters, fishermen, floaters, hikers, and those seeking solitude have to battle with the defenders of their own country? I fail to see the logic.

Laverty 1

000317

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Couchum First Name: Carol
Address: P.O. Box 208
City: Owyhee State: NV Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Duck Valley Indian Reservation - Concerned Citizen/Teacher

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 In order to maintain our peaceful way of life, I am opposed to an expansion of the present Air Force Training Range. There are very few natural environments in this world, and our reservation/community is one of these few areas. The people in our community are humans too, and just because were live in a desolate area does not mean we are a free target for the Air Force Base. We are Indigenous to this land and have the right to live in peace and harmony.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

couchum 1

000318

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Jones First Name: Tonia
Address: P.O. Box
City: Owyhee State: Nv.
Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Duck Valley Indian Reservation - Concerned student

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I think that it is wrong to have a bombing range in my hometown, because of all the air craft practice Just because our reservation is little you people don't have to put a bombing range right in the middle of our little rez. Put it this way how would you like it if our reservation wanted to put a bombing range where ever you live!!!

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

Jones 1

000319

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Thomas
First Name: Andrea
Address: P.O. Box 208
City: Owyhee State: NV Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Duck Valley Indian Reservation - Concerned student

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I'm against the bombing range because it is very disturbing to hear the loud sonic booms when you are trying to relax at home. Just think if you had to sit at your home and be disturbed by loud booms that wouldn't be very peaceful. Just because we are isolated doesn't mean that people aren't there to be disturbed. Just because us guys aren't in the big city doesn't mean that it is ok to disturb us.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

thomas 1

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/12/97

Last Name: Hanchor First Name: 1
Address: P.O. Box 308
City: Owyhee State: NV, Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Duck Valley Indian reservation -Concerened Student

GE-1 WELL IM AGAINTS THE BOMBING RANGE. I FEEL THAT IT IS VERY WRONG WHAT THE AIRFORCE IS DOING! THEY SEEM THAT THEY DONT THINK ABOUT WHAT WILDLIFE IS THERE AND HOW BEUTIFUL IT IS DOWN IN OWYHEE. THEY SEEM THEY DONT GIVE A HOOT ABOUT THE PEOPLE EITHER. THEY ARE JUST RUINING MOTHER EARTH. THE INDIAN PEOPLE THERE ARE VERY RESPECTFUL TO THE LAND AND ANIMALS. I DONT UNDERSTAND WHY THEY HAD TO PICK OUR RESERVATION . WE ARE PEOPLE TO. WE LIVE AND EAT THE SAME THING YOU ALL EAT. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF WE WENT OVER TO YOU AND BOMBED YOUR CITY OR LAND? THE BOMBING RANGE IS REAL LOUD AND CAN DISTURB THE WILDLIFE THAT LIVE IN OUR RESERVATION. WE ARE NOT A FREE TARGET JUST BECAUSE YOU THINK THERE IS NO LIFE IN OUR REZ. THAT GIVES YOU KNOW RIGHT TO DISTURB US IN OUR PEACEFUL WAY OF LIFE.

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000321

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

06/12/97

Last Name: Dodson First Name: Guy
Address: P.o. Box 428
City: Owyhee State: N.V Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Owyhee Indian Reservation-Conserened Student

COMMENTS:

GE-1 I don't think you need to bomb around the Owyhee Area. Because when the Jets go over our Houses they make loud Sonic Booms. They Wake up young children then they start to cry. Then they scare me and everyone else on the land. Then you scare our dinner away in the Mountains. I SAY NO TO THE BOMBING RANGE IN THE OWYHEE. NO.

000322

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the tab key or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name:Goodnight First Name: William
Address: 1014 E. Franklin
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83712

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
None

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 The proposals for expanded training range in Owyhee County come about from an uninformed attitude that the solitude and desolation of the area relegate it to little worth or useful purpose other than military applications. This is an uninformed and errant attitude regarding areas of such a primative nature.

If realistic training is the object of an expanded Owyhee County training range, where is the realism associated with training without travel, anticipation, refueling, etc. The realism associated with instant access to the battlefield escapes me. Options exist for "realistic" training which involve travel. In fact, the purpose of expanded training facilities in Owyhee County is economics.

While comprimise is touted as the hallmark of this proposal, the only true comprimise associated with training proposals are to leave unaltered, remote areas where the public can find tranquility , peace and high quality recreation unaltered and continue to emphasize training in those areas currently rendered unusable by the public for such purposes.

I am not interested in subsidizing the Air Force budget by providing "efficient" training at the expense of my well-being.

As a four-year military veteran, I fail to see the logic in claiming to protect our country by diminishing its very quality. I am not anti-military, anti-government, I do not burn flags, I am patriotic, but I am also experienced enough to know that the current proposal like the past ones is steeped in the expectation that dogmatic patriotism and abject fear of base closure will carry the day. The falacy of this expectation is that the values folks like myself hold dear will, as in the past, rule the day. True economy can best be achieved through

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using some extra gas rather than pursuing bureaucratic exercises like this ill-fated proposal at great public expense.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**
- **Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.**
- **To print, click on the printer icon shown above.**

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/12/97

Last Name: Palmgren
First Name: Lois
Address: 1914 Annett St.
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip:83705

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

GE-1 I represent myself, and my family. We have lived in Idaho since 1895. My daughter, Emily is a fifth generation Idahoan. I also work for the BLM, Boise District, Bruneau Resource Area as an archaeological technician but my comments do not represent BLM.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

In the past few years I have experienced several disturbing incidents caused by numerous low level flights over the Owyhee desert including canyon lands. The latest was last Monday (6/6) at 1:15 pm. I was returning from a vacation with my daughter who is 3 ½ years old. We were heading north on highway 51 / milepost 41 when I felt a vibration in the back of the car. This soon escalated to a dull roar and a crackling noise so loud I thought we had been struck by lightning. Since it was a cloudy day this was the only explanation I could think of. I slowed down immediately and began looking around. I didn't have to wait long for yet another low level flight to zoom over the top of our car and make a hard left turn after it passed over us.

So, I just have one question for you all. What gives you the right to intimidate and harass citizens driving on the highway? My daughter was with me and this jet nearly caused me to drive off the road!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!This is our home. I am incensed that my own country would treat its citizens in this way.

Sincerely,
Lois M. Palmgren and Emily

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- **Press F12, then**

000324

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Clark First Name: William
Address: 7001 Hill Road
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83703

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 A major barrier to training and its major solution are glossed over in the Draft. The barrier is a chuck of civilian airspace east of highway 51, smack dab in the middle of the MOA. This airspace "caps" military maneuvers to above 18,000 feet MSL. Thus, military traffic in the west, tends to stay west, and traffic east, tends to stay east. The EIS proposes to annex this airspace into the existing MOA, allow the aircraft to fly more freely throughout the MOA, and reduce the overall density of aircraft.

The flaw with this reasoning is that the Air Force uses this airspace anyway, even though it is not in the MOA. Before each training mission, the air crews ask Salt Lake Center to clear the area, and there it is, instant MOA!

But wait a minute, if the traffic is already dispersed, then the EIS cannot take credit for this benefit. Furthermore, temporary airspace is supposed to be temporary. It is not a substitute for formal approval, which in this case appears to be an incremental expansion that should be regulated by NEPA.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Purdy First Name: Brad
Address: 2019 N. 17th
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83702

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-2 I am opposed to any expansion of military operations in the Owyhee desert region and support a reduction in such activity. The Air Force's DEIS is factually and legally deficient for a number of reasons. First the averaging of noise levels is unrealistic and belies the
NO-4 true effect of being exposed to the noise created by military aircraft at close range. Averaging such noise levels out over minutes, hours, days or weeks understates the effect of the noise and its effect on wildlife and recreation. The Air Force has also inexplicably failed to link the bedown of the composite wing with the expansion of the training range. There is no need for either but, certainly, without the composite wing, there is no need for an expanded training range. Nonetheless, the air force continues to analyze them separately in violation of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Also in
PN-1 violation of NEPA, the air force has failed to adequately demonstrate a need for the expanded training range. There are other ranges available. At a time when the military is paring back its training facilities throughout the country, the expansion of the Idaho Training Range is particularly inappropriate. The United States of America does not need this training range and the State of Idaho does not need this range. The economy of Idaho if far more dependent on tourism overall than it is on the continued vitality of the Mountain Home Air Base which is not slated for closure regardless of the the expansion of the range. People do not visit an area so they can be exposed to low level military flights. They visity it for the scenic and recreational opportunities. Implementation of the Idaho Training Range will have a net detrimental effect on the economy of the state of Idaho.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Streeter First Name: Robert
Address: 718 McKinley
City:Boise State: ID Zip: 83712

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
none

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 The majority of Idahoans supports the expanded training range. Please choose the site most favorable to the Indians. Remember the entire Congressional delegation and and overwhelming majority of the State legislature and the Governor support the expanded training range.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Balken First Name: Shane
Address: 785 South 12th East
City: Mountain Home State: ID Zip: 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Personal Opinion

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I totally support the Enhanced Training Range in Idaho. As a member of the Armed Forces, I think it is important to have realistic training to combat the forces that can rise against the United States at any time. I also love the outdoors and truly enjoy what the environment in Idaho has to offer and I don't feel that the expansion in any of the three alternative sites will remotely affect the wildlife. Once again, I support the ETI training range and hope that the proposal is passed.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Ward First Name: Frederick
Address: 1910 Manitou Avenue
City: Boise State: ID Zip: 83706-4148

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent? self

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I would prefer that the Air Force abandon Mountain Home AFB, allowing the Idaho Air Guard to take over the Mountain Home facility. The composite wing should move to Holloman AFB in New Mexico where a large area of land is already under government control as part of Holloman and White Sands Missile Range with the Fort Bliss Artillery Range just to the south.

Unfortunately Holloman is currently being leased to Germany to train their pilots, but we could phase the Germans out. I don't see the need to so spend tax dollars to develop a training range in Idaho or elsewhere, when a suitable facility already exists.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Adams First Name: Michael
Address: 1315 N. 14th Apt. R
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83702

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments below:

GE-1 One of the two Boise, ID Air Force recruitment offices expresses itself as the "world's greatest Air Force" on its answering machine. This is very true. The United States has the most technologically advanced military operations in the world. The U.S. Air Force is no exception. The technology of simulation and training has made the Air Force unchallenged by any other world force. Therefore, the proposed training range in the Owyhee Canyon lands of Southern Idaho is currently neither necessary or practical. The wild life and foliage in the General Region of influence 2 consist of many species classified as Concern, Threatened, or Endangered by the USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service). The negative ramifications of Air Force training in the area far outweigh the possible experience and knowledge gained by a pilot or member of the world's greatest Air Force.

world's greatest Air Force 1

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Clark First Name: William
Address: 7001 Hill Road
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83703

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 A major barrier to training and its major solution are glossed over in the Draft. The barrier is a swath of civilian airspace near highway 51, that splits the MOA in two. This airspace prevents most military maneuvers below 18,000 feet MSL. Thus, military traffic in the west, tends to stay west, and traffic east, tends to stay east. The EIS proposes to annex this airspace into the existing MOA, allow the aircraft to fly freely throughout the area, and reduce the overall density of aircraft.

The flaw with this reasoning is that the Air Force uses this airspace anyway. Before each mission, the air crews ask Salt Lake Center to clear the area, and there it is, instant MOA!

But wait a minute, if the traffic is already dispersed, then the EIS cannot take credit for this benefit. Furthermore, temporary airspace is supposed to be temporary. It is not a substitute for formal approval, which in this case appears to be an incremental expansion that should be regulated by NEPA.

The Final EIS should separate the evaluation the Eastern MOA's increased height from the study of the MOA's lateral expansion.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

clarkwi 1

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Wasfy First Name: Mark
Address: 4814 F Hayes Place
City: MHAFB State: ID Zip: 83648

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Self

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 In my years living in south western Idaho, I have noticed that the US Air Force has maintained a good working relationship in environmental concerns. This is evident in the fact the Air Force through the NEPA process has expressed intense, precise, consideration through the DEIS for the environment and wildlife that would be affected by a range expansion proposal. By taking extensive research measures, I believe the current draft environmental impact document reflects accurate up-to-date information.

In support of this proposal, I know that the various wildlife living currently in the Owyhees have not been drastically affected by aircraft noise or other environmental concerns. As a public user/hunter of the area surround the enhanced training range proposal, I have visually seen several herds of antelope, deer and big horn sheep live unaffected by noise disturbance generated from jet aircraft. As a user of this pristine environment, I have not been disturbed by any of the fly-overs while recreating in the surrounding area.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Peterson First Name: Polly
Address: 924 West Fort Street
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83702

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Self

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 My name is Dr. Polly Peterson. I am a native Idahoan and resident of Boise, Idaho. My profession is a psychotherapist in private practice in Boise. I am also a shaman apprentice learning the native people's methods of healing body, mind and spirit. I have recently published a book on this work entitled "Breaking Through: Alternative Pathways to Healing."

Two weeks ago I was participating in a sacred shamanic ceremony 40 miles from Grandview in the high mountain desert. It was magnificent country with ancient junipers, birds of pray and thousands of wildflowers.

Suddenly in the middle of our deep spiritual work on ancient Native American burial grounds a deafening crack shattered our experience. A sonic boom. It was devastating and totally unexpected. I was left shaking and can only imagine the impact on wildlife. The impact of that sonic boom left such an impact on me that I was compelled to come to the bombing range hearings.

At the hearings there was testimony that the wildlife is unaffected by the noise. I do not believe that. I believe that all living things, including the plants and trees, are grossly affected physically, emotionally and spiritually by the noise and vibrations of sonic and subsonic planes.

I appreciate the need for a strong military. I had a husband who served in Viet Nam. However, I feel the existing training ranges are sufficient and expansion into the Owyhee Canyonlands is unnecessary. I request that the Air Force honor the beauty and wildness of those lands that have been sacred to the peoples of Idaho for centuries.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Lewis First Name: Suzanne
Address: 317 Hillview Dr.
City: Boise, State: Idaho Zip: 83712

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-2 As a fifth generation Idahoan, I have witnessed many of these public forums. I have spoken before about the Indigenous Peoples concept that before a decision is made of such bigness as training range decision, the elders and wise ones would gather. Before a decision was made they would consider the effects for seven generations to come to the land, the four-legged, the winged ones, the green life, the waters and the peoples.

When has the airforce walked the lands with the Indigenous Peoples (those who our own military drove from their homelands around Boise to the "most desolate of soils"). Have you ran any research on the effects to the cattle, chickens, wildlife? Have you

NO-8 determined what psychological and neurological damage has already been done to those who live on the lands underneath the sky space that is being considered?

When will you listen and respect those who deserve the right to peace, calm and solace on their lands?

When will needs of all the people be respected?

Start listening, respect the wisdom of the elders respond for the sake of the children and seven generations to come.

SUZANNE LEWIS

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Fereday First Name: Jeff
Address: 420 E. Crestline Dr.
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83702

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

None.

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-2 I am opposed to the proposed enhanced training range for several reasons. First, I believe it will cause unacceptable adverse effects to wildlife, especially bighorn sheep, antelope, and various bird species, including raptors and sage grouse. These species do not tolerate the type of increased low-level and supersonic flying that is proposed.

BI-30 According to Idaho Fish and Game data, bighorns do not tolerate the types of overflights, noise (including sonic booms), and other activities that is proposed. The Air Force's plan to "disperse" flights is not adequate mitigation. The bighorns are being adversely affected—they are leaving prime habitat, being forced into stressful behaviors, and being chased off feed—by the current level of overflights in the area. The much expanded proposal will cause additional mortality, relocations, and herd declines.

Large sections of the proposed airspace and training area are very significant archaeologically. I believe that the construction of roads and facilities, and the dropping of ordnance and dummy projectiles, will injure these resources. I also believe that the Air

CU-1 Force has not complied with the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, or statutes concerning the protection of native American cultural sites.

DP-5 In particular, the Air Force has violated NEPA by failing to analyze the beddown of the composite wing at Mountain Home together with the current proposal to vastly increase activity, and add new activities, in the proposed new airspace that the composite wing asserts that it needs for training. Such segmentation of analysis is a violation of law. The Air Force should begin its environmental analysis anew by evaluating, in a single EIS, the environmental impacts of beddown together with the new proposed airspace.

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NO-1 I also believe the noise impact analysis in the draft EIS to be faulty. This part of the analysis should be redone as well.

My family and I recreate in the area proposed for increased overflights, supersonic flying, low-level flights, drop zones, flares, chaff, roads, emitters, and other ancillary uses. The Air Force's proposed use will degrade this area as a recreational resource. This goes for both the canyon and bench areas as well as the rivers themselves. Of particular concern is the Jarbidge-Bruneau canyon area. The proposed range would likely destroy the wilderness character of the Jarbidge River canyon, which is not only a proposed Wilderness, but one of Idaho's most magnificent wild places. It harbors bighorn sheep and other wildlife, and is a place of solitude that is perhaps unmatched anywhere in the West. I do not believe that the Air Force legally can take action which forecloses an area's candidacy for wilderness until Congress has had a chance to act on the administration's wilderness recommendation. The Jarbidge River should simply be off limits to jets, helicopters, and other military aircraft.

Owyhee County is simply not a good choice for this bombing and training range. There are other existing ranges in Utah and Nevada that offer what I believe to be adequate for Air Force training for the Mountain Home wing.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Stein First Name: Brad
Address: 1708 Colorado
City: Boise I State: Idaho Zip: 83706

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
The American People

GE-1 Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

C'mon U.S.A.F, what is it about the word no that you don't understand? Enough is enough! Go away ! We are not good to go! Love us as we are or leave us! No !!!

This is sacred land that you want to grab away from your country, you should be ashamed! There is already enough land in use for your purposes. Use it . Enhance it, but leave the Idaho desert alone. How much money have you spent on your propaganda program? It seems to me that you've already made up your mind and are poised ready to stoop onto our desert. Well, although I appreciate your service I believe it is important for many reasons to contain our warriors in their present positions and to fight to preserve this special desert as it is! Listen to me closely; back-off ! Use your incredible power to protect the little wild country that we have left rather than contributing to the constant erosion of it!

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.

To print, click on the printer icon

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Robinson First Name: Katherine
Address: 1712 Colorado Ave.
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83706

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

myself

GE-1 Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

It was just a little over three years ago that I was sitting at a computer sharing my comments. At that time it was reported that if the Air Force didn't establish a new and better BOMBING range then Mountain Air Force Base would appear on "the base closure" list. We found out that didn't happen, in fact, a new wing appeared.

I have had it with this crap. We just keep hearing stories because the Air Force is determined to get their way. The expanded BOMBING range or as you refer to it "Enhanced Training" is not necessary. Their are plenty of places the pilots can train and they're nearby.

At the turn of the century this state was controlled by agriculture, mining interests and the government. Other interests are meaningful now - preservation of wilderness, recreation, sacred grounds, etc. So, leave the fabulous desert alone and forget about your land grab!

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

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Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Dick First Name: Richard
Address: PO Box 337
City: Owyhee State: Nv Zip: 89832

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
Member Shoshone Paiute Tribe

Enter your comments below:

GE-2 The Air Force has reapeatedly told us of their good neighbor policy. I have lived in Boise Ida, Portland Ore., L. A. Ca.,Phoenix Ariz. Everywhere that I have ever lived there was always a law against disturbing the peace or trashing the neighborhood. My people have always been good neighbors. We offered a helping hand and supplied food to the first white men that came to our land . We have stood by as you encrouched our homelands, desecrated our sacred Boise valley and Snake River , Eagle Rock , and cut off our salmon forcing us onto reservations (P.O.W. camps). I think it is about time my people reap some of the benefits of this good neighbor policy.

DP-31 I have yet to see a study of the effects of sonic booms on our sage grouse population. I am a Viet Nam veteran . I also served with the 366 at Chambley AFB France , and at Shaw AFB S. C. as a jet engine mechanic. I was discharged in 1968 at which time the 366th changed aircraft from the old B-66 Recon bombers, which flew at 35,000 feet and took picture and had little effect on the environment, to f-111 and Phantom supersonic Fighters. From that time on I have seen a drastic decline of our sagehen population. At that time you could see thousands of sagehen in our fields in mornings and evenings, but today they are gone. I believe this decline to be the direct result of supersonic over flights at ground level over nesting sights which is the Owyhee Desert and Grasemere Area.

Col. Calin has stated that the Air Force owns the air space over Duck Valley, South West Idaho and Northern Nevada. I served three years on the Shoshone-Paiute Business Council as Councilman and Vice Chairman and I have yet to see a letter or a document inviting the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to a negotiating table to discuss our air space. Duck Valley is a sovereign nation. I

CU-2 believe you are trespassing when you fly over us and our sacred lands. I have also yet to see a study on the effects of radar, lasers, threat emitters, noise pollution,

Dick 1

000339

and radar jamming (ECM) aircraft on our spiritual connection. Our prayers to the creator and ceremonies held at our sacred sites.

Radar Jammers (ECM) Electronic Counter Measures, these are aircraft that send powerful signals which can jam ground radar such as SAM missiles and it has been said that one aircraft flying over New York City can black out the city. With that much power I can't help but wonder how it effects our connection to the spirit world. Do you think it is possible that because of all this interference , not to mention the microwave TV signals and such from the private sector, that God can't hear or answer our prayers. Therefore all the turmoil catastrophes, violence in our country.

On the topic of Chaff, I would hate to think that every time I go to my church to pray or conduct ceremonies that I am injesting chaff in my food water the air. I would like to challenge the good Col. To put some in a baggie and huff it to prove to the public that chaff is environmentally safe.

If you take away from a people those things or places that sacred, or deny them access, you take away part of their culture, you deny them religious freedom. Therefore I view this bombing range as just another step in the process of the exterminating of the Shoshone-Paiute people. I believe it's called genocide.

To the Air Force: The emigrants and settlers and all those that support this bombing range. How Dare You! And Shame On You! I can only pray that the creator has pity on you when you stand before him at the pearly gates.

000339

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: LaFemina First Name:James and Jill
Address:
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip:83712

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 There is absolutely no reason to expand Mountain Home Air Force Base. The congressional delegation of Idaho has no right to ruin the pristine nature of the Owyhee Canyonlands. In this post cold war age it is irresponsible to be expanding war preparation facilities. This range is particularly upsetting because it will render one of the last remaining big horn sheep populations extinct. Why are you practicing to wipe out other cultures at the expense of natural areas. The Owyhee Desert does not need to be used for a range when there is an existing range so close. You(the military) said so yourself. If this range is the only way Mountain Home Air Force Base can stay open then count my wife and I among the individuals in the area that say; "close the base down completely." An expanded Bombing range was a bad idea a few years ago and it is worse now. The future of our open spaces should not come down to a brokered deal somewhere in Washington between Idaho's congressional leaders and the military. Plans for incredible wastes of money should be brought out to an open vote of the people. It is unbelievable to me that this training can't be done by computer. Please do not go forward with this proposal. I can't imagine you and family would enjoy the sanctity and quiet of this beautiful area with bombers flying overhead and dropping their loads on the trail.

TO SAVE YOUR COMMENT:

- Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

LaFemina 1

000340

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Shaffer First Name: Paul
Address: 1486 Shenandoah Drive
City: Boise State: ID Zip: 83712

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1 I've been pleased by attempts by the Air Force to explore other options during the past several years. However, I am not satisfied that adequate steps have been taken to protect wildlife or the quiet of the Owyhee Canyonlands and Uplands.

I prefer to leave details of the wildlife impacts to experts in that field and speak to the need for places of quiet and solitude. This past Saturday night my wife and I camped off the Mud Flat Road near Deep Creek. At dusk a small group of black "attack" helicopters dropped into the valley, performed maneuvers and disappeared into the gathering dusk. This was not the experience we had driven three hours for.

I think I understand the need for a prepared Air Force; my father piloted B-29s during World War II. And I appreciate the risks these young men and women are preparing to take for our country. But I also must speak as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War. The government must still find room for those of us who do not believe in war and confrontation. Who want to enjoy the god-given gift of beauty and solitude that is so hard to find elsewhere.

I wish to express my strong desire to keep the Owyhee's peaceful, a place where the destructive impacts of humankind are kept to a minimum.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Paul Shaffer

shaf-pa 1

000341

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Wyllie First Name: Jane
Address: 306 Parkway Dr
City: Boise State: Idaho Zip: 83706

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?
NA

Enter your comments below:

GE-1 The Enhanced Training range is immense. Considering that they have a shooting range and Sailor Creek and other sites are nearby in Utah and Nevada there is less reason to downgrade another (Owyhee) county so that Mtn Home and Elmore county can feather their nests.

Compare the sizes of a few miscellaneous areas to what the Air Force is requesting:

Rhode Island	1,214
Delaware	2,057
Connecticut	5,009
Hawaii	6,423
New Jersey	7,836
Massachusetts	8,257
New Hampshire	9,304
Vermont	9,609
North Ireland	5,460
Wales	8,016
Switzerland	15,944

Keep in mind while coming up with these immense tracts of land that there was difficulty in Panama of running into a telephone pole and in the rescue mission in Iran where two choppers ran into each other. They had ample space in which to practice and may have fared better if they had practiced in restricted space.

It would be far better for Congress to reassess the situation and allot Mountain Home Air Force Base enough more resources to give our pilots an equal amount of practice time over the Utah Nevada sites as the other bases have to practice their bombing techniques.

Comm-frm 1

000342

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: LYNDAKER First Name: BILLY
Address 345 E. 16TH NORTH
City: MTN HOME State:IDAHO Zip: 83647

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

NONE

Enter your comments now; when you are done, press the tab key or arrow keys:

GE-1
- IF TRAINING RANGES THROUGHOUT THE VARIOUS MILITARY BASES WERE ENVIRONMENTALY DANGEROUS FOR EXISTING WILDLIFE, YOU CAN BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR EVERY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WOULD BE TRYING TO CLOSE ALL EXISTING RANGES. Press F12, then
- Type in the first 6 letters of your last name, and the first 2 letters of your first name.
- To print, click on the printer icon shown above.

lyndak-bi 1

000343

Computer Comment Form
Enhanced Training in Idaho Public Hearing

Hello. Please use the mouse or arrow keys to move to each new typing area.

06/13/97

Last Name: Johnston **First Name:** Lahsha
Address: 413 West Idaho Street, Suite 102
City: Boise **State:** ID **Zip:** 83702

What private, local, state, or federal organization or agency do you represent?

The Wilderness Society (Idaho Office)

Enter your comments below:

GE-2 Thank you for responding to the letter I sent to you May 7, 1997 with regards to the Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal and public process. I am glad there is a web sight established on the Internet for the ETI proposal.

As you know, the Enhanced Training in Idaho Environmental Impact Statement is a very lengthy document. Most everyone I have spoken with have not had time to read the document. It is during the summer months when people spend less time reading and more time enjoying the great outdoors.

The EIS also contains scientific studies and other reference materials which are of interest to our members. To date, we have not been advised as to where we may locate these critical reference documents. By law, each and every one of the documents cited in

PR-18 the ETI EIS must be reasonably available for inspection by potentially interested persons within the time allowed for review and comment on the proposal. 40 C.F.R. sec.'s 1502.21, 1502.25.

This is the fourth proposal in the last eight years. Therefore, I see no reason why the comment period could not be extended to better accommodate the needs of our members.

PR-3 Please extend the comment period an additional 30 days to allow for maximum informed public input.

johnstonl 1

000344

Testimony of Lisa D. Shultz
Boise, Idaho
RE: Enhanced Training Idaho
Boise Public Hearings
June 12 & 13, 1997

GE-2 Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony this evening. First of all, I would like to commend the members of Mountain Home Air Force Base, and particularly the 366th wing, in your accomplishment of being referred to by your base commander as "the most combat ready wing in the world." That is a huge accomplishment. With that in mind however, one has to wonder why it is you seem to think you need this so called

PN-14 "enhancement," especially when the GAO and the Air Force Inspector General, in an official report, stated that this range is not needed.

Why do you think that people have taken their time to pour over your voluminous documents regarding this bombing range proposal in order to try and understand what it is you propose to do and what the impacts will be? Do you think it's because we have nothing better to do? In one of the other hearings, a proponent of the ETI referred to us as wacky environmentalists, I won't waste my time responding to that except to say, because I want it on the record, that many of the people who have testified in opposition are examples of the ideal model of the American citizen, simply by virtue of the fact that they have taken the time to review and respond.

I say this because I hope that you will take into consideration that ~~here~~ would probably be many more people here tonight, but the timing of your release, at the beginning of the summer, has had a huge effect on the turn-out at these hearings since many of the people who would like to be here and can't be, are absent - not because they don't care - but because they are out enjoying precisely what it is you are trying to destroy. Many outfitters, guides, anglers, recreationists and others, some of whom rely on the Owyhee Canyonlands for their livelihood, simply could not be here tonight.

Those of us who are here in opposition tonight are here because we care deeply about the Owyhee Canyonlands. We care that it is an Idaho treasure and we care that you, who are visitors to this state, are going to have your way with it, and then go on to your next tour of duty and we will be left with nothing but photographs and memories.

You make promises in an effort to appease us. You have manipulated, distorted and or excluded data on noise, cumulative affects on wildlife and toxic chemicals

LISA D. SHULTZ
TESTIMONY 1

000345

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: BSU - Boise, Id

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: _____

GE-1 I oppose any expansion of the bombing range. I support the no action Alternative. The Owyhee canyonlands are unique and irreplaceable. The impact of an expanded bombing range would be devastating to the area. The expansion is not necessary. Adequate training facilities already exist. This land is a gift that must be passed - un marketed - to our children, and children's children.

NO BOMBING RANGE

*** Please Print ***

Name: Karen Purdy
Address: 2107 N. 15th Boise, Id 83702
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000346

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Ame,

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 13, 1997

GE-1 No expansion over Big Jacks / Little Jacks Creek Drainages. By the Air Force will now have Irreplaceable impact for all of the Only Bighorn in Owyhee County! The Air Force does not seem to understand the impact ~~bomb~~ noise has on a wild sheep! (Listen to what Dr. Val Geist is trying to tell you!) The Air Force Plunder Patrol must understand how fragile Big Horn populations are / and the Air Force doesn't seem to care

*** Please Print ***

Name: Bill Louderback
Address: 3515 Alma Lane, Nampa, Idaho 83686
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Sanders Agency 000347

230 American Legion Boulevard
P. O. Box 709
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647-0709
(208) 587-3387

Captain M. Miller
Chief 366th Wing P.A.
366 Gunfighter Av. Suite 152
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

To: Captain Miller

GE-1 It is clear that with a shrinking defense budget and an ever smaller force structure that we must maintain the best equipped and best trained force that we can with our resources available.

This requires that we have an adequate training range close to Mountain Home Air Force base so we don't use a lot of fuel wearing out engines and airframes going to a distant range to practice combat maneuvers and weapons delivery techniques. While the Saylor Creek range has been used for many years to provide for individual aircraft to drop practice ordinance one aircraft at a time, it does not have the ability for multiple targets to be struck simultaneously. In Desert Storm it was normal for up to 31 targets to be attacked simultaneously and thus overwhelm the terminal defense system. This was a prime reason that we were able to achieve such spectacular results with minimal losses. America expects spectacular results, short violent conflicts with few causalities.

Our aircrews deserve the best training we can provide. I strongly support the training range.

W.W. Sanders

W.W. Sanders

000349

PN-14 If a 1995 Dept of Defense audit report concluded that additional training needs were not necessary, then why are we having these hearings today?

In the often times frantic industrial and electronic age of ours, we feel demonstrations that afford us the beauty of our lands, the scenic that gives replenishment to the needs of our soul.

I would like to propose that we accept responsibility for our environment. That we place the highest value on this region; its topography, its life forms. I propose that this area be governed by nature, not legislature.

Robin Blaisdell
297 Old Saybrook Dr
Boise, Idaho 83706

000350

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date June 13, 1997

GE-2 Let there be no mistake about the noise disturbance causes Big Horn Sheep to abandon other natural habitat!

DP-42 Where is the mitigation for Calif. Bighorn during Gambling Season

RV-6 Where is the mitigation for hunters with sheep permits for use in a Life-Time shooting experience

*** Please Print ***

Name: Bill Louderback

Address: 3515 Alma Lane, Nampa Idaho 83686
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000351

Vickie D. York
480 W. Claire Court
Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 884-8032

June 12, 1997

GE-1 It is evident that the Air Force has worked long and hard in their efforts to listen to the concerns of Idaho citizens and adjust their strategies in developing the enhanced training range.

I continue to question the motives behind the opponents of the training range and their misleading statements to the media. The EIS will reveal that the animals adjust quickly to aircraft overflights; sage grouse populations declined because there are too many protected predators in those areas; almost 60 percent of the bighorn sheep we lose every year die from the trauma of capture and transplanting operations.

The people advocating for the bighorn sheep are not as interested in the size of the herd as they are in the size of the trophy and protecting their source of targets.

The opponents keep saying they are concerned about potential disturbances over the Owyhee Desert, but they seem to forget that the Air Force has been flying over that area since World War II and very few people even notice. Very few people also seem to remember 30 years ago when the Air Force gave back three times as much range land as it currently holds.

We need to find a balance between the Air Force's need and the environmental concerns. What we really must do is carefully review the available facts and make reasonable decisions. Our natural resources must be balanced against our greatest national resource: freedom. That freedom, upon which everything else we ever hope to accomplish rests, is maintained by providing the best possible training to the men and women this nation often sends into harm's way. The people of the 366th Wing deserve the very best chance we can give them.

Respectfully,

Vickie D. York

Vickie D. York

000352

Streeter Real Estate
Jack Streeter, Broker
Telephone: (208) 587-3641
Evenings Call: 587-4698
Fax: (208) 587-3641

In The Towne Square
195 North 2nd West
Mountain Home, ID 83647

June 9, 1997

GE-1 The United States Department of Defense, the United States Air Force and the other government agencies involved in determining the most beneficial, the most reasonable way to equip and maintain a composite wing with an electronic training range has decided that it should be the Mountain Home Air Force Base. The home of the most advanced composite training range in the world at this time. This wing is tasked to immediately respond to outbreaks of aggression throughout the world that adversely affects this country.

The Air Force has studied, planned, reworked their requirements, and have come up with three proposals, any one of which will meet their needs to adequately protect our way of life, have the least expense and maintain their commitment to a training range that embodies the multiple use concept where hunters, fisherman, rock hounds, cattlemen, sightseers, etc. get to use it for pleasure, profit, and protect the area for posterity. That is all in the concept.

Any individual, group or organization that would stand up, protest, and try to tell the rest of the American people that we don't need a strong defense either has the intelligence of a Bruneau snail or they don't appreciate the lifestyle that our military has preserved for us since the Revolutionary War and it still has not ended. If we had not had a military that was willing to sacrifice everything during World War II, we would not have a free country today.

Jack Streeter

000353

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, ID

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6/13/97

GE-2 The current bombing range expansion plan is not necessary. The impacts to wildlife, river systems, vegetation or recreational opportunities and residents of both local ranchers and Indian tribes would be significant with no ways to mitigate even a portion of those losses. In addition, the Air Force has stated it does not even need the range to continue functioning at top efficiency levels. I support Alternative D of the draft environmental impact statement and urge you to choose this alternative.

PN-1

*** Please Print ***

Name: Lee Bartlett

Address: 1901 Bella St., Boise, ID 83702
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000354

JUNE 13, 1997

PUBLIC HEARINGS "ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO" PROPOSAL

GE-1 *GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS PAMELA ALLISTER AND I LIVE AND WORK IN BOISE, IDAHO. I AM BOTH A MEMBER OF THE SNAKE RIVER ALLIANCE AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THE SNAKE RIVER ALLIANCE PRESENTED TESTIMONY IN TWIN FALLS.*

IN 1950, U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ROBERT H. JACKSON SAID, "IT IS NOT THE FUNCTION OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO KEEP THE CITIZEN FROM FALLING INTO ERROR; IT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE CITIZEN TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT FROM FALLING INTO ERROR." AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN, TONIGHT I WISH TO COMMENT ON THE DEIS FOR THE ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO PROPOSAL.

000354

DEIS/PJA/061397/SRA/ PAGE 2

THE Draft EIS IS DOCUMENT THAT HAS REQUIRED TIME, EFFORT AND MONEY. WHILE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND SCIENTISTS MIGHT QUIBBLE ABOUT SAMPLES, DATA, ANALYSIS,AND RECOMMENDATIONS, I BELIEVE THERE IS AN OVER ARCHING ERROR WITHIN THE DEIS.

PHYSICIST CARL SAGAN TOLD THIS SHORT STORY: IN A POST WAR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN, J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER--THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE MANHATTAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROJECT--MOURNFULLY COMMENTED THAT SCIENTISTS HAD BLOODY HANDS; THAT THEY HAD KNOWN SIN. AFTERWARDS, TRUMAN INSTRUCTED HIS AIDES THAT HE NEVER WISHED TO SEE OPPENHEIMER AGAIN.

OWYDEIS.SRA PAGE 3

AS THIS STORY IMPLIES, SOMETIMES SCIENTISTS ARE CASTIGATED FOR DOING EVIL, AND SOMETIMES FOR WARNING ABOUT THE EVIL USES TO WHICH SCIENCE MAY BE A PART. SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS HAVE, I BELIEVE, AN ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO NOT ONLY SEE THAT FINDINGS ARE NOT MISUSED, BUT ALSO TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOT BEING INFLUENCED TO USE SCIENCE TO FORWARD THE AGENDA OF ANY AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL.

THE DRAFT EIS IS A PSEUDO SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENT WHICH IS FUNDAMENTALLY IMPAIRED BECAUSE IT POSES THE WRONG HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION. TO PARAPHRASE, THE DRAFT EIS RESEARCHES THE QUESTION "CAN THE AIR FORCE HAVE A BOMBING RANGE IN THE OWYHEE CANYONLANDS THAT WILL NOT CAUSE TOO MUCH DAMAGE?" RATHER THAN THE QUESTION, "WHAT WOULD A BOMBING RANGE DO TO THE ENVIRONMENT OF THIS REGION AND IS IT WORTH IT?

000354

OWYDEIS/ PAGE 4

THE DRAFT EIS' RESEARCH IS BIASED AND PREDISPOSES FINDINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO. IT IS THE PARTICULAR TASKS OF SCIENTISTS, TO ALERT THE PUBLIC TO POSSIBLE DANGERS. FOR SCIENTISTS TO FAIL TO RESEARCH AND TO AVOID OR MINIMIZE A DISCLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC THOSE DANGERS SPECIFICALLY EMANATING FROM WEAPON SCIENCE OR THE USE OF WEAPON SCIENCE IS UNJUST. AGAIN, IN THE WORDS OF CARL SAGAN, "CLEARLY THE WARNINGS NEED TO BE JUDICIOUS AND NOT MORE FLAMBOYANT THAN THE DANGER REQUIRE; BUT IF WE MUST MAKE ERRORS, GIVEN THE STAKES, THEY SHOULD BE ON THE SIDE OF SAFETY."

I CHALLENGE THE DRAFT EIS AND ASK FOR A REVIEW OF THE BASIC CONTEXT AND SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVITY FROM WHICH THIS STUDY WAS EXECUTED.

THANK YOU.

A:OWYDEIS.002 REVISED 061397

Amy Haak

000355

GE-2 I am testifying tonight on behalf of the 300 members of the Idaho Whitewater Association, an organization which represents non-motorized river recreationists across the state.

The number of river runners in this state has increased exponentially over the past ten years due to both general population increases in Idaho as well as a higher percentage of people who are discovering Idaho's incredible river systems. This has made it increasingly difficult for private boaters to get launch dates for the controlled wilderness rivers such as the Salmon and the Selway. As a result, many more boaters are turning to the Owyhee and Jarbidge Bruneau River systems for extended trips. I have personally found these desert canyon rivers to be far more wild in character than any of the higher profile permitted runs, and they are virtually in our back yard.

LU-4 Over 350 miles of rivers in the Owyhee Canyonlands have been found eligible for designation as wild and scenic rivers. The Air Forces' finding that the ETI will do nothing to diminish the outstanding resource values of these rivers is erroneous. While the canyon walls may not change, the scenic quality, opportunities for viewing wildlife, and overall recreational experience will be greatly diminished. Numerous overflights, sonic booms, chaff, and flares are incompatible with the wilderness values found in these canyons. ~~Not to mention the fact that sonic booms are somewhat distracting when you are concentrating on negotiating a rapid.~~

DP-35 We have had increasing complaints from private boaters and outfitters, that the noise level and number of overflights is currently unacceptable. It is difficult to evaluate the exact impact of the ETI proposal since there is so little information in the DEIS on the Air Force's actual activities in the sky, however, any increase in activities is too much.

There have also been increased complaints regarding the amount of chaff being found in the canyons. The Navy has determined that although chaff is highly dispersed when deployed, environmental factors lead to its concentration over time. Chaff that ends up in the bottom of the canyons will most certainly stay there to be continuously resuspended as the particles become smaller. As the citizens are being told to practice low impact carry-in carry-out camping techniques, it is ironic that the Air Force should show such a total disregard for the environment by littering the very areas we, as recreational users, are going to great lengths to maintain as pristine environments.

In addition to the overall environmental degradation caused by the presence of chaff, there are also health concerns which have not been adequately addressed in the DEIS. In a series of memos last fall between the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Carson City District BLM, the issue of chaff as a public health hazard was discussed

SF-10 The Division stated two primary concerns on how chaff effects the environment. The first concern regards the potential for inhalable particulates which occur from the mechanical break down and resuspension of fibers. The Division's second concern

LU-16 deals with the physical deposition of solid waste on public and private lands. They found that there is very little information on the amounts of Chaff currently deposited and how these fibers decompose in the environment.

~~As a result, the departments are developing a PM10 monitoring system to evaluate the amount of particulates in the air as a result of chaff deposits by the Navy.~~ The ETI DEIS needs a more adequate evaluation of the impacts of chaff on wildlife and humans

000355

Finally, I would just like to state that the recreational boaters of Idaho oppose any increase in military activities over these truly unique spectacular canyons. People who float these rivers often encounter inclement weather, rattlesnakes, rough roads, portages, and difficult rapids. Yet the use increases every year because the opportunities for solitude and experiencing true wilderness are becoming harder to find. Organizations such as IWA and IRU work to educate river users on the values associated with the whole river environment and the importance of protecting the land that the river runs through. I would ask the Air Force to lead the citizens by example, show some respect for the land and its resources and abandon once and for all your plans to bomb the canyonlands.

GE-1 000356

As a native of the desert I find the threat of the loss of Bruneau Desert and the owyhees an infringement on my culture.

The desert has always been there for me. As it is a part of my culture it is a part of me.

When our indigineous people are threatened not only by the loss of their culture, but

1

000356

find it an infringement on religion as well there can only be increased frustration and sadness.

We have despoiled a people's heritage by driving their ancestors from Warm Springs mesa to Duck Valley at rifle point. This further encroachment is wrong.

2

000356

There is a military reservation in Idaho that is not being fully used. The old naval gunnery range still has undeveloped areas.

Should our bombadiers need more space they should ask the INEEL to share. The INEEL should have no worries from the pin point precision bombing.

3

000356

It is more difficult to allay the fears of our fauna. They already give way to two dimentional encroachment. It has taken some effort to reestablish sheep.

Who is to monitor the bombers. The Air force seemingly lacks honor. They claim a need which the Congress does not recognize. These hearings are an end run.

4

000356

If there were a demonstrable need for National Security The Congress would conduct hearings and legislate.

Can we trust our elected authorities? They have all expressed their Venal need for gain from this robbery of the people

Does any one listen to the people. There are already segments who have

5

000356

been pushed over the edge. Most of us are all good citizens we shall not repay evil with evil. ~~The Bombers~~ YOU HAVE THE BOMBS We pay our taxes. But this theft of our heritage hurts.

A particular stick in the craw is the practice of government agencies' expenditure of funds to sway the civil population. I counted over twenty uniforms

6

000356

it was very impressive Twenty uniformed fly people was also very oppressive. How can the air force in honor devote this much personnel to a project which if the citizenty were organized and wealthy enough to seek redress in the courts might make some one's head roll?

Dr John Harms
6116 Edgewater Drive
Boise ID 83709-1029
375 5066

20

000357

June 13, 1997 "Enhanced Training In Idaho" EIS
Comments of Kay Hummel, 420 E. Crestline, Boise, ID 83702

GE-2 I have many fundamental doubts about the Enhanced Training proposal but am going to focus on archaeological and historic resouces.

CU-3 First off, my comprehension of the EIS has been greatly hampered by the failure to supply the background reports. I have read everything in the two volumes that deals with cultural resources. However, there is no way for the public to agree or disagree with the documentation of site eligibility because of the missing data. Thus, this process is flawed and does not comply with the National Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA).

CU-4 How this EIS interprets the National Historic Preservation Act is troubling. The apparent focus only on sites that meet National Register criteria may be illegal. It is immaterial whether sites have National Register eligibility at this point. On all cultural sites, you must determine their significance.

CU-5 The sampling done on the three alternatives for drop zones also is problematic. The Air Force did not sample outside the footprints of Alternatives B, C, nad D. Yet It is well known that in actual missions and target practice, there will be a definite percentage of drops outside the target zones. This particularly concerns me in the Juniper Butte and Clover Butte sites because of their proximity to the ~~Owyhee Canyon~~ East Fork of Mt Bruneau and Jarbidge River canyons. Everyone knows that the likelihood of more intense cultural and historic use increases near steep canyons and water sources. Although these alternatives are mostly on flat rolling terrains, the overshooting that can routinely occur on adjacent canyons must be

CU-6 evaluated. There is no mention of cultural resources outside the rigid outlines of the alternative drop zones. This analysis should be done. The

EIS is deficient without it.

. I am particularly knowledgeable of the Grasmere alternative. This area is extremely rich in cultural and archaeological sites. The sampling there yields a statistical projection that there will be 403 total cultural resources in the entire range. This is very dense and probably cannot be mitigated, plus will require huge archaeological excavations.

On a personal note, my family and I have spent many days enjoying the intensely wild area near Grasemere, Wickahoney and in the Jarbidge itself. We find incredible solitude and have always encoutered many prehistoric sites and evidence of Native American use.

Our last trip was virtually a walk through yards and yards of petroglyphs that will be in or near the Grasmere drop zone. It is intolerable to think that this museum of cultural richness, the rare plants and special riparian zones will be torn up for emitters, roads and propane generators.

I would like to add that on our recent trip, my eight year old son boasted that he saw thirty kinds of flowers in bloom. Think of that, a youngster can admire and distinguish that many species, even if he can't name them all. This kind of resource does not need the unecessary impacts of a training range that easily can make use of established areas not far away in Utah and Nevada.

This should not be a "tragic" choice of protecting resources that are breathtakingly historic, beautiful and wild ... Versus giving the Air Force a more convenient training range that saves on jet fuel. The only reality is

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that we are a nation of laws. The Department of Defense cannot ignore cumulative effects, NEPA or the National Historic Preservation Act. It must comply fully with these statutes. The Air Force cannot choose to gloss over the demanding parts of them. When we fail to uphold our laws fully, then truly our freedom and safety is threatened.

Paul Poorman
5230 N. Black Cat Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642
June 9, 1997

U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID83701-0329

ORAL COMMENTS:

GE-2 Hello. My name is Paul Poorman, and I'm a resident of Meridian, ID. I am strongly against the proposed Grasmere alternative.

The latest bombing range proposal Environmental Impact Statement reflects years of work and millions of dollars in expense, yet corrects few, if any, of the problems of previous statements.

DP-7 The fundamental problem is still present, mainly that the justification for the range hinges on special training needs for the composite wing. If the composite wing was not based in Idaho, then there would be no need for the new range. Since the two activities are linked, then the environmental impact statement must show the cumulative impacts for both activities.

Instead, the Air Force has conveniently chosen to use the last few years as a baseline for environmental impact, artificially diminishing the additional impact of the new activities. In fact, the increased presence of military aircraft has already degraded the solitude and wildlife habitat of the Owyhees and military use needs to decrease, not increase.

NO-4 Now let us discuss noise. The EIS averages the noise that the jets produce over a 24 hour period and uses that method to claim that a jet is quieter than an indoor room. That's like saying a hot oven won't burn you since it's only used for one hour a day. The potential for disruption of recreationists and wildlife is grossly underestimated with this method, and the true environmental effects are masked. The Air Force should report the expected number of sonic booms and the maximum daily sound levels.

The existing noise level in the Owyhee Canyonlands is too high. In numerous hiking, boating, and biking trips that I have taken over the last few years, the silence has been shattered uninterupted by aimless military jets going around in circles. The disruptions have lasted anywhere from an hour to all day. I've even seen B-52's flying below me from the top of Three Fingers Rock, in Eastern Oregon. The military use is already too high.

DP-5 Use of 1992-1996 baseline for aircraft noise conveniently ignores the drastic increase in aircraft noise after the composite wing beddown. Comparing the new noise levels with pre-1992 levels would show how much true impact the military overflights are having.

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The noise annoyance studies used by the Air Force to estimate the effect on people of military aircraft are completely irrelevant. The EIS should use studies of the effects of aircraft overflights on people in a wilderness setting, since that is what they doing. If complete studies on that type of noise are not available, then only the portions of the available studies that use aircraft noise over wilderness areas should be used. In addition,

BI-9 the EIS should include effects of loud aircraft on the sensitive bearing and survival of bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

Using the Bruneau-Jarbidge area for the target area is a mistake. This area is used by hundreds of boaters and hikers every year. The deep canyons and scenic highlands of this area create a quality recreation experience and significant wildlife habitat. The EIS should include some real alternatives instead of minor variations on the same theme. For example, one alternative might be to exapnd the existing Saylor Creek range toward Glenn's Ferry and move the heavy air traffic out of the Owyhee Canyonlands.

PN-14 Lastly, I have a hard time trusting the justification for the range. An Inspector-General Audit report states that Mountain Home Air Base training facilities are adequate. The same report concluded that the Air Force was overestimating the inconvenience of using remote ranges.

In summary, the Air Force should provide a real justification for this new bombing range. The EIS should compare real alternatives. Noise and environmental impact assessments should use a pre-1992 baseline. And lastly, the Air Force should stop lying with statistics to try to say that the afterburners from a military jet and the resultant sonic booms are quieter than an air conditioner.

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GE-1 JENNY BUSH-CLARK TESTIMONY JUNE 13, 1997 BOISE IDAHO

GOOD EVENING, MY NAME IS JENNY BUSH-CLARK AND I LIVE IN COEUR D'ALENE IDAHO AND I WORK AS A MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER AND CLINICAL PSYCHOTHERAPIST IN SILVERTON IDAHO. I AM SPEAKING AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN WHO HAS SEVERAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT FOR THE AIR FORCE PROPOSAL FOR A BOMB RANGE IN THE OWYHEE CANYONLANDS AREA. I WANT TO SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS MY OWN EXPERIENCES WITH TRAINING.

AS A NATIONALLY RANKED US WOMAN'S MARATHON RUNNER AND FORMER TRI-ATHLETE, I HAVE EXPERIENCED RIGOROUS AND CONCENTRATED INTENSE TRAINING FOR MY EVENTS. I AM AWARE OF THE

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TIME, EFFORT, COMMITMENT AND SACRIFICE THAT IS NEEDED TO TRAIN. IN ORDER TO EXCEL, ONE MUST GO BEYOND THAT EFFORT. I CAN APPRECIATE WHAT THE AIR FORCE CAN PERCEIVE IT NEEDS TO HAVE "THE RIGHT STUFF". AS AN ATHLETE, HOWEVER, I HAVE LEARNED THAT GOING AT FULL THROTTLE ALL THE TIME, IS DEFEATING AND COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. IN ORDER TO BE AND DO MY BEST, I MUST "TAPER." TAPERING IS A PROCESS OF PERFORMING LESS AND PACING, IN GIVING MY BODY AND MIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTEGRATE, TO EVALUATE, AND TO SET REALISTIC GOALS DEPENDING UPON THE OPPOSITION. IN OTHER WORDS, IN ORDER TO PREPARE TO BE THE BEST, I MUST DO LESS.

ON JUNE FIRST THE SEATTLE TIMES STORY BY DAVID WOOD

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HEADLINED "PILOTS FLEE AIR FORCE IN DROVES". HE WROTE FROM LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE IN VIRGINIA, THAT "MANY AIR FORCE PILOTS TODAY ARE TIRED, FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY" AND THAT "THEY HAVE LITTLE TRUST IN THE INTEGRITY OF THE AIR FORCE OR THEIR POLITICAL LEADERS THEY COMPLAIN OF BEING LIED TO." "THIS YEAR, THE AIR FORCE EXPECTS TO LOSE 414 PILOTS, MORE THAN HALF OF ITS MOST EXPERIENCED AVIATORS. THAT MEANS LESS EXPERIENCED PILOTS ARE OVERLOADED WITH WORK."

THIS IS NOT GOOD NEWS FOR THE AIR FORCE OR FOR US. I SUGGEST, THAT WITH THE COLD WAR CRISIS BEHIND US, AND THE MANY NEEDS FOR OUR SCARE RESOURCE WHETHER THEY BE TIME OR MONEY THAT WE HAVE OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE LOOK AT SOME "TAPERING." GIVEN THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE AIR FORCE AND

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THE FACT THAT THE "AIR FORCE'S TOP PILOTS ARE QUITTING IN DROVES", AM WONDERING IF THIS IS THE BEST TIME FOR ENHANCEMENT? DO WE NEED TO DO AN DRAFT EIS REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE AIR FORCE TOO?"

THANK YOU.

A:JRBC02.SRA

Sun, Jun 15, 1997 000360

Lee &Al McGlinsky
12713 Memory Lane
Nampa, ID 83686

USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Re: The Enhanced Training Idaho Bombing Range

Dear People:

GE-1 What a strange world it is that has native Idahoans pleading to strangers and agencies from across the country in order to keep this nation's treasures from being bombed by U. S. forces in peacetime. Nevertheless, I am here to do so.

Perhaps many of those given authority in this weird process have not walked the lands over which you would zoom, on which you would practice bombing, nor sat near or floated down rivers we know well as the Owyhee, the Bruneau, the Jarbidge or Deep Creek.

These canyons, the wildlife and the wilderness areas are far too rare resources in and of themselves to be spent so carelessly as military bombing practice would require.

If practice you must, do so in hi-tech Link Trainer type simulators you could develop at far lesser cost. Or do it on existing bombing ranges such as that at Saylor Creek, nearby or on already established training ranges in Utah or Nevada, offering navigational training opportunities as well.

Put briefly, the so called Enhanced Training in Idaho Bombing Range is not in any way an idea necessary or important, especially at this time when the opportunities for cooperation and peace among once confronting nations enable us to reduce military expenditures which could serve more important, and real, social needs. Drop it, not bombs, in Idaho.

Sincerely,

Lee McGlinsky

Training Range Remarks 000361

GE-1 I am a conservationist. I am concerned about wildlife, having enough clean air and water. ~~I am definitely not for developers in many instances.~~ However, I am also a retired military officer. I am proud to have served my country ~~as a US Marine Corps~~ pilot. My observations on the opposition to the training range seem to revolve around whether the range is needed and the adverse affects on the wildlife and public use of the land in that area. I hope to address those issues.

I also do not want us or our government to create a situation that would be permanently detrimental to our environment or wildlife. I do know that humans and wildlife are extremely adaptable. My own experience with wildlife on or near jet airbases and target areas suggests that the wildlife flourishes in those places. ~~As a matter of fact, the wildlife have posed a hazard to aviation because of their abundance.~~ I do not feel the wildlife in Idaho would be any different. The plan proposed is much different than the original plan and takes steps to reduce the direct threat to the wildlife, especially during their birthing season. What evidence exists to prove that these flights will have a long term adverse affect on the ~~sheep, goats, deer, antelope and other~~ wildlife? Like us, they will ignore the flights after awhile. I believe the helocopter flights to count the animals are more threatening because they are chased for extended periods of time. A jet traveling at 420 MPH travels at 7 miles per minute or about 1 mile every 8 seconds. The jet and its noise will be gone almost before the animal can react.

Another example of wildlife adapting was in evidence last fall. While afield last fall in Elmore county I observed several herds of elk. ~~These elk were within 2 - 3 miles of a helocopter logging~~

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~~operation.~~ One herd in particular was less than ¼ mile of direct over flights and the actual logging operation. They were unaffected. They were more affected by my presence than that of the noisy, low flying helocopter's.

The current training range plan also is much improved in regards to Native American concerns for overflights and protection of their sacred lands.

I feel I have a very good understanding of the training requirements needed to maintain a pilots proficiency for success in a combat situation. I also firmly believe that the world is not as safe a place to live as some others might lead you to believe. For example, China is NOT our friend and opposes us on several fronts. The collapse of the Soviet Union has not necessarily reduced the threat in eastern Europe. Just look at how volatile the Bosnian situation was and may be again after we pull out.

Because of our current role and the potential for other more volatile roles, our aircrews and other members of OUR military must be able to be 100% effective, or a close as possible, when they arrive in a hostile environment. If any of you play golf, softball, bridge or go white water rafting you know that if you haven't done those things in a while you are rusty and need to practice or get in shape to perform at peak performance levels. While most of the things we do like that are not life threatening, military operations are and if everyone isn't in shape or proficient people can be killed, OUR OWN PEOPLE. My experience as a trained aviation safety officer has led me to ~~believe~~ that while our aircrews are extremely confident in what they do, if their current skill level is not up to the same level as their confidence they are many times more apt to kill themselves

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or someone else.

We expect the military to succeed without hurting our own people. The complexities of battle are enormous. ~~Most of our military actions in recent history have been multi-force environments with tremendous coordination required~~. The multiple aircraft environment is complex and cannot be accomplished without previous and current skill. The timing of the evolutions is split second. Having flown out of a base with a limited training environment I understand the need to provide our aircrews the kind of facility that the training area proposed would provide. Only able to have access to quality ranges once or twice a year, we spent weeks getting ready to be able to prepare to make the best use of this training and it only lasted a few weeks (if that long) after it was over. I also know that when you don't own the range facility you don't get the opportunity to get range times when you need them.

The military is being asked to do more with less, but without a local range the time and money spent to maintain the aircrew proficiency will be costly.

~~Please remember that as long as the aircraft over your head have white stars on blue backgrounds they are OUR men and women.~~ These are our Men & Women
Preparing and training to protect us at nearly any cost so we can enjoy the many, many benefits of living in the greatest country in the world. If you have never been out of this country to see how other people live, you should do it. You would appreciate what we have here even more. The FREE in freedom is NOT FREE.

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Oral Testimony
Department of the Air Force - Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
from Wendy L. Wilson and
Idaho Rivers United
June 13, 1997

GE-2 **Background and Postion**

Idaho Rivers United is a non-profit citizens group working to protect wild rivers and healthy watersheds. Most of our 1,600 members are recreational users (or used to be) and I speak for the majority of them in opposition to all of the current alternatives in this DEIS including the No Action Alternative which we feel is based on a legally-deficient baseline level of related activities.

We will prepare additional written comments for the record as we have for all the other hearings on this subject. Idaho Rivers United was founded in 1990, in part because of the threat to the Bruneau-Jarbidge and Owyhee river systems from the proposed Saylor Creek Air Force Range expansion. Our people are tired of this game and don't want to be here every year. We still believe that turning the wild Owyhee Canyonlands into a supersonic battlefield is shortsighted and wrong. .

Timing for Project is No Longer Appropriate

Times are changing in Idaho and time is running out for approval of this project. The farther we get from the cold war, the less clear is the military need for this project. The Department of Defense still has not done a programatic review of the need for this project.

The demographics of Idaho have changed and competition for use of the land has increased. Hundreds of thousands more people live in Idaho than when this project was first proposed. The societal values of solitude, quiet, and wild lands have increased. This proposal is a dinosaur that has not changed with the times.

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Impacts of Alternatives Not Adequately Reviewed

I'm a river runner. The Owyhee Canyonlands and Glen Canyon (now flooded behind Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River) share the disadvantage of being a Place No One Knew. They are both places of beautiful, wild rivers, wild animals, and native ecosystems that few people have ever had a chance to appreciate. So let me tell you what I've seen before it is too late to protect this special place.

Solitude of the Wild River Experience:

- On the Owyhee River a person can drift downstream for 20 days and encounter just one road. This will change under this proposal.
- I have hiked and boated for weeks without seeing another person. That will change under this proposal. :
- I've been hit in the canyons by a sonic boom so big that I thought I had been fatally shot. I don't believe the noise pollutions

NO-17 projections in this DEIS because they do not acknowledge that this even happens

Impacts to Wild Lands:

- I've been stuck in mud up to my axles on the desert adobe. I

LU-5 don't believe that EIS adequately addresses the impacts of hauling gravel into the high desert to improve roads.

Opportunity to See Wildlife:

- If you sit by the river and sing to yourself, bighorn sheep come to the canyon edge above you to watch. That will change under this proposal and has already started to change under the "no action" baseline condition.

Opportunity to Appreciate Cultural Resources:

- In the canyonlands a person can find caves with drying racks : made out of sticks for fish that haven't come up river in a hundred years.
- You can walk across a river benchlands and see hundreds of tiny glinting rock flakes chipped by hunters.

Under this proposal there will be more people on new roads going to the emitter sites, and vandalism will change these things.

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Suggested Action

1) The future is already uncertain for all of these fragile resources. This EIS should be withdrawn and the project reconsidered.

2) With the BLM's help, a new or supplementation EIS should include protection alternatives as well as training range alternatives. The BLM needs to adopt much stronger land protection policies through the Resource Management Plan Process. The Owyhee could be protected by Congress as a National Conservation Area or by the Administration as a specially managed Area of Critical Environmental Concern. These options would be precluded if this current proposal is adopted and should be considered now before it is too late.

3) Federal action to withdrawing the DEIS would allow federal agencies to consult with each other about overall direction of military expansion in the West. The left hand does not know what the right

PR-1 hand is doing. For example, why aren't the findings of the **Integrated Scientific Assessment for Ecosystem Management in the Interior Columbia Basin** incorporated into this DEIS?

Right now citizens are preparing comments on the Upper Columbia DEIS that identifies the most important problems facing land managers in the region as follows:1) reducing wildfire risks, 2) restoring fish and aquatic habitat, 3) reducing road related sedimentation, and 4) reducing the spread of noxious weeds. Yet the Air Force DEIS proposed to increase risk of wildfire, potentially harm fish and aquatic habitat, increase in road-related sedimentation and ground disturbance that could lead to more noxious weeds.

Summary

The best future of the Owyhee Canyonlands is bad roads, lousy weather, silence and rattlesnakes. The Air Force luckily can't do anything about the weather and the rattlesnakes. But their roads and their noise will change this country forever.

Even though the Air Force has been sent back to the drawing board twice they still haven't gotten the message. This is the wrong time and place for this proposal.

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A supersonic battlefield would drown this country. Like Glen Canyon, slowly filling up with mud behind a huge dam, the wild rivers and the solitude of the Owyhee would slowly be destoyed if the Air Force remains deaf to these problems.

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Economic Analysis and Noise Modeling In The
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
on
Enhanced Training in Idaho

GE-2

William J. Weida
Professor of Economics
The Colorado College

June 13, 1997

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Introduction

My name is William J. Weida. I was born and raised in Idaho Falls, Idaho and currently maintain a residence in McCall, Idaho. I am employed as a Professor in the Economics and Business Department of The Colorado College where I specialize in defense economics, statistics, and econometric modeling. I received a BS in engineering from the US Air Force Academy, an MBA from UCLA, and a Doctorate in Econometrics and Operations Research from the University of Colorado. I was a member of the Economics Department at the US Air Force Academy for 11 years, the last two of which I was chair. I was an economist in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for three years, and I retired from the Air Force as a Colonel in 1985.

While serving in the Air Force, I was a combat pilot in Vietnam with 200 combat missions. Later, working as an economist, I developed a method of modeling research and development costs that I successfully applied to a variety of projects ranging from the B-1 bomber to nuclear warheads. This model provided the first forecast of overruns on the B-1 bomber, and it is now used to forecast and monitor development costs for laser projects associated with the SDI. I also served as the director of the in-house Air Force team that reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement for the racetrack deployment of the MX missile in Utah. I have authored four books on defense economic issues and have contributed chapters to numerous other books on the same topic.

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Executive Summary

The Enhanced Training in Idaho DEIS is about noise and the effect noise will have on the people, wildlife, and economies in rural and wilderness areas of Idaho. There are two ways to determine how annoyed people are by aircraft noise:
[1] test their annoyance with the actual noise they will experience in the environment in which the experience will occur or
[2] use twenty-year-old surveys on reactions to a different kind of noise by unrelated groups of people living in foreign, urban environments.
The United States Air Force (USAF) has chosen to pursue the second course. As a result, the DEIS for Enhanced Training in Idaho has the following major deficiencies:

Failure to provide adequate rationale for the proposed action:

PN-14 The Department of Defense Inspector General, the Deputy Director of the Air Force for Test, Systems Engineering, and Evaluation, and the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations all found or claimed that the expansion planned by the Air Force is either not adequately

PN-9 justified or not necessary. However, this DEIS provide no cost benefit analysis for the decision concerning Enhanced Training in Idaho.

Failure to test against the true "No-Action" alternative:

DP-5 The Air Force has used noise levels associated with the Composite Wing as the baseline (No-Action Alternative) instead of the true No Action alternative of the force structure that preceded the arrival of the Composite Wing.

Failure to adequately consider economic impacts from proposed activities:

CO-12 (1) Costs arising from Enhanced Training are shifted from the residents of Elmore County to the inhabitants of the Duck Valley Reservation and Owyhee County.
(2) Economic benefits from Enhanced Training are narrowly focused on Elmore and Ada Counties.

SO-5 (3) Noise of the kind generated by the proposed activity has been found to lower the value of property by .5 to 1.9% of the market value per decibel of acoustic measurement.

SO-8 (4) The incorrect No Action alternative in the DEIS cannot be evaluated by the information presented in the socioeconomic section of the DEIS because the economic information predates the activity it is supposed to analyze by at least four years.

SO-6 (5) There is good evidence that Composite Wing flying activity cut recreation revenues in Owyhee county by about 30% in 1995 and 1996.
(6) Losses in recreation revenue from Composite Wing activity already translate to a "tax" of about $35.00 on each citizen of Owyhee County or a "tax" of about $100 on each family.

Failure to adequately consider cumulative impacts:

NO-20 The DEIS limits its consideration to single aircraft, and it does not adequately discuss the cumulative effects of noise and other environmental degradation that would devolve from Composite Wing maneuvers.

Failure to properly account for Aircraft Noise:

NO-1 (1) The DEIS uses noise figures for MTRs instead of the higher figures for MOAs that account for the maneuvering that takes place in combat training. The Air Force is urged to refer to the

NO-5 documents it used in the Pennsylvania National Guard EIS on MOA expansion where the Air Force itself showed that higher noise levels are appropriate.

NO-2 (2) The noise analysis in the DEIS is based on a mix of tram, railroad, road and aircraft noise in urban communities--not on aircraft noise in a wilderness environment. Using either the Schultz or USAF models to predict noise/annoyance relationships is analogous to claiming that someone who is highly annoyed by aircraft noise will become less annoyed if additional noise is created by automobiles, trains or trams.

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NO-19 (3) Schultz's model underestimates the percentage of people who are annoyed by urban noise in the 50 to 75 dB range by 7 to 13 percent. The 1991 study by Fidell, Barber and Schultz confirmed that the Schultz curve consistently and substantially underestimated annoyance with aircraft noise.
(4) The USAF model's incorrect curve underestimates the number of people annoyed by urban noise in the 40 to 70 dB range by 15 to 20 percent.
(5) Noise/annoyance estimates in the DEIS are less than half the actual percentage of people highly annoyed with aircraft noise.
(6) A number of well accepted studies and court decisions over the last 20 years show that annoyance with aircraft noise is about twice as high as that predicted by the Air Force. By not referring to any of these studies, the Air Force and its contractors have ignored substantial evidence that higher levels of annoyance exist for aircraft. This violates the NEPA and raises serious questions about the thoroughness and unbiasedness of this DEIS.

NO-21 (7) A model based on aircraft noise only shows that all aircraft the Air Force proposes to fly in the DEIS will exceed a 53 dB annoyance benchmark at all altitudes and that all four alternatives in the DEIS exceed this level for cumulative dB at 50 percent or more of their reference points.

NO-19 (8) A 1992 Forest Service study that suggests persons in wilderness settings are at least ten times more sensitive to aircraft noise than those in urban settings. The Air Force discussion of this study fails to mention this finding and its interpretation of the data in the rest of the study is questionable to the point of being disingenuous.

NO-11 (9) The 1996 USAF ESOH Handbook states clearly that the Air Force itself is well aware its sound studies are inadequate and that they are not defensible. It states that "accurate combined annoyance prediction from both types of operations is not currently available." And the Air Force claims that

> new and refined methods of analysis are needed to...ensure Air Force actions in response to environmental issues are based on legally defensible...analysis methods. The dosage-response relationship on which the Air Force currently relies for predicting the annoyance of exposure to sonic booms...is based on modest amounts of information about repetitive and expected noise exposures in residential communities. The applicability of this relationship to many settings of practical interest to the Air Force has never been demonstrated.

Detailed Critique

Failure to provide adequate rationale for the proposed action

The courts have held that:

(1) "NEPA....does not permit [an] agency to eliminate from discussion or consideration [a] whole range of alternatives merely because they would achieve only some purposes of multi-purpose project; obviously, any genuine alternative to propose action will not fully accomplish all goals..."[1]
(2) "Purposes of NEPA (42 USCS §§ 4321 et seq) are frustrated when considerations of alternatives and collateral effect are unreasonably constricted..."[2]

The courts have further held that "under 42 USCS § 4332, rule of reason requires agency to consider any alternative which is reasonable under circumstances;.."[3] The real issue here, and one that the DEIS never addresses, is the minimum the Air Force can live with, given the costs their actions levy on the citizens of Idaho. This is particularly true given the fact that the Department of Defense Inspector General, the Deputy Director of the Air Force for Test, Systems Engineering, and Evaluation, and the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations all found or claimed that the expansion planned by the Air Force is either not adequately justified or not necessary.[4] Further, the Air Force itself has repeatedly claimed that the construction of a new range is not necessary to guarantee that Mountain Home AFB remains open.[5] If one assumes these statements are correct, any range expansion must stand on its own based on the arguments outlined in the DEIS. This assumption is supported by the fact that the DEIS itself makes no arguments and presents no evidence why Mountain Home AFB and the Idaho Air National Guard should continue to receive federal funding at any level.

When reviewing a document created under the NEPA process, one assumes that the costs and benefits of all reasonable alternatives in a decision process have been evaluated. However, the authors of this DEIS provide no cost benefit analysis for the decision concerning Enhanced Training in Idaho. This omission is particularly egregious given the comments of the Defense Department Inspector General two years ago that "the Air force cost benefit analysis that supports the proposal was prematurely formulated...A final decision on the benefit of investing in the ITR should not be made until...a cost benefit analysis based explicitly on [the] requirements is completed."[6] And, even if a need for training is established, the DEIS has provided no comparative cost and benefit evidence to show that this training could be better done in Idaho.

Thus, this DEIS can only be reviewed with the understanding that it is not a true Environmental Impact Statement, and that it explores only one basic option (with several sub-alternatives) in one specific location. Not only does this detract from the legitimacy of the analysis conducted in the DEIS, but the failure to adequately consider other alternatives also violates the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act which requires "assessing the potential impacts of the proposed action *and alternatives*..." [Author's Italics]

Further, by arbitrarily limiting the DEIS to the area around Mountain Home AFB, the authors have refused to consider several perfectly adequate, existing range options such as the Utah Training Range. Would it be cheaper to use the UTTR? The authors of the DEIS have not

[1]Mathews v United States Dept. of Transportation (1981, WD NC) 527 F SUPP 1055, 12 ELR 20345.
[2]Greene County Planning Board v Federal Power Com. (1976, CA2) 559 F2d 1227, 7 ELR 20101.
[3]Residents in Protest-I-35E v Dole (1984, DC Minn) 583 F Supp 653.
[4]Audit Report, Report No. 95-274, Office of the Inspector General, US Department of Defense, Washington, DC, June 30, 1995, p. i.
[5]Garber, Andrew, "Board backs training range swap", The Idaho Statesman, November 5, 1993.
[6]Audit Report, Op. Cit., pp. i-ii.
[7]Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Idaho Training Range, US Air Force, November, 1993, p. 1-32.

considered this question. In fact, the Idaho options are not supported by any economic evidence and are, instead, justified by several references to "efficiency" and flying time. Efficiency, in the true economic sense, implies maximizing benefits for some amount of cost. Such costs and benefits are broadly defined, meaning that total dollar and social costs -- those paid in taxes and borne by the average citizen -- are what are important, not whether an Air Force pilot spends extra time on some phase of a mission.

Efficiency based solely on flight time is not comparable to an evaluation of the total costs and benefits. It is only fair to note that under the Air Force's narrow definition of time-based efficiency, the authors of the DEIS should have recommended sites in Elmore or Ada County that were as close to Mountain Home AFB as possible, not sites in Owyhee County.

Since this DEIS does investigate the various range options, it is necessary to refer to a previous, withdrawn DEIS on the Saylor Creek Range where these options were discussed.[8] The Saylor Creek Range is one of TAC's smallest ranges, but it has supported the Idaho ANG, SAC, and TAC aircraft from Nellis, Cannon and other units. Further, the use by Mountain Home AFB aircraft of ranges beyond 150 NM from Mountain Home was feasible according to the 1990 Tier One DEIS.[9] Since 1990, plans to close the UTTR have been discussed.[10] Thus, not only is sufficient range time available to accommodate aircraft from Mountain Home, but the Air Force is now in the questionable position of trying to build the training facilities in the DEIS at a cost of at least $12 million while closing an old one that is within 25 miles (and about 4 minutes) of an arbitrarily established distance limit.[11] This type of decision process makes any talk of economic efficiency meaningless.

According to the Tier One DEIS, the cost to deploy an entire squadron to Nellis, AFB for 1 year would be about $2,500,000[12] above normal operating costs in 1996 dollars. This cost must be compared with costs that might be incurred by other options. For example, the $12 million proposed to be spent on the new training facilities in the current DEIS would support one squadron at Nellis for about five years. Similarly, although the cost per 30 minute sortie at the Saylor Creek range ($4300) is about half the cost of a similar sortie at a Utah range ($8800)[13], $12 million would support the additional cost of 2670 sorties to the Utah range.

Failure to test against the true "No-Action" alternative

The preparation of an EIS has, as a basic requirement, the evaluation of a No-Action alternative. The reason for this requirement is to provide a baseline against which all other alternatives can be measured. This rationale is so obvious that for the last twenty years all EISs have compared the Proposed Action alternatives to the No-Action alternative.

The purpose of a completed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the data it includes (for example, the noise data in this DEIS) is to help the US Air Force arrive at a reasoned, accurate estimate of the environmental damage its actions will entail. Indeed, the courts have held that an EIS should

> "provide detailed discussion sufficient to allow agency decision maker to fully consider in his decisional calculus possible environmental effects of various alternative paths agency might choose..."[14]

[8]Tier One: Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Realignment of Mountain Home Air Force Base and Proposed Expanded Range Capability, U.S. Tactical Air Command, February, 1990.
[9]Ibid., p. 2-20.
[10]Nokkentved, N.S., "Air Force aims to close 1 range, spend millions on 2nd", Twin Falls Times News, November 19, 1993.
[11]"Range costs noted in Congress gives OK," The Pipeline, Mountain Home, Idaho, May 29, 1997.
[12]Tier One: Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Op. Cit., p. 2-23.
[13]Ibid. p. 2-24.
[14]Sierra Club v Coleman (1976, DC Dist Col) 421 F Supp 63, 6 ELR 20798.

However, in this DEIS there is abundant evidence that the baseline is both wrong and is used in an erroneous and disingenuous manner. The arrival of the Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base was never approved by an adequate EIS process and the Air Force was taken to court and lost on this issue. The Air Force has still not addressed the inadequacy of its siting of the Composite Wing, but it has used the noise levels associated with this wing as the baseline (No-Action Alternative) from which other alternatives are measured. This renders all comparative analysis in the Enhanced Training in Idaho moot and it means that the Air Force has failed to comply with one of the most fundamental requirements of an EIS.

The method by which the No-Action Alternative is described must make it clear exactly what the alternative is. The courts have held that an "environmental impact statement complies with NEPA (42 USCS §§4321-4347).....when it makes available to [the] public information of [the] proposed project's environmental impact...."[15] This impact is clearly the difference between the status quo and the preferred alternative.

As currently structured, the DEIS makes no attempt to address the actual status quo. The courts have repeatedly held that failure to address the status quo violates the intent of the NEPA:

(1) "Duty to prepare environmental impact statement is normally triggered when there is proposal to change status quo..."[16]
(2) "Treatment of alternatives in EIS regarding proposed flood control project was deficient in that it was impossible to determine from EIS....present...[conditions]."[17]
(3) Statement was deficient and "new statement is necessary to supplement previous statement which evaluated different set of control programs under significantly different circumstances."[18]
(4) "Injunction [against project] would be granted...where....SEIS contained inadequate discussion of no action alternative and failed to address cumulative impact of past, present, and future [actions]."[19]

The intent of each of these court rulings is clear. It is also clear that unless the EIS considers the environmental impact of its proposals based on the noise and sorties that existed prior to the arrival of the Composite Wing, the EIS will be deficient. As a result, any decision based on a comparison between the alternatives in this DEIS and what the DEIS uses as its No-Action alternative is fatally flawed.

Failure to Adequately Consider Economic Impacts

Cost shifting:

An adequate socioeconomic analysis must consider among the costs those externalities--the side effects associated with a project--that fall on persons other than those responsible for the project. In the case of Enhanced Training In Idaho, externalities represent costs that arise from noise pollution, loss of land use, decreased tourism, and other factors. Accounting for these costs is important, because costs arising from externalities are shifted from the residents of Elmore County who are proposing and supporting the project to the inhabitants of the Duck Valley Reservation and Owyhee County. In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Enhanced Training In Idaho (DEIS), the major negative externality is clearly the noise associated with aircraft operations. If this noise degrades the lifestyle in rural areas of Idaho or the wilderness experience provided by the lands under the proposed MOAs, the result could be both economic and social losses to the residents of Idaho.

[15]Trout Unlimited v Morton (1974, CA9 Idaho) 509 F2d 1276, 5 ELR 20151.
[16]Sierra Club v Hassell (1980, SD Ala) 10 ELR 20779.
[17]Akers v Resor (1978, WD Tenn) 443 F Supp 1355, 8 ELR 20388.
[18]Sierra Club v Block (1985, DC Dist Col) 614 F Supp 488, 15 ELR 20775.
[19]Tenakee Springs v Clough (1990, CA9 Alaska) 915 F2d 1308.

The costs of noise:

For those areas outside Elmore County, the direct impacts of the Composite Wing and Enhanced Training in Idaho are likely to have already been substantial. Nelson found that higher noise levels lower the value of property by .5 to 1.9% of the market value per decibel of acoustic measurement.[20] And, in a 1993 paper, Nickell found that the first year costs to Custer, Saguache, and Huerfano Counties of Colorado of proposed Air National Guard flying activities would be $4,200,000 in lost real estate values and $2,000,000 in lost recreation values in 1991 dollars.[21] The fact that losses in real estate values do occur because of aircraft noise was recently confirmed by the courts in the decision on Valley Citizens for a Safe Environment v Aldridge et al., US District Court, District of Massachusetts, which awarded monetary judgments to the appellates for depreciated real estate values due to low level aircraft traffic from Westover Air Force Base. (The actual amounts and the record of the decision were sealed by the court at the request of the Air Force.)

Economic statistics-baseline mismatch:

There is a major problem with the economic statistics presented in this DEIS. First, most statistics are six or more years old and hence, end before the increase in overflight and noise activity that accompanied the introduction of the Composite Wing. As was previously noted, this DEIS uses an incorrect No Action alternative that includes activities associated with the Composite Wing and occurring after the true baseline, the conditions that existed before the arrival of the Composite Wing. However, by using this incorrect No Action alternative, the DEIS established conditions that cannot be evaluated by the information presented in the socioeconomic section because the economic information predates the activity it is supposed to analyze by at least four years. This is yet one more case where the DEIS violates the principles of the NEPA which state that "42 USCS § 4332 permits...indirect judicial review of economic assumptions underlying federal project described in EIS...[when] economic considerations, against which environmental considerations are weighed, are so distorted as to impair fair consideration of environmental consequences."[22]

Costs and benefits from Enhanced Training in Idaho:

Operations of the Idaho Air National Guard and the Air Force have the potential to levy substantial costs on people in Owyhee County and on those who reside under the MOAs. These costs could be offset by two possible benefits from Guard and Air Force operations. The first is the direct economic benefit from having Air Force and IDANG money spent in the region. The second is the indirect national security benefit accrued from having a well-prepared guard or Air Force unit

Benefits from direct spending by the Idaho ANG (IDANG) will accrue to the regions in which the money is spent. Thus, any positive economic effect from the proposed Enhanced Training would have to arise from funds spent in the areas in which the flights occurred. Because the regions in which the proposed Enhanced Training is located are so far from the areas where the aircraft are based, and because the services and products offered by Owyhee County and the other agricultural regions are so limited, it can be reasonably assumed that the only money likely to be spent in Owyhee County would come from the few members of the Air Force or IDANG who live there. Further, the general rule of thumb is that the area of economic impact from a base occurs within a 50 NM radius. Some limited indirect spending could occur elsewhere, but it would likely be limited to the indirect purchase of agricultural products or recreation spending, and in both cases, the impact would be insignificant.

[20]Nelson, Jon P., "Airport Noise, Location Rent, and the Market for Residential Amenities," Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, No. 6, 1979, pp. 320-331.
[21]Nickell, Eric J., The Colorado Airspace Initiative and Economic Impacts on Custer, Huerfano, and Saguache Counties, Colorado, Resources for the Future, Washington, DC, June, 1993, p. 19.
[22]South Louisiana Environmental council, Inc. v Sand (1980, CA5 La) 629 F2d 1005.

Mountain Home Air Force Base employs about 3500 military personnel and 500 civilians.[23] Budgets at Gowen Field are also substantial, and the amount being spent at Gowen and Mountain Home for construction is significant. As one would expect, most military and civilian personnel at Mountain Home AFB and Gowen Field live in Ada and Elmore Counties, and most spending at both locations is also focused on these two counties. Thus, the economic impact of these bases is narrowly focused. Ada and Elmore counties will receive virtually all the economic benefits from both personnel and construction spending resulting from proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho.

However, the training ranges will be operated so neither of these two counties bear any of the costs associated with activities on and around the range. Instead, most of the costs (noise pollution, dust pollution, fires, chaff, etc.) associated with Enhanced Training in Idaho will be imposed on Owyhee county and the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. Those costs not imposed on Owyhee County (noise from MOA and MTR activity) will be imposed on the rest of the state of Idaho and the recipients of these costs will also receive no benefits from the plan.

While it is not unusual for wealthy counties in a state to try to shift costs of pollution (noise, air, human, or material) on poor counties, this does not make the practice either commendable or defensible. Further, in the case of Enhanced Training in Idaho, this means that although exact amounts are difficult to calculate, substantial negative direct benefits (i.e., costs) will be levied on Owyhee County and other areas around the proposed ranges.

Indirect benefits of Enhanced Training in Idaho to residents of the region:

The value of national security accruing to residents of a region because of Enhanced Training in Idaho is difficult to ascertain for several reasons. First, at the current time many military units are being disbanded or reduced, and the marginal contribution of one additional wing is bound to be low in a situation where so many substitutes are available among soon-to-be-deactivated units. And second, neither the Air National Guard nor the Air Force has been capable of calculating, nor have they ever seen fit to release the actual value of their operations to the national security structure.

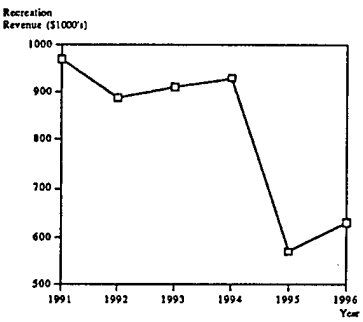
Since no estimates for this figure exist, a reasonable proxy would be to assume that the value of defense is correctly denominated by the amount citizens are willing to pay for it. While everyone is well aware of the limits to citizen input on the defense budget, the rationale underlying this assumption is at least partially validated by the fact that at the current time, citizen questions concerning the value of defense have resulted in decreases in the defense budget.

For comparison purposes, assume that Enhanced Training in Idaho would increase the overall value of US security by $2.5 billion. This figure, which represents about 1 percent of total US defense budget, vastly exceeds any claims made for the value of either Enhanced Training in Idaho or the Air Force and IDANG units in Idaho. However if such an increase could be realized, the value to every citizen of the United States would be less than $10, and the total benefit that would accrue to residents of Owyhee County would be about $84,000 -- a figure that must be compared against the costs these same residents may incur.

Costs of Enhanced Training to residents of Owyhee County:

The economy of Owyhee County continues to be in transition as agriculture assumes a less dominant role and as other areas, like recreation, strive to fill its place. Previous sections of this paper provide evidence of the costs associated with low-level aircraft activity of the type one would associate with Enhanced Training in Idaho. However, because the Composite Wing arrived at Mountain Home several years ago and dramatically increased the noise under the rural and wilderness areas in which it operates, it should be possible to begin to see the effects of this noise increase in Owyhee County. As Figure 1 shows, annual revenue from recreation in Owyhee County varied around $900,000 in 1991 and 1992.[24] This trend continued as recreation revenue in

[23]Barker, Rocky, "Training range foes sound off on noise," The Idaho Statesman, June 2, 1997.
[24]Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Idaho Training Range, Op. Cit., p. 3-309.



Sources: Draft Environmental Impact Statement, *Idaho Training Range*, US Air Force, November, 1993, p. 3-309 and Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Department of the Air Force, Vol. II, April, 1997, p. 3-284.

Figure 1
Recreation Spending In Owyhee County--1991-1996

Owyhee County peaked at $930,600 in 1994. However, after the arrival of the Composite Wing, recreation revenue in Owyhee County decreased to $570,400 in FY1995 and $630,500 in 1996[25] Over this same period, total sales related to amusement and recreation services in Owyhee County, including outfitter and guide services, decreased to about $73,000 in 1996 compared to $272,000 in 1992.[26] Given Idaho's rapidly growing economy and population during this time, it is fair to assume that this decrease was, in major part, due to the increased noise and activity of the Composite Wing at Mountain Home. These actual losses to the residents of Owyhee County dwarf any potential gains from increased national security that might accrue from Enhanced Training in Idaho.

Based on its population of about 8400 people, these losses in recreation revenue translate to a "tax" of about $35.00 on each citizen of Owyhee County or a "tax" of about $100 on each family. Because of the low income levels of the residents who live in Owyhee County, the relative costs to county residents will be disproportionately large compared to the benefits to the wealthier residents of Ada and Elmore counties. Since all options in the Enhanced Training in Idaho DEIS allow the Idaho Air National Guard and the Air Force to shift costs from wealthier areas in Ada and Elmore Counties to this poor and depressed region of the state, the Air Force and the state of Idaho should use the forthcoming EIS to show how they intend to either mitigate these costs or reimburse the residents of Owyhee County for the costs levied on them.

[25]Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Department of the Air Force, Vol. I, April, 1997, p. 3-284.
[26]Ibid., p. 3-285.

Failure to adequately consider cumulative impacts

The DEIS goes to great lengths to display the sorties allocated to each airspace under each alternative. However, the DEIS limits its consideration to single aircraft, and it does not adequately discuss the cumulative effects of noise and other environmental degradation that would devolve from Composite Wing maneuvers. For example, one sortie may entail multiple passes over an area. This creates a cumulative effect that the DEIS does not attempt to account for. In addition, large scale exercises will about double, creating a cumulative effect that is also omitted from the DEIS. The requirement for a detailed accounting of cumulative effects that would include the omissions mentioned above has been clearly stated by the courts:

> "Standards of practicability and reasonableness by which adequacy of EIS must be measured dictate that cumulative impact of one project with other projects...must not be ignored under 42 USCS § 4332; EIS must account for cumulative impact by providing (1) list of projects producing related or cumulative impact, (2) summary of expected environmental impacts to be produced by those projects with specific reference to additional impact information where such information is available, and (3) reasonable analysis of combined or cumulative impact of all projects, including projects of agencies other than one which proposes project that is subject of EIS."[27]

Failure to properly account for aircraft noise

The DEIS uses noise figures for MTRs instead of the higher figures for MOAs that account for the maneuvering that takes place in combat training. The Air Force is urged to refer to its own documents generated from NOISEMAP NOISEFILE data that it used in the Pennsylvania National Guard EIS on MOA expansion where the Air Force itself showed that higher noise levels are appropriate. This is only one of many attempts in the DEIS to obfuscate the noise issue. The following sections provide a detailed analysis of the noise model that forms the heart of the DNL/annoyance analysis in the DEIS. This model comes from a 1978 study by Schultz that was then linked to a land use compatibility study which will be addressed in the following sections of this paper.

Study Area	Date
First Heathrow Aircraft	1961
French Aircraft	1966
Second Heathrow Aircraft	1967
Munich Aircraft	1969
Paris Street	1969
Swedish Aircraft	1972
Swiss Road	1972
London Street	1972
Swiss Aircraft	1973
French Railroad	1973
US Street	1974
Los Angeles International Airport	1973

Source: Schultz, Theodore, "Synthesis of Social Surveys on Noise Annoyance," Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, Vol. 64, 1978.

Table 1
Study Areas For The 1978 Schultz Paper

[27]Akers v Resor (1978, WD Tenn) 443 F Supp 1355, 8 ELR 20388.

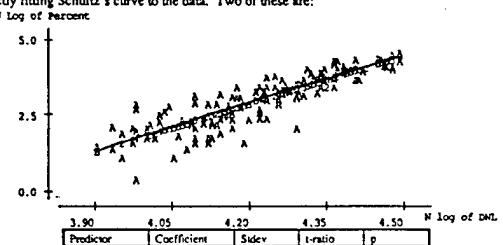
Failure to properly generate the curve used in the 1978 Schultz study:

The 1978 study by Schultz that forms the heart of the DEIS analysis generated a 'synthesis' curve based on the noise surveys in Table 1.[28] Using Schultz's study to analyze current military aircraft noise in rural or wilderness settings causes two important problems. First, this study mixed aircraft and non-aircraft noise--five of twelve studies covered only street or rail noise. This caused the study to underestimate the annoyance levels associated with aircraft noise alone. Second, the study covered urban communities, not rural or wilderness areas. Even in urban areas, these problems were apparent as early as the first Schultz paper. A 1973 study at Los Angeles International Airport had significantly higher annoyance ratings in the 55 to 75 DNL range than the rest of the studies in the Schultz paper.[29] These higher ratings were never accounted for by Schultz.

However, the 1978 Schultz paper had other problems. Kryter argued that Schultz's use of only those who were 'highly annoyed' missed large numbers of people who were also bothered by noise.[30] And it is apparent that Schultz's efforts to fit a 'synthesis curve' to his data were flawed both in the functional form chosen for the curve and in its failure to correct for the influence of 'outliers'--data points that exert undue influence on the model because they lie so far away from the majority of the data points.

Page K-7 of the DEIS presents Schultz's data and his curve. A number of 'outlier points' lie along the horizontal axis, recording annoyance/DNL readings of 0/54, 0/61, 0/68, etc. These points deformed the curve and caused it to give lower annoyance readings in the 50 to 75 DNL range--precisely the range in which Schultz's own study underestimated the annoyance effects of Los Angeles International Airport.

Schultz's inability to deal with these problems was partially due to the primitive methods of modeling available to him in the mid-1970s. There are now a number of possible methods for correctly fitting Schultz's curve to the data. Two of these are:



Predictor	Coefficient	Stdev	t-ratio	p
Constant	-19.391	1.025	-18.91	0.000
Nlog DNL	5.3116	0.2421	21.94	0.000

Figure 2
Plot of Schultz's Data Using Natural Logarithms

[28]Schultz, Theodore, "Synthesis of Social Surveys on Noise Annoyance," Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, Vol. 64, 1978.
[29]Newman, J. Steven and Beattie, Kristy R., Aviation Noise Effects, Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Environment and Energy, Washington, DC, March, 1985, p. 28.
[30]Kryter, Karl D., "Community Annoyance from Aircraft and Ground Vehicle Noise," Journal of the Acoustic Society of America, Vol. 72, No. 4, October, 1982.

A. The use of a natural logarithmic function while controlling for outliers. The equation of the line generated by the model shown in Figure 2 is

$$NLog\ \% = -19.4 + 5.31\ Nlog\ DNL.$$

Using this equation to calculate the percentage of people who are highly annoyed at the 65 DNL level that is regarded as an important cut-off point by this DEIS, we find that the Schultz curve underestimates the number of highly annoyed people at 65 DNL by about seven percent.

B. The use of advanced econometric methods involving higher powered functions.

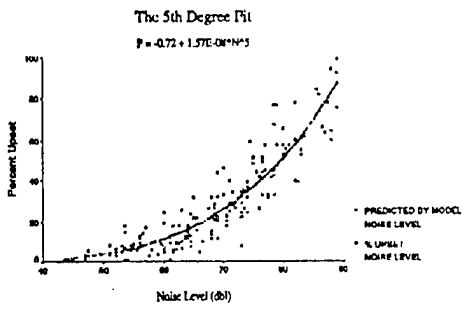


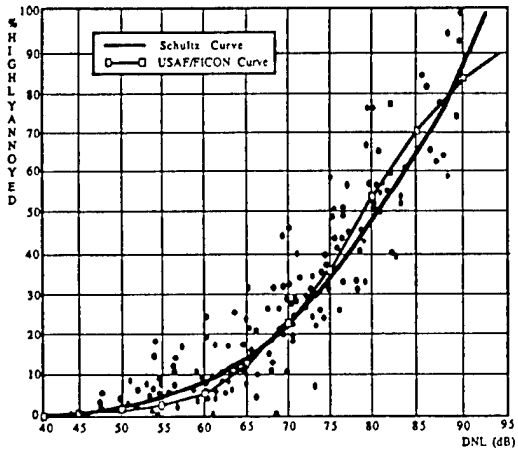
Figure 3
Plot of Schultz's Data Using a Higher Powered Function

Figure 3 shows the plot of this model. Both the statistics accompanying this model and an inspection of the curve itself show that the curve is a better fit of the data than the curve generated by Schultz. The equation for this model indicates that the Schultz curve underestimates the percentage of people who are highly annoyed at the 65 DNL level by about 13 percent.

Both of these models confirm what Schultz's own data for Los Angeles International Airport indicated--the Schultz curve underestimates the number of people who are highly annoyed with various aircraft DNL levels. Further, in a 1991 paper written by Schultz, Fidell, and Barber, Figures 14 and 15 show that Schultz's original curve systematically underestimated annoyance in the 50 to 75 decibel range.[31] However, the 1978 Schultz model and the two new models presented above all use the 1978 Schultz data set and, thus, they are models of community transportation noise annoyance, not models of annoyance from aircraft noise. The 1978 Schultz model, the 1991

[31]Fidell, Sanford, Barber, David, S. and Schultz, Theodore, "Updating a dosage-effect relationship for the prevalence of annoyance due to general transportation noise," Journal of the Acoustic Society Of America. Vol. 89, No. 1, January 1991, pp. 230, 231.

Fidell model that follows, and both of the enhanced curve fitting models presented in this section are incorrectly specified to estimate aircraft noise because they include factors other than aircraft noise (auto, train and tram noise) in their data sets.



Source: Fidell, S., Barber, D., and Schultz, T., "Updating a dosage-effect relationship for the prevalence of annoyance due to general transportation noise," Journal of the Acoustic Society Of America. Vol. 89, No. 1, January 1991, p. 224 and Finegold, L., Harris, C., and von Gierke, H., "Community annoyance with sleep disturbance," Noise Control Engineering Journal. Vol. 42, No. 1, January-February, 1994.

Figure 4
Comparison Of The Schultz And USAF/FICON Curves

Failure to use the appropriate data to analyze aircraft noise:

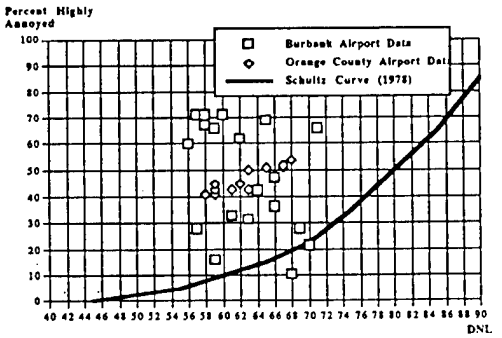
In 1990, Schultz jointly authored a paper with Fidell and Barber updating his 1978 study. The result was the Schultz curve shown in Figure 4. This paper, known as the Fidell paper, was published in the Journal of the Acoustic Society of America in 1991. As was the case in the 1978 paper, this paper again noted that the Schultz curve represents "a relationship between transportation noise exposure and the prevalence of annoyance in communities."[32] Hence, the study concerns communities, not wilderness or open space, and it concerns transportation noise, not aircraft noise. Data on transportation noise was generated by Schultz by averaging together traffic noise, tram noise, train noise, and aircraft noise.

[32]Ibid., p. 221.

Name	Author/Date	Data points
1. US Airbase	Borsky/1985	25
2. Antwerp Street	Myncke et al /1977	31
3. Brussels Street	Myncke et al /1977	23
4. Burbank Airport	Fidell et al./1985	20
5. Canadian Road	Hall and Taylor/1977	14
6. Danish Street	Reitzer/1975	28
7. British Rail	Fields and Walker/1982	11
8. Aircraft/Traffic	Hall et al /1977	21
9. Orange Co. Airport	Fidell et al./1985	12
10. Australian Aircraft	Hede and Bullen/1982	42
11. Tramway/Traffic	Rylander/1977	12
12. Decatur Airport	Schomer/1983	4
13. Swedish Railroad	Sorensen and Hammar/1983	15
14. Westchester Airport	Fidell et al./1985	8
15. Danish Railroad	Andersen et al /1982	26

Source: Fidell, Sanford, Barber, David, S. and Schultz, Theodore, "Updating a dosage-effect relationship for the prevalence of annoyance due to general transportation noise," Journal of the Acoustic Society Of America. Vol. 89, No. 1, January 1991, p. 224.

Table 2
Updated Studies On Transportation Noise

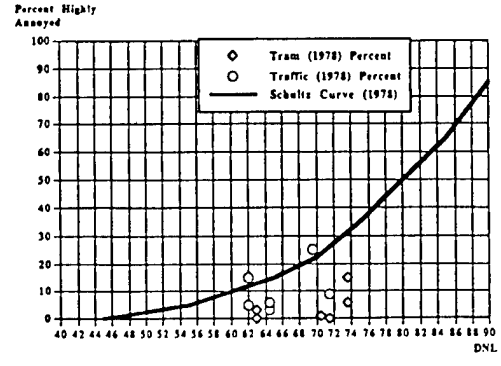


Source: Fidell, Sanford, Barber, David, S. and Schultz, Theodore, "Updating a dosage-effect relationship for the prevalence of annoyance due to general transportation noise," Journal of the Acoustic Society Of America. Vol. 89, No. 1, January 1991, p. 224.

Figure 5
Comparison Of Aircraft Annoyance Data To The Schultz Curve

The Fidell paper also stated that there was a fear that "agencies which fund such studies [as Schultz's] might erroneously conclude that the synthesis [Schultz's Curve] represented a definitive solution to many of the problems assessing effects of noise exposure on communities." The paper then compared Schultz's original curve with 15 new studies, all of which were completed after Schultz's original research. These studies are shown in Table 2.

These new studies cover (with one exception) either aircraft noise or ground transportation noise, but not both. Figure 5 compares two representative aircraft noise/annoyance data sets from the 1991 Fidell paper with the 1978 Schultz curve while Figure 6 compares two representative tram/traffic noise/annoyance data sets from the same paper with the 1978 Schultz curve. Each of the new studies in the Fidell paper yields the same results: annoyance with aircraft noise is consistently higher than the 1978 Schultz curve forecasts while annoyance with road, tram and railway noise is consistently below that indicated by the curve. Only when the studies on aircraft noise are combined with those on road, tram and rail noise is the Schultz curve approximated.[33] This creates the illogical premise on which using the Schultz model to analyze aircraft noise data is based: auto, tram and railroad noise depress the annoyance levels of aircraft noise. This is analogous to claiming that someone who is highly annoyed at a given level of aircraft noise will become less annoyed if additional noise is created by automobiles, trains or trams.



Source: Fidell, Sanford, Barber, David, S. and Schultz, Theodore, "Updating a dosage-effect relationship for the prevalence of annoyance due to general transportation noise," Journal of the Acoustic Society Of America. Vol. 89, No. 1, January 1991, p. 225, 226.

Figure 6
Comparison Of Traffic/Tram Annoyance Data To The Schultz Curve

The Air Force model:

The Air Force compounded Schultz's error with its 1994 model (also shown in Figure 2) by fitting Schultz's mixed aircraft and train/tram/auto data with an S-shaped logistics curve. This

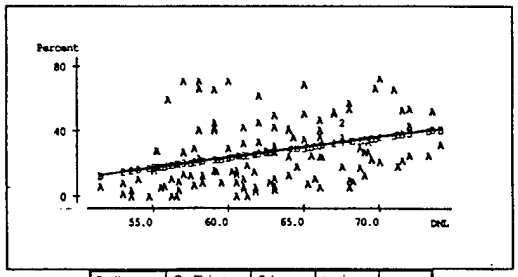
[33]Ibid., pp. 221-233.

improperly depresses the percentage of highly annoyed people in the 40 to 70 dB range by an even larger amount--about 20%--and the S-shaped curve requires one to believe that annoyance with noise grows less and less as noise increases above 75 dB--a concept supported by no acoustics research. The Air Force claims its model "does not differ substantially from the original [Schultz model], [and] is the current preferred form."[34] This is true. The data used in the Air Force model has the same problems as that used in the Schultz model while the curve form chosen by the Air Force introduces additional fitting problems.

An aircraft only model:

Data for all 15 studies in Table 2 were included in the 1991 Fidell paper. Using data from studies 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 14, this author constructed a new percent highly annoyed/DNL graph for aircraft noise alone. The rationale for building (and using) this new curve is as follows:

1. A study such as this DEIS, which purports to investigate the effects of aircraft noise, should base its models on aircraft noise, not on train, tram or auto noise.
2. Other noise researchers have found that aircraft noise is significantly more disturbing than train, tram or auto noise:
   a. Grandjean, in a Swiss study, found it took a DNL of 10 to 15 dB higher for road traffic noise to cause an equal disturbance to aircraft noise.[35]
   b. Kryter argued that because aircraft noise falls over a structure, like a house, equally, as opposed to passing through interfering structures such as traffic noise would do, the "effective noise exposure" would be greater than that of traffic noise. Thus, Kryter found that aircraft noise should be considered separately from other transportation noise.[36]



Predicator	Coefficient	Stdev	t-ratio	p
Constant	-50.34	20.62	-2.44	0.016
DNL	1.2343	0.3273	3.77	0.000

Figure 7
Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model Using Aircraft Data Only

[34]Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Vol. II, Op. Cit., p. K-6.
[35]Grandjean, A., Graf, P, Lauber, A., Meier, H.P., and Muller, R., "Survey on the Effects of Aircraft Noise in Switzerland," Inter-Noise 76, Washington, DC, April, 1976.
[36]Kryter, Op. Cit.

Figure 7 shows the result of modeling annoyance with aircraft noise only based on the data in Fidell, Barber and Schultz's 1991 paper. The resulting model is simpler and also more logical than Schultz's model--it says that there is a direct relationship between increasing DNL levels and annoyance in the 50 to 75 DNL range.

The equation for this Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model is also simpler:

Percent Annoyed = - 50.3 + 1.23 DNL

The Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model predicts that at the 65 DNL point used by the DEIS about 30 percent of people will be highly annoyed by aircraft noise. This is more than double the level of annoyance forecast by either the 1978 Schultz curve (13.6%) or the USAF model (12.3%), and there is ample evidence--provided to the Air Force in a critique of the Colorado Air National Guard MOA proposal in May, 1996-- that this model, and not the Schultz or Air Force curves, more closely estimates true aircraft annoyance levels. For example:

1. A 1988 court case involved an Air Force estimate, based on the Schultz curve, that 700 people around Westover Air Force Base would be highly annoyed by aircraft noise. A local group gathered the signatures of 1535 citizens who were highly annoyed--more than double the amount the Schultz curve forecast, but close to the number the aircraft annoyance model generated in this paper would predict.[37]
2. von Gierke, in a paper done in 1973 for the EPA, showed Aircraft Noise/Annoyance levels that agree with the Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model and are roughly twice as high as those predicted by the Schultz curve.[38]
3. A 1975 paper by Fidell and Jones developed a curve for aircraft annoyance at Los Angeles International Airport that shows about thirty percent of the respondents were highly annoyed at a DNL of 65.[39] The rest of this curve also agrees closely with the Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model developed above.
4. Hall, Birnie, Taylor and Palmer, in a 1981 paper, showed that the percentage of those highly annoyed with aircraft noise was higher than that for "grouped road traffic data" at every DNL level. Further, the authors stated that "On the basis of the preceding discussion, only one conclusion appears possible: There is a difference between the community responses to aircraft noise and to road traffic noise when each is measured by L_{dn}. For the same noise level, a greater percentage of people are highly annoyed by aircraft noise. The difference in annoyance at the two sources is not constant, but instead, increases as L_{dn} increases."[40]
5. In a 1985 paper, Fidell, Horonjeff, Mills, Baldwin, Teffeteller and Pearsons found short term annoyance and long term annoyance with aircraft noise were both significantly higher than that forecast by the 1978 Schultz curve. These authors state that "The prevalence of aircraft noise-induced annoyance was assessed at three mixed-use airports in a total 40 neighborhood/interviewing rounds. Dosage-response relationships for these data do not agree well with that synthesized by Schultz for general transportation noise."[41]

[37]Valley Citizens for a Safe Environment v Aldridge (1988 DC Mass) 695 F Supp 605, 19 ELR 20497.
[38]von Gierke, H., "Impact Characterization of Noise Including Implications of Identifying and Achieving Levels of Community Noise Exposure," US Environmental Protection Agency, NTID 73.4, Washington, DC, 1973, p.31.
[39]Fidell, S. and Jones, G., "Effects of Cessation of Late-Night Flights on an Airport Community, Journal of Sound and Vibration, Vol. 42, No. 4., 1975, p. 422.
[40]Hall, Fred L., Birnie, Susan E., Taylor, S. Martin, and Palmer, John E., "Direct Comparison of Community Response to Road Traffic Noise and to Aircraft Noise," Journal of the Acoustic Society of America, Vol. 70, No. 6, December, 1981, pp. 1693, 1697.
[41]Fidell, Sanford, Horonjeff, Richard, Mills, John, Baldwin, Edward, Teffeteller, Sherri, and Pearsons, Karl, "Aircraft Noise Annoyance and Three Joint Air Carrier and General Aviation Airports," Journal of the Acoustic Society of America, Vol. 77, No. 3, March, 1985, pp. 1060, 1066.

None of these studies was included in this DEIS in spite of the fact that there has been abundant evidence for the last twenty years that a higher level of annoyance exists when aircraft alone are considered. That the Air Force and its contractors have chosen to ignore this possibility and the studies that demonstrate it clearly violates the intent of the NEPA process. The courts have held that:

> When facts contrary to conclusions advanced by [the] agency are known to [the] agency or its sister agencies of government, it is necessary to disclose them in [the] EIS in order to meet disclosure requirements of 42 USCS 4332, otherwise persons removed from decision-making process will have no way of knowing adverse effects that have been found in similar proposals.[42]

Land use and the noise/annoyance models:

In June, 1980, a Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise used Schultz's curve linking DNL and annoyance, along with other studies, to publish guidelines relating DNL and land--the FAA Part 150 Land Use Compatibility Table.[43] Since the sound levels considered by the Interagency Committee were, in the main, those that cause physical damage neither to structures nor to people, land use compatibility was linked instead to the annoyance with noise those who inhabited the land would experience. As Table 3 shows, the divisions between the six DNL/land use columns confirms the importance of annoyance in establishing the breaks between the columns of compatible activities--each of the breaks is at a logical increment of increased annoyance and each (with the exception of the 65-70 column which represents a 50% annoyance increase from the previous column) is denominated in tens or fives:

Column DNL Range	Percent Annoyed--Start of Next Land Use Category
Less than 65	15
65-70	22.5
70-75	35
75-80	50
80-85	65
Over 85	100

Source: Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Department of the Air Force, Vol. II, April, 1997, p. K-11.

Table 3
Linkages Between Annoyance DNL and Land Use Compatibility

Given these relationship between annoyance and land use, one can apply the results of the Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model from Figure 7 to the land use compatibility table. For example, at the threshold DNL level of 65, the Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model predicts that about 30 percent of people will be annoyed. This corresponds to land use compatibility category 3, where residential use should not be attempted and where schools, outdoor amphitheaters, nature exhibits and zoos should not be built. Given these standards, the uses of airspace in this DEIS would not be possible at a DNL of 65. Or, viewed in reverse, the land use compatibility category of less than 65 DNL corresponds to an annoyance level of about 15 percent highly annoyed. This, in turn, corresponds to a 53 DNL level when aircraft noise alone is considered. This corresponds to the noise emitted [illegible] 00 feet altitude. All other aircraft in the DEIS exceed this level at all altitudes.[44] Table 4 shows these relationships in the critical under 65 to 75 dB ranges. This

[42]Burkey v Ellis (1979, ND Ala) 483 F Supp 897, 5 Fed Rules Evid Serv 518, 10 ELR 20305.
[43]Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Op. Cit., p. K-11.
[44]Ibid., Vol. I, p. 4-12.

demonstrates conclusively that the kinds of operations proposed by the Air Force for Enhanced Training in Idaho are incompatible with column one of the FAA Part 150 Land Use Compatibility Table guidelines and the annoyance levels 15 percent highly annoyed used in this table.

Column DNL Range Schultz Curve	Column DNL Range Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model	Percent Annoyed--Start of Next Land Use Category
Less than 65	Less than 53	15
65-70	53-59	22.5
70-75	59-69	35

Table 4
Comparison Of DNL Ranges for the Schultz/Air Force Model and the Aircraft Only Noise/Annoyance Model

This section has shown that it is possible to build an aircraft noise annoyance model that is not degraded by the inclusion of other, irrelevant data. However, the Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model developed in this section still includes one major weakness: it is based on data collected in various urban settings. Thus, this model is most appropriately used to determine annoyance of urban populations with aircraft noise. As the following section will demonstrate, data on annoyance with urban noise considerably understates the levels of annoyance experienced in a wilderness setting.

Failure to consider the difference between urban and rural/wilderness conditions:

Aside from a general, one page discussion, the DEIS is strangely silent on the likely impacts of aircraft noise on wilderness users and inhabitants. Appendix K of the DEIS attempts to justify the compatibility of aircraft noise and recreation activities by citing the FAA land-use compatibility guidelines. However, these guidelines are for urban environments only and they assume individuals are protected from the ambient sound environment by buildings that lower the dB levels to the 20dB to 35dB range.[45] Obviously, these figures were never meant to apply to someone in the wilderness. Similarly, neither the 1978 Schultz paper, the 1991 Fidell, Barber and Schultz paper, nor the 1994 USAF study applies to wilderness noise experiences. All the data for these studies were gathered in urban locations. The DEIS itself states on numerous occasions that the data it uses depict "the noise impact in airport communities..." or on communities in general.

That urban noise data do not apply to wilderness noise problems is both common sense and common knowledge. This was confirmed in a recent Forest Service study that suggests that persons in wilderness settings are at least ten times more sensitive to aircraft noise than those in urban settings.[46] Although the Air Force did discuss the study in the DEIS, it failed to mention this finding. Further, its interpretation of the data in the rest of the study is questionable to the point of being disingenuous. Based on the noise calculations in the DEIS, the level of increased sensitivity reported in the Forest Service study would require an addition of approximately a 30 dB penalty beyond the levels calculated by the Aircraft Noise/Annoyance Model in the previous section. The Forest Service also found that "low-altitude, high-speed aircraft, such as those operating along MTR's, were [illegible]ed as the most annoying type of aircraft to hear or see [and].....annoyance associated with over flights was more strongly related to noise exposure than to the visibility of aircraft..."[47]

[45]See footnotes for Table K-1, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Op. Cit., p. K-11.
[46]Potential Impacts of Aircraft Over flights of National Forest System Wildernesses, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, January, 1992, p. 2-21.
[47]Ibid.

Another major problem in experiencing noise in wilderness conditions is the 'surprise effect' that occurs from the rapid onset and loud noise of an aircraft operating at high speeds and low altitudes. The current practice is to "adjust" noise figures to account for this noise onset rate as follows: for a noise onset rate "of between 15 and 30 dB per second, an adjustment penalty ranging from 0 to 5 dB is added to the normal Sound Exposure Level." For rates above 30dB, an adjustment of 5 dB is added to the normal Sound Exposure Level.[41] In other words, 'adjustments' for onset noise only increase up to 30dB of onset noise, and no onset noise increases over 30dB are accounted for -- even though the dB scale is logarithmic. This means that an aircraft with an onset noise of 100dB would receive the same "penalty" as one with an onset noise of 30 dB, even though it is 250 times as loud.

The DEIS mentions the studies used to calculate the onset penalty and states that they apply "to rural populations exposed to sporadic aircraft noise."[42] However, once again the description of the study and its applicability is disingenuous. A conversation with the lead author of these studies revealed that the studies were done in houses and a laboratory in southern Virginia in an area where many homes existed and where streets and aircraft contributed to background levels of noise.[43] This environment clearly has little relevance to the actual noise onset levels someone in the wilderness would experience.

The 1996 USAF ESOH Handbook states clearly that the Air Force itself is well aware its sound studies are inadequate and that they are not defensible if combined subsonic and supersonic operations are involved. It states that "accurate combined annoyance prediction from both types of operations is not currently available." And the Air Force claims that

> new and refined methods of analysis are needed to...ensure Air Force actions in response to environmental issues are based on legally defensible...analysis methods. The dosage-response relationship on which the Air Force currently relies for predicting the annoyance of exposure to sonic booms...is based on modest amounts of information about repetitive and expected noise exposures in residential communities. The applicability of this relationship to many settings of practical interest to the Air Force has never been demonstrated.[44]

The Air Force is reminded that the courts have held that "all federal agencies must consider environmental issues as they consider other matters within their mandates, even though resolution of such issues may be outside agency's jurisdiction."[45] Further, the courts have also held that "mere admission in EIS that proposed actions will have adverse impact, without detail concerning scope or extent of impact or weighing of environmental benefits versus economic costs, does not comply with mandate of 42 USCS § 4332."[46] In order to satisfy NEPA requirements to fully disclose the environmental effects on wilderness of Enhanced Training in Idaho, the US Air Force must develop an accurate indication of the damage its activities will cause to wilderness areas before it issues the final EIS on this proposal.

Conclusion

This DEIS has used every means available to present a one-sided and misleading picture of the effect of aircraft noise on the rural and wilderness areas affected by Enhanced Training in Idaho. In spite of this, it is abundantly clear that aircraft noise will be a major problem in the rural

[41] Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Op. Cit., p. K-9.
[42] Ibid., pp. 4-13,14.
[43] Stusnick, Eric, Conversation with the author, 0945 AM, May 29, 1997.
[44] ESOH Handbook on Compliance with NEPA Guidelines, FY 1996, US Department of the Air Force, Washington, DC, 1996, Need: 1412.
[45] Municipal Intervenors Group v Federal Power Com. (1972) 153 App DC 373, 473 F2d 84.
[46] California v Bergland (1980, ED Cal) 483 F Supp 465, 10 ELR 20098.

and wilderness areas of Idaho that underlie the various MOAs proposed by the Air Force. The economic implications of this have already been severe for the residents of Owyhee County. The impact of this noise has obviously been similar over the Duck Valley Reservation where the Air Force has agreed to keep its flights above 10,000 feet as opposed to the 500 foot (and, on occasion, 100 foot) level it will maintain throughout the rest of the proposed training area.

This review has identified nineteen major areas where this DEIS has failed to consider costs and impacts that are clearly mandated by NEPA and by court decisions regarding the implementation of NEPA. Those who have been responsible for preparing this document would do well to review Lathan v Brinegar (1974, CA9 Wash) 506 F2d 677, 4 ELR 20802, where the court held that "circulation of grossly inadequate statement as draft of new EIS conceivably frustrates goal of obtaining informed agency and public comment on environmental consequences of proposed project, and in some circumstances amounts to violation of responsible agency's duty under 42 USCS § 4332(2)(b)."[54]

[54] Lathan v Brinegar (1974, CA9 Wash) 506 F2d 677, 4 ELR 20802.

IDAHO CONSUMER AFFAIRS, INC.
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207 HILLCREST SQUARE / 1111 SO. ORCHARD STREET / BOISE, IDAHO 83705

000364

CONTINUING OPPOSITION TO AN EXPANDED BOMBING RANGE IN IDAHO
JUNE 12, 1997

GE-2 We continue to be unalterably opposed to the U.S. Air Force plan to expand their bombing range in an area that is so critical to the well being of our people and our animals (both domestic and wild) there; the Indian Tribe that dwells there in it's noise impact range, the wild sheep (that has been transplanted from Canada) that flourish there, the world famous Peregrine Falcon recovery area, the Owyhee River, whose water is an integral need for the recovery of our wild salmon and our national emblem, the Eagle who fish in the streams that will be harassed there.

If the U.S. Air Force had been a sworn enemy of the people of this state of Idaho, they could not have hurt us more with this wild plan; for tourism is the very heart of the economic well being of our state for it is the third largest revenue producer in our state. Where will we go for funding for our schools, for programs for our elderly, our social programs for the handicapped and on and on, if you are going to play war games in the middle of our uniqueness?

Shame on you! The information we are receiving from "C Span" is showing that you are continuing to gear up for war when you should be down sizing for peace - our fine Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, recently made this inference.

I had two brothers in the Air Force during World War II and one of them lost his life. I was proud our Air Force then - I am deeply ashamed of you now - as you continue to pursue you plans without considering the well being of your own people. This unique area should be protected under wilderness classification - and kept forever from harms way.

Marjorie L. Hayes

We Care About You

000364

THE INFORMATION WHICH IS IN THIS PAPER CAME FROM THE RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT.

June 24, 1992 See pg 3

CONTINUED CONCERN OVER THE DEVELOPEMENT OF A MILITARY BOMBING RANGE IN OWYHEE COUNTY IN IDAHO IN THE HEART OF A RECOVERY AREA FOR THREE THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES.

I continue to firmly oppose the development of a military bombing range in Owyhee County as described in the document, PROPOSALS FOR THE AIR FORCE IN IDAHO: FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

I do so with a feeling of concern that this project continues to be pursued in spite of the fact that it is clearly in violation of the Endangered Species Act, and is therefore BI-26 illegal. Has the Airforce acquired the power to place itself above the laws of the land to take possession of resources at will? To again reiterate my opposition:

Subsonic and supersonic flights have been known to adversly affect bighorn sheep populations in other areas where such actions have occured. Physiological excitement, running, and loss of forage opportunities during periods of disturbance all increase metabolic demands and potentially reduce the bighorn's ability to survive. Habituation has not occured among freeranging bighorns. The Airforce has produced no studies which refute the above statement... Since this is a recovery and transplant area for the California bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis californiana, of which there were five subspecies and one has been lost forever) it is critical that the Airforce

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realize what is at risk here... What is at risk ...

1. Abandoment or reduced use of currently occupied habitat.
2. Reduced production of lambs.
3. Reduction of usable habitat.
4 Reduction or loss of sport hunting opportunity.
5. Loss of a source of transplant stock for suitable, unoccupied, habitat in Idaho, the Western United States and Western Canada.

BI-31 IT IS THE OPINION OF OUR RESEARCH SPECIALISTS IN THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT THAT THE EFFECTS OF ACTIONS AS PROPOSED MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT BIGHORN POPULATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH EAST FORK OWYHEE RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES. TO FURTHER EXACERBATE THE PROBLEM, IT PROBABLY WILL REDUCE OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR PROVIDING THE CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP NATIONWIDE... IN MY OPINION THE AIRFORCE HAS SHOWN NO PROOF THAT THIS WILL NOT IRREVERSABLY HARM THIS AREA.

There is a Bird's of Prey recovery area that can be damaged by this plan. "Robertson(1970) reported massive nesting failure among terns associated with sonic booms, reproduction of domestic chickens, including reduced egg weight, number of eggs produced, and delayed sexual maturity of pullets(Okamoto et al. 1963)... Boutellier (1972) showed birds so exposed showed decreased egg production and increased breakage. Falcons and Gulls exhibited a strong flight response to low flying aircraft. Noise impacts within canyonlands will result in abandonment of nesting habitats by falcons, other raptors, and perhaps other bird species... We have a World Recovery Area in the Owyhee's, of the Peregrine Falcon. These Falcon have been on the Endangered list. Cornell University in Ithica,New York, has worked with appropriate agencies in Idaho to establish a recovery area for Raptors in Idaho... The experiences cited above, of those who have studied the results of subsonic and supersonic flights on falcons and other raptors, show the risk

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that is inherant in the Airforce bombing range plan in the Owyhees. THE AIRFORCE HAS NOT PROVEN THAT HARM TO THE RAPTORS
BI-24 WILL NOT OCCUR AND THAT THE VIABILITY AND PRODUCTIVENESS OF THIS WORLD WIDE VALUED RESOURCE WILL NOT BE DIMINISHED...UNDER THE
BI-26 LAWS OF OUR GREAT LAND THEY MUST DO SO BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THEIR PLANS.

Perhaps our largest concern at this time in Idaho centers on the impacts to our Fishery populations. Deep Creek, Battle Creek, Dickshooter Creek, Pole-Camas Creek and the East Fork of the Owyhee River have all been designated for Federal Wild & Scenic status... To insure their protection four wilderness areas have been designated, which includes an archaeological site of major historical value. Although salmon once ran in Idaho above the Hell's Canyon Complex, they are now stymied
by the huge dams, and yet the water that is generated by the East Fork complex of the Owyhee river is more critical than ever for the passage of the smolts and their journey home as adults to respond to their imprinting demands. Thus the waters from the Owyhees, Henry's Fork,the Middle Snake, the Payette, the Salmon, the Clearwater, and the Kootenai, all play a major role in one of the most magnificent plans of nature (her provision for a safe journey for her ocean travelers, both to and from the ocean). It was a plan devised by Mother Nature and you can't beat Mother Nature. So.....

OUR FISHERY BIOLOGISTS TELL US ...."THE USE OF FLARES AND OR DIRECT DISTURBANCE OF GROUND AND VEGETATION OVER A MUCH EXPANDED RANGE OF INFLUENCE BY THE AIR FORCE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CAUSE INCREASED SEDIMENTATION LOADINGS INTO SENSITIVE WATERSHEDS, MOST OF WHICH ALREADY HAVE HABITAT DEGRADATION PROBLEMS. INCREASED SEDIMENT LOADS WOULD HAVE DELETERIOUS AFFECT ON FISH AND FISH HABITAT, AS WELL AS THE PRODUCTION OF AQUATIC INSECTS, PRIMARY FOOD ITEMS FOR STREAM DWELLING SALMONIDS." If this is the case
BI-27 you are in conflict with the National Marine Fisheries Service as well as the Northwest Power Planning Council in their attempts to

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restore the anadromous fish runs in Idaho.

SO-2 If all things are to be considered , the social implications have not been adequately addressed by the Airforce... and they are immense. The impact of additional populations on our resources has not been carefully scrutinized since Idaho set aside its Land Use Planning Act of 1975. The impacts on our schools, our funding for those schools, the increased need for libraries for 807 new households and 487 new children, the increased need for police and fire protection (this could be substantial) and Most
WR-1 of All, the need for water. The Airforce plan is to bring in a new well which will pump water from Cinder Butte aquifer. This aquifer is identified by the Idaho Water Resource Department as a critical ground water area... It would then appear that we are running the risk of collapsing an aquifer. IT MIGHT BE WISE TO DO AN ECONOMIC STUDY TO SEE IF IF THE RESOURCES AND THE INFLUX OF POPULATION ARE COMPATABLE.

However, the most distressful aspect of this whole venture is the impact that this proposal would have on our Indian population at Duck Valley. This bombing range would make their lives a living hell. For no other reason I believe the good people of Idaho will never endorse this plan.

Sincerely,,

Marjorie Geddes Hayes

Marjorie Geddes Hayes
7440 Manorwood Drive
Boise, Idaho 83704

000364

Studies cited:

Scott Grunder, Idaho Fish & Game Department, Potential Impacts of Flares and Extensive Ground Disturbance to Fishery Resources and Habitat.
Dr. Dale E. Toweill at Walt Bodie, Big Horn Sheep in Owyhee County, Idaho, Effects of Sonic Booms,Flares, and Chaff.

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,Cal Groen, Chief Resource and Program Coordination, Idaho Fish and Game Department, p8, pp3.

CAL

GROEN

000365

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In The Tribune Square
195 North 2nd West
Mountain Home, ID 83647

6/13/97

Mtn Home AFB &
The BLM, Boise
PO Box 329 - Boise 83701

GE-1 The revised training range for Mountain Home Air Force Base will again be subject to the process of public comment to take into consideration all of the users of that land under the multiple use concept. These ongoing hearings and concerns have come to a point where a conclusion and a determination must be made. These types of hearings have been going on for over ~~four~~ years.

1. The United States Department of Defense and the United States Air Force has determined through research and investigations of different possibilities in other states and other installations and have determined that this area serves the purpose of providing adequate training at the least expense, trouble and concern to the public and taxpayers.

2. The multiple use concept whereby grazing is allowed, hunting and fishing are allowed and there is public access to the area for sightseeing, rockhound expeditions, etc. have been addressed and answered to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

3. Flight plans have been altered to take into consideration the big horn sheep population, the concerns of the Owyhee Indian nation regarding their burial grounds and the canyonlands habitat.

Having the aforementioned concerns satisfied, if environmental groups continue to try to block this training range, then it becomes apparent that their concerns are not to protect this nation and our way of life in this very unsettled world. They have no concern, whatsoever, for a multiple use concept that takes into consideration human needs as well as nature. The ecosystem, in their view, is a return to a pure love of nature, that man is a creature that has no more value, in their mindset, as does the Bruneau Warm Spring snail, a tsetse fly or any other creature that walks, runs, slithers, flies or lives in a dung hill. The vast majority of American citizens realize that we should be benevolent caretakers of this earth and God's creations. We all should show and have at least as much respect and concern for the Creator as we do for the creation.

Regards,
Jack Streeter

OVER

June, 1997

000369

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Glen Richardson

Name Glen Richardson
Address 2997 Rush Creek Drive
City Byron Center State Michigan Zip 49315

Comments:
PN-2 There must be plenty of other areas for this supersonic battlefield. How about the desert areas of Nevada or the salt flats area.

June, 1997

000371

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Timothy S. Troxel

Name Timothy S. Troxel
Address 6158 Pinewalle Ct
City Woodbridge State VA Zip 22193

Comments: As a retired Army officer I am aware of the thousands of square miles of ranges and test areas the military services control. The Air Force can use other ranges and minimize the impact on wild sheep.

June, 1997

000372

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Raymond L Butsack

Name RAYMOND L. BUTSACK
Address 137 PENNY ROAD
City MORRISVILLE State PA Zip 19541

Comments:
SAVE FUEL, SAVE AMMO, BUT MOST OF ALL SAVE THE SHEEP

June, 1997

000375

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

J Kirk Clum

Name Kirk Clum
Address P.O. Box 3275
City PARADISE State CA Zip 95967

Comments: I HOPE SOMEONE ON YOUR COMMITTEE IS US AIR FORCE COMMAND STAFF THEIR THIS PLAN BY MILITARY JET AIRCRAFT. IT'S A SITUATION WORLD HATE SITUATION IT.

June, 1997

000376

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Dean R Pic'l

Name DEAN R. PIC'L
Address 2463 BUENOS AIRES DR
City COVINA, CA 91722 State _____ Zip _____

Comments: Where there are other, reasonalbe alternatives, don't use National Defense as an excuse for destroying something that is worth defending.

000381

4320 W. Holmes
Boise, ID 83705
June 15, 1997

US Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

I am extremely concerned about the proposal to create a military zone / bombing range over the Owyhee, Jarbidge, + Bruneau Rivers. These canyonlands are delicate and unique ecosystems, and are enjoyed by thousands of Americans in their natural beauty. Any military use would be devastating to the wildlife in the area, as well as to the enjoyment of boaters, hikers, and bird watchers.

It is absolutely imperative that this plan be abandoned; the land is too delicate and too precious to withstand such ill treatment. Do the right thing — leave the canyons in peace.

Sincerely,
Catherine J Reynolds

CATIE REYNOLDS MD
4320 HOLMES ST
BOISE ID 83705-2330

000382

June 13, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise ID 83701-0329

Re: Idaho training range proposal

GE-1 First, I'd like to thank the Air Force for being receptive to the citizens of Idaho and the nation in dropping the terribly conceived Big Springs range. The Juniper Butte target range would almost be acceptable if it weren't for the other features of the proposal: the extension of air space, the electronic emitter stations and concommitant road travel, the chaff, the five simulated bombing areas, the 500 foot canyon flyovers. No matter how one fusses with the details, the rich heritage and splendor of the Owyhee country will be marred forever.

Three years ago I was on a horse south of Battle Creek when a fighter came over from behind low enough to knock my hat off. It could not be heard--it was just suddenly, awesomely, ear-splittingly *there*. The horse dumped me and bolted, and I can't say I liked being attacked by my own country's armed forces. Now this is anecdotal misfortune. But many anecdotes make a story, and the story says military use will destroy the seclusion, harass wildlife, scar the land.

The base closure blackmail scenario is over. The Mountain Home airbase is here to stay. What Saylor Creek can't provide, the Nevada and Utah bases can. The American military has a long history of making do. The logic of combat readiness is being able to cope with situations that are less than ideal.

My children are the fifth generation from this part of the West. I hope a sixth and seventh and more will be able to live in it as I have.

Furthermore, much of the affected land belongs to all Americans. There should be hearings in Boston, Tallahassee, and Council Bluffs. The West obliged the vast airspace and testing needs of the military already, and wisdom generally ruled in selecting areas of scant value. As this region continues to get an influx of population and tourists, the Owhyee country has ever-increasing value, in economic and recreational and spiritual ways, and I'm dead-set against giving it up to save fuel costs.

Thank you,
Cotton Ward
5291 E. Hoodoo
Kuna ID 83634

000383

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been working with the Air Force over the proposed development of a supersonic battlefield. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement the Foundation finds that the project will be detrimental to bighorn sheep populations in Southwestern Idaho. Your support is needed. Please sign this letter, add your comments and mail to the address listed.

Clip here

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Gerald D. Walters

Name Gerald Walters
Address 2019 S. Indiana Apt. C.
City Caldwell State Ida Zip 83605

Comments: over

I personally went to the public hearing held in southwestern Idaho. From what I heard 90% of the public is against this range, yet it will be approved by the B.L.M. No wonder the public has lost faith in our government and our government agencies. You people fail to listen!!!

000385

June 15, 1997

U.S. Air Force/
B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-1 Dear Air Force,

I would like to make a statement as to why there should be NO BOMBING RANGE over any of the following river corridors: Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Owyhee Rivers. These are extraordinary rivers which have an immense recreational, natural and spiritual use for all Americans. These areas are definitely better left as they are now; wild, scenic and free for everyone to enjoy.

Please do the right thing for the land, its animal inhabitants, and for future generations of Americans.

Sincerely,
Brian Reynolds
4320 W. Holmes
Boise, ID 83706

June, 1997

000396

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required Douglas S Fraske

Name Douglas S Fraske
Address RT 1 Box 90 South Fork Road
City Melba-Fredwater State OR Zip 97862

Comments: In a time when our wild sheep populations are declining, and losing Habitat in which to live. We need your help to ensure their survival. Thank you

000398

June 15, 1997

U.S. Air Force/
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing in opposition to any expansion of Air Force training facilities in the Bruneau, Jarbridge or Owyhee River drainages. We believe that the greater public interest would be served by declaring these areas to be a national monument and reserving them for recreation, appreciation and protection.

Our family regularly hikes and fishes these river systems. The opportunities for solitude and enjoyment of splendid desert canyonlands are unequaled in this region of the country. We hope that our children will be able to enjoy these same experiences.

So, please add our names to the thousands of people in Idaho and the Northwest who oppose any expansion of Air Force training and bombing facilities in this region. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack E. Williams
2250 W. Buckhorn Court
Eagle, Idaho 83616

Cindy Deacon Williams

000390

June 15,1997

US Air Force/Blm
PO Box 329
Boise, Id. 83701-0329

GE-2 Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for the proposed Enhanced Training Range.

PN-2 My first concern with the statement is the limitation of the alternatives described. Why hasn't land that is already designated for military training considered? The nearby states of Utah and Nevada have close by ranges available. (see map Vol. 2 Attachment 2 in the DEIS) Perhaps the scope of the planning process should be expanded. Under the current process Alternative A (NO ACTION) would be the best choice because of the following reasons.

NO-9 1) The Air Force has underestimated the impact of supersonic noise on the wildlife and people that use these areas.

2) These canyon lands are being considered for national recognition and protection. They are one of the last places left in the continental US where solitude can be enjoyed.

BI-15 3) The impact of the noise and related activities on sensitive species such as the California bighorn and declining Sage grouse hasn't adequately been studied. The range may be a threat to their continued existence.

I personally enjoy theseelands for the opportunity to hunt and observe the wildlife. As a combat veteran I am not against expansion of Air Force training. I think there are more suitable places for this to occur.

Respectfully,
Dennis Rice
Dennis Rice
5269 Bainbridge Dr
Boise, ID 83703

P.S. Please enter this letter into the public record.

000391

U.S Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P.O Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Warren Davis
711 Elm
Kuna ID, 83634

GE-1 Dear Sirs,

As a life long resident of Idaho I am writing to voice my support for the USAF, Mountain Home Air Force Base, and the training range expansion.

The Air Force has been part of Idaho for many years, much longer than many of Idaho's new residents who oppose training range expansion. A great deal of money has been spent studying the impacts of the expanded range. This study has fully addressed all environmental concerns associated with expansion.

Please don't allow the unfounded emotional concerns of a few override common sense and the need for this range. All of Idaho benefits from the $400 million dollars that MHAFB adds the economy, not just The City of Mountain Home.

Sincerely,

Warren G. Davis

000394

June 10, 1997
631 Ballingrude Dr.
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

U S Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P O Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen:

It seems that every time the United States wins another war, as we did recently in the Persian Gulf, with our precise and sophisticated bombing accuracy, we come home and want to bomb more of our own country.

We are getting so much restricted air space now that a private plane, or a commercial plane will have difficulty flying across the Western United States.

Why can't the U S Marines, the U S Navy and the U S Air Force work more closely and be more efficient with the facilities they already have.

NO!! We do NOT need any more BOMBING RANGES !!

Respectfully,
Frank R Florence

Frank R. Florence

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000396

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name FRED Church
Address 904 W 7th ST #201
City RENO State NV Zip 89507
Comments: We Have a Limit Amount of Habit for our Wild Sheep and we can not lose it. Please do not Allow this Area to be used.

000407

702 East, 3600 North
Castleford, Idaho 83321
June 13, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen or Ladies:

As residents of far-western Twin Falls County (Our home is just 7 miles east of the Owyhee County line.), we have made it a point to keep reasonably well informed concerning the proposed expansion of the bombing range during the past several years. Accordingly, on June 5, we attended the public hearing held in Twin Falls on the draft environmental impact statement for the Enhanced Training in Idaho program sought by the U.S. Air Force. Subsequently, of course, we have examined the materials collected at the hearing, including the "Community Report" published by the Air Force.

We believe that the United States must continue to maintain the strongest military force on the planet, in order to preserve the freedom of this nation. We therefore support the expansion of the bombing range, to the extent that such expansion is deemed absolutely necessary to assure that Air Force personnel are properly trained. In this connection, frankly, we are troubled by statements released by the Air Force in the past that suggest that expansion of the range may not really be necessary, although it is desired by some officials. What is the official Air Force position?

While we are as concerned about the environment and wildlife as anyone else, we do not classify ourselves as "environmentalists." We therefore will leave it to others to work with the Air Force and the Bureau of Land Management to assure that proper safeguards are included in any final plan that may emerge from these proceedings.

Our major concerns regarding expansion of the bombing range center on the probable effects of increased air operations on the people, livestock, and structures in our area. Regardless of your good intentions, we doubt that you will be able to prevent the assault on our area by low-flying jet aircraft. Such flights could exact a high price in terms of our peace and tranquility. If you must expand the range, we ask that you not select the option nearest to Twin Falls County--Juniper Butte. And since the "environmentalists" almost certainly will be most opposed to your accepting the Grasmere alternative, we are left with Clover Butte as the lesser of the evils--i.e., the option likely to displease the smallest number of people.

000407

Air Force personnel who conducted the hearing in Twin Falls, as well as those who supported them in various capacities, were a credit to the service. (As a former Air Force officer, I took pride in the professionalism of these men and women.) Our best wishes to you in this endeavor. It is unfortunate that the nature of this project has cast the Air Force into an adversarial role in opposition to the civilian population of the area affected.

Sincerely,
Richard Andrews
Judith Andrews
Richard and Judith Andrews

000408

DWIGHT OSBORNE

1303 East 2500 South • Hagerman, Idaho 83332-5448 • (208) 837-6362 • Fax: (208) 837-6530

June 16, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land
Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter in support of your enhanced training proposal.

Although I do not live in the area effected I have spent time there with a rancher friend who runs cattle in the Owyhees and have also hunted there.

I do not feel your proposed use plan would have a negative effect on the area or the wild life.

Sincerely,

Dwight Osborne

Dwight Osborne

000409

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

A few weeks ago, I was kayaking on the Bruneau River when I was startled by three military planes overhead. What a way to have my wilderness experience shattered! I even found a wad of shaff while I was hiking up the East Fork of the Bruneau.

The proposed Air Force Training Range in the desert canyonlands on the Owyhee, Bruneau, and Jarbidge river regions is appalling. I have seen antelope, deer, sage grouse, bighorn sheep, and various birds of prey. The noise pollution and "fall-out" are unacceptable effects of a military range, and some other area will just have to do for training. I have to wonder why we need pilots to train to protect us if we don't save any or our spectacular and unique regions worth protecting...

Sincerely,

John Watts
5954 N. Collister
Boise, Idaho 83703

P.S. I grew up in the flight path of Hill Air Force Base in Ogden. Listening to jets all day long took its toll on everything - wildlife, domestic animals, people & pleasant afternoons. Idaho doesn't need that kind of noise, especially over our desert. Please look elsewhere!

000410

June 18, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Dear Committee Members:

I want to register my support for the proposed Enhanced Training site in Idaho. It is to our advantage that Air Force personnel are well trained, and it is a waste of resources for them to fly to distant ranges for training. Further, the Air Force is a valuable part of our state's economy.

Sincerely,

Kim M. Durr

1553 N Creswell Pl.
Boise, ID 83713

Blue Cross of Idaho

000411

1501 Federal Way
P.O. Box 7408
Boise, Idaho 83707
(208) 345-4550

6/16/97

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:
I writing in regards to The Bruneau, Jarbidge and Owyhee Canyon lands. I'm opposed to the Air Forces plans to turn these land into supersonic training areas. Your plans will cause an unacceptable noise increase and increase the noise pollution. These canyon lands deserve national recognition and protection.

Thanks,
Terry L. Brower
466 University Dr.

For those who want more than Medicare Boise, ID 83201

Senior Advantage PrimaryCare Premier 65

Blue Cross of Idaho. Why settle for anything less . . .

000412

Enhanced Training In Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Mtn. Home, Idaho

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 13, 1997

GE-1

The U.S. Air Force has done an excellent job of coming up with three proposals for Enhanced Training in Idaho. Any of those three will meet their needs to adequately protect our way of life, with the least expense and also embodies the multiple use concept.

The individuals, groups, and/or organizations that protest don't understand the lifestyle that our military has preserved for the rest of us. If we had not had a military that was willing to sacrifice everything in our past wars, we would not be a free country today.

I fully support any three of the proposals presented and suggest that the ETI be approved as presented.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Michael J. Miller

Address: 1240 Holiday Drive, Mtn. Home, ID 83647
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000413

FRIENDS OF THE WEST

HC 67, BOX 680 • CLAYTON, ID 83227 • 208/838-2431 • FAX 208/838-2685

June 18, 1997

U. S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

The U. S. Air Force's proposal to establish a supersonic battlefield in the Idaho Owyhee canyonlands is unacceptable. This is an area enjoyed by floaters, hikers, campers, and others. Our organization is very much opposed to this bombing range for the following reasons:

1. All of the proposed alternatives will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution
2. The Air Force has underestimated the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals
3. The Bruneau, Jarbridge and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection
4. The Air Force already has sufficient bombing ranges to practices their maneuvers

Thank you for taking these reasons into consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Richmond

Kathy Richmond, Vice President
Friends of the West
HC 67, Box 680
Clayton, ID 83227-9702

000414

311 Elden Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83705
June 13, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 **Greetings,**

I am opposed to the simulated air-battle field over Elmore and Owyhee counties because of the environmental impact. This is one of the wildest regions in the lower 48 states and I strongly feel we should protect it. It is time that the military changes their thinking regarding the protection of our country. Protecting our environment is as essential to survival as is preparing for war.

Sincerely,

Michele McMaster

Michele McMaster

000415

June 18, 1997

Bill Chisholm
19073E Hwy 30
Buhl, Idaho 83316

U.A. Air Force/ BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Subject: Enhanced Training In Idaho

GE-1 Ours is supposedly a government of the people. In regards to the expansion of training facilities for the Air Force the people have spoken loudly on several occasions and said "No!", you've got enough already. Yet here we are back at it again and still with no honest justification.

The U.S. military exists for the defense of this nation. Most people, including myself, appreciate that role and support adequate materials and training to get the job done. It is quite obvious from recent experience that the military is more than adequately supplied and trained.

There is a fine line between defending against potential oppressors and becoming the oppressor. We live in a world not composed of isolated events and issues existing in a separate and linear reality, but in a spherical reality of interconnected events existing in a dynamic and ever changing reality. The wants of the Air Force are not isolated from the rest of the society. An over aggressive military actually can diminish national security by alienating our people from the military.

In economics the is a concept called the "law of diminishing returns", a point at which expanded production starts to decrease profitability. The expanded training proposal fits into this category. It goes beyond what is needed and actually erodes support and confidence in the Air Force.

Our nation faces incredible economic and environmental challenges which feed into social challenges. Every aspect of our society is being forced to cope with the fact that resources have to be better utilized if we as a nation are going to avoid calamity. It only makes sense that the Air Force share in this making do with less.

This Enhanced Training proposal is not wanted, it is by the Air Force's own admission not needed and it should be withdrawn and let's then get on with being good neighbors and taking on the other serious issues that face this nation.

Bill Chisholm

000416

June 18, 1997

U.S. Air Force/
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to the current proposals for the establishment of the new training areas, the so-called "supersonic battlefield" in the Southern Idaho canyonlands. I have been fortunate to spend some time in these remote canyons and rivers and can only imagine what these training flights would do to the pristine character of this area, let alone the wildlife populations.

As it currently stands, *all* of the proposed alternatives will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution. I think that the Air Force has underestimated the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals. Further, the Bruneau, Jarbidge and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection.

Please accept these written comments into the official record. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Neumann
Box 448
Genesee, Idaho 83832

P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1

000417

U.S AIR FORCE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 329
BOISE, ID 83701-0329

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED SUPERSONIC BATTLEFIELD.
THE AREA AFFECTED BY THIS PROPOSED BOMBING RANGE IS A HIGH QUALITY WILDLIFE & RECREATIONAL AREA. THE CANYONS PROVIDE HABITAT FOR DESERT CREATURES AS WELL AS BEAUTIFUL WATER COURSES OF TRAVEL FOR RECREATIONALIST. AS A LICENSED IDAHO RIVER GUIDE IT IS A PLACE WHERE RIVER TRIPS ARE CONDUCTED & WHERE I MAY SEEK EMPLOYMENT. JET AIRCRAFT DO NOT ENHANCE CLIENT'S WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES. NOR DO THESE AIRCRAFT HELP WILDLIFE WHO CALL THE RANGE LAND & DESERT RIVERS OF THE BRUNEAU & OWYHEE RIVERS, HOME.
THIS IS A REMOTE & WILD & FRAGILE REGION OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN WEST. PEOPLE VISIT THESE AREAS BECAUSE OF THE SOLITUDE. JET AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT ENHANCE THIS RECREATION EXPERIENCE NOR WOULD THEIR ACTIVITIES ENCOURAGE TOURIST/CLIENT VISITS TO IDAHO.
ALL OF THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES WILL CAUSE AN UNACCEPTABLE INCREASE IN NOISE POLLUTION.
THE AIR FORCE HAS UNDERESTIMATED THE EFFECTS OF THE EXTREMELY LOUD & UNPREDICTABLE NOISE ON WILDLIFE & PEOPLE. FINALLY, THE BRUNEAU, JARBIDGE AND OWYHEE CANYONLANDS

000417

ARE EXTRAORDINARY NATIONAL TREASURES IN THEIR NATURAL STATE & DESERVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION & PROTECTION.
PLEASE INCLUDE MY COMMENTS IN THE RECORD.
THANK YOU.

SINCERELY,
H. Hilbert
H. HILBERT

000418

GE-1 To Whom It Should Concern,

I am extremely opposed to the proposed extension of the bombing range that currently threatens the Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Owyhee rivers. Not only do I believe that the effects of the noise disturbance on wildlife are greatly underestimated, but as a wilderness enthusiast, an Idaho Native, and simply a person who finds my sanctuary in the few wilderness areas left, it is unacceptable to fail to protect our valuable resources. A decision to turn this remote and precious region into a military practice combat range could cause irreversible damage. Will we save any of the extraordinary places in our region for adventurers, hikers, river runners, and outdoor enthusiasts just to appreciate, or will we exploit every area until we have no more?

There has to be more consideration given to whether the expansion is necessary at all and if there isn't a better place that could be used without causing great damage that can literally never be repaired. I feel that the Owyhee, Bruneau, and Jarbidge Canyonlands are absolutely NOT an option.

Sincerely,
Katie Thacker
29 North Phillippi
Boise, Idaho 83706

June, 1997

000419

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

James L. Chase

Name JAMES L. CHASE
Address Box 304
City GRANBY State Co. Zip 80446

Comments: It doesn't take very much outside interference in wild sheep pupulations to cause a decline because of a access factor. This area is an important area for this sub species.

June, 1997

000421

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required Robert L. Whitehead

R. L. WHITEHEAD
3650 DELMONT AVE.
OAKLAND, CALIF.
94605

Name
Address
City State Zip

Comments: There are currently enough bombing & training bases in the military inventory!! Southern California and Nevada are loaded with bomb ranges. China Lake range is big enough (alone) for all conceivable military testing and training. please do not destroy the owyhee wilderness!
respectfully, Robert L. Whitehead

June, 1997

000422

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required Richard M. McRow

June 16, 1997.

Name RICHARD M. MCROW
Address 151 ROSEMONT CT.
City WALNUT CREEK, State CA. Zip 94596-3466

Comments: Conserving our natural resources must take precedence over the bombing range.

June, 1997

000423

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Jack K Anderson
Address 3235 Dunaville ST.
City Las Vegas State NV Zip 89102

Comments: The STAT of Nevada has Re-establish California Bighorn with The cooperation of Idaho and Oregon - Other States are Now Re-Establishing California Bighorn and Desert Bighorn with The Cooperation of Nevada Thank you Idaho & Oregon

June, 1997

000424

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Thomas F. Chambers

Name Thomas F Chambers
Address P.O. Box 1003
City Laurel State MS Zip 39441

Comments:
I hope that all concerned parties will work Together To encourage The welfare of Bighorn Sheep in Idaho, as they are a True national Treasure.

June, 1997

000426

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Kevin Yonkura

Name KEVIN YONKURA
Address RD #1 Box 494
City New Salem State PA Zip 15468

Comments: AS A HUNTER I BELONG TO THE BIGGEST CONSERVATION GROUP THERE IS. I THINK WE ALL CAN CO-EXIST TOGETHER AND WORK OUT A SOLUTION THAT WOULD BENEFIT BOTH SIDES. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.
Kevin

June, 1997

000429

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Timothy J Smith

Name TIMOTHY J SMITH
Address 3709 NORTH HAVEN CT IA
City DECATUR State ILL Zip 62526

Comments: PLEASE STOP

June, 1997

000434

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Carley D Wilkins

Name Carley D Wilkins
Address 2218 E. 14th St
City The Dalles State OR Zip 97058

Comments: I feel it is very important to Continue with Transporting program. We seen it grow. And I support this Great Cause. so someday our grand or great grand Children will be allowed to hunt.

June, 1997

000435

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom It May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Katie D. Wilkins

Name Katie D Wilkins
Address 2218 E 14th St
City The Dalles State OR Zip 97058

Comments: re-establishing Trapping and Transplanting is important so one day I may have a chance to hunt these animals too. Or perhaps just enjoy there beauty

June, 1997

000441

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Jon Means

Name JON MEANS
Address Box 489
City VAN HORN State TX Zip 79855

Comments:
Use common sense!

June, 1997

000444

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Steven C. Beyer

Name Steven C. Beyer
Address 645 Surrey Rd
City Elkhorn State Ne Zip 68022

Comments:
I'm sure we can find areas to keep our defense Capability intact and not infringe upon sheep habitat. Thankyou SB

June, 1997

000453

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Gary V. Painter

Name Gary V. Painter
Address 335 Ridgeway Dr
City Twin Falls State Idaho Zip 83301

Comments: It would be nice if you people could get it through your head that the majority of people in Idaho dont want an expanded Bombing Range.

June, 1997

000461

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

William G. Wilson

Name William G. Wilson
Address N 9040 Juniper Rd.
City Boise Dam State Id. Zip 53916

Comments:
This is an excellent Wild Sheep area and there is no doubt a very negative effect caused by the continued overflight.

June, 1997

000468

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Frank Breland

Name Frank Breland
Address 339 Cedar Grove Rd.
City Columbia State Miss. Zip 39429

Comments: As a former Bighorn Sheep Hunter, I know how cherished, prized, & scarce they are. I hate to see anyone do anything that would possibly hurt the sheep population.
Thanks - Frank Breland

June, 1997

000469

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Steven D. Hill

Name Steven D. Hill
Address 25550 N. Old Course Way
City Valencia State CA Zip 91355

Comments: This is a serious wildlife issue. Please consider its effect on a species that needs our help if it is to survive.
Thank you

June, 1997

000471

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Phil J. Grundmeyer

Name Phil J. Grundmeyer
Address 75 Wildwood Ave
City Rudell State CO Zip 95562

Comments: Note: I hunted the area in question in 1996 - I feel quite strongly about the no-action solution - I did note that the sheep did not seem to mind the war Hogs low fly by - In as much as my daughter is married to an →

Air Force Career man – I know the importance of training – But I fail to understand why the facilities in Nevada just a hop and skip away at Fallon are not used – Plus the Air Force Range & Area in Central & Lower Nevada.

I trust your decision will take into consideration the Indian Concern for this area also. Yours in keeping our Country Strong

Paul J. Lundeen

June, 1997

000478

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Larry Cuvrey

Name Larry Cuvrey
Address 8265- Emerson Ave
City Parkersburg State WV Zip 26101

Comments: The genuine sportsman is by all odds, the most important factor in keeping the larger + more valuable wild creatures from total extermination.

June, 1997

000479

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Kurt A. Fetzer

Name Kurt A. Fetzer
Address 1330 King Street
City Wilmington State DE Zip 19801

Comments:
Your consideration to this matter would be greatly appreciated. The sheep deserve better

June, 1997

000482

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely,
Signature Required John W. Hoosen

Name John W Hoosen
Address 2501 Common Bridge Rd E.
City Bozeman State Mt. Zip 59715

Comments: With the U.S. + all the world turning to better environment situations, it just makes sense to work these differences out. Come on U.S. Government get with the Program. The taxpayers are watching You John W. Hoosen

000485

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

James Schomberg

Name James Schomberg
Address N6714 Rangeline Rd.
City Sheboygan State Wi. Zip 53083

Comments: We are losing many acres of land to urban sprawl + development. We don't need to destroy more habitat. Why couldn't they practice over the ocean or in the desert?

000486

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Craig Peirce

Name Craig Peirce
Address 169 Stage Rd.
City Charlton State NY Zip 12019

Comments: I support our country & our military, but these sheep are such a precious resource, I encourage you to find alternatives to your plans.

000489

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required RALPH GARRISON

Name RALPH GARRISON
Address 1571 PRINCETON DRIVE
City TWIN FALLS State IDAHO Zip 83301

Comments: I KNOW THE OWYHEE CANYONLANDS VERY WELL, AND HAVE ENJOYED OWYHEE COUNTY FOR ABOUT, MANY YEARS. FLIGHTS OVER THIS AREA ARE VERY DISTURBING, AND ANY MORE INTRUSION WOULD BE TRAGIC.

000496

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Richard Ziminski

Name Richard Ziminski
Address 18 Stillhouse Road
Millstone Township
Englishtown NJ 07726
City State Zip

Comments: Please consider this, We have so few sheep

June, 1997

000497

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name RONALD A. KOBER
Address 5727 N NEENAH
City CHICAGO State IL Zip 60656

Comments: LETIS MEET ABOUT THE SHEEP!

June, 1997

000504

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Charles & Cynthia Salzhauer
Address 3120 Little Mountain Creek Rd.
City Oxford State N.C. Zip 27565

Comments: We support our armed forces in their efforts to maintain their proficiency and preparedness as well as development and are certain that this can and should be done without negative impact upon wildlife.

June, 1997

000511

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name TED J. GAZDA
Address W7716 REDWOOD Rd
City BEAVER DAM State WI Zip 53916-9474

Comments: PLEASE CONSIDER THE LONG TERM EFFECTS ON THE SHEEP POPULATION — A BOMBING RANGE EXPANSION WOULD NOT BE IN THEIR BEST INTEREST. DO WHAT IS RIGHT — NO MORE EXPANSION! Ted.

June, 1997

000513

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name MARK E. CASTROW
Address 908 STATION ST
City WATERTOWN State WI Zip 53094

Comments: I hope you will truly CONSIDER this proposal! Thank You Mark

June, 1997

000515

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Arthur Crate DVM

Name Arthur Crate
Address 23009 - 70th Ave E
City Graham State Wash Zip 98338

Comments:
The airforce has bombing ranges in Nevada and Utah. How much do they need. Enough is enough. Probably really don't need an air base for Mt. Home to begin with. The Air Force needs to stop

June, 1997

000516

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Robert B Barton Jr.

Name Robert B. Barton Jr.
Address 4051 NE 6 Av.
City Ft Lauderdale State FL Zip 33334

Comments: Please re-establish this program! With the current situation in Idaho with sheep production "vs." Disease and parasites this would be a real boon to the sheep! Thank you

June, 1997

000518

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Craig Pellegrino

Name Craig Pellegrino
Address 2702 Caballo
City Peña State New Zip 88502

Comments:
We need all the help we can get because no one else does anything!

June, 1997

000520

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
William H. Farahan III

Name William H. Farahan III
Address P.O. Box 36635
City Birmingham State Al Zip 35236

Comments:
Bighorn Sheep are rare and beautiful natural asset which needs our protection for development. Please review your airspace for less of an impact area on a species that needs our help. Thanks!

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000522

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Gary F. Jamieson

Name Gary F. Jamieson
Address RR 3 Box 2410
City Honesdale State PA Zip 18431

Comments: As an ex-marine and Vietnam vet, I realize the need for all aspects of military training, however, not at the detriment of the Bighorn Sheep

June, 1997

000523

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Eugene L Tovar

Name Eugene L. Tovar
Address Box 1302
City Hamilton State MT Zip 59840

Comments
JUST Show A little courtesy Toward wildlife & the public people. don't use the Typical arrogance usually shown by Government

WILLIAMS FUNERAL DIRECTORS SINCE 1945

PHONE 214 / 278-5000 FAX 214 / 278-1048 BUS. OFFICE 214 / 272-2552
718 MAIN STREET AT GLENBROOK DRIVE GARLAND, TEXAS 75040

000526

June 17, 1997

United States Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 To Whom it May Concern:

As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, I believe it is of utmost importance for the continued survival and expansion of the California Bighorn sheep that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program in the past has proven to be a most reliable source of transplant stock for unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best way to re-establish this program, which has not been active since 1992 is to support the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement. Both here and abroad in U.S. controlled territory must be many areas of less sensitive value to both wildlife and people which is more practical to use by the Air Force.

In addition, I see it a very important issue for mitigation between the U. S. Air Force and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game the supersonic and subsonic flyover during the lambing season and during the annual hunting season as currently exists due to training of the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base.

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Marion D. Williams IV

Marion D. Williams IV
Residence address:
1501 Wildwood Cr.
Garland, Tx 75042

June, 1997

000528

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Charlie Todd

Name Charlie Todd
Address 2015 University Avenue
City San Jose State CA Zip 95128

Comments I support the no overflight relief policy during the lambing and annual hunting seasons

June, 1997

000550

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Frank J. Pepper

Name FRANK J. PEPPER JR.
Address 455 ROVINE AVENUE
City CORAL GABLES State FL Zip 33156-4245

Comments: I undrestand the needs for Air Force Training facilities in that I served in the 8th AF 1942-45 389th Bomb Gp., B-24's and in 1951-52 with the 435th TC in Korea. However, as a sportsman I also understand and support the need of protection for our wild-life. Please seriously consider above.

FN

June, 1997

000536

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely, David L. Heft
Signature Required

Name DAVID L. HEFT
Address P.O. BOX 1823
City SOCORRO State N.M. Zip 87801

Comments: The cumulative impacts of military land grabs and operations west wide need to be addressed by the BLM in a national EIS rather than piece meoled state by state.

000537

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been working with the Air Force over the proposed development of a supersonic battlefield. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement the Foundation finds that the project will be detrimental to bighorn sheep populations in Southwestern Idaho. Your support is needed. Please sign this letter, add your comments and mail to the address listed.

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Gene S. Majors

Name GENE S. MAJORS
Address 35 944 Snake River RD
City Asotin State WA Zip 99402

Comments: R all the flat desert Country we have, where you can Bomb eagles, and not disturbe other wildlife, why do you need anyone Canyon. No.

June, 1997

000540

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Richard T. Dalum

Name Richard T. Dalum
Address S. 6503 Saddle Ridge Road
City Greenacres State Wash. Zip 99016

Comments: It is very important that you act responsibly in this issue. You have a valuable animal resource at your disposal. Thank you

June, 1997

000544

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

David L. Currier

Name DAVID L. CURRIER
Address Box 1408
City FARGO State ND Zip 58107

Comments: FOR THE FUTURE OF WILD SHEEP IN THE USA WE MUST GET TRANSPLANT SHEEP FROM OWYHEE COUNTY IDAHO !

June, 1997

000547

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely,
Signature Required

J.O. Crouse

Name J.O. CROUSE
Address P.O. Box 365
City Springfield State LA. Zip 70462

Comments: There are other places you can train that have no wild sheep.

June, 1997

000549

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name RICK ADDISON
Address 1448 SUNSET DRIVE
City EMMETT State IDAHO Zip 83617

Comments: CAN'T THE AIRFORCE USE EXISTING RANGES WITHOUT THE EXPENSE OF BUILDING NEW ONES? THE IMPACT OF THESE NEW RANGES ON SHEEP & OTHER WILDLIFE IN THE OWYHEES WOULD BE VERY BAD!

June, 1997

000553

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely
Signature Required

Ron Jenkins Manager Idaho operations 6/15/97

Name Ronald Jenkins
Address BOX 85
City Augusta State MT Zip 59810

Comments: I thought that the Battlefield Bombing range situation was fixed a year or so ago; I don't believe that the Air Force should continue to use this valuable area of endangered species. There is an area of almost 1 million acres in southwestern Idaho of bighorn sheep range. If there really must be some military area of operations there, surely not this area.

000554

1626 Howry
Boise, Idaho 83706
June 26, 1997

U. S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

To Whom It May Concern:

GE-1 The U. S. Air Force's proposal to establish a supersonic battlefield in the Idaho Owyhee canyonlands is unacceptable. This is an area enjoyed by floaters, hikers, campers, and others. I am very much opposed to this bombing range for the following reasons:

1. All of the proposed alternatives will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution.
2. The Air Force has underestimated the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals.
3. The Bruneau, Jarbridge and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection.
4. The Air Force already has sufficient bombing ranges to practices their maneuvers.

Thank you for taking these reasons into consideration

Sincerely,

Carol Bachelder
Carol Bachelder

Since this is a form letter, I get to add one more thing: I resent the implication that Idaho is such a wasteland that it doesn't matter if the Air Force makes a bombing practice range here, and the people who don't want it are of no consequence.

000556

PATRICIA BATCHELDER
811 POTATO PATCH
VAIL, CO.81657
970.476.6136

June 23, 1997

U.S. Air Force/
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 I am writing about your proposal to establish a Supersonic Battlefield in the Idaho canyonlands. The Bruneau, Jarbridge, and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection. I believe the Air Force has underestimated the effects that the extremely loud and unpredictable noises have on the people and animals in the area.All of the the alternatives that have been proposed will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution. I hate to imagine camping and hiking or boating on the river there and having the sound be like standing on an airport runway! I can imagine the wildlife would agree!!

I lived in Idaho for 15 years, still own a home there and love the land there dearly. I am not against the Air Force. I want them to train our pilots. But there are places available that are not the last haunts of wildlife and wild rivers.

PLEASE, protect this remote region and do not turn it into a military combat zone.

Sincerely,
Patricia Batchelder
Patricia Batchelder

000555

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, Idaho

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6-19-97

GE-1 I support the "ETI" proposed alternative "B", as described in the draft EIS. I feel the issues of noise and wildlife are fully explained.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Stanley Scott S Stanley Scott

Address: 4555 N. 24 E. Mountain Home, ID 83647
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000559

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, ID

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6-20-97

GE-1 I support the "ETI" proposed alternative "B". Key issues are:

- There will be no impacts to wild sheep.
- Target area is well away from Duck Valley.
- Target area is not a good area for river rafters.
- Target area is not a good area for camping.
- Only one ranch could be impacted.

The Air Force should proceed with the new training range.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Stanley Scott Stanley Scott

Address: 4555 n. 24 e, Mountain Home, ID 83647
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000561

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: _____

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6-20-97

GE-1 I support the "ETI" proposed alternative "B". Key issues are:

- There will be no impacts to wild sheep.
- Target area is well away from Duck Valley.
- Target area is not a good area for river rafters.
- Target area is not a good area for camping.
- Only one ranch could be impacted.

The Air Force should proceed with the new training range.

The air Force has done an excellent job of their stewardship over the Land they are now using for a Training range.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Jack Jensen

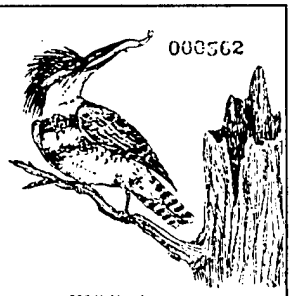
Address: 1114 Maple Drive Mtn Home ID 83647
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000562

Portneuf Valley Audubon Society



U. S. Air Force/
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

225 N. Lincoln
Pocatello, ID
83204
June 23, 2997

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

I would like to comment on the proposed expansion of the bombing range in southwestern Idaho. I am a Board Member of the P.V.A.S. and Secretary of the Idaho Audubon Council. In these capacities and through my professional interests in the biological resources of Idaho I have gained considerable knowledge of the area potentially affected by the proposed bombing range expansion. I have hiked extensively in the area and have conducted a raptor inventory for BLM on Salmon Falls Creek, just to the east of the bombing range. I have also supervised research on the interactions between raptors and snakes in the Hammett area, and also on Pinyon Jays in the City of Rocks area south of Burley. In addition, I have floated the Owyhee, Jarbridge, and Bruneau Rivers. I feel that they are extraordinary natural resources, deserving national recognition and protection. It is in these contexts that I wish to express my desire to see significantly more effort for a thorough analysis before any expansion is allowed.

BI-40 All of the proposed alternatives will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution. In a book entitled The Effects of Noise on Wildlife (1978, J.L. Fletcher and R.G. Busnel eds., Academic Press) there are several chapters that express concern about aircraft noise. P.H. Collereau suggests that sonic booms can break bird eggs, and that they are more disturbing to birds than to mammals. Raelyn Janssen says that the primary effect of such noise is stress and the secondary effect is on egg laying. Rene-Guy Busnell again says that such noise primarily affects growth and reproduction. According to Collereau this is especially true for colonial nesting waterbirds, of which there are several on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. These species of concern include Black Tern, Forster's Tern, and White-faced Ibis.

The nationally acclaimed author Barry Lopez has said that silence and solitude are natural resources. I would like to ask what possible wilderness experience could be had with live bombs being dropped and many supersonic booms happening? In the City of Rocks National Reserve I have led

000562

Audubon field trips several times and can attest to the startling effects from low flying aircraft and sonic booms. The unnerving effects of these sudden invasions of our senses lasted for over an hour. Those planes destroyed our solitude in an absolute way and such disturbances can be expected to increase with an expanded bombing range.

These natural resources would certainly be violated by the range expansion, and I don't feel our concerns have been adequately addressed. I feel that the Air Force has underestimated the effects of such extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Trost

Charles H. Trost, Ph.D.
Conserv. Chair

dc: Priscilla Hearst, Pres., PVAS

OBENCHAIN

000563

June 23, 1997

U. S. Air Force/BLM
P. O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Being unable to attend your hearings, this letter is to serve as my testimony regarding the proposed Air Force training range in the Owyhee desert lands of southwest Idaho.

I am in favor of the training range being established as the Air Force has planned it.

It is my observation, after years of reading 'pro and con' about the issue, that those against the training range do not really base their highly vocalised squawk on environmental concerns. They are simply anti-military...retreads regurgitating the mindless chants of three decades ago.

Build it -- and good luck.

Sincerely,

Phillip L. A. Obenchain

P.S. At a neighborhood confab on our street the other evening, all four expressed essentially the same sentiments as those above. I realize that you may not be able to count them but in numerous conversations with acquaintances on this subject, almost universally they are for the training range. I have found several in doubt but none against the range.

Phillip L. A. Obenchain P.O. Box 291 Boise, Idaho 83701-0291

000564

June 20,1997

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern;
How many times do we have to say NO to the Air Force.
NO SUPERSONIC BATTLEFIELD!!! The reasons are obvious.

Sincerely,¶
John Griffith
Box 1919,
Ketchum, Id 83340

000565

Beth Workman
723 Pierce
Boise, Idaho 83712

United States Air Force
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

June 18, 1997

GE-2 I am writing because I am totally against the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. It is unbelievable that the Air Force wants to desecrate this beautiful part of our country. What for? We have enough bombing ranges! It doesn't make any sense!

PN-14 There is no need for this bombing range. The GAO report and the DEpartment of Defense substantiates this. This beautiful area deserves to be protected not destroyed.

If this range is so imperative to the future of Mountain Home, I suggest you locate it next to the Mountain Home Air Force Base. It's already a wasteland. Then the Mountain Home bombing range boosters would be close enough to appreciate the beauty of what they've created.

Sincerely,

Beth Workman



000566

I have set aside work
and gone afishing.

Matt H. Smith
3247 HIGHLAWN DRIVE
TWIN FALLS IDAHO 83301
(208) 733-2240

6/20/97

U. S. Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, Id 83702-0329

GE-1 Subject:-Proposed extension of Mountain Home Air Force Base.

From the comments made by the Air Corps own officers the proposed extension of the bombing range will not improve the ability of the air wing in their endeavor to stay combat ready nor will it cause them to be less effective in any way.

I believe most of us live in Idaho because we enjoy the tremendous access we have to scenic canyons, mountains and geological formations that other states only dream about. The idea that our government would put its oppressive hand on our shoulder and lock up this wonderful area just because they can is intolerable. Some of the insinuations that if this land is not made available we may lose the base is blackmail and a totally despicable ploy and should absolutely not be considered in our opposition to this land grab.

President and General Eisenhower made it clear that one of the great dangers we face as a nation is to allow the unbridled strength of the Military, Industrial Complex to become so powerful that they would dictate unneeded, expensive and obtrusive proposals.

As an officer in the inactive reserve and a combat veteran of World War 2 I would not tolerate for an instant anything that would jeopardize the effectiveness or safety of our troops however, I am equally adamant about the senseless lose of any portion of the quality of life I enjoy in our great State.

Yours truly,
Matt Smith

000567

2164 Alta Vista Dr.
Twin Falls, ID. 83301

U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID. 83701-0329

GE-1 *To Whom It May Concern:*

We want to voice our opposition to the expansion of the training range in the Bruneau, Jarbidge & Owyhee canyonlands. This is a remote & wild region, that we frequent in the fall for chukar hunting. We fear that this expansion may hinder many forms of wildlife in the area. Several years ago, even without the expansion, we had a frightening experience of two jet fighters entering the canyon we were hunting, obviously flying at a very low level. The sound was deafening, & it was an unsettling experience. Please reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,
Delores & Richard Smith

000568

Catherine Stapp
1004 14th Ave W
Gooding, ID 83330 8133

June 21-97

U. S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

The U. S. Air Force's proposal to establish a supersonic battlefield in the Idaho Owyhee canyonlands is unacceptable. This is an area enjoyed by floaters, hikers, campers, and others. I am very much opposed to this bombing range for the following reasons:

1. All of the proposed alternatives will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution.
2. The Air Force has underestimated the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals.
3. The Bruneau, Jarbridge and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection.
4. The Air Force already has sufficient bombing ranges to practices their maneuvers

Thank you for taking these reasons into consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Stapp

June, 1997

000570

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Donald C Schmalz

Name Donald C Schmalz
Address Box 604
City Coty State Wyo. Zip 82414

Comments: I attended the meeting at the School near Murphy Hot Springs, near the Jarbidge Canyon. I'd like to see the newly reinstated (Bruneau, Jarbidge Juniper Mts) area with my hand against your bombing range in that area. I am a current Board member for FFAWS national Chapter!

June, 1997

000575

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Dan Turnage

Name Dan Turnage
Address 2913 Evergreen Ct
City Chesapeake State Va. Zip 23321

Comments: Please help us resolve the Wild Sheep to the ground [illegible]

000576

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Tim Brammer
Address 10606 Brook School Rd
City Fishers State IN Zip 46038

Comments: Wild sheep are a precious resource and there has already been enough encroachment upon their habitat!

000579

Cindy Alexander
3360 Lynn Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

June 24, 1997

United States Air Force /
Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-029

GE-1 Gentlemen:

As a person who enjoys the outdoors and wonders of our wildlife, I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program for the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely
Cindy Alexander
Cindy Alexander

000586

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name John A Kotara Jr.
Address 11436 Sey ST Louis Ave
City Chicago State ILL Zip 60655

Comments: I AM a ex Marine from The Korean War, and I was Bombed, Napomed, And Strafted four (4) Times by our own Saber jet Planes. Please give The Big Horn SHeep a Chance.

000591

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Nevada has received some of these Bighorns
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name John V. Zenz
Address P.O. Box 4517
City Sparks State Nv Zip 89432

Comments:

000595

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Ray Bot

Name Ray A. Bot
Address 10825 Glacier Loop Rd.
City Juneau State Ak Zip 99821

Comments: It is high time the Military became good citizens!!! Guns in wetland for military in Alaska is appalling.

June, 1997

000596

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Ralph B. Feriani

Name Ralph Feriani
Address 4910 Sportsmen Drive
City Anchorage, AK State Alaska Zip 99502

Comments: It's probably a good time to exibit some good P.R. and comm sense to those of us taxpayers who are paying for a mostly non-productive, arrogant, benefit bloated public sector. I'm sorry to say that, but unfortunately its the honest truth!

June, 1997

000599

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required Robert S. Huffsmith

Name Robert S. Huffsmith
Address 747 N. Adams Ave
City Loveland State CO. Zip 80537

Comments: My grandfather V.C. Huffsmith was a signal engineer with the U.S. Army Air Core in WWII he later assisted (until his death) with other A.F. Force tasks such as the location of U.S.A.F.A. I understans the importance of these things, But our Big Horn Sheep are to few to understand. Could you find another "low impact" area please.

June, 1997

000600

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Fred J. Rowan

Name Fred J. Rowan
Address 1835 Ballybunion Drive
City Duluth State Ga. Zip 30155

Comments: Certainly the Bighorn is as important or more than species protected we simply cannot ignore this issue

June, 1997

000609

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Robert A. Stevens

Name Robert A. Stevens
Address Box 308
City Ketchum State Id Zip 83340

Comments: Jacks and Little Jacks Creeks should be off limits to the U.S. Air Force. No M.O.A. Should be over this area. Too many wildlife species will be

Deceived. there is no true need for this range. ... the air force has lied to Congress and the american people about this range.

They have deceived two governors and wasted tax payer money.

"When is it ok right to lie to Congress" —

The Noise is reason enough to insist on the No action alternative.

Why ruin something when the air Force says it is not needed!

Robert G. Stevens USNR-R

June, 1997

000613

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Patrick C Allen MD.

Name Patrick C. Allen, M.D.
Address 2468 Logan Dr.
City Loveland State Co. Zip 80538

Comments: As a long time sheep hunter and conservationist, I urge you to adopt this program. Thank you for your consideration.

June, 1997

000615

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

6-19-97

Name Dennis P. Steinman
Address 1119 N. 23rd St.
City Boise State ID Zip 83702

Comments:

There is NOBODY IN IDAHO THAT WANTS OR FEELS the need for The Bombing Range except for The POLITICIANS and The AIR FORCE (NOT Home Rule) The Bombing Range except for The POLITICIANS and The AIR FORCE (NOT Home Rule) The Fish And Game Are Being STARVED Around It Support By Gov. BATT. This is almost a JOKE! There is no Air Force mission! The public WITH THEIR EIS Study - STOP The Bombing Range. KStevens

June, 1997

000616

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required John Vest
Susanna Vest

Name John + Susanna Vest
Address PO Box 1552
City Susanville State CA Zip 96130

Comments: The US Military already has the most public land excluded from use by the public and developed. To further consume and decimate the subject block of land and wildlife is unthinkable and totally unacceptable to the American public. There is plenty of land in nearby Nevada already dedicated to this type of use --- use it!! Why consume more!!!

June, 1997

000617

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name GARFIELD G. THOMAS
Address 64361 E. ROUND ROBIN LN
City TUCSON State AZ Zip 85739

Comments: AS A MEMBER (V.P.) OF THE "ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY" I AM WORKING ON A SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT FOR THE USE OF THE BARRY GOLDWATER RANGE.

June, 1997

000623

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required Wolfgang Kuhn

Name WOLFGANG KUHN
Address BOX 531
City HAILEY State ID Zip 83333

Comments: NO BOMBING RANGE PLEASE

June, 1997

000626

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name ROGER A. BUSBOOM
Address 4050 RANCHERIA DR.
City FALLON State NV Zip 89406

Comments: WHY CAN'T THE AIR FORCE WORK WITH THE NAVY AND USE THE EXISTING RANGES AT NAVAL AIR STATION IN FALLON. THEY HAVE ONE OF THE BEST TRAINING RANGES AVAILABLE

000627

Captain M. Miller
Chief, 366th Wing PA
366 Gunfighter Av #152
MHAFB, Id 83648-5291

19 June 1997

GE-1 Dear Captain Miller,

I would like to comment in support of the "ETI" draft EIS Specifically alternatives, B,C, and D, will work for the residents of Elmore and Owyhee County. On the local news, I heard complaints about the impacts of the proposal on the wild sheep Nothing could be more false. The sheep area has been a military training area for 50 years. The only harm the sheep suffer every year is from the Fish and Game department during the capture program and from the members of the North American Wild Sheep Foundation during the killing season. FNAWS should explain to the people of Idaho, why they want the sheep to be in great numbers. Could it be so that they have more sheep to kill?

I would also like to thank the 366th Wing for standing up for what is needed to train the air crews. If one were to believe the Shoshone Piautes, one would think that they have relatives buried just about everywhere throughout Idaho. If we aren't walking on grave sites we are disrupting their church services when we use our public lands. I reject their claims concerning federal public lands.

SINCERELY

Doug D Ellis

455 E. 17 N
Mountain Home, ID 83647

000629

June 25, 1997
2541 NE 106th Place
Seattle, WA 98125

U.S. Air Force / Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen:

I ran the Jarbidge / Bruneau this spring putting on the Jarbidge on May 31. There were 5 of us in self support kayaks. We were incredibly fortunate to see spectacular scenery, wildlife and no people for 4 days. Unfortunately, the noise of the jets when we reached the Bruneau was very distracting. It is critical to protect this area from noise pollution. It impacts humans and wildlife.

Please limit the flights of fighter jets and heavy bombers over the Jarbidge, Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kay Denfeld

000632

5654 El Gato Lane
Meridian, ID 83642
June 27, 1997

U. S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen:

In deciding the future and management of the Air Force's Owyhee training range, I feel one facet has been inadequately addressed. Let me explain:

About five years ago I was riding my 750 cc motorcycle westbound on the back road from Route 93, north of Big Lost River, over Trail Creek summit, into Ketchum. About 25 miles of this road is gravel and requires deliberate and careful driving, especially since my adult daughter was riding pillion. At the time I was a very practiced and competent biker, having recently completed about 25,000 miles of touring in Japan over a two year period. Biking and surviving in Japan is perhaps the most challenging in the world. I might mention that in my younger years I was an officer in the Navy on both destroyers and submarines. This took a cool head, the ability to stay in control and to make quick decisions under pressure.

Unfortunately none of this prepared me for the incident I am about to describe. The day was warm and the mood laconic, even though characteristically I was half focused on the scenery and half on the hazardous under-footing, riding through dirt and gravel. We were about halfway between the turn-off to Copper Basin and the summit, approaching a forest service picnic on the south side of the road. Suddenly and without any warning, we were engulfed in the most startling and overwhelming noise, beyond my imagination. My muscles all tensed involuntarily and I came a hair from losing control of the bike and taking a low speed dump, before I could regain my composure. I did catch a brief glimpse of a very low flying jet fighter negotiating the canyon from west to east, opposite my direction of travel. Stopping immediately, I had excruciating pain in my right shoulder which took some time to subside. I eventually had to endure about six months of forcible physical therapy to restore full motion in that joint.

Both Carol and I felt that to be the most frightening experience in our lives. Sheer power of the noise and lack of any warning whatsoever would confuse and stun even a tobacco store wooden indian. What I see here is an incompatibility between this occurrence normal human activities such as touring in any motor vehicle, off-road vehicle use, hunting, rock climbing, kayaking and any other endeavor where being in total control is a prerequisite to saving life and limb and preventing property damage. While I survived to articulate this experience, the wildlife in the proposed range have no voice. Under such trauma, I could believe in injury or death due to missing jumps between rocky ledges, difficulties in mating, spontaneous aborting and just making the habitat unsuitable for indigenous wildlife.

Air Force personnel will undoubtedly minimize such and event because they live in such a world and more-or-less are prepared and conditioned by experience for such events. I wish that were true for us other creatures.

Sincerely yours,

Gene E. Bray; gebray@primenet.com
(208) 888-3293 voice; 888-0317 FAX

JUNE 29, 1997

000635

US AIR FORCE/
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PO BOX 329
BOISE ID 83701-0329

GINNA + KEN
LAGEGREN
BOX 1241
HAILEY, ID
83333

GE-1

SUBJECT: SUPERSONIC BATTLEFIELD IN THE CANYONLANDS OF BRUNEAU, JARBIDGE + OWYHEE

my husband and I just returned from Kayaking the Jarbidge + Bruneau Rivers as we have enjoyed several times before, as well as the Owyhee River + its tributaries. These are extraordinary places of uncommon beautiful. Their geologic structures are unlike other canyons like the Snake + the Salmon, with their vertical spires + "hoodoos". Graphically they are spectacularly more beautiful than any other canyon we've seen including the Grand Canyon.

So it would be criminal to devastate this area with the noise pollution + all other effects of allowing a Supersonic, or any type of Bombing range to co-exist with these canyons. The Airforce is under estimating the terrible effects the impact would make on people + animals. Please stop this project! Not Here! Not Ever!

Gin + Ken Lage

000637

Eileen Thornburgh
8302 Thunder Mtn.
Boise, ID 93709

June 29, 1997

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the United States Air Force increasing the size of the current bombing range or increasing their bombing activities in southern Idaho. I am opposed to low level flights over Idaho's desert wilderness, as well as the dropping of any dummy bombs such as those that litter the terrain with aluminum shards.

I have spent 17 years hunting and hiking in the Three Creek, Crow's Nest, and Clover Crossing area. The surrounding desert is too precious to wildlife, ranchers, and recreationists to allow further encroachment and the accompanying havoc caused by the US Air Force's bombing and low level flight maneuvers.

Please include my name and my vote during your public hearings as one person opposed to increasing the bombing range's size and activities. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Eileen Thornburgh

000638

11080 Oneida Drive
Boise, ID 83709
July 1, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

We are opposed to an expansion of the Air Force training range in Owyhee County. The Owyhee canyonlands should be a national park.

It is getting harder and harder to find places of natural beauty and tranquility in our state. Please don't allow the sights, sounds, or presence of the jets or any military training to intrude upon the Owyhee area in any season of the year.

Protect the last place in Idaho to sustain healthy grouse populations. Protect our sensitive bighorn sheep. Protect the beauty of Idaho. Oppose training range expansion.

Sincerely,

Gail Hart & Mike Corbett

(6/30/97)

000639

GE-1 I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands

I have a 4 year old son who I hope can some day experience the grandeur of one of the last great unprotected Wilderness areas in the lower 48. He and Idaho's future generations of children deserve the opportunity to hunt, fish, boat, hike or just take in the beauty of this threatened wild area. We as humans are simply visitors who will tread lightly and then leave to relish the precious memories of the experience. The permanent residents who have a right to this land are the Bighorn Sheep, Deer, Elk, Trout, Birds of Prey and other Wildlife. It is imperative that we save this land for their future generations. What has happened to the foresight and wisdom to look ahead at what is best for the LONG TERM for Idaho, our country and the earth. Please people speak up and say no to another unneeded supersonic battle field in Idaho.

Gregg Lewis
Boise

2420 Heights Drive
Boise, Idaho 83702

000640

JANET KELLAM

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

June 24, 1997

GE-2 Dear Air Force and BLM

I am writing this letter to express my sincere and strong opposition to the enhanced training proposal for the Jarbidge, Bruneau and Owyhee area. I have written and sent testimony over the years opposing each of the bombing range proposals. I feel that this most recent proposal should also be rejected.

PN-5 There has never been a national needs assessment done for this military land and air expansion. This should be done and the assessment should include ALL branches of the military.

PR-13 There must be a program instituted for the Air Force, the Air National Guard and all other military operations to take ultimate responsibility for accidents and damage that result from training maneuvers. Accidents could be range fires, accidental bomb drops outside designated target areas, sonic boom impacts, road building and expansion without following the permit process for the use of our public land. ...This has been a problem in the past and must be corrected before there is even a consideration of further development.

NO-4 The sound tests that have been utilized are completely irtappropriate for the concerns needed in this area. The sound tests are averaging the noise levels over a 24 hour period. The noise levels must be recorded and data collected as to number and frequency of occurrences, duration and intensity and type of noise. Expected natural sounds such as water and thunder have a much different impact, particularly to recreational users, than military maneuvers and mock warfare! This has been proven in many noise evaluation studies. I am a professional sound recordist for documentary projects, so I can say this with some backing and experience!

Along the same lines of natural history and documentary filming, the Owyhee, Jarbidge and Bruneau area has an untold number of possibilities for documentaries that can be produced there. This is due to the untouched nature of the canyons and landscape and the magnificent bird and wildlife populations. Intact, undisturbed ecosystems!! Natural sounds of birds, water and the wind!!!!

I am also a professional river guide, licensed with the IOGLB. I have been guiding in Idaho since 1981, and I can tell you that the Owyhee, Bruneau, Jarbidge country is a national treasure. We cannot and should not turn this area into a military operations area! The landscape, the rivers, the wildlife and the solitude are rare gems that are rapidly disappearing throughout the United States. Often, it is in hindsight that people decide that a place had been worth protecting, and the realization occurs once an area is irretrievably changed. All of the guests that I have taken into these river corridors have expressed what a truly incredible place that this corner of Idaho is, that it is a very special place and that this should all be under wild and scenic river designation and offered full protection, including NOISE.

Preserving this natural area is our national duty; our national heritage ... just as much if not more than the "expressed but unproven" need for more military power. I can't even begin to tell you the power of promoting peace that we have by keeping these natural areas intact. People visit them, experience them and take away with them what they have gained in their spirit and soul from these lands.

The natural diversity must be preserved in this South Western region of Idaho. Bombing Range operations impact and will ultimately destroy this balance of diversity whether it is animal, fish, plant or bird populations and habitat.

The economic fact is that this area can support a significant tourism industry. River running, hiking, photography and sight seeing, fishing and hunting. We can't ignore this. Look at the popularity of the canyon country of Southern Utah! People never would have guessed this thirty years ago. These canyons in Idaho are equally as impressive, as magnificent, and possess that highly sought after component of peaceful solitude. As long as it does not become a military operations area! Utah is becoming over visited and people are looking for other places to travel. If we must argue in economic figures, the canyon lands of South Western Idaho are an incredible resource. We must protect them now!

Sincerely,

Janet K. Kellam

P.O. Box 3572
110 Board Loop
Ketchum, ID 83340
(208) 726-1640

June, 1997

000645

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Richard W. Gawrish

Name Richard W. Gawrish
Address 7519 Lochmere Oaks
City Orlando State FL Zip 32826

Comments:
Let's work together to help North American Wild Sheep!

June, 1997

000650

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required Michael J Topper

Name ~~MICHAEL J. TOPPER~~
Address ~~P.O. BOX 2993~~
City ~~YOUNTVILLE, CA 94599~~ State Zip

Comments: I believe the Air Force has restricted too much Public land in our western states. I believe we should support our wildlife & the public. — Haven't you heard the Cold War is over — stay in Nevada!!! MJT

June, 1997

000652

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required William J Lyons

Name William J Lyons
Address 202 Ipswich Rd
City Topsfield State Mass Zip 01983

Comments: Please help protect our wildlife as well as you protect our U.S.

June, 1997

C120197
000666

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Michael A Bramley
Address 110 Sheridan Ct
City Colo. Springs State CO Zip 80906

Comments: Increased habitat is one key to establishing sustainable populations of these magnificent animals

June, 1997

000669

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required George A. Fry

Name George A. Fry
Address 5224 Augustine Herman Hwy
City Cecilton State Md. Zip 21913-0033

Comments: If at all possible, I would appreciate the Air Force's actions be as sensitive and concerned as is possible regarding these environmental matters.
GAF

June, 1997

000669

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Arthur J. Andreis
Address P.O. Box 55818
City North Pole State Alaska Zip 99705

Comments: Here in Alaska we are having many problems with the Air Force continually adding more land to their allready huge MOAs for larger air combat bombing ranges. Because of this the civilian airspace is becoming more limited. And, all this is having a detrimental effect on our wildlife.
There's no reason why the Air-Force cannot find better areas for your bombing ranges.

June, 1997

000673

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely,
Signature Required
Paul & Tami Selby

Name PAUL + TAMI SELBY
Address PO Box 576
City BOISE ORCHARD State ID Zip 83616

Comments: For the benefit of all - please implement this request
Thank You

000674

David Hensel
PO Box 81
Victor, Id. 83455

To whom it may concern;

GE-1 I wish to comment on the Air Forces proposal to establish a supersonic battlefield over Idaho's desert canyonlands. I have floated the Jarbidge and Bruneau rivers and I can easily say that they are as beautiful as anyplace I have ever had the opportunity to visit. The canyons are quiet, remote, unspoiled and the home to abundant wildlife. As the world becomes a more crowded place these characteristics only increase in value.

Your proposals, if enacted would destroy this. All of your proposals will cause a unacceptable increase in noise pollution. Having been buzzed by jet aircraft in canyons before I can speak from experience when I say that you have underestimated the effects of the noise on the wildlife and the people using the canyons.

Don't turn this treasure into a war casualty.

Sincerely,
David Hensel

000675

Judy Thorne
1603 N 19th
Boise, ID 83702
June 30, 1997

GE-2 Dear Sirs or Madams,
I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed bombing ranges in southwest Idaho. The Air Forces own Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategies Plan states that there are currently no studies that truly determine the effects of noise levels, sonic booms, super-sonic operations and sub-sonic operations on humans, animals, or structures.

PN-14 It is unacceptable to proceed with a plan that is lacking in research, and even more importantly, is unnecessary. To quote your own Dept. of Defense Audit Report (June 30, 1995), ... "the Air Force has not established the training requirement for the 366th Wing composite force or proved why existing training ranges cannot continue to provide composite force training."

In summary, I fervently oppose this proposal for many reasons. One of those reasons is your own spokespeople don't support it!

Sincerely,
Judy A. Thorne

000685

6/30/97

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 This letter is regarding the supersonic battle field proposed for the Idaho canyonlands. I am very concerned about the environmental impact of this proposed battlefield training area. I have slept on beaches alongside Idaho's rivers and hiked over the trails along the canyons. The wildlife I saw was serene and busy going about the work of living on our earth. I am wondering why this area of Idaho was chosen for the training. Surely there are other areas that will offer less environmental impact.

I know you did an impact study, but I wonder, as a participant in our river wilderness areas, how you can deny the disturbance to humans and animals that the constant barrage of noise and startling shattering movements will bring.

Please do not make this incredible treasure of nature, an incredible battlefield for technology. I am not sure who will read this, but I say to you...think in your heart about this and with logic and reality, and ask yourself...is this really the right thing to do?

Sincerely,

Janice Fletcher

Janice Fletcher
1661 Appaloosa Road
Moscow, Idaho
208-882-2293

June, 1997

000688

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

A. Oscar Carlson

Name A. Oscar Carlson
Address 3555 - 182nd Ave. N.W.
City Anoka State MN. Zip 55303

Comments: Sheep are being pressured from so many directions because of urban sprawl and increased human population. Hopefully our U.S. airforce wouldn't increase the pressure. Thanks. Oscar

June, 1997

000689

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

John G. Radzinski

Name John G. Radzinski
Address 13451 S. Golden Valley Drive
City Riverton State UTAH Zip 84065

Comments: I have personally hunted the Little Jacks Area with friends that drew a permit to hunt bighorn sheep. This is a wonderful Area and resource that is as wild as a person can find in the Lower 48 states. Please help to keep it wild! These special places are few in numbers and we humans need these places to escape to & relax and spend time with the wildlife (over)

sheep and our friends and family.

I come from an Air Force family. My dad served for 30 years on combat SAC Aircraft. I understand the need to practice your skills, but there are plenty of areas in NW Utah just minutes away from Idaho to serve this purpose and fulfill this need.

I know many individuals that are Air Force personnel and enjoy the wild places too. When they have been up flying for hours and hours they too need an healthy place to escape to and have fun.

There is so much more to life than work! Save the places man needs and the wild animals need to escape to and to live in. Be conservationists like the hunters are. Theodore Roosevelt was a great military man — but his greatest accomplishments came as a hunter and a preserver of wild places. Thanks — John G. Radzinski

June, 1997

000699

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:

As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Cyril D. Elsinger

Name CYRIL G. ELSINGER
Address 20581 ST. JOSEPH'S DR.
City RICHARDSVILLE State IOWA Zip 52039

Comments: I am requiesting that the U. S. Air Force and Bureau of Land Management consider no further development of the tactical and electronic air combat bombing range facilities in SouthWest Idaho. This is prime bighorn sheep habitat and lambing area. This area, in the past, has been used for transplants of California Bighorn sheep to other areas which are under populated

000702

GE-1 Dear U.S. Air Force

NO SUPERSONIC BATTLEFIELD!

Stay the hell out of the Bruneau, Jarbidge + Owyhee Canyonlands! I float these rivers + enjoy knowing they are truly pristine wildlands. I do not want loud jets + bombers flying anywhere near these areas!

Peter Bahls
American taxpayer
1115 Albert St.
Port Townsend, WA 98368

GE-1

000703

DEAR SIR, OR MISS,
I'M 13 AND I JUST WENT DOWN THE BRUNEAU-JARBIDGE RIVER FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND IF THE BOMBING RANGE BUMBS THE CANYONE, IT WILL BE THE LAST, NOT ONLY FOR ME, BUT FOR MANY OTHER PEOPLE WHO ENJOY THE BUEATIFUL CANYONES THAT ARE HOME SPECTACULAR WILD LIFE. I, PERSONALY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE WOULD WANT TO RUIN THE AWSOME CANYONES (I GUESS THEYVE NEVER HAVE BEEN DOWN THE RIVER)
I SAW 50 BIRDS IN ONE-HALF HOUR, WHEN FLOATING, CANYONE EAGLE, SPARROWS, ROBIN, HALK, OSPREY DUCK, PIGION, DOVE, GROUSE, AND THAT THE BRUNEAU-JARBIDGE HAS A VERY LARGE POPULATION OF MT. GOAT. I SAW BEAVER, WEASLE, AND A GOAT FAMILY. THERE IS WILD GARLIC ALL OVER. AND ALOT OF PIEALLY PRETTY FLOWERS.
I HOPE THE BOMBING RANGE DOESNT BUMB THE CANYONE BECAUSE I WANT THE LITTLE PEOPLE TO SEE IT, AND EVERYONE ELSO. THEN THEY WILL ALSO, UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF THE GORGIOS CANYONES.
SINSERELY
ERIN GRIFFITH

P.O. Box 1919
Ketchum, ID 83340

GE-1

000704

Dear Sir, 7/3/97

Open land and wilderness that everyone can have access to is far more precious than a bombing range. The Jarbidge and Bruneau rivers are worth fighting to keep as they are now. No Bombing Range!

J Griffith



000705

June 27, 1997

U.S. Air Force/
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID. 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir/Ms.:

It has been brought to my attention that a proposal is under consideration that would allow the U.S. Air Force to use the airspace over the Bruneau, Jarbridge, and Owyhee Rivers as an area to fly military jets, many of which would be supersonic.

This concerns me for a number of reasons as a responsible taxpaying citizen. The noise pollution that would result in these very pristine wilderness/river areas would be devastating and irreversible in it's damage. Idaho is blessed with some of the great free-flowing rivers in our country....**let's not let the Air Force destroy them so future generations cannot enjoy them!!** I have had the privilege to spend time with my family on several occasions on both the Owyhee and Jarbridge Rivers and they are very fond memories of some beautiful natural wilderness areas. In addition to the adverse affect the noise pollution would have on the humans in the areas, the impact on wildlife would be monumental. These river canyons are home to a large number of rare and endangered birds and animals whose habitat is declining every year.

LET THE AIR FORCE CONDUCT THEIR TESTS ON SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT IN AREAS THAT ARE NOT NATIONAL WILDERNESS TREASURES!!!

Sincerely,
Rick Swanson

Rick Swanson
532 Padilla St.
San Gabriel, Ca. 91776
(818) 458-6760

RICH'S CORPORATE BRANDS PROGRAM
Rich Products Corporation - Consumer Products Division - 1216 West Imperial Highway - Suite 212 - Brea, CA 92621

000706

U.S. Air Force / Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 I am writing to voice my opinion in the expansion proposal of the Mountain Home Air Force Base bombing range. In the spring of 1996 I had my first chance to boat the Jarbridge and Bruneau rivers. I have been to many rivers in the US but no river has matched the natural beauty and desolation of these. There were Jet training exercises that were being taken place while I was there and these were somewhat annoying, but I had known that this was to be at that time. I believe any more activity in this area will be a total distraction and I would probably not go back. My plans as of now are to try to return to this area once a year and to pass the word around to other people that they must experience this area. So I ask that we do not allow this area to be disturbed any more than it has already been. Present and future generations are just now understanding more about wilderness area's and the need for us to preserve them. Please do not allow this expansion to take place. Thank You

Joel I Parker
PO Box 1267.
Grand Junction, CO. 81502

000707

GE-1 RE IDAHO CANYONLANDS

THE BRUNEAU JARBRIDGE & OWYHEE CANYONLANDS ARE A NATIONAL TREASURE & DESERVE UTMOST PROTECTION. JET USAF AIRPLANES WOULD CAUSE AN UNACCEPTABLE NOISE POLLUTION. NO SUPERSONIC BATTLE FIELD!

ELIZABETH A. HARMON
BOX 10191
KETCHUM ID 83340

000708

US Airforce BLM
Box329
Boise ID 83702-0329

Mary Hogan
Box 3113
Hailey,Id 83333

GE-1 I am writing to oppose the proposed Airforce bombing range expansion.

Personally, I have enjoyed floating the different forks of the Owyhee river and Jarbidge /Bruneau rivers. They are special places and so few of these untouched areas are left I do not think we need to ruin this area especially since I do not think we need more test sights.

Even the native Americans are opposed to this from what I have read and our government has take n so much away from them. Why can n"t this area just be left natural to be enjoyed by those who enjoy the quiet wilderness and left to the native animals and plants?!

Please do not expand !

Sincerely, Mary Hogan
Mary Hogan

000709

July 1, 1997
414 Trotter Drive
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

USAF/BLM
P.O Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

GE-1 I am writing this to voice my concerns about the enhanced bombing range proposed in the high desert of southwestern Idaho.

The additional area seems to be unnecessary for the USAF to fulfill its mission, and would divert funding dollars from other, more-necessary components

While the USAF will apparently assume responsibility for fires on BLM land that will result from their use of it, the disruption that will result from both the fires and firefighting efforts concerns me.

I am also concerned about closing off yet more public land from public use

As a member of the Idaho Archaeological Society, I am concerned about the certain disturbance and/or destruction of cultural resources, resources which again belong to all of us.

I am concerned about the harmful effects that aircraft noise and other phenomena will have on the desert wildlife, California bighorn sheep, especially.

Regardless of mitigation efforts that the USAF will undertake, no doubt in good faith, the disturbance, destruction, and loss of public access that will result from the unnecessary use of this land is unnecessary and unacceptable.

Sincerely,
W. Duane Reynolds

June, 1997

000714

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersenic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Charles R. Renner

Name CHARLES R. RENNER (BOB)
Address 12704 E. Ohio AVE
City AURORA State CO. Zip 80012

Comments: Wild sheep are a pure joy to watch and the species should be protected from trauma as they are a delicate species emotionally, and cannot stand the stress they would meet from a bombing range etc. Bob Renner

June, 1997

000717

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Warren E Olson
Address 5761 Oath Circle
City Anchorage State Alaska Zip 99516

Comments: Citizens throughout America are aware of how the United States Airforce is ignoring Public Trust responsibility in regards to Wild Sheep in Idaho

June, 1997

000718

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

R. B. Johnson

Name R. B. JOHNSON
Address P O Box 449
City MILLWOOD State N.Y. Zip 10546

Comments: I HAVE HUNTED BIG HORN SHEEP IN IDAHO AND HOPE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ALSO HUNT "CALIFORNIA" BIG HORN SHEEP IN THE NEAR FUTURE

000720

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
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The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Daniel Gordon 7-1-97

Name DANIEL GORDON
Address 381 COLLINS DR #6
City MERCED State CA Zip 95348

Comments: I FEEL THERE ARE MANY OTHER AREAS WHERE YOUR TRAINING CAN TAKE PLACE, THAT WON'T HARM THE WILDLIFE OUR CONSERVATION GROUPS ARE WORKING TO SUPPORT DG

000721

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Tad Gilbert

Name TAD GILBERT
Address 14444 DON CIRCLE
City EAGLE RIVER State AK Zip 99577

Comments: AS AN ALASKAN GUIDE/OUTFITTER I AM BOUND TO STRICT GUIDE LINES BY BLM, TO MAKE INSIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE LAND I OPERATE ON. MINIMAL USE OF SMALL AIR CRAFT & MOSTLY FOOT TRAFFIC. AN AIRCRAFT BOMBING RANGE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE AN ACTIVITY THAT CONFORMS TO THE STANDARDS & REQUIREMENT THAT YOU PLACE ON US OTHER SMALL TIME CITIZENS!

000724

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been working with the Air Force over the proposed development of a supersonic battlefield. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement the Foundation finds that the project will be detrimental to bighorn sheep populations in Southwestern Idaho. Your support is needed. Please sign this letter, add your comments and mail to the address listed.

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Thomas G. M'Donald A/1C AF13680358 1959/1963 E.A.F.B. CAL.

Name THOMAS G. M'DONALD
Address P.O. BOX 85
City SUMMIT POINT State W.V. Zip 25446

Comments: WHY NOT USE THE bombing range AT FALLON, NV.?

000729 627000

Jonathan Turk, Ph.D.
Christine Seashore
187 Christisen South Rd
Darby, MT 59829-9802
Phone (406) 821-4585

US Air Force/ BLM

July 3, 1997

GE-1 Dear Air Force and BLM

I would like to ask you to help oppose the establishment of a Supersonic Battlefield in the Idaho Canyonlands region. The Jarbidge, Bruneau and Owyhee River drainages and their canyons are an extraordinary beautiful and unique area that deserves national protection. The current Air Force plan would create loud and unpredictable noise that would destroy the recreational value of the region and harm wild animals.

Please help us protect the wild and scenic heritage of the West that we love.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Turk, Ph.D

000730

July 7, 1997

U.S. Air Force/
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Subject: Comments on the Air Force draft EIS Enhanced Training in Idaho

Dear Sirs

BI-26 The draft EIS for the Enhanced Training in Idaho is flawed. There were recommendations to allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to handle the biological evaluation of the proposal when this was first initiated. These were turned down or ignored and the Air Force brought in staff from private firms to do the EA evaluation. They have done their best but did not consider field assessments and quantitative evaluations that would of been made by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Key biological subject areas are evaluated under probability statements and not field examination and assessment conditions. This leaves open crucial questions that require definitive answers. It does not allow for full disclosure to the public or to Federal and State agencies

BI-46 I do commend the Air Force for proposing to establish permanent Idaho Department of Fish and Game positions to monitor and assess possible impacts to fish, wildlife and habitat within the project range. But, I question the influence they may bring to final biological decisions when there is a need to change established routes, routines, and operations by the Air Force in the proposed MOA. Has this been established in the draft EIS? What kind of decision tree for reducing impacts to fish and wildlife will actually be established for these biologists if the Enhanced Training Range becomes a reality? This should be disclosed. Its my postion that establishing these positions should be done under present operations and not be conditional with the Enhanced Training proposal.

There is the pointed logic and collective empowerment by many people in Idaho and throughout the west imploring the Air Force to let go of this proposal and focus your resources and energies in existing training areas. History will thank you for it.

Remember, it was only 16 years ago that the Air Force was proposing a multi-billion dollar underground network of MIRV nuclear missiles that could be randomly moved to different silos via railroad tracks or trucks. This was to be based in western Utah, throughout Nevada with possible overlap in Oregon and Idaho. History has shown that this would of not contributed to the peace dividend this country now enjoys. It may have even contributed to another course of history, one that may have proved fatal.

Rich Howard

No return address provided.

000731

P.O. Box 1648
Corvallis, Oregon 97339-1648
July 5, 1997

~~United States Air Force~~
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Ms. Brenda Cook
HQ ACC/CEVA
129 Andrews ST. Suite 102
Langley AFB, Va. 23665-2769

Bureau of Land Management
Boise Field Office
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705
Re: 1600 Owyhee RMP

Governor Phil Batt
Idaho State Capitol
Boise, Idaho 83707

Idaho Department of Fish & Game
600 S. Walmut Street
Boise, Idaho 83712

University of Idaho
Martin Institute for
Peace Studies & Conflict Resolution
Moscow, Idaho 83843
Attention: Curtis Brettin
Re. 1600 Owyhee RMP

Subject: Proposed Air Force operations in S.W. Idaho and the Bureau of Land Management's Owyhee RMP.

GE-2 To Whom it May Concern:

As an advocate for wildlife, especially wild sheep, I have been aware of the United States Air Force's desire to expand its practice bombing ranges and activities in S. W. Idaho. I am also aware the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has not trapped and transplanted California Bighorn Sheep from the viable herd in this area since 1992. I believe the withdrawl from this important, biologically sound, bighorn sheep management trapping/transplanting operation is partially due to the Air Force's proposals.

BI-29

Further more, I am aware Mr. Douglas Gladwin and other bighorn sheep authorities have concluded from scientific studies that bighorn sheep show adverse physiological and behavioral responses to overflights. They have also concluded, "the high number of military sorties, sonic booms, and composite wing force excercises planned annually suggests that effects likely could be severe for the Owyhee

BI-28

County bighorn sheep populations."

Therefore, I support the "No ActionAlternative" of the Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho, Environmental Impact Statement and I respectfully request:

I. The United States Air Force to:

A. Cancel its plans to expand or change its areas for practicing bombing and the expansion of other aerial operations in S.W. Idaho and adjacent areas.

B. Suspend all bombing and supersonic flights during the critical spring birthing season of ungulates and the nesting season of birds.

II. The State of Idaho and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to:

A. Firmly resist the Air Force's plans to change or increase the sizes of practice areas.

B. Firmly resist an increase number of flights and sorties during the critical birthing and nesting seasons.

C. Re-establish the effictive, important wild sheep management trapping/transplanting programs whenever it is biologically sound to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments to you.

Respectfully,

Charles W. Woosley

cc: President Bill Clinton
Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Elizabeth Furse
Representative Bob Smith
Representative Earl Blumenauer
Representative Darlene Hooley
Governor John Kitzhaber
Bureau of Land Management, Portland
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Portland
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Bend
Foundation of North American Wild Sheep
Izaak Walton League of America
Oregon Hunter's Association
Bureau of Land Management, Vale

000732

Captain M. Miller
Chief 366th Wing PA
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Captain Miller,

I would like to express my support for ETI alternative "C". I would also like to comment on the excellent analysis concerning the projected noise levels. I have heard so many complaints about averaging nose to hide the true impacts of noise. The air force has included in the DEIS several different measures of current and projected noise. This approach should address complaints about noise averaging.

I would also like to comment on the air force treatment of the Shoshone Piautes concerns. I feel the air force has demonstrated good faith, and met all legal, moral requirements. One thing the air force can't do is change history. As one special interest group with about 1300 members, treatment and mitigation described in the DEIS is more than justified.

Sincerely,
John G. Laurie Bentz
325 S. 5 E.
Min. Home, Id. 83647

000733

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

GE-1

Date: 6-20-97

I support the "ETI" alternative "B". I do not feel that there will be any impacts to wild sheep, or to the people living at Duck Valley.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Laurice Bentz

Address: 325 S5E. Mtn. Home, Id.
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise ID 83701-0329

GE-1 You must not sieze, degrade or destroy the wonderful Owyhee Canyonlands for the sake of an absurd bombing range. For God's sake think occasionally of what you do!

000736

Owen G. Van Buskirk
(Cal Poly)
3100 State Route 90
Aurora, N.Y. 13026

July 7, 1997

000737

US Air Force/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Re: Eastern Owyhee County Bombing Range

This letter serves as written testimony regarding the bombing range. We are opposed to the proposed range. Idahoan's have said no twice before, and it appears that the air force just doesn't get it. This proposed range is over a pristine wilderness area where a delicate balance between nature & man exists. The proposed range would jeopardize this balance and is unwarranted.

Our experience has always been that of economy overriding the environment & it's time to stop what has always been. The Mountain Home AirForce Base will not shrivel up & die if the proposed range doesn't become a reality. Nor will the economy that abounds from the base suffer. Business will continue on as usual, with the wilderness still intact. We do not believe the air force has shown substantial need for the range, and far too much of our tax base goes towards the military as it is.

The air force's excellent reputation was obtained with out this range, and we believe they can keep this reputation up without the range. Idahoans don't want the bombing range.

Sincerely,

Bertilia Redfern
Ms. Bertilia L. Redfern
3768N 1600E
Buhl, ID 83316
208/543-6517

Robert C. Redfern
Mr. Robert C. Redfern
same address & phone #

000738

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, Idaho

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

GE-1

Date: 6-13-97

I support the "ETI" proposed alternative "B", as described in the draft EIS. I feel the issues of noise and wildlife are fully explained.

*** Please Print ***

Name: [illegible]

Address: [illegible] Mtn. Home, Id.
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise ID 83701-0329

GE-1 THIS SAYS MY 000739 ABOUT THE INADEQUACY OF THIS DEIS. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I AM NOT IN SUPPORT OF THE EXPANDED BOMBING RANGE.

JAN NISSL
1115 E. STATE
BOISE 83712

000739

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS COALITION

P.O. Box 653 - Boise, ID 83701 - 343-8153

ask for extension

This FACT SHEET is intended as a guide to assist in preparation of comments to be sent to the USAF/BLM P.O. Box 329 - Boise, ID 83701-0329. The cut-off date is August 6th, 1997. The following is an attempt at simplifying some of technical information contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and highlighting some of the key elements that were overlooked. We hope you find this useful.

The USAF wants to turn Southwestern Idaho into a supersonic battlefield. They tell us that the Bombing Range would impact only a mere 12,000 acres. In fact more than three million acres of southwest Idaho, southeast Oregon and northern Nevada would be included in the system of electronic combat and bombing ranges.

The Owyhee Canyonlands, in the heart of this proposed military training range, is an abundant, biodiverse region of rolling plateaus cut by dramatic canyons. The area contains candidate wild and scenic rivers, more than 15 Wilderness Study Areas, one quarter of the California Bighorn Sheep population in the United States, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, cougar, sage grouse and many other species of wildlife.

NO-11 The Air Force's own Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategies Plan states that there are currently no studies that truly determine the effects of noise levels, sonic booms, super-sonic operations and subsonic operations on humans, animals, or structures. Yet, even without the availability of this fundamental information, the USAF claims that they have fully evaluated all effects its proposal on the Owyhee Canyonlands.

DP-7 The base levels used for comparison in the NOISE sections of the DEIS are levels established since the addition of the Composite Wing 1992. In order to comply with NEPA, an analysis of cumulative effects is required. Therefore, the noise analysis in the DEIS should have been based on pre-1992 use levels. The Air Force's attempt to incrementally impact the area without a truly cumulative analysis is entirely unacceptable.

HZ-2 Another key fact (of many) that the Air Force failed to include in their Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has to do with toxic chemicals, specifically Titanium Tetrachloride, associated with the dummy bombs that will be dropped within the 12,000 acre drop site. The USAF has continually downplayed and minimized the effect of these bombs, as well as potential health risks associated with chaff. A study conducted by the US Department of Health and Human Services regarding the health effects of Titanium Tetrachloride contains specific information to the contrary.

PR-23 An additional issue of concern that has been glossed over by the Air Force, is that no matter how many promises they make regarding airspace, environmental concerns, noise, etc., there are no adequate assurances that those promises will apply to other branches of the military or foreign flyers that will be using the bombing range. The Air Force has implied that they will not take responsibility for other branches of the military or foreign armed forces invited to practice war games at the new and improved training range.

PN-1 Finally, by the Air Force's own admission, this plan is not needed to save Mountain Home Air Force Base. It's not needed. It's not wanted. It's simply not good for the land, the wildlife or the people of Idaho. — It's not good politics/economics either.

Please refer to the reverse side of this fact sheet for specific references to the DEIS that you may want to consult as you prepare your thoughtful comments. Also, please be sure to include a request for an extension of the comment period. There is no limit to the number of comments you can submit. You may wish to write a separate piece on each issue of concern to you. In fact we suggest that you comment early and often!!!

To get your copy of the DEIS, if one was not sent to you call: Capt. Melissa Miller at 208-828-6800. If you have any questions please feel free to call The Wilderness Society office at 343-8153 or you can stop by our office at 413 West Idaho if you would like to obtain additional literature or review our copy of the DEIS.

000739

DEFICIENCY REFERENCES FROM THE BOMBING RANGE DEIS

CU-13
- P. ES 9 CULTURAL RESOURCES - The Air Force Analysis does not include impacts on intrinsic values like solitude and silence. Furthermore, the DEIS only looked at Cultural Resources that are eligible for inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Places. This is simply NOT sufficient - all historical sites should have been taken into consideration
- P. ES 11 "NO IMPACT ON MINING OR RECREATION INDUSTRY WOULD RESULT FROM ANY OF THE ALTERNATIVES" - This statement is ridiculous. Guides and outfitters will lose business, Ranchers will suffer damages as a result of cattle that experience stress related illness, tourism, which feeds local economies will suffer, and the list goes on!
- P. 1-11 RE: Anti-Armor Operations of the Air National Guard. Anti-Armor ordinance are typically made from depleted uranium which is highly radioactive. The Air Force claims that they will not allow use of Anti-Armor ordinance. However, we have no guarantee. Any promise from the Air Force, based on our history with them, is an empty promise.

PR-23
- P. 1-12 RE: Use of the Training Range by other branches of the Military - 5% of the training activity to be conducted at the proposed range is from other branches of the military. They go on to state that the mission of these guests "roughly mirrors" the mission of MHAFB. This means that guests can come and play by their own rules. Visitors will not be bound by any promises or assurances made my the Air Force regarding low-level flight, airspace restrictions over the Duck Valley Indian Reservation or any of the other so called assurances made by the USAF.

PN-16
- P. 1-16 Under Purpose of Enhanced Training in Idaho: this section states that the range will be used for the Air Force's Rapid Response air expedition wing. This use is not addressed in any way (beyond mere mention) in the DEIS. What they fail to explain is that this change in the mission of the Composite Wing will frequently include aircraft from all branches of the military, not necessarily obliged to comply with any of the promises made by the USAF, i.e. limitations on flight elevations, airspace, etc...

PN-2
- P. 2-15 BASELINE ACTIVITY CHART - TABLE 2.2.1 - It is interesting to note that aerial refueling must be practiced daily. Trips to the Utah Training Range and or Nellis in Nevada would easily accommodate those requirement - In fact, even more so than having the range right here in Idaho
- P. 2-21 RE. Claims that UTTR is dedicated by other uses which would limit training capabilities for the Composite Wing. This is total bunk! The Composite wing is the premier force for the AIR COMBAT COMMAND and UTTR is an AIR COMBAT COMMAND Range. The Composite Wing is the first to be ordered into areas of conflict an therefore should have ultimate priority when it comes to the use of training ranges - including UTTR!!!

DP-81
- P. 2-67 RE: Night exercises (after 10 p.m.) There will be an increase in the already unacceptable aircraft exercises over the Jarbidge and Owyhee MOAS. The DEIS does not evaluate the affects of such an increase.
- P. 2-72 & 84 CHAFF & FLARES- Chaff use will increase by 30-55% west of Duck Valley. The prevailing winds will carry the chaff over the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.
- P. 2-73 See TABLE 2.3-15 for information pertaining to the use of Chaff and Flares. The USAF proposal regarding the ETI includes a significant increase!

DP-13
- P. 2-76 At the bottom of the page it states that the 12,000 acre training range will be used year-round. This is totally unacceptable. The Air Force has continually refused to discuss any compromise on this during critical lamming season and other critical periods for additional wildlife species.

BI-19
- P. 2-80 and 82, TABLES 2-3-16 and 2.3-1 - Expanding the MOA, as proposed here, moves the disturbance over an even more critical wildlife habitat and over the Jack's Creek Wilderness Study Area. The DEIS does not provide a sufficient analysis. It should include biological and recreational affects among others.

DP-7
- P. 2-92 CUMMULATIVE IMPACTS - Air National Guard and B-1B Bomber should be included in this DEIS - they ARE NOT, all action since 1992 should be covered and was NOT!!

000739

BI-12
- P. 3-141 The DEIS mentions that of the one million acres most affected by on-the-ground disturbance - 67% is potential sage grouse nesting or wintering habitat. This is unacceptable, especially when you consider the fact that over the past seven years southwest Idaho sage grouse populations have declined as much as 93% in traditional areas.
- P. 3-157 & 158 Deer, Antelope and other Big Game - Biological surveys on these species will not be conducted until the winter of 1997. This in and of itself is evidence of the incomplete nature of this document.

DP-66
- P. 3-234 RE: The JACK'S CREEK area expansion - no environmental assessment was conducted.

DP-42 No mitigation proposals have been considered with regard to the ETI affect on Big Horn Sheep habitat.

RV-4
- P. 3-241 There is no discussion of the Centennial Trail and the affect the bombing range will have on its use.
- P 3-256 RE: Visual Resources - "Changes in the landscape are allowed, but should remain subordinate to existing landscape." What they would have us believe is that emitter sites and other ground construction associated with the training range, including road construction, will not stand out. This is simply not true. For instance the emitter sit at Grasmere sticks out like a "Sore Thumb."
- P. 4-31&32 RE: Sonic Booms - the DEIS states that there will be a 75% increase in the Sailor Creek area and a 50% increase in the Jarbidge/Bruneau MOAS.

NO-1
- P. 4-11-13, TABLE 4.2-1a - 4.2-1b - Noise Levels used are for aircraft cruising on MTRS not for aircraft maneuvering in a MOA. A more accurate sound level would be around 111 decibels not 97, as shown in the table. This discrepancy, among others, makes the Noise Analysis section virtually worthless.
- P. 4-15 Under "Quantifying Noise From Outdoor Recreations' Perspective" - First of all what outdoor recreationists were consulted as to their perspective? Second, points 3 - "...may intrude to some degree on enjoyment of natural quiet." And 4 - "...an aircraft may directly overfly a visitor at low altitude. On such occasions, a visitor will hear a very loud noise... This noise will probably be annoying and may be startling as well." This is completely unacceptable.
- P. 4-27 "There will be approximately five to eight electronic emitters located under the Jarbidge MOA on a daily basis. Electricity is supplied to the emitters by a ...diesel powered electric generator. When an emitter is located on a site, a generator will typically run 6 to 8 hours per day, 5 days a week, and sometimes on weekends." This equals POLLUTION - both NOISE and AIR from the generators - neither of which is adequately addressed in the DEIS.

NO-14

NO-4
- P. 4-31, TABLE 4.2-4 - The Air Force has averaged sonic booms over a 12 month period. Averaging is not an appropriate measure for sonic booms, but rather the Air Force should honestly project just how many sonic booms would take place over a 1-2 hour period during an exercise. Averaging, as they have done throughout the DEIS, is deceptive, unrealistic and inappropriate (also refer to information provided by TWS from Dr. William Weida.
- P. 4-49 In the last paragraph chaff and its effect on members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes They state that chaff used by the AIR FORCE (no mention of chaff used by other branches of the military or guest users of the training range) will increase approximately 12%. They go on to state that " Chaff is an inert substance and has never been shown to create any health of safety risks to persons or animals Therefore, this increase utilization would create no health or safety impacts." This is bunk! They simply failed to do their research on the risks associated to chaff and should be required to do so!

SF-10
- P. 4-108 (last paragraph) "Although information about noise effects on sage grouse is not available in the literature....." If it's not available, then they should conduct the necessary studies. Stating that information is not available is simply not acceptable.

BI-23
- P. 4-162 RE: Cultural Resources, specifically 4.9.2 - Completion of Section 106 Process - "If a range development alternative is selected, completion of the Section 106 process would entail..." They then go on to list items related to yet another study that is not yet completed. Why was it not done prior to release of the DEIS? And, doesn't the Air Force's failure to complete all necessary studies violate NEPA? YES!!!

CU-1

000739

- Section 4.11 Recreational and Visual Resources - "Specifically issues and concerns arising from proposed implementation include:
  - Change in recreational use due to either increased access through improved roads or decreased access through road closures or other limitations placed on groups due to military activity.
  - Potential loss of primitive recreational land due to the proposed target areas
  - Potential loss of solitude and serenity often sought in primitive and wilderness settings.
  - Potential loss of wilderness characteristics
  - Potential degradation of visual qualities of landscape as a result of target and emitter site construction.
  - Potential alteration of visual settings in the airspace as a result of the proposed increase in flight activity."

  Nice of them to list out everything we stand to lose. It is unfortunate though that there is no acceptable mitigation proposal is presented in the DEIS with regard to these sacrifices. No low-level flight over recreational rivers like the Bruneau and Jarbidge is acceptable. There should be no low-level flight during the peak floating season!
- Section 5 RE: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources - The first point of interest with regard to this subject, is it's placement in the DEIS - at the very end!!! The document identifies certain losses and value of certain resources, however they fail to address the loss of:

  - THE NATURAL CHARACTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT
  - WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION
  - NATURAL PANORAMIC VISTAS
  - THE NATURAL SOLITUDE OF THE DESERT EXPERIENCE

THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. THE AIR FORCE SHOULD ABANDON ITS NOTION THAT IDAHOANS ARE GOING TO ALLOW THEM TO OBLITERATE ONE OF OUR MOST PRIZED STATE TREASURES!

ACRONYM KEY

DEIS- DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ETI - ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO
GOLD - GREATER OWYHEE LEGAL DEFENSE
MHAFB - MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE
MOA- MILITARY OPERATION AREA
MTR - MILITARY TRAINING ROUTE
NEPA - NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
TWS - THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
USAF - UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
UTTR - UTAH TRAINING RANGE

000740

U. S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P. O Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern:

The U. S Air Force's proposal to establish a supersonic battlefield in the Idaho Owyhee canyonlands is unacceptable. This is an area enjoyed by floaters, hikers, campers, and others. I am very much opposed to this bombing range for the following reasons:

1 All of the proposed alternatives will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution.

NO-2 2. The Air Force has underestimated the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals.

3. The Bruneau, Jarbridge and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection.

4 The Air Force already has sufficient bombing ranges to practices their maneuvers.

Thank you for taking these reasons into consideration.

Sincerely,

[signature]
4350 Hill Rd
Boise, Id. 83703

000741

ECHO
FILM
PRODUCTIONS, INC.

407 W Bannock
Boise, Idaho 83702
208 / 336-0349
FAX 208 / 336-0858

July 11, 1997

USAF/BLM
P. O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As a Reserve Army Officer I feel compelled to support military training and the reality required to make it effective in improving ones ability to succeed in combat.

On the other hand I love the desert and its wildlife. I have spent alot of time working for its conservation and photographing its many resources.

I find it difficult the believe the Air Force's continued facts relating to sound effects on wildlife and the people of Duck Valley. It is so obvious when in the desert that low flying aircraft reach unacceptable noise levels.

So rather than complain I offer a solution. I think the Air Force should be given the freedom to improve and expand existing facilities with the highest possible technical elements. Targets should have the capability of firing a lazer beam at incoming air craft rather than the simple drop it "here" exercises. The range is useable, has little effect on the public or wildlife and needs substantial upgrade. To say it can't meet needs has not been proven based on the available technology and training techniques that could be incorporated to make it one of the toughest target training areas in the country. The air force does not need and

PN-1 has not proven a need for using practically the entire Southern Idaho desert to make training realistic and challenging.

I support dramatically improved, very high tech improvements to existing facilities that provides not only target acquisition but enemy return fire exercises using state of the art technology. This idea reduces the heated political pressures on a wide range of interests, it can dramatically improve the feel of actual combat situations for pilots, it allows speed, armaments, aerial manuevers, in flight refueling, and ground exercises without effecting canyonland recreation, delicate wildlife species, and the threat of fire to the Owyhee area.

Sincerely,

[signature]
Roger Nelson

OUR NATURAL HERITAGE IS NOT FOR SALE!

000742

The Chaco Canyon National Historic Park in New Mexico accompanies America's finest examples of Anasazi architecture. Under proposed legislation, H.R. 1041, the federal government would be empowered to sell off Chaco Canyon and all other National Historic Parks.

GE-1 I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bombing range planned for the Owyhee Canyonlands. We have gone enough bombs already

[signature]

US Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID
83701-0329

000743

Sunrise Inn
BED & BREAKFAST

Boise, Idaho
July 11, 1997

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

We are adamantly opposed to the use of tax money for studies of and securing a larger Bombing practice area; Not only because its impact on the Indian lands but also its impact on wild life and Wonderful rivers and mountains.

Our largest income will come from tourism and of the areas that are used & sought after are polluted either by noise or debris we will no longer see the dollars come to Idaho.

Besides being illegal to do this it is too costly & anything we should be scaling back military.

Thank you,
Concerned Citizen

2730 Sunrise Rim Road • Boise, Idaho 83705 • Phone 208/344-0805

000746

202 Woodmoor Dr.
Silver Spring MD 20901
July 8, 1997

U.S. Air Force / Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear USAF/BLM representative:

It has come to my attention that you are considering building a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyon lands. I am opposed to this. The Air Force has more than enough bombing ranges already. Noise pollution is an ever-increasing problem. Please don't add to it. Also, I would like the bighorn sheep who live there to survive.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Paul D. Gayer

000747

David J. Ryan

318 Whittier Lane
Missoula, MT 59802
USA

Home Phone 549-1612

July 10, 1997

U.S. Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir,

I am writing once again to express my opposition to the proposed Air Force training battlefield in Idaho's remote Owyhee, Bruneau, and Jarbidge river canyons. These wild canyons are a precious national treasure and our efforts should be directed towards saving them from development rather than making plans to bomb them. These canyons are unique and unspoiled. The training facility would destroy the silence and forever change the landscape. The area is remote and hard to get to now. With the development of the training facility, the roads would be improved and both official Air Force travel and public use would increase significantly. The remote character would be lost.

Please don't destroy this wild place. Our country is losing its wild places at an alarming rate. We can save this beautiful canyon country by choosing not to build the training facility.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David J. Ryan

000748

July 11, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

RE: Combat Bombing Range (ETI)

GE-1 Gentlemen/Ladies:

I am compelled to respond to the Air Forces's continuing desire to expand the Saylor Creek Bombing Range. What amounts to little more than a blatant land grab for an ever greater portion of the Owyhees under the guise of a enhanced training necessity is SIMPLY WRONG and an ABUSE OF GOVERNMENTAL CREDIBILITY.

I have lived in Idaho for over 40 years and am an avid whitewater enthusiast, backpacker, mountain biker and ardent nature lover. I have rafted and kayaked the Owyhee, the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers. I have backpacked and camped throughout the Jacks Creek drainages and have hiked and driven through portions of the proposed training range expansion. While the spectacular scenery is awe inspiring and truly breathtaking, the on-the-ground experience is greatly diminished by the roar of low flying aircraft. More recently, I was extremely dismayed by scattered chaff debris fields at the confluence of the East Fork and main reaches of the Bruneau just last month. The Owyhees and its environs must not become the Air Force's GARBAGE DUMP for bombs, flares and chaff!

The primary beauty of this area is, unfortunately, what makes the Air Force think it would be a great training range. Don't be mistaken in thinking that the isolation, desolation, sparse population density and largely ignored mass recreational incursions equate with an area that is not deeply cared for and therefore expendable. Such a mistaken perception is vigorously disputed by scores of naturalists, birders, hikers, bikers, campers, river runners and horsemen that truly admire this area for its pristine solitude, remoteness, and unique wildlife qualities. The Air Force is GREATLY MISTAKEN to conclude that their screaming jets, sonic booms, dummy warheads, chaff debris and live ordinance-caused fires would be overlooked and not disturb the status quo.

The Air Force's own research materials and high-ranking officer comments confirm that we already have the most advanced, combat-ready air force in the world. This fact has been proven numerous times, most recently in the Middle East in Operation Desert Storm. The current range in Idaho, as well as those in Nevada and Utah, are and have proven to be more than adequate in preparing for this nation's defense. This during times of even more increased combat readiness need. Please STOP trying to mislead the public through misinformation, half-truths and costly empire building rhetoric to justify this travesty as crucial to the survival of Mt Home Air Force Base and this nation's ability to effectively wage an air war.

000748

Listen to the average person in Idaho, those whose direct economic benefit is not myopically tied to this expansion. You will hear overwhelmingly that, regardless of the option, WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE ETI! Please consider the overarching interests of the land, its wildlife, Native American spiritual concerns, as well as simple recreational enthusiasts. Make do with the current training range. Idaho and its citizens deserve no less and the Air Force should demand no more.

Respectfully yours,

Melvin Johnson
138 E. Crestline Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83703

000751

Leni Newman
P.O. box 1867
Ketchum Idaho 83340

GE-1 US Air Force I am writing you one more time in the hope that you will give up on tring to gain support on expanding you Mountain Home bombing range. I in 95 went to Twin Falls to stand up and speak out against the expansion. Not to hurt the air force but to protect the wild and remote area of the Bruneau river basin. I have been going to the desert rivers for going on 15 years and have grown to love those special days that I spend there. Now with the rare jet it is ok to put up with a bit of noise. The idea of the possibly of increased noise that this will bring to the area is unaceable to me. This is a vast area of solitude.

The area is home of many types of wildlife and they do not have a voice in this. We as a whole have taken so much of there land away from them in the form of cities and farm land that we need to protect there life for the future grerations of our families. I plan on taking my family down with me some day. I want them to know this area as I have told them it is,unspolied and wild. Most of all the remoteness and quite.

I have been a advide supporter of getting this area turned into a wild river by congress. If you expand the range then all of my work and many others that are working on this idea have lost a nother place in our land for ever. it does not go by that ever day I thank my luckily stars that I am able to enjoy so many special places in my home state. Jest the thought of losing one more for any reason is to much to ask. As the world gets more crowded we must save those out of the way places. For in the near future those special places will become crowed. So inclosing I will save that I as one Idahoen will not stand for the expansion of the Mountain Home booming range.

Thank You
Leni Newman July 7, 97

000752

(1)

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise State University

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 12, 1997

GE-2 I found several major problems with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Among the many other problems I saw with it, the biggest ones are based on the need of Enhanced Training in Idaho, it's legality, and the flawed studies used by the Air Force to support ETI.

To show where I am coming from, I think it may be helpful to give a little of my background. I am now 20 years old and have lived in Idaho since the age of 2. Over most of my 18 years in Idaho I've spent a considerable amount of time in the Owyhee's; whether it be fishing for red-band trout on Big Jacks Creek or hunting antelope on Dickshooter Ridge. I've grown to love rugged and undeveloped land. Recently, while enrolled in a speech class at

*** Please Print ***

Name: Dan Nelson

Address: 345 Winter Dr. Boise, ID 83706
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000752

(2)

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: BSU

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 12, 1997

Idaho State University I was looking for a topic when I thought what would be a better subject than the current Idaho Training Range (ITR). After more research I discovered the ITR was one in a series of several training range proposals for Owyhee County, Idaho. The current ETI appears to be nothing more than a new name put on the old proposals.

The problem I find with the need for ETI in the DEIS relates directly to the older Idaho Training Range proposal. The ITR was defeated in federal court because it failed to address the addition of the 366th Composite Wing to Mt. Home AFB in the same Environmental Impact Statement as the ITR. The Air Force never has addressed any new training range in the same EIS as the 366th Composite wing, as was ordered

*** Please Print ***

Name: Dan Nelson

Address: 345 Winter Dr. Boise, ID 83706
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

(3)

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: BSU

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: June 12, 1997

by the court. In the current DEIS, the Air Force states the need for the ETI is to meet the needs of the composite wing. If this is so, the Air Force has already disobeyed the court's ruling to consider any training range in the same EIS as the addition of the composite wing.

DP-4 Due to the fact that the Air Force has blatantly disregarded this ruling, the current ETI and DEIS are completely illegal. If this current proposal ever does get past the draft stage, it will be shot down in court once again, making the entire process a waste of millions of taxpayer's dollars.

The other main concern I have with the DEIS is the so-called scientific studies it uses to support ETI. The most blatantly deceptive section of the

*** Please Print ***

Name: Dan Nelson

Address: 345 Winter Dr. Boise, ID 83706
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000752

(4)

Public Hearing Location: BSU

DEIS was the studies related to noise. First of all the Air Force uses another researchers model developed in the 1970's. To me, this makes it appear that the Air Force had to look long and hard to find a study that would paint a pretty picture of B-1 bombers at 500 feet. Secondly, this study that the Air Force uses for sound is based upon an urban setting. For anyone who has ever stepped out of an office, and actually been to ~~Boy~~ Owyhee County knows it's anything but rural. To top this "study" off the Air Force ~~does~~ averages the noise over day and night, instead of taking the peak noise level from each jet.

NO-2

From everything that has been shown by the Air Force, the current DEIS indicates a continuing path of deception, greed, and outright lies. A comment was made at the public hearing that I ~~that~~ feel sums up the proposed training range well. A gentleman said that whenever something like this ever

Dan Nelson
345 Winter Dr. Boise, ID 83706

000752

(5)

comes up, everyone always says, "not in my back yard." The public has said this for four times now and the Air Force needs to get the picture. The public didn't want a training range in the past, we don't want one now, and we want want one in the future. As I stated before, the Air Force has provided no legally based need for a new training range, the studies it uses are invalid, and the public has said time and again that we don't want a training range in Owyhee County. If the Air Force ever did listen to public comment this would it be necessary after the first training range, because staunch opposition it got. They need to learn what is now being taught in high school, "no" means "no."

PN-1

Dan Nelson
345 Winter Dr. Boise, ID 83706

000753

July 7, 1997
1135 East Bonneville
Pocatello, ID 83201

U.S. Air Force / BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1

Gentlemen/Ladies:

RE: Supersonic Battlefield

I am very much opposed to the proposal to establish a Supersonic Battlefield in the southwest Idaho desert area.

This is a wonderful recreational area. I use southwest desert lands for hiking and river running, and I am aghast that this area would even be considered for such disruptive and environmentally damaging military manuvers.

The Air Force has completely underestimated the value of these lands and the effect that noise will have on recreationists and wildlife. Instead of using this land for military uses, it should be preserved, and it's rivers and canyons and wild lands protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ron Watters

000754

July 7, 1997

U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P O Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1

To whom it may concern,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my opposition to the establishment of a Supersonic Battlefield over the Jarbidge, Bruneau and Owyhee Canyons. After reading the proposal, I feel all the alternatives will cause an increase in noise in the canyon area.

The Air Force has underestimated how loud the aircraft is when you are in the canyon. A few years ago the jets would fly low over the Bruneau River while we were floating. Besides scaring you as they flew past, the sound was deafening. The jets do not add to a river floating experience.

I have floated all three of these rivers. They offer an experience unlike other rivers because of the canyon walls and seclusion of these rivers. All three of these rivers deserve national recognition and protection.

Sincerely,

Dana Olson-Elle

Dana Olson-Elle
1400 Juniper Hill Rd
Pocatello, ID 83204

June, 1997

000760

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Patrick T. Stanosheck
Address 1895 Concha Loop
City Cheyenne State Wy Zip 82

Comments: The less stress we can put on our native wildlife the better.

000761

GE-1 WHAT PART OF "NO" DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND!

-Cliff Ross
Boise

June, 1997

000767

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Ed Pfeifer
Address 3995 E. Kokopelli Lane
City Flagstaff State Arizona Zip 86004

Comments: I heartily endorse reestablishment of the above mentioned sheep transplant program. Sheep habitat is continually shrinking, we don't need to hasten the process with the development of a military range in prime habitat.

000769

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

13 July 1997

GE-2 In Reference to the Proposed Enhanced Training Range in Idaho:

We appreciate the opportunity to voice our opinion on this proposal. We have serious concerns on the impact this project would have on Owyhee County and we are opposed to it. We also question the need for another Training Range, especially one as extensive and expensive as the Enhanced Training Range would be.

PN-1

As a retired Military family we fully understand and appreciate the effort of the Air Force to ensure and provide the best possible care and training for their personnel. We feel, however, that costly construction, be it in buildings, roads, railways and whatever is required for such a complex, will not make people better pilots, anymore than a brand new school building will turn out better educated students.

Owyhee County is our home. We live here. People stationed at Mtn. Home Air Force Base are only here for a short time. Suggestions, proposals and decisions made by Officials in temporary residence will effect the future of this county permanently. Young people on active duty now will one day retire just as we have and join the work force in civilian life, or start a business of their own. The place they wish to retire in, may well be around the Boise and Mtn. Home area, where one can still enjoy the outdoors for hunting, fishing, hiking, and sports activities all year round.

Many people are now aware of the proposed 20 year Range Management Plan by the BLM for the Owyhee Resource area. This document provides a lot of insight on resources in the county and of ways to preserve them. It is a wake-up call for all people who use public lands and care about improving current conditions.

Combined efforts in better range management practices by the BLM, the Idaho Department of Lands, the Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Ranchers can already be noticed.

A Military Training Range is exactly that and therefore the activity and related noise has to be expected. Our Ranch is located in Annie Valley, Owyhee County. National Guard Helicopters and Air Force Jets fly over frequently.

Past experience has proven to us that noise does have an affect on people, as well as on domestic animals, livestock and wildlife. Among the livestock we do have wildlife on our range. We feel that the proposed Enhanced Training Range would have a negative impact on the land, the wildlife, the livestock on the range, and the people who live in that area and depend on ranching for their income.

000769

It is our sincere hope, that the person entrusted with the responsibility of this decision, will have the foresight to realize the affect it would have on the future of Owyhee County.

Our concerns, opinions and comments on this proposal do not in any way diminish our regard and support for our military. Mtn. Home Air Force Base is an important installation. It is also a greatly appreciated economic plus to the area.

It is unfortunate, that the fear of a possible base closure is keeping many people from making honest comment on the range proposal or none at all. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Raymond & Paula Ashby Santa Y. Ashby

Raymond and Paula Ashby
Annie Valley Ranch
Owyhee County
P.O. Box 947
Bruneau, ID 83604-0947

000770

July 11, 1997
USAF/BLM
P.O.Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-2 My family has had the opportunity to hike and camp together in the Owyhee Canyonlands for the past 20 years; my husband for the past fifty. This is an area that needs to be preserved. The latest attempts by the Air Force to change the area from a multi-use site to a supersonic air space is completely unacceptable.

DP-4 The Air Force is using an EIS statement that has already been declared inadequate by the courts. It is simply one more attempt to take over the region without having the area properly assessed and considering changes, or better yet, relinquishing the plan.

NO-11 The Air Force contends that it has fully evaluated the noise issue; however the Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategies Plan states that there are no current studies that determine the effects of noise levels, sonic booms, super-sonic operations and subsonic operations on humans, animals, or structures.

The plan that is being proposed will put restrictions on the Air Force since that is that branch of the military most directly concerned.

PR-23 Will these restrictions and guide lines be followed by other branches of the U.S. military? Once the training area is approved and the air space designated, will other branches have free run of the space with an "I'm sorry, I'll never do it again" type mentality? This is an issue that needs to be made clear and included in all documents.

Let us work to improve this area rather than increase pollution!

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Shue
Dorothy Shue
7304 McMullen
Boise, Idaho 83709

000771

Comments on the USAF EIS for the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands Training Range:

GE-2 My name is Christopher Smith, I reside in Boise Idaho, and I am opposed to the proposed action because:

The area of Southwestern Idaho known as the Owyhee Canyonlands will suffer irreversible damage from the proposed action. Both the wildlife populations and the plant communities will be impacted by the proposed activities. Specifically:
1)The use of chaff and flares by military aircraft will impact the natural resources. Chaff will litter the ground and may be injested by wildlife. Flares pose a fire hazard.
3)The emitter sites , their access roads, and other disturbances on the ground will alter the landscape and the viewshed in this spectacular area, and may increase the disturbance of wildlife and cultural resources.
4) The noise impacts will be substantial and will alter the wilderness characteristics of the area.

The proposed action is essentially the same as the original proposal put forth by the Air Force, with some minor differences. It is an effort to create a large scale electronic warfare training range in the airspace over southwestern Idaho, northern Nevada, and

DP-13 Southeastern Oregon. The EIS prepared by the Air Force for this electronic warfare training range fails to accurately depict the impacts of the proposed action. Many of the studies contained in it are flawed or incomplete. A particularly egregious example of this is

NO-4 the analysis of the noise impacts, which averages the noise levels over a 24 hour period. This methodology is asinine and is completely inappropriate for measuring the noise created by military jet aircraft flying and turning at high speed at low altitude.

The Air Force has plenty of airspace elsewhere in the West to use for training. Leave the Owyhee Canyonlands alone!

Submitted by:
Christopher Smith
1208 E Jefferson
Boise ID 83712

000772

Comments on the USAF EIS for the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands Training Range.

GE-1 My name is Deanna Smith, I live in Boise Idaho, and I oppose the proposed training range expansion.

The Owyhee Canyonlands and the surrounding lands are unique and should be left as they are today. We have already altered so much of this wonderful country and there are few places left with so much wild space. It is a disgrace that our nation is considering doing anything with this land other than to preserve it. But I find it especially terrible that the USAF continues to try and push this training range on the citizens of Idaho when we have repeatedly said "No! This is not what we want."

Specifically I oppose the currently proposed action for the following reasons:

1) Spending diminishing tax dollars on a facility that the Airforce themselves argue is not needed

2) The numerous inadequacies in the EIS as have been pointed out by the Greater Owyhee Legal Defense and others.

3) Any negative impact that the training range would have on the area's wildlife is unacceptable. It is not worth risking any negative impacts on the areas bighorn sheep population especially.

4) The disregard the airforce shows for the native peoples of the area is a disgrace and makes me embarrased to be associated with them as an American citizen.

5) The emitter sites and the roads required to maintain them will alter the landscape, damage the spectacular views this area offers, and may disturb wildlife.

6) The noise impacts will permanantly alter the wilderness characteristics of this area. I have spent some wonderful time in this area including two river trips on the East Fork of the Owyhee. The noise created by the current fly overs from the exdsting range already impact the area more than I would like. Any increase in noise would be unacceptable.

I could go on, but the bottom line is the current proposal is not acceptable, including the no action alternative, as it is based on a baseline condition that has never been evaluated under NEPA. No proposal could possibly be acceptable as it would be unnecessary. STOP spending unnecessary money

Submitted by
Deanna Smith
1208 E. Jefferson St
Boise, ID 83712

000773 81 Irving Ave
Livingston NJ
07039
July 9th 97

GE-1 USAF / BLM

To those in charge of proposed Owyhee Range.

I-96 I am joining a number of U.S citizens who are opposed to the idea of a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands.

One of the largest population of the bighorn sheep makes its home there & the plans to tag the pregnant females after chasing by air can do the present opulation no good. The numbers are already down by half by the last census.

Let us have no range & leave the sheep in peace.

Sincerely,
Pat Feeder

PATRICIA JOERMANN

000774

July 11, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O.Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-2 Owyhee County in southwestern Idaho contains some incredible treasures: Canyonlands, abundant wildlife, wild rivers, archeological sites. This is an area to be savored and brought into the next century unchanged.

U.S. Air Force, for the fourth time, wishes to transform this unique area into a supersonic training range.

I understand that the bighorn sheep population in the Jacks Creek area has already been adversely affected since 1992. I believe the methods

NO-1 used by the Air Force to evaluate the noise impact are totally inadequate. The noise pollution from the training range will be completely unacceptable.

PN-14 The Air Force has stated that this training range is not needed. The EIS

DP-4 has already been declared inadequate by the courts. Idaho does need and should not allow this training range to be built.

This area should be preserved and enjoyed by the public, not destroyed.

Sincerely,
Gary Shue

Gary Shue
7304 McMullen
Boise, Idaho 83709

000775

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

July 11, 1997

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern,

The USAF wants to expand their training range in southwestern Idaho. I have hiked, hunted, worked and run rivers in this area and I don't think the plan addressed the noise levels accurately. On the occasions that I have been in this area and I have seen jets. The noise they produced has always been significantly loud enough to impact my experience. Because this is one of the few large pristine high desert ecosystems left in the U.S. and because increased air and land activities will initiate degeneration of the ecosystem, I oppose the Enhanced range. I have listed below several problems that I have with the EIS.

1) The impacts of the DEIS alternatives are not adequately considered.

NO-2 The impacts will not be limited to a mere 12,000 acre drop site. In fact, noise disturbance will impact the greater/portion of southwest Idaho. The jets will be flying to and from targets and using a large area of air space. The areas below will be subject the noise from jets. Prior to subjecting this high desert system to additional noise up-to-date data should be collected. The data is technically out of date and inappropriate. Range impacts should be based on models for acceptable wilderness noise calculations, not urban noise.

2) Cumulative impacts are not adequately addressed.

DP-5 The 1992 Composite wing EIS is used as no action baseline

DP-7 alternative. That EIS was previously found deficient by the courts because the cumulative impacts of the training range were not included in the composite wing document. The activities of the composite wing should now be part of the cumulative analyses in this new document to the new document to pass legal test.

DP-29 3) The No Action Alternative is not accurate.

000775

The No Action Alternative defined in the present document merely addresses the impact of not developing any particular drop site. A real no action scenario should be included to evaluate the impacts of no further range development.

David Kordiyak
3272 Sycamore Drive
Boise, ID 83703

000776

4917 N. Paynton Way
Boise, ID 83713

July 15, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-3029

Dear USAF/BLM,

GE-1 I am writing to express my OPPOSITION for the new Air Force Bombing Range proposal. I use the proposed range for recreation currently. I believe that the noise would destroy the benefit of the area to recreation and to the local wildlife.

Regards,

Steve Townsley

000777

July 8, 1997

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear U.S. Air Force:

I am against the Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) proposal. This training range is not needed and is detrimental to the wildlife and recreational areas near the Bruneau Canyon and Jacks Creek.

There is already sufficient bombing range in Utah. The additional proposed ranges, alternatives B, C+D are unnecessary and would be far too expensive. The noise impact is intolerable, and this area has increasingly been used by many citizens of Idaho for recreation. The lands proposed for the bombing area are a key area for hunting, fishing, camping, boating, cross-country skiing and rafting.

The risk of potential damage to the environment and wildlife is far to great for a military training area that has yet to be shown as necessary. Please record my disagreement with this proposal.

Patricia L. Verdun
2254 Independence Dr.
Boise, ID 83706

000778

GE-1 To whom it concerns

I am writing to you about the Copper Basin Rattlesnake and Range Management of the Bruneau and Jarbidge River. The Rattle Snake will disturb the animals people of the River. The Rivers should be left in there Natural State. No Disturbed. The Government has many test Ranges and don't need any more. We ~~request~~ the Canyon Lands Need Native protection ~~from~~ From and New proposals. The River is one of the Few Last places in This Nation where people can Be one with Nature.

Chris VanThull
1899 Waterfall way
Concord Ca 94524

000779

13 Jul 97
P.O. Box 2418
Cupertino CA 95015

GE-1 Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my opposition to ALL of the proposed alternatives identified for the expanded supersonic battlefields in the wilderness of the Owyhee, Jarbidge & Bruneau Rivers.

These canyons are extraordinary. They provide much needed habitat, and solitude for wildlife & nature and should therefore be protected. These rivers are also great recreation sites for hikers, campers, rafters, but the greatness will be gone forever if the battlefield is located there. Please inform

me of the outcome on this matter. Thank you.

Joseph G Re

000780 13 July 1997

GE-1 Dear Recipient,

I am writing to express my complete opposition to a "supersonic battlefield" in the Owyhee Jarbidge-Bruneau region of Idaho and Oregon.

In their own way, these canyons rival those of the Southwest (Utah) for beauty, solitude, and quality wilderness experience.

All current proposals would destroy the experience possible in these canyons. The intermittent, violent noise pollution that accompanies this development renders the proposals unacceptable.

I have floated the Owyhee and look forward to experiencing the Jarbidge-Bruneau in future years. Please do not destroy the experience for me or for so many others who believe patriotism includes protection of our precious public lands.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabb
1421 Oxford
Berkeley CA 94709

000781 July 13, 1997

GE-1 To Whom it may concern,

I would like to go on record as opposing the "supersonic battlefield project".

Located in Idaho, the project would negatively impact three rivers: the Owyhee, Jarbidge and Bruno watersheds.

The fact is that rivers and canyonlands are not being created anymore and this proposal proves that we are not taking care of the little that we have left.

All of the proposals for the project would cause unacceptable harm on the environmental values of the rivers — All of the proposals would cause undue noise pollution on the animals in the area.

Please tell me of any upcoming decisions or proposals in this area.

Thank you for your consideration. →

Sincerely,

TRACI SHEEHAN
723 ½ 26th St.
Sacramento CA 95816

13 July 1997
000782

GE-1 U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

To Whom It Concerns:

I am writing to oppose the proposed Supersonic Battlefield in southeastern Oregon/southwestern Idaho. All of the proposed alternatives present unacceptable environmental impacts, particularly to the Jarbidge/Bruneau and Owyhee watersheds.

Please inform me of the outcome of this proposal at the address below. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline C. Shelters

Jacqueline C. Shelters
5518 Lawton Ave.
Oakland, CA 94618

000783

GE-1 I oppose the bombing range expansion the Air Force wants. Not needs, wants, it would be nice to have. Tough. Idaho's wilderness & wildlife is too important to be spoiled by some luxurious addition to their playground. I'm sorry. Actually, I'm not sorry. The Air Force has used noise impact studies incongruent with the environment & types of noise in the canyon lands. Evidently life comes second after convenience for the Air Force (as can be expected from the military) because they could fly to Utah or Nevada and spend only 15 extra minutes of time.

O.K. its simple

DON'T PLAY WAR GAMES OVER OUR WILDERNESS!

Jason Clark
2902 Leadville
Boise, ID 83706

000784 July 13/1997

GE-1 To whom it may concern,

I am writing you today to express my opposition to the Supersonic Battlefield Proposal in the Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Owyhee Rivers Area of Idaho and Oregon. The results of the practice battles by fighters and bombers would have a extremely negative effect on wild environments of regions. Please write me at the address on the back explaining your position on the subject. - Thanks

Tom McCullough

July 15, 1997
000795

U.S. Air Force/
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom it may concern:

NO-9 It has come to my attention that the Air Force's environmental report omits vital information about the effects of intense supersonic operations on wildlife and people in the Bruneau, Jarbidge and Owyhee canyonlands. I do feel our pilots should be well-trained, but I don't believe that places of rare wildlife and rivers should be exploited. Please complete the report and select a more appropriate site.

Sincerely,

Dana Kobe
5699 Little Eagle Ct.
Boise, ID 83705

000756

July 12.1997

USAF/BLM

GE-2 My opposition to the Air Force Plan. for the enhanced training range. is based on the destruction of the Owyhee Canyonlands and the Wildlife in these lands. The Owyhee Canyonlands are home to some of the West's rarest fish and wildlife animals and plants, One of America's largest population of California desert bighorn sheep reside in the Owyhees. We care about all the creatures living there. The best use of these lands, is as a desert home for the wildlife living there.

PN-1 CU-10 It dose not appear that the enhanced training range is needed, nor is it legal. Concerns of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, have not been taken seriously.

Do not proceed with any enhanced training range in Idaho,

Ruth Herrington

Ruth Herrington
1001 N. Sixteenth St.
Boise, ID 83702

000757

GE-1 USAF/BLM,

As a life-long Idaho resident I am strongly opposed to the Air Force's proposed bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. The impact on the area and the environmental concerns must not be overlooked because the Air Force can argue national security. The Indians on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation have suffered enough without dust and flares getting carried by the wind over their reservation. Not to mention the noise level and sonic booms. It's a lose lose situation for the people of Idaho and a win win situation for the USAF. The bighorn sheep of that area could not vote for it and I will not either. I would like to request an extension of the comment period, too many people were gone in the summer months and should be afforded an extended time to comment.

Thank you,
Sue Schneebe

no return address

7-7-97

000758

GE-2 Dear Air Force & BLM:

This letter is in regard to the proposal for a new air force "training" range in the Idaho Canyonlands. I strongly oppose the creation of this "enhanced training" facility. I have read the "Community Report" published by the Air Force in April 1997 and oppose it on the following grounds:

(1) The facility is not needed. The Idaho Air Force can continue to use the existing facilities in our neighboring states of Utah & Nevada, although cost/benefit is not addressed in the EIS, I cannot believe this new facility would save money. Current training is adequate.

(2) Noise - you cannot convince me in any way that additional training ranges will reduce noise. Period.

(3) Recreation - no impact? Let's try this again. Closing off roads and flying low planes will definitely impact recreation.

(4) Wildlife - I have been on horse trips and seen

BI-5 low-flying planes spook the horses & mules. How can sheep & antelope not be affected?

(5) Pollution - chemicals used & litter will exist.

In short, there are many reasons to oppose this plan - stop it.

MaryAnn Freegarde
MARYANN FREEGARDE
235 PLUME ST.
BOISE ID 83712

000759

17 JULY 97
2750 NO. LIBERTY
BOISE, ID
83704

U.S.A.F./B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
BOISE, ID. 83701-0329

GE-1 DEAR SIRS:

I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED BOMBING RANGE EXPANSION NEAR MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO.

SOME OF THE REASONS FOR MY OBJECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE EXPANDED RANGE IS NOT NEEDED, AS STATED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE;
2. THE DRAFT E.I.S. IS DEFICIENT; AND
3. THE NOISE POLLUTION ADVERSELY IMPACTS ALMOST ALL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE OWYHEE CANYONLANDS, BRUNEAU RIVER AREA, JARBIDGE RIVER AREA, AND LITTLE JACK'S CREEK AREA.

IT SICKENS ME TO LEARN THAT OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTS TO TURN A BEAUTIFUL PART OF IDAHO IN TO A BOMBING RANGE.

SINCERELY,

Terry L. Johnson
TERRY L. JOHNSON

000790

Maria Francis
519 E. Locust Lane
Nampa, ID 83686

7/13/97

GE-1 Regarding: Proposed Bombing Range in the Owyhee Canyonlands

Having backpacked and hiked in this unique area, I am deeply opposed to the plans the Air Force has for encroaching on wildlife habitat. Idaho's wild desert rivers and wildlife are irreplaceable.

The draft environmental impact statement is incomplete and deceptive, and sovereignty rights of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe are virtually ignored.

This is a short-sighted plan that must not be implemented!

Maria Francis

000791

Irene A. Wilcox, MSW, ACSW
1170 East State Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
(208) 385-0078

July 12, 1997

U.S/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

As a Citizen of Idaho, I am adamantly opposed to the enhanced Training Range Proposal by the Air Force. Everywhere we see or read about evidence of devastation to the envoirment and its inhabitants. Unknown numbers of species are rapidly disappearing. All around us the landscape is scarred. I can see no need for more acreage to be sacrificed or more species to be threatened to accommodate this proposal.

PN-1 It seems to me that the Air Force has been unresponsive to the concerns of Idaho Citizens and other people throughout the country. In my opinion, the Air Force has failed to demonstrate the need. The land involved belongs to the people of the United States not officials pursuing their own goals.

We have damaged the earth, perhaps beyond the capacity to sustain the needs of the people for another hundred years. Survival of human beings is inextricably tied to the survival of other species many of which may be destroyed by an expanded bombing range in Southern Idaho.

Sincerely Yours,

Irene A. Wilcox

Irene A. Wilcox

000792

1820 Sunrise Rim
Boise, Idaho 83705
13 July 1997

USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom it May Concern:

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental statement pertaining to the USAF request to enlarge the Idaho Bombing range, and withdraw considerable air space. I do not accept the scientific background that underpins this DEIS. I have several major concerns:

PR-10 (1) It baffles me that the USAF does not follow the Federal Laws in attempting to withdraw federal land. The 1950 Engle Act is in force, and requires that any withdrawl over 5000 acres must go to Congress. I can only conclude that the Air Force knows that Congress will not approve the withdrawl, so have simply ignored the law

SF-4 (2) The area designated is mostly in big sagebrush. The constant bombing, strafing already being done has caused many fires that escaped the range boundaries, and a great deal of public funds have been needed to suppress them. Adding acreage simply excaberates this position.

(3) As a someday pilot I resent very much closing more aair space. For a small aircraft operator to fly from Boise to Las Vegas it will be more prudent to follow I-80 to I-15 and gollow the freeway. The direct route over Ely and Wilson pass is almost always closed by military training activities. When one considers that USAF already has all of Owhee County and the eastern half of Nevada under Air Force Air space withdrawls, one has to begin to wonder when enough is enough. I am not sure this restriction still applies, but to fly to Burley requires one to fly nearly to the Camas Prairie because one needs 13000 feet of altitude to fly over Mountain Home AFB space.

PR-18 (4) I do not believe in a system where 300 of some 500 citations are not available for public
BI-15 scrutiny Nor di feel comfortable with several of the assumptions that state "noise will not disturb nestin foul, interfer with migration routes, will not effect the big horn sheep etc. In my view this DEIS is sorely lacking the convincing date needed to lock up more public land for a single use.

Jack F Wilson

000793 July 11, 1997

GE-1 Comment on the Air Force plan for turning Owyhee Canyonlands into a bombing range:
I have attended numerous hearings, read the draft environmental impact statement, and I am more convinced than ever that this beautiful part of our state must not be used to expand an unnecessary training range.
Our country claims to believe in peace, but what kind of message are we sending?
Elizabeth Jay, 2121 Palouse, Boise ID 83705

000794

July 11, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Sirs:

The proposed enhanced USAF training range over the Owyhee Canyonlands in Idaho is not only not necessary for the adequate training of American forces (witness Desert Storm) but it would seriously endanger a very delicate eco-system that is unique in this country and not replaceable, adversely impact the survival of many rare and endangered fish and wildlife species, and ignore the rights and religious concerns of a Native-American tribe. These real problems make this a particularly unsuitable area for another training range, if one were necessary. In our opinion the Air Force should look elsewhere for new training range space or, better still, give up the idea of using larger and larger pieces of America for their military games.

Sincerely,

William Shankweiler

William Shankweiler

Nancy Shankweiler

Nancy Shankweiler

559 Sierra Drive
Boise, ID 83705

000795

July 9, 1997

John Caywood
8864 Kiowa Drive
Boise ID 83709

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise ID 83701-0329

Subject: Idaho Bombing Range Expansion

GE-1 Dear BLM:

I am very opposed to expansion of the Idaho Bombing Range. Contrary to beliefs held by Air Force planners living near the Potomac River, the highest use of Idaho's wild lands is not a military gunnery range. My family and I regularly visit the Bruneau and Owyhee River Country. My wife was successful in taking a California bighorn sheep before increased military overflights caused that population to crash. We endure our fair share of commercial and military jet noise at our home in southwest Boise. We go to the Bruneau and Owyhee canyonlands to hunt, fish, experience wildness and take temporary respite from the hustle and bustle endured by those living Idaho's largest city.

I've read your EIS and believe impacts of your proposed gunnery range are understated. I fully believe my friend's account:

> Saturday, June 28, 1997: 21 sportsmen, Wild Sheep Foundation officers and Idaho Fish & Game personnel were conducting a "on the ground", Bighorn Sheep count on the Owyhee river west of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.
>
> We had just finished logging 4 ewes and 4 lambs as they ... bedded down. It was almost 12:00 noon. ... We turned and there about a mile out was this Big Black Bomber coming right at us, 700 to 800 feet above the canyon rim. It was completely silent until it got quite close and then the deafening roar and the shock waves from the aircraft engulfed us. You could actually feel the air around you being pulsated and compressed as the Bomber swept over us. When we could finally speak again, [one of] us stated, "Of course you realize that wasn't a Bomber? It was probably just a big mosquito. The Air Force has assured us, repeatedly, that they never fly low level over the Canyon Lands on the week ends."

000795

> As we looked back to where the sheep had been, we could not immediately find them. When we finally located them again, some 1/2 mile away, they were back on top rapidly going away from us. Two of the lambs in that group were very small. (18 inches) One of the ewes was noticeably limping.

Additional noise pollution will fully negate the wilderness experience to be had in the Forest Service's Jarbidge wilderness, which has been impacted by military aircraft for decades. Expanded miltary overflights on the East Fork Owyhee River caused the precipitous decline of that California bighorn sheep population. Range expansion threatens the nascent sheep population on the upper Bruneau River.

Given the current federal budget crisis, it seems silly to spend federal monies on this range expansion, which will cost money rather than save it. After $50 million is spent to build it, minimal Mountain Home AFB operational savings will be more than offset by aircraft flying from out of state bases to make shared use of the range.

Training Range expansion is a bad bureaucratic idea. Please save my federal money and do something positive for Idaho -- leave our Idaho wild lands alone.

Sincerely,

John Caywood

John Caywood

000756

GE-1

7-11-97

From Jim + Susan Aced
4024 Whiteroad
Boise ID 83703

To USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise ID 83701

Re Bombing Range

Please be advised that we support the Wilderness Society / Owyhee Conservation Coalition that the proposed Enhanced Training/Bombing Range should not be allowed.

We feel and advocate in the strongest conviction that the visual plan should consider the recreational experience and the ecological well-being to an unacceptable extent.

Sincerely
Jim + Susan Aced

000757

12 July, 1997

Chi Melville
Route 1 Box 3736
Alta, WY 83422

United States Air Force / Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir / Madame:

I am writing to oppose the Air Force's proposed bombing range in the Owyhee Desert.

I have spent numerous days in the area over the past 25 years and am disturbed at the present level of noise from jet traffic. Any increase in the noise pollution would be totally unacceptable. The Air Force has also underestimated the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals in the area.

This region is one of the extraordinary areas in the west and should be protected through Wilderness designation in the uplands and Wild & Scenic River status in the Owyhee, Bruneau & Jarbidge river corridors, rather than being used as an Air Force training range.

The Air Force has spent millions of dollars in the past with their training range proposals and has obviously not gotten the message that the people of Idaho and the region do not want a bombing range in this area (other than the residents of Mountain Home who stand to personally benefit economically). When will you quit wasting our money and your time with these proposals?

Sincerely,
Chi Melville
Chi Melville

000759

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Wayne Henderson

Name Wayne Henderson
Address Box 885
City Hettinger, State N. D. Zip 58639

Comments: Please help us continue the important work we've started with the transplant of sheep to other areas. Thanks.

000361

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Darryl Spitler
Address 13 E. Pleasant Ave
City Myerstown State Pa Zip 17067

Comments: By allowing this to happen. Wild life and Bighorn Sheep will be around for our children and generations to come.

U.S. BANK

000802

Post Office Box 7009
Boise, ID 83727-7169
208-383-7000

July 16, 1997

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force / B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Ms. Cook:

I am writing in support of additional training areas for the Mountain Home Air Force Base and the Idaho Air National Guard. The air base has many positive characteristics including location, flying weather, and new facilities. Overall, the area is needed in order to provide realistic training opportunities for air crews.

As a member of the business community, I cast my personal and corporate support for expansion of the training Area.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Larabee
Senior Vice President
Boise Valley Business Banking Center

U.S. Bank of Idaho
Member FDIC

R.C. BIGELOW Inc.

315 BENJAMIN LANE, BOISE, ID 83704 (208) 322-1977 FAX (208) 323-8127

07-16-97

000803

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force / B.L.M.
PO Box 329
Boise, Id 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Brenda:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Boise Area Chamber of Commerce in favor of expanding the Mountain Home Air Force Training Range. The Mountain Home Air Force Base is a vital part of the Boise area economy, and we need to position the base so that it will flourish in the years to come. An expanded range would make the base an even more important part of the U.S. Air Force training program, and would bolster its chances of not being closed down if there were to be another round of base closures. Every effort must be made to ensure that the base remains open, and a viable entity in the U.S. Air Forces training program.

Sincerely:

John Ashford

R.C. Bigelow, Inc.
Boise Idaho

ORIGINATORS OF "CONSTANT COMMENT" TEA

000805

GE-2 To whom it may concern - As a U.S. citizen and Idaho resident I am voicing my opposition to the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee Campus. The effects upon the area wildlife would be devastating, tourism and recreation would suffer, and there exists a high likelyhood the

CU-15 rights of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe have not been justly considered by the representatives of the U.S. military. I urge you to reconsider and withdraw the proposal for the bombing range.

Thank You
David Tyler Strodecarpenter

1423 Colorado
Boise, ID 83706

000806

GE-1 US Air Force / Bureau Land Management
I enjoy the beauty of Idaho the spectacular canyons of the Bruneau River and I would like to continue to enjoy Idahos beauty. Please do not use Idaho for a bombing range.

Thank you
Susan Taylor
1386 Creekside Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83702

000307

7-17-97

Sandra Stange
2116 Dora St
Boise, Id. 83702

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Id. 83701

GE-2 Dear bureaucrat,

Please be advised there are many people out here, ordinary Idaho folks ,who believe that the "Enhanced Training Range" proposed by the USAF is neither needed or legal!

PR-12 The draft environmental impact statement is completely deficient and does not comply with the national environmental policy act. The information that was covered is deceptive and misleading, i.e., noise analysis, wildlife studies, pollution, airspace expansion, etc. Furthermore, airspace expansion over Little Jacks Creek will severely impact wildlife in the area. As far as my concerns

PR-18 about the legality of your study, over 100 of the 500 references cited, have not been made available and are in locations outside of Idaho.

PR-23 It is my understanding the Air Force will not take responsibility for other branches of the military and foreign armed forces that come to the new training range to practice their war-games, so my concern is "who will be in charge???"

RV-6 I am an avid kayaker and backpacker in the designated area and am very concerned that no meaningful mitigation measure have been provided to protect recreational use seasons on the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers.

Your plan shows total lack of respect for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe regarding sacred sites and other sovereignty issues of this tribe. The airforce says they will be glad to "unlock the gate when the tribes want to conduct religious ceremonies." Oh please, this attitude is just more of the same of that which the american government has dished out to Native Americans for the past 200 years!!

There is a very long list of reasons as to why the training range plan should not go through. Contrary to what the Air Force may think, Idahoans care about the Owyhee Canyonlands and we will NOT allow this plan to proceed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Stange

Sandra Stange

000308

U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

The idea that an additional Air Force
Bombing range in the Owyhee canyonlands
is insane is a mistake. Existing facilities are
adequate and the reason insufficient for the
existing proposal is in terms of evaluation.
Computer modeling and flight simulation are
unable with effective training tools and
the impact of the proposed range is absurd.
Planners is unquestionably unfortunate
to deal with a community unaware
and it is under distressing to the new land
resident for the land that manages management.

Sincerely,
Ken Smith
1543 SW Fairlawn Rd
Topeka KS 66615

000309

7/16/97

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force/15 FM
Box 3147
Boise, Id. 83707-0747

GE-1 Dear Ms. Cook,

I am writing in favor of the Expanded Training Range for Mtn. Home AFB. The Air Base is one of the largest income producers in the State of Idaho + we can't jeopardize its existence, or certainly their activities.

Also, the Composite Wing is our finest + best deterrent in any emergency + its essential their crews have a close-by + adequate training area.

Sincerely,
Pat Tate 516 Linden, Boise, ID 83706

000310

EFFECTS OF PROPOSED BOMBING RANGE ON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION

The Owyhee Canyonlands are home to some of the West's rarest fish and wildlife species. One of America's largest populations of California desert bighorn sheep resides in the Owyhees, providing the sole source of "transplant" bighorns to assist re-establishment efforts in nine western states. Endangered species like the peregrine falcon reside here, as do populations of rare species like cougar, bobcat, sage grouse and redband trout. Mule deer and antelope populations will also suffer as a result of this proposal. The USAF studies, as set forth in its DEIS are insufficient as to the REAL effects the range will have on wildlife.

Also, the proposed bombing range would have an enormous effect on some of North America's most outstanding rivers. The one or two jets river runners currently may hear when they float the Bruneau or Owyhee rivers would be nothing compared to the level of proposed activity. The nearly continuous overflights would shatter the special silence and tranquillity of Idaho's desert rivers. Noise pollution will also harm the animals and birds that are an important part of the river and recreation experiences.

Nothing can replace Idaho's wild desert rivers or wildlife. The Air Force must make do with it's existing range or look elsewhere for new training ranges.

THE OWYHEE CANYONLANDS IS NOT THE PLACE!!

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS COALITION - MEMBER GROUPS:

- IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION - SIERRA CLUB - THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY - IDAHO RIVERS UNITED - IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE
- DESERT GROUP - TEAMS RESTORING EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT - HCR TRIBAL ROCKIES PREDATOR PROJECT
- OREGON NATURAL RESOURCE COUNCIL - ECONOMISTS ALLIED FOR ARMS REDUCTION - RURAL ALLIANCE FOR MILITARY ACCOUNTABILITY
- SNAKE RIVER ALLIANCE - BOISE PEACE QUILT PROJECT - CITIZEN ALERT - SHOSHONE INFORMATION NETWORK - ALLIED 3 WILDLIFE COUNCIL
- IDAHO SPORTING CONGRESS - IDAHO WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION - NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR NORTH AMERICAN SHEEP
- IDAHO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL - GOLDEN EAGLE AUDUBON - IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - IDAHO OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES ASSOCIATION
- NATIONAL OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP SCHOOL -

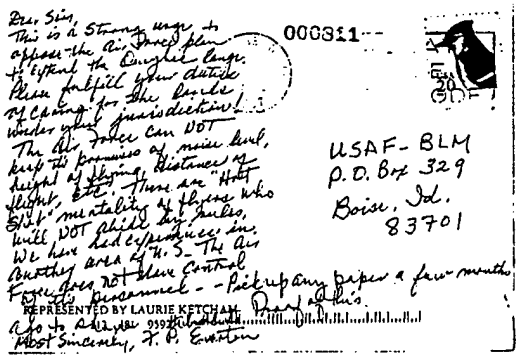
GE-1 WHERE DID ALL THESE PEOPLE COME FROM THAT ARE MEMBERS OF STATED ALLIANCES - WERE WE INVADED BY OUTER SPACE ------- THEY ARE NOT OF MY THINKING - THE BIG HORN SHEEP ARE NOT NATIVE OF THIS AREA - ALL THAT WAS THERE IN MY 75 YEARS OF OF IDAHO - THE ONLY NATIVE THINGS OF THAT AREA IS ANTELOPE SAGE HEN - SAGE BRUSH AND ROCKS - ALL THESE PEOPLE OF THE ABOVE ARE DOING IS EXCITING THE INDIANS - BECAUSE THE TRAINING RANGE IS 50 MILES FROM DUCK VALLEY - AND ANOTHER THING ANY ANIMAL IN THIS AREA SOON GET USED TO NOISE ---------

IS THIS A COMMUNISTS PLOT - THEY COULD NOT DEFEAT IN ANY OTHER WAY - SO THEY ARE USING SCARE TACTICS - BECAUSE THE PEOPLE INVOLVED ARE NOT FROM THIS AREA - NOT EVEN YOU PEOPLE WITH THE BLM - BUT I DO A STRONG DEFENSE IS THE BEST THING FOR OUR COUNTRY NOT THE KNEE JERKERS --------

FRESTON HOALST
1324 11TH AVE. SO.
NAMPA, IDAHO 83651

P.S. MY FATHER WAS BORN IN IDAHO IN 1892 AND A GOOD AMERICAN

GE-1



Dear Sirs,
This is a strong urge to oppose the Air Force plan to expand the Owyhee Range to fulfill your desire of having for the border of Canada jurisdiction under which DOT The Air Force can not keep its promise of noise level, height of flying, distances of flight, etc. There are Not enough mentality of those who will DOT child by pulse, Wet have had experience in Another area of U.S. The Air Force does not allow Central Foreign personnel -- Pick up any paper a few months ago to read the [illegible]
Most Sincerely, T. P. Everton

000311

USAF - BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Id.
83701

REPRESENTED BY LAURIE KETCHAM

July 13, 1997
000312

GE-1 Bureau of Land Management

To whom it may concern:

I have recently learned of your Proposed Supersonic battlefield in the Jarbridge, Bruneau, and Owyhee Watersheds in Idaho. I am deeply concerned about the impacts such activities would have on these remote wilderness areas. All of the proposed alternatives will have unacceptable noise disturbance impacts on both people and wildlife. Remote and lovely wild lands such as these are priceless national treasures which provide both people and animals with a refuge from the cares of civilization. Your proposed military activities would completely shatter that refuge. I would like to hear your thoughts and plans on this matter. Please contact me at 353 San Andreas Dr Millpitas [illegible]35

Sincerely C. Fischer

GE-1 Dear U.S. Air Force officials,

000313

I'm writing to suggest it would be inappropriate to expand military training areas currently the Jarbidge/Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers in Idaho and Oregon.

These areas of wilderness would be adversely affected by such a plan. I know, I've been there as fighters ~~flown~~ trained and lived.

Please send me information about the proposed alternatives and please note I'm opposed to any expansion of current operations because of adverse effects on the wilderness qualities of that area. Ethan Winston
6044 Burkhard Ave
Richmond CA 94805

000314
July 13, 1997

GE-1 Dear Decision Makers,
United States Air Force

Hi. How are you today? I hope it's going O.K. I'm writing to you today, my heart quivering. I have heard from my friends that you might be planning to build a supersonic battlefield in Idaho, very close to three beautiful rivers. Please rethink this idea. Some people think there's nothing out there. I think that there's something precious to all of us in the world out there. The quiet sounds of leaves blowing, water running, are as needed and important as the defense of our democracy.

Please, take a moment and put the plans and numbers and calculations down. Think of the moments that you, as a human being, revive your self. Where are you? By a lake? On a quiet road? What are you doing? Holding your child? Kissing your lover? We all need quiet places to go and to be.

Please see if there is another place that could work for your project that would leave us what little wild and scenic areas we have have left.

Thank you.

Kate Sitteki
17 Skylark Dr #32
Greenbrae CA 94939

000315

Moffatt Thomas

MOFFATT THOMAS BARRETT ROCK & FIELDS, CHTD.

July 17, 1997

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Re: Support for Additional Training Area

GE-1 Dear Ms. Cook:

I support the position taken by the Boise Area Chamber of Commerce in its policy statement dated March 14, 1996, supporting enhanced air-to-ground training areas in Southwest Idaho.

Based on the information I have received and reviewed, the additional area is needed for the Mountain Home Air Force Base to be able to provide a total package of training activities to the Department of Defense. The existing range has many limitations, which would be alleviated by the additional proposed area. Having personally visited the Saylor Creek Training Range, I have personally concluded that the impact to the environment is minimal, and any impact is certainly overshadowed by the need for the expanded training range.

Very truly yours,

Paul S. Street

PSS/lc

153869.1

GE-1 To whom it may concern 7/13/97 000316

The proposed supersonic battlefield and new resource management plan for the Owyhee, Bruneau Owyhee Rivers in Idaho canyonlands is absolutely preposterous. This area deserves national recognition and protection as a pristine wilderness. The military proposals do not take into accord the incredible the adverse effects on people and animals. I have been these areas first hand and do not believe # 1 that the air force needs anymore play grounds, and # 2 certainly not in this pristine wilderness area. I would like to hear from you on the current status and how the issue is being researched. Thank you

Valerie Mobley
404 Franklin St.
Napa CA 94559

000317

7/13/97

GE-1 To the Secretary of the Air Force:

It has come to my attention the plan the air force has to have a 'supersonic battlefield' over the Bruneau, Owyhee, and Jarbridge Rivers. As a person who seeks solice and peace in the wilderness, the proposal distresses me; to me it is unacceptable to have this kind of military activity over a pristine wilderness area. the loud and unpredictable noise would be harmful to humans and animals alike; and, because there are already programs you are proposing in place, why designate yet another area?

These canyonlands are very special, and deserves protection. Wilderness areas are not only our birthright, they belong to our children + grandchildren.

I would appreciate being informed of the outcome of the proposal.

Thank you
Margrit M. Gibboney

Margrit M. Gibboney
PO Box 2413
Cupertino, CA 95015-2413

000818

GE-1 Dear Reps-
I think plant close down Bighorn Sheep areas on the Owyhee Canyonlands is a very bad idea. And the planned bombing range in the Owyhee is a bad idea. Doesn't the Air Force have enough unused lands to practice more bombing on.

Yours truly
Todd C. Smith
1740 Modena St.
Berkeley, Calif
94707

000819

July 16, 1997

U. S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise , ID 83701-0329

Re: Bombing Range

GE-1 Dear Sirs;

Thank you for allowing Joe Public to participate in this process. Not so many years ago these decisions were made by politicians and people affected never got a chance to have input.

I have been very fortunate to have spent time in the Bruneau River Canyon. It is one of the most rugged and beautiful places I have ever been. The remoteness and beauty are one of the attracting features of this place. This is not a place for Air Force bombing practice! It is a place for people to escape from the hectic real world. It is a place for nature to support and nurture the wildlife that abound there. I shared my breakfast will a couple of military jets one morning and it is not the type of event that should happen in this natural environment.

I was not able to attend the public hearings. I am certain that an EIS was required for this proposal. I am also quite certain that it favors the Air Force. EIS's generally favor those who pay for them. Maybe not in obvious ways. The experts in these fields know how to play with the data. It is quite easy to show (the often times) ignorant public a final document that can justify the stance of the deep pocket proposer. I am not crying lies and dishonesty! I just know how the game is played.

Do not allow this proposed bombing range!

Sincerely,

Randy Dinger

Randy Dinger
721 Chase Common Drive
Norcross, GA 30071

GE-1 I strongly urge you not to establish a bombing range on the Owyhee Canyonlands. Protect our California desert bighorn sheep.
Thank you,
Joyce Wisdom

Ms. Joyce Wisdom
21144 Hiskids Dr
Topanga CA 90290-4214

000820

U.S. Air Force /
Bureau of Land
Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000821

GE-1 To Whom it May Concern, July 16, 1997
This letter is to voice my opposition to the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee in Idaho.
This area provides a home for one of the largest populations of California desert bighorn sheep in America and is the sole source of transplant stock for re-establishing the species in nine western states.
In addition, a recent census showed the herds numbers down by half.

Thank You!
Frank Lampasselli
501d Lake Rd.
Congers, N.Y. 10920

000322

Linda Carole Georges
5604 Aurora Pl.
Boulder Co 80303
July 10, '97

U.S. Air Force
B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise ID 83701

GE-1 Dear Madam:

I've been reading about plans to create a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. This is such an absurd idea that I'm hoping it is just an ugly rumor. The military is in enough trouble already (pollution of Cape Cod etc) without another major environmental faux pas.

Please register my categorical opposition to a bombing range at this location. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Linda K Georges
arides@rmi.net

7/13/97
000323

GE-1 To whom it may concern.

I am concerned about the Supersonic Battlefield Project. The Bruneau & Owyhee Rivers are beautiful & pristine. There are few places where you can get into a river where, in a few miles & many you are surrounded by undisturbed wilderness & wildlife. The Project would introduce noise & people that would greatly impact these places. I am opposed this project & I strongly encourage that this project & others that adversely affect the environment. There are other sites that are already in use for things that are being proposed. Please encourage the utilization of available projects & installations so that new ones do not need to be added. I hope that more conservation efforts to preserve our natural resources be introduced & enforced. What are other concerns & views currently affecting these areas. At what point is the project at. Please let me know the status of these views. Sincerely,

Randy Day

Randy Day 2203 Homewood Drive. San Jose, Ca 95128-1331

000324

U.S.A.F. / B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

While I appreciate the complexity of this situation, and the difficulty facing all interested parties, I feel strongly that many basic faults lie in the current status of this issue now under consideration.

BI-32 I am familiar with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and find it to be inadequately representative of the needs, indeed the rights, of the lives and habitat affected in the Owyhee Canyonlands area.

CU-15 The wildlife living there will be seriously and irrepairably impacted by the airspace expansion over Little Jacks Creek, and the disrespect demonstrated in this action with regard (or more accurately lack of regard) to the native Shoshone-Paiute Tribe's sacred ground is disgraceful.

What this proposal will take away from Idaho, it's citizens, it's wildlife and it's first residents is irreplaceable. Once it is lost it can never again return.

Please look beyond the present to the legacy which would be lost to your children, and your grandchildren. We will all suffer irreversible loss and find no truly rationalizable gain in the process.

Sincerely,
Carol M. Linderborn

4435 Oxbow Pl.
Boise, Idaho 83713

000325

GE-2 GREETINGS USAF:

I AM WRITING YOU TODAY TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN TOWARDS ISSUES THAT ARE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE. THE OWYHEE CANYONLANDS ARE DEAR TO MY HEART AND WELL BEING. MYSELF AN HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERAN FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THE USAF NEEDS MORE LANDS FOR BATTLE PREPAREDNESS.

EACH YEAR I SPEND MANY DAYS AND NIGHTS BACKPACKING AND EXPLORING THE IMMENSE AND FRAGILE HIGH DESERT. MY FAVORITE. OF MANY PLACES IS LITTLE JACKS CREEK AND BRUNEAU/JARBIDGE CANYONS. THIS COUNTRY IS TOO FRAGILE TO ALLOW ANY INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY. I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE TOTALLY REMOVED FROM CONSIDERATION AS A TRAINING RANGE. MORE PROTECTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THIS ENTIRE REGION SO WE CAN PASS IT DOWN IN BETTER CONDITION TO OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

IN MY OPINION THE DEIS IS DEFICIENT AND DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES. TOO MANY SHORT CUTS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE USAF IN ITS PROCESS TO BULLY THE IDAHO CITIZENS. THE FOLLOWING DISCREPANCIES ARE A SHAMEFUL REMINDER OF WHY THE USAF DOES NOT DESERVE ANY FURTHER TRAINING RANGES IN IDAHO.

* MUCH OF THE STUDY DATA IS MISLEADING AND DECEPTIVE. I.E.. NOISE ANALYSIS OF BIGHORN SHEEP IMPACTS, POLLUTION OF WATERSHEDS.

BI-19 AIRSPACE EXPANSION BOUNDARIES ARE UNCLEAR AND SAGE GROUSE HABITAT EFFECTS ARE INADEQUATELY PORTRAIT.

* FALSE REFERENCES IN THE DEIS THAT DO NOT APPLY TO IDAHO'S CANYONS.

CU-15 * VERY POORLY CONSIDERED THE CONCERNS OF SHOSHONE TRIBAL ISSUES.

BI-30 * UNPUBLISHED STUDIES CONDUCTED THAT INDICATE THE SEVERE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF JET NOISE ON BIGHORN SHEEP.

ALL OF THIS ASIDE. I DO NOT WANT MY PUBLIC LANDS TO BECOME NOISEY, POLLUTED. DANGEROUS WILDLANDS WHERE WILDLIFE AND MYSELF FIND NO PEACE AND APPRECIATION OF THE HIGH DESERT FLOWERS AND SCENERY. **THE BEAUTIFUL OWHYEE CANYONLANDS ARE A RESOURCE IN AND OF ITSELF. THAT IS ITS GREATEST ECONOMY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. I HOPE THE USAF IS NOT SO INFLUENCED THAT YOU CAN ALLOW THE BOMBING OF THIS WILDERNESS.**

I VIEW YOUR ORGANIZATIONS HARD WORK POSITIVELY AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEENG THIS PROJECT ELIMINATED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND INTEREST IN MY OPINION.

SINCERELY, RICHARD A. RUSNAK JR.
1618 EMERALD DR.
NAMPA, ID 83686
(208) 466-2541

July 17, 1997
000826

GE-1 NO BOMBING RANGE!

As stewards of the earth, our job is to protect and preserve, not destroy, all forms of life.

We want our grandchildren to be able to see big horn sheep, peregrine falcon, cougar, bob cat, sage grouse in the wild. The effects of a bombing range in the Owyhees would be to decimate these species in Owyhee County.

And the peace and tranquility of Idaho's desert rivers would be shattered.

WE CARE about our Owyhee Canyonlands, and DO NOT WANT the proposed USAF training range in the Owyhees!!!

Emphatically,

Glen M. Clemens

Alice M Clemens
611 6th St So.
Nampa, Idaho 83651

000827

FOUR STAR ★★★★ RESTAURANT SUPPLY INC.
4774 W. State St. • Boise, Idaho 83703 • (208) 338-8541 • FAX (208) 338-1121

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force/B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

7/18/97

GE-1 Dear Ms. Cook

This letter is to document my support of the proposed expansion of the U.S. Air Force training range. Not only is it good for the local economy, but more importantly its absolutely crucial for the National defense and the safety of our airmen in uniform.

I happen to be a retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant. Over 22 years of active-duty service I saw several cycles where our defense budget was cut drastically; thereby causing problems with well-trained, qualified, personnel. I also happen to be a veteran of the Vietnam War, which educated me at a very young age how important training is in that enviornment. If you or your coworkers didn't have the proper equipment or training, your life was on the line.

Likewise, in the business community, training will cost you one way or the other. Well trained people cost money; however, they pay us back tenfold in proficiency and productivity. Conversely, if we have a poorly trained employee, it costs us dearly through mistakes, inefficiency, and even safety/accident problems.

There's no doubt the U.S. Air Force needs expanded training areas. Have you looked at the price tag on a new F-16 lately? I'm quite sure there's been a few that have crashed due to lack of training in a realistic environment. Don't trust me on that, go ahead and ask the U.S. Air Force Inspection and Safety Center. They can provide reports on causes for major aircraft accidents, where loss of aircraft and aircrewmen are concerned.

000827

If the United States is going to continue a leadership role in the Defense arena, we owe it to our men and women in uniform the best possible training opportunities and equipment. While in Vietnam I saw many helicopters and cargo aircraft carrying our men out in body bags. That will forever be ingrained upon my mind. I pray to God we never make a mistake like that again. However, I have enough wisdom to know that history has a tendency to repeat itself. The Commander of the 366th Wing a Mt. Home is aware of that also, and has worked tirelessly to educate the public on the need for the range expansion. We support him in his efforts for a viable, well trained force to apply airpower around the globe. We've studied the proposal to death. It's now time for action.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Krosch
BRUCE A. KROSCH
Operations Manager

Chief Master Sergeant, USAF (Retired)

cc: Roy Eiguren
Vice Chmn of Government Affairs
BACoC

Paul Poorman
5230 N. Black Cat Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642
July 17, 1997

000828

U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID83701-0329

The latest bombing range proposal Environmental Impact Statement reflects years of work and millions of dollars in expense, yet corrects few, if any, of the problems of previous statements.

DP-7 The fundamental deficiency is still present; mainly that the justification for the range hinges on special training needs for the composite wing. If the composite wing was not based in Idaho, then there would be no need for the new range. Since the two activities are linked, then the environmental impact statement must show the cumulative impacts for both activities.

DP-5 Instead, the Air Force has conveniently chosen to use the last few years as a baseline for environmental impact, artificially diminishing the additional impact of the new activities. In fact, the increased presence of military aircraft has already degraded the solitude and wildlife habitat of the Owyhees and military use needs to decrease, not increase.

NO-4 Now let us discuss noise. The EIS averages the noise that the jets produce over a 24 hour period and uses that method to claim that a jet is quieter than an indoor room. What an absurd conclusion! The potential for disruption of recreationists and wildlife is grossly underestimated with this method, and the true environmental effects are masked. The Air Force should report the expected number of sonic booms and the maximum daily sound levels.

NO-10

The existing noise level from military aircraft in the Owyhee Canyonlands is already excessive even without the new bombing range expansion. In numerous hiking, boating, and biking trips that I have taken over the last few years, the silence has been interrupted by aimless military jets going around in circles. The disruptions have lasted anywhere from an hour to all day. I've even seen B-52's flying below me from the top of Three Fingers Rock, in Eastern Oregon. From a noise standpoint, there's no room for more military sorties.

Use of 1992-1996 baseline for aircraft noise conveniently ignores the drastic increase in aircraft noise after the composite wing beddown. Comparing the new noise levels with pre-1992 levels would show how much true impact the military overflights are having.

The noise annoyance studies used by the Air Force to estimate the effect of military aircraft on people are completely irrelevant. The EIS should use studies of the effects of aircraft overflights on people in a wilderness setting, since that is what they doing If complete studies on that type of noise are not available, then only the portions of the available studies that use aircraft noise over wilderness areas should be used. In addition, the EIS should include effects of loud aircraft on the sensitive hearing and survival of bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

NO-22

BI-9

Using the Bruneau-Jarbidge area for the target area is a mistake. This area is used by hundreds of boaters and hikers every year. The deep canyons and scenic highlands of this area create a quality recreation experience and significant wildlife habitat. The EIS should include some real alternatives instead of minor variations on the same theme For example, one alternative might be to exapnd the existing Saylor Creek range toward Glenn's Ferry and move the heavy air traffic out of the Owyhee Canyonlands.

PN-2

Lastly, I have a hard time trusting the justification for the range. An Inspector-General Audit report states that Mountain Home Air Base training facilities are adequate. The same report concluded that the Air Force was overestimating the inconvenience of using remote ranges. Just the name of the latest proposal "Enhanced Training in Idaho" implies that this bombing range is a luxury, not a necessity.

PN-14

In summary, the Air Force should provide a real justification for this new bombing range. The EIS should compare real alternatives. Noise and environmental impact assessments should use a pre-1992 baseline. And lastly, the Air Force should stop lying with statistics to try to say that the afterburners from a military jet and the resultant sonic booms are quieter than an air conditioner.

Sincerely,

Paul Poorman

cc: Larry Craig
Dirk Kempthorne

July 16, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter to urge you not to go ahead with your plan to run down pregnant ewes by helicopter to put collars on them. I also urge you not to use their habitat for practice bombing. Their numbers are already depleted by half as shown by a recent census.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Perry Hawley

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Hawley
14066 Crest Way
Del Mar, CA 92014-3010

1079 N. Torrey Pines
Eagle, ID 83616

July 17, 1997

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
POB 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Greetings:

The following are my comments on why I support the No Action Alternative of the Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

PN-2 1) The DEIS fails to provide a broad range of alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For example the DEIS fails to properly review and evaluate the idea of using existing ranges in nearby areas (Utah Test and Training Range).

BI-12 2) The DEIS fails to comply with NEPA by not providing important pertinent information required for the interested public to properly evaluate the varied impacts of the alternatives. For example the document states that certain biological studies will not be complete until late 1997 and are not included.

DP-47 3) Page ES-3 states one of the objectives of the ETI is to: "support the unique missions of the Air Force's only rapid-response Air Expeditionary Wing." The DEIS fails to discuss exactly what this Expeditionary Wing means. Other Air Force publications paint a different picture of the characteristics of this Wing. The Final EIS (FEIS) must fully discuss this Wing and its impacts upon the proposed alternatives. If this Wing includes other branches of the US military, or the military of other nations, the FEIS must discuss how proposed stipulations will be applied to these other branches of the military.

LU-6 4) The area proposed by several of the alternatives has been considered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for other important purposes High level officials of the BLM have reviewed and considered proposals for designated affected lands as part of an Owyhee National Conservation Area (NCA). The DEIS fails to discuss this option and how the proposed Air Force plans would affect the NCA and its resources.

DP-7 5) Cumulative impacts of B-1 bombers should be included as part of the analysis of the DEIS.

PR-16 6) It is my understanding the Air Force has an extremely short period of time between the DEIS and the FEIS. How can the Air Force adequately consider the substantial volume and content of comments expected on this important issue, and then effectively incorporate public inputs into the FEIS?

PN-1 7) The Air Force has still failed to provide adequate justification for this latest round of proposals. Over the last nine years or so, the Air Force has publicly stated the range expansion was needed and then not needed whenever it was convenient. This lack of adequate justification reinforces the idea the Air Force considers this a nicety but that it really is not needed.

8) The Air Force suggests that only ~12,000 acres of land is being affected by the proposal. However millions of acres of southwest Idaho will be affected by sonic booms, low aerial combat, chaff debris, hot flares, etc. This land includes: lands of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Wild & Scenic candidate rivers, California Bighorn Desert Sheep, Sage Grouse, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcons, Pronghorn Antelope, and many other species of wildlife. The Air Force activities will also require ground support for emitter sites, which may impact archeological resources.

PR-15 9) The Air Force may claim to follow rules setup in the DEIS, but this claim can not be guaranteed if the range transferred to other areas of the military (National Guard, etc.). The Air Force's local record of compliance with rules and coordination with other Federal agencies is lacking For example, the Air Force violated numerous Federal laws in its expansion of the Grasmere site by making changes without properly including the BLM and therefore avoiding appropriate public review and input. The public should be dubious of the Air Force's promises to meet its future stated environmental obligations.

NO-4 10) The assumptions used for acoustic impacts are absolutely ridiculous. Averaging noise over full days is ridiculous! I am sure if one averaged the sound impact of a firecracker going off near someone's ear over an entire day that it would do absolutely no damage. However, any fool knows that really having a firecracker go off in this manner can cause not only pain but also permanent physical damage.

NO-12 11) The same concerns apply to the averaging of sonic booms.

BI-38 12) The DEIS fails to adequately consider the importance of certain wildlife species. The DEIS wrongly concludes that he population of Sage Grouse on Clover Butte is insignificant and somehow are not worth consider or at least providing mitigation on. The DEIS also fails to provide any mitigations for California Bighorn Desert Bighorn Sheep. This is tragic since this important

DP-42 population has dropped significantly in recent years.

13) The expansion of the Military Operations Area over the Jacks Creek Wilderness Study Areas in unacceptable. Not only are these areas my favorite wilderness areas within Idaho, they are an important location for Bighorn and have seen little military impacts to date.

14) It is unfortunate the Air Force continues to fight the majority of the public in its effort to provide an unwarranted expansion of military lands at great expense. These efforts have cost millions, which could easily have been used to pay for slightly longer flights to the Utah Test and Training Range. The Air Force has not only wasted money, but more importantly they have hurt their image with the public by making lame proposals and flawed analyses. This is truly unfortunate!

Sincerely,

Marty Marzinelli

000851

July 16, 1997

USAF/BLM
P O Box 329
Boise ID 8370-0329

GE-1 RE: Owyhee CanyonLands

I will no longer sit at home and assume that other people will take care of this issue. I have read your Draft Environmental Impact Statement and find it totally deficient. The information regarding pollution, noise, wildlife studies, and recreational use are deficient, misleading and deceptive. In addition, your total disregard for the concerns of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe sicken me. How can you be so disrespectful? These people have so little now, and you want to take away more.

You need to trash your entire plan, pack your suitcase, and go away, because the people of Idaho are never going to allow you to implement your supersonic battlefield.

With Total Commitment,

Margie Prater
Boise Idaho

8050 Crestwood Dr.
Boise, ID 83704

000852

July 16, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Dear Sirs:

I am writing today to voice my opposition to the proposed Enhanced Training Range in Idaho. I have spent much time in the proposed areas floating the Bruneau and Owhyee rivers and exploring the desert on single lane roads. It is a beautiful area who's peace and tranquillity will be destroyed by this range, if implemented.

PN-14 First and foremost of my arguments against the range is that there is not a demonstrated need for the range. Even the Inspector General of the Department of Defense concluded in a 1995 report that the training needs of the composite wing can be met with existing ranges. Further, the military requirements of the United States has diminished over the past couple of years, yet the USAF has not revised it's plan/needs for this range.

NO-2 Secondly, the studies used for EIS and determining noise effects are flawed and perhaps illegal by not cumulating the effects of various studies. And by using 20 year old studies on the effects of noise in urban environments, and

NO-4 by averaging the effects of sonic booms over a 24 hour period rather then individually.

BI-32 Adequate studies on the effects of supersonic warplanes on wildlife have not been completed. There are many rare and unique species of wildlife in the proposed area. A flawed EIS could have detrimental effects that would last for generations.

The Enhanced Training Range is not needed and should be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Vince Thompson
2038 Concordia Way
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

000853

1750 University Avenue,
Palo Alto
CA. 94301

July 15th. 1997

GE-1 Dear Sir,

I write to express my opposition to the proposal to establish a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. This beautiful high desert area is one of the special remote and peaceful areas which make Idaho an increasingly important tourist attraction. As we despoil our National Parks and degrade our National Forests such places will become ever more important to those who seek peace and solitude for at least a few days a year.

Neither can we afford, to put at risk one of our few remaining herds of Bighorn sheep. The Owyhee herd is our hope for re stocking other areas. The idea of gathering data by chasing down pregnant ewes using helicopters is completely unacceptable. The proposal to detonate bombs in their vicinity, should be abandoned. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

000854

BRONCO MOTORS, INC.

July 17, 1997

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force/B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Ms. Cook:

I am writing you this letter because I am concerned about the proposed Training Area in Owyhee County. I am in support of the Mountain Home Air Force Base and the Idaho National Guard and the military in general. This training range would benefit the community and the whole Idaho economy. The Air Force employs many Idaho residents as well as receives revenue due to the large Air Force population in Idaho. Therefore this range will benefit Idaho, it will keep revenue and employment up as well as show Idaho's support for the military.

Sincerely,

Grant Petersen Sr.
Founder

9250 FAIRVIEW AVE. • BOISE, IDAHO • 83704
PHONE 208-376-8510 • FAX 208-327-3705

000835

18 July 1997

United States Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-1 Agencies -

As a native of Idaho I want to offer my full support in opposition to the Air Force plan to turn the Owyhee Canyonlands into a training range. The enhanced training range is not needed and is not wanted by the Native Americans of Idaho, nor its other citizens.

As Americans continue to destroy vital, irreplaceable wildlife habitat, this is one opportunity to preserve a small piece of valuable land. Too much is at stake to allow this unnecessary destruction of our resources.

The simple answer is "no."

Sincerely,

MaryAnne Cox

MaryAnne Cox
P.O. Box 1395
Meridian, ID 83680

000836 July 17, 1997

GE-1 Dear USAF BLM,
we join millions of other Americans who are concerned about the fate of wildlife that unfortunately live on our public lands where destructive activities are taking place.
We strongly oppose the use of Owyhee Canyonlands as a bombing range; this high desert provides a home for one of the largest populations of California desert bighorn sheep in America + is the sole source of "transplant" stock for re-establishing the species in nine states!
Sincerely
Matthew Dalton

000837

4830 Kim Drive
Pocatello, Idaho 83204
July 17, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83207-0329

GE-1 RE: Supersonic Battlefield

We wish to register strong opposition to the proposal to establish a supersonic battlefield in the southwest Idaho desert. The Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and unique. The Air Force proposal will have a significant negative impact on the environment and habitat and will destroy an area of the country that should be preserved.

Sincerely,

Judy Moyer

Judy Moyer

Gene D. Ratcliff

000838

GE-1 To Whom it may Concern,

We are writing in opposition to your planned bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands in Idaho. With the largest population of California desert bighorn sheep in America and the sole source of "transplant" stock for re-establishing the species in other states, we feel that there is too much of a risk for the health of this species to allow a bombing range here. We hope you will re-consider your plans and let the Owyhee Canyonlands and the sheep live in peace.

Sincerely,

Mark S Cannell
Jamieson Day

1518 E. Longview Dr., Apt. 8
Appleton, WI 54911-2379

000839

BRONCO MOTORS, INC.

July 17, 1997

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force/B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Ms. Cook:

I am writing you this letter because I am concerned about the proposed Training Area in Owyhee County. I am in support of the Mountain Home Air Force Base and the Idaho National Guard and the military in general. This training range would benefit the community and the whole Idaho economy. The Air Force employs many Idaho residents as well as receives revenue due to the large Air Force population in Idaho. Therefore this range will benefit Idaho, it will keep revenue and employment up as well as show Idaho's support for the military.

Sincerely,

Grant Petersen Jr.
President & CEO

9230 FAIRVIEW AVE. • BOISE, IDAHO • 83704
PHONE: 208-376-8510 • FAX: 208-327-5705

000840

Stephen Horowitz

Box 6320(mail only)
603 Wood River Drive(UPS/Fedex)
Ketchum, Id 83340
208/726-8949
208/726-4308 FAX
email: steveh@sunvalley.net

USAF/BLM
P.O.Box 329
Boise, Id 83701-0329

GE-1 To whom it may concern:

I thought we settled this damn issue a few years back with the "saylor creek" bombing range proposal. Don't you guys ever give up!
As a general aviation pilot I am well familiar with the military operations areas throughout the west. I have also flown over and seen first hand the wasteland your bombing ranges turn into.
The US military doesn't need any more damn space to destroy. If they've got to close Mtn Home Air Base, I'll be sorry to see it go, but it will just be the price we have to pay.
The Owyhee desert and the canyons of the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers are way too precious to sacrifice for a bombing range. Get real, you'll never get this place. Idahoans won't let you.
Go f-k someone else, yourselves maybe.
Mad as hell! 7/17/97

S. Horowitz

000842

Maxine Dakins
645 E. 14th Street
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 I am writing to express my concern about the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee canyonlands. I see no need for placing a range of this type in an area containing some of the few remaining desert bighorn sheep. In fact, I see no need for expanding military facilities at the same time the defense infrastructure is being downsized due to budget constraints. Surely existing facilities are sufficient to meet the needs of the military and the Owyhee canyonlands can be left in peace.

I hope that the BLM and the USAF will register my objection along with the objection of other Idahoans and non-Idahoans to this proposal and will stop plans to create this bombing range.

Maxine Dakins

Maxine Dakins

000843

126 W. River Rd.
Schuylerville, Ny. 12871

17 July 1997

U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID. 83701-0329

GE-1 To whom it may concern:

As a recreationist, sportsman, and naturalist who visits the Owyhee Canyonlands several times a year, I was horrified to read about your planned bombing range in the area.
Such development would destroy the great value that the Owyhee have to the people of Idaho and the United States. With a bombing range in the Owyhees, the many tourists like myself attracted to the pristine wilderness would no longer pump money into the local economies. Sportsmen will lose a prized hunting ground. The attraction of the Canyonlands for enthusiasts like hikers and horsemen will dim. Ranchers will lose an important cattle-raising area. Unique and important species like the bighorn sheep will lose their best remaining habitat.
Most importantly, as the West becomes more developed, natural areas like the Owyhee Canyonlands become more important in giving citizens a refuge from stressful modern life - to fulfill the need to experience the wild that resides deep in the American people. This is true national defense - defense from harmful development - that benefits America.
Preserve the Owyhees as an economic and spiritual national resource.

Sincerely,
Tristan D. Roberts

000844

July 21, 1997

GE-1 To whom it may concern:

Idaho is too great to bomb! The nuclear lab near Idaho Falls is a big enough cancer in eastern Idaho. We do not want the western side degraded and humiliated by noise and unneeded hardware screaming, blowing and digging up the terrain unnecessarily. We have a beautiful state and need to keep it as is.
What is it that you don't understand about NO - the N or the O?

Richard Graf
Lujean Graf
Richard & Lujean Graf
850 W 337 S
Heyburn, Idaho 83336

000845

21. July, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Re: Bombing Range

GE-1 Dear Federal Officials,

As a life long resident of Idahoan and taxpayer I write to you in opposition of the bombing range. I'll keep it simple:

1) the proposal is unnecessary for defense;
2) the proposal is fiscal irresponsible;
3) the proposal is environmentally unsound;
4) the proposal is harmful to wildlife;
5) the proposal closes public lands from public use.

Why even consider such a harmful proposal other than to provide jobs to the defense industry? Let's use our resources for Republic good and not for the corporate welfare cheats.

Very Truely Yours,
Michael Jones

Michael Jones
915 W Braemere Rd
Boise, ID 83702

Lyly 18, 1996

000846

GE-1 U.S. Air Force, Relevant Commander

I am utterly opposed to establishing a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands area.

I can't imagine why the USAF needs more bombing ranges when, it appears, you have far more ranges than you need, most of not all, long established.

Maybe you can try Beghdad!

Yours,
Napoleon St. Cyr

Napoleon St. Cyr
P.O. Box 664
Stratford, Conn. 06497

National Park Trust

Donna Harris
P.O. Box 803
Glenns Ferry, ID

000847

BOISE, ID 837
PM
22 JUL
1997

GE-1 "No Bombing Range!"

Donna Harris

POSTAL CARD

ALWA
US
ZIP C

TO:
USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID.
83701

NORTH SHORE TRAVEL LODGE, PORT WASHINGTON

GCPC-46 · PHOTO BY MARY BLOOM

000848

July 22, 1997

United States Airforce &
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise ID 83701

Dear USAF &BLM:

I am a third generation Idahoan, and I do care about the Owyhee Canyonlands -- and, I would like to issue a heartfelt appeal in opposition to the Air Force Plan to turn the Owyhee Canyonlands into a supersonic battlefield!!!

The enhanced training range proposed by the US Not Needed and it is Not Legal. The draft Environmental Impact Statement is a joke, and does not begin to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

DP-42 For example, no attempt has been made to mitigate the damage to the
BI-19 bighorn sheep population and other wildlife. The airspace expansion over
RV-10 Little Jacks Creek will obviously severely impact wildlife in the area.
CU-16 What about the publics right to float, fish and enjoy the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers? What about the rights of the Shoshone/Paiute Tribes for access to their sacred sites? What entity takes responsibility for range

PR-13 fires, accidental bombings -- all the potential horrors associated with heavy military bombing usage? Will the responsible party be the USAF, the BLM, the Idaho Air National Guard, the Air Combat Command, or a foreign country's military, who is given permission to bomb the hell out of Idaho's beautiful Canyonlands. The potential for disaster almost sounds like the script for a military shoot-'m-up movie.

Please remember that this decision directly affects our children and their children's usage of this incredibly beautiful land. Do you want to be instrumental in destroying this land or saving it?

It is probably time to clearly define and justify what the military means when something is done for our "national security." I think American citizens are more concerned about the destruction of our public lands and environment than they are fearful of a foreign enemy.

000848

It is time to listen to the plea of the individual who loves the land, rather than those looking for financial growth in Mountain Home, or the maintenance of a military establishment that does not need to be bigger to be better.

Please, please, when you and your peers are involved in decision-making of this magnitude, ask yourself, is this truly necessary? And who or what entities he beneficiaries of your decision?

Sincerely,

Karin Shillington Davies
(Mrs. John H.)
Box 117, Ketchum, Idaho 83340
(formerly from Rupert, Idaho and
a member of the over-fifty crowd)

GE-1

000849

No Bombing Range!
We do not need it; it is not legal; the DEIS is deficient. You are ignoring the concerns of the people. The Owyhee Canyonlands is a special place to me & many, many others. Do not destroy it. The wildlife & serenity will not tolerate wargames. Sincerely,
Barbara Cochrane

July 18, 1997

000850

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen:

The proposed plan by the United States Air Force to expand their bombing/training range to include the Owyhee Canyonlands is entirely unacceptable. It is my understanding that this proposed expansion is illegal. It is also selfish to the extreme. No thought — or is it no caring — has been given to the damage, destruction and desecration it will cause to the wildlife, both four-legged and winged. No caring or concern is exhibited regarding the damage of noise level to human beings as well. No caring or respect has been given to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe and their sacred sites.

It is not right for a comparatively small group, which appears to thrive on war games, to press to affect — and in many cases, destroy the lives and habitat of others. This earth is home to all of us. We have no right to take what we want to the detriment of others.

I submit that the Air Force should be glad of what it has and learn to become concerned about others.

I stand extremely opposed to the above desired Expansion by the U.S.A.F. of an area in which to drop "live" bombs.

Sincerely,
Connie D. Holder

P.O. Box 491, Ketchum, ID 83340

000851

Brighton
Corporation

July 21, 1997

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force / B.L.M.
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

RE: Air Force Training Area

GE-1 Dear Ms Cook:

I am writing to express my strong support of the expanded training range for the Air Force. I have researched this issue and believe that the Air Force has done its homework very well. This training range expansion is critical to the training of our armed forces and offers the most strategic and least obtrusive proposal available. As a citizen and member of the business community, I strongly urge that this proposal be adopted and implemented as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

David W. Turnbull
President

DWT/hs

16 W. Explorer Drive, Suite 220 • Boise, Idaho 83713 • TEL 208-378-4000 • FAX 208-377-8962

000852

July 17, 1997

GE-1 *To whom it may concern;*

I would like to start off this letter by saying that I do not know all the details of the proposed Air Force plan in the Owyhee Canyonlands of Idaho, but from what information I do have, it sounds like a terrible idea. From reading the Wilderness Society's newsletter, I saw that the U.S. Air Force is proposing to establish a bombing range in the habitat of the California desert bighorn sheep in the Canyonlands. The plan is to "use helicopters to chase down pregnant ewes and put radio collars on them" in order to track their heart rates and measure the effects that military intrusion would have on these sheep. I do not think you need to exert any time and tax-payer's money to figure out that chasing down a wild animal with a large, loud, whirling, flying craft would cause a great increase in the animals heart-rate; I have reason to believe it would cause a great increase in the heart rate of a human as well, even one who was aware of what was happening to them. Likewise, I believe that bombing would cause just as much, if not more, distress to a wild animal. Wouldn't you be a bit nervous if large, exploding missiles were dropping out of the sky in your back yard? And why target pregnant ewes? Stress can cause difficulties to both a pregnant animal and the fetus; why would you purposely impose a dangerous variable on a species that is trying to make a come-back in our country? With the cut-backs in military budgets leading to closings of military bases nationwide, aren't there other places to put a bombing range besides the Canyonlands?

As I stated earlier, I do not know all the details of this proposed plan, and please excuse me if I am inaccurate with my information. I am concerned about the future of this country; I would like for my future generations to enjoy it's beauty as I have. I am not opposed to military training; I would also like my descendants to enjoy the security that I have grown up with. What I hope for is a balance between the two; I would like to think that those individuals responsible for our national defense and safety would also be responsible to the environment and wildlife in it.

Thank you for your time -

Heather M. Szczech
106 C Crescent Court Dr.
Decatur, GA 30030

000853

Printed by: liz
Title: Forms.acgi Reply

Monday, July 21, 1997 2:19:25 PM
Page 1 of 2

Wednesday, July 9, 1997 10:27:11 PM
Message
From: mjhill@wsu.edu,Internet
Subject: Forms.acgi Reply
To: Liz Paul

-= Form Data =-
Name: Matt Hill
Address: 545 Kamiaken St. #4
City: Pullman
State: WA
Zip: 99163
Comments:

GE-2 Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please accept these comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

I oppose the Air Force plans to create a supersonic battlefield and new bombing range in the Owyhee and Bruneau Canyonlands. All of the proposed alternatives will be too loud and startling to people and animals on the ground. The roar of a jet or shock of a sonic boom is entirely unexpected in a place as wild and remote as the Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers. The character of the area will be destroyed.

NO-3 The DEIS grossly underestimates the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals.

PN-1 The Air Force has never demonstrated a need for the new battlefield. It is wrong to sacrifice one of North America's most beautiful and enjoyable places in order to simply enhance training capabilities.

The Bruneau, Jarbidge and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection, not military invasion.

Sincerely,

000856

July 19, 1997

Theresa Balcerak
HC 33 Box 3277
Boise, ID 83706

USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-1 Re: Owyhee Canyonlands Comments

To Whom It May Concern,

The Owyhee Canyonlands is not a wasteland to be made into a bombing range. If this land was east of the Mississippi, it would be a National Park. It is of unparalleled beauty and is home to some of the West's rarest fish and wildlife species. As a desert lover, my family and I have camped and enjoyed the solitude of this area for years.

I have lost count regarding the number of attempts the Air Force has made to increase bombing range size. I say NO to enlarging the Air Force bombing range into this area. Don't turn this gorgeous area into a wasteland.

Sincerely,

Theresa Balcerak

Theresa Balcerak

000857

July 21, 1997

GE-1 Dear Sirs;

The Air Force is maintained to protect the people, land, and resources, or the health of the country, not the reverse. A bombing range in the Owyhee would illustrate the reverse, and run absolutely counter to purposes. I urge you to abandon proposed plans for this range.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Jean Mace

July 19, 1997

GE-1 Dear U.S.A.F/B.L.M. : 000858

Please abandon plans to use the Cowyhee Canyonlands as a bombing range. This area affords a home to one of the country's largest populations of California bighorn sheep - not to mention many other animals who live in the area.

Please - spare wildlife habitat. It's their country, too! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Glenda Kallman

GE-1

Amanda Tucker
P.O. Box [illegible]
Sun Valley, Id 83353

Please

No Bombing Range

! ! !

o o o

000860

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho
83701

Covering the crystal clear waters of Redfish Lake is truly one of summer's pleasures. Redfish gives a perfect reflection surface for the beautiful Sawtooth Mountains.
SM111 Photo: David R. Stoecklein

Publisher: David R. Stoecklein, Photography
Box 866, Ketchum, Idaho 83340
More of David Stoecklein's photography is available in an "Around Wassing" coffee table book entitled, Sun Valley Symphony.

000862

July 21,1997

GE-2 Dear U.S. Air Force,

We write to you today -in favor of the rivers -and ask you not to exercise the notion of a Supersonic Battlefield in Idaho. With the Military already having other Western proving grounds at its disposal, the question, of why spending our taxpaying dollars on this, comes to mind. Please be clear on your answer and consider all of the valuable programs being considered in the budget these days. PN-9

Our government must remember the privileges, places like the Jarbidge, Bruneau, Owyhee, Yellowstone, Zion, Glacier and other scenic areas, provide to us. They are valuable to human, animal and fauna with their numerous resources of natural beauty, remote location and special diversity.

Having the joy of spending eight days on the Owyhee a few years ago, we were astonished. Not because of the incredible scenery of the high mountain desert, nor the canyon walls, but because of the noise. The very loud, frightening, deafening noise from military exercises taking place overhead. One could not help but to stop and be watchful of where the jet would appear. It was disrupting to our senses in all ways considering the remote natural environment we had chosen to go to. Why negatively impact the animals and all who live or visit here we asked and do ask you now. We do not support this plan.

Please disregard this area for your "routine" military exercises involving heavy bombers and thousands of fighter jets flying over it. Instead, please recognize these canyonlands as extraordinary and help protect them.

Thank-you, Beth

Beth & Bill O'Lennon
p.o. 8101
Alta Utah 84092

000863

7/21/97

GE-1 Please take no action to harm the Bighorn sheep on the Owyhee Canyonlands.

The study to chase pregnant ewes to radio collar them will cause harm to the sheep.

I travel to wildness type areas when ever I can. One of the main Reason is for solitude Peace and quite!

a ~~bombing~~ bombing Range is not part of what I want when I travel.

Please do not expand your Range.

Pat McLeod
713-640-8603



000864

Morlan W. Nelson
73 East Way
Boise, Id. 83702-4416
Jul. 22, 1997

USAF/BLM
Box 329
Boise, Id. 83701-0329

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

The proposal made again to expand the Mt. Home Air Base lacks all common sense in the unique area of rivers, cliffs, and wildlife. The Nation has already over-spent tax funds fantastically on Military and yet are closing bases in Nevada and Utah that could handle this expansion.

The MILITARY expenditures in every Nation worried about Russia, etc. in the past have resulted in major deficits including America. Such spending on this expansion needs to be stopped now for the future of this Nation.

Forty nine years of my life has been spent working as a scientist in that area and it is unique in the world with terrain, eagles, falcons, and all wildlife. It should be a National Park with no interference from the air or on the ground.

This Nation would not approve of that expansion if they saw the terrain on TV as I have proposed to be done. Leading personnel from PBS and ABC were here with me the first time the expansion was proposed. We met with Cecil Andrus, then Governor, and the Air Force locally.

It should he done again because it is a NATIONAL LOSS IF THAT AREA IS NOT SAVED FOR THE FUTURE OF AMERICA.

This letter is not from a person who does not know Military. My brother was a fighter pilot killed in World War II. My part was a Capt. in the 10th. Mt. Division. We fought the Japanese on Kiska and the Germans in the Mountins of Italy up to Yugosolvia. Seriouly wounded in action and carry the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and many battle stars.

cc: File

Sincerely,

Morlan W. Nelson

000863

July 22, 1997

USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise ID 83701

GE-2 I am writing to comment on the Enhanced Training Range proposed for lower Owyhee Canyon lands. I oppose any expansion of the existing range, and all alternatives referred to in the DEIS. The plan is not good for Idaho's wildlife, canyonlands, residents, and visitors.

I live in Boise, Idaho, and have visited the Bruneau and Owyhee canyons on several occasions—once a river, kayaker, and as a bicyclist. The canyons are spectacular, the whitewater unsurpassed, and the solitude, wildlife watching, and wilderness experience unmatched anywhere else. On my last trip through the Jarbidge canyon, just last May (1997), we were lucky enough to spot a mountain lion, watch it swim across the river, and run upstream. Later in the trip, we spotted a small herd of bighorn sheep, including one ram with horns. On my first trip, taken in June, 1988, I watched an eagle fly over my kayak, close enough to see the mouse it held in its talons. I've paddled the Owyhee River, and hiked its canyons as well, and found the same spectacular experience and scenery.

An expansion of the training range would definitely impact this area negatively. The damage to the high plateau from the chaff and wildfires from flares will result in loss of critical habitat for pronghorn antelope and sage grouse, and will also have a detrimental effect on the peregrine falcon, cougar, and bobcat that reside in the Canyonlands.

BI-39 Overflights will change the "natural, undisturbed environment" that the bighorn sheep need to flourish, and would most likely cause the sheep to abandon their preferred habitat and move to quieter, but less desirable areas. Two leading experts on bighorn sheep state that the noise from the training would inflict chronic stress on the sheep and be detrimental to their growth, health and reproduction.

I am concerned about the aluminum chaff and its affect on wildlife, fish, and ground cover. Volume of aluminum fibers could very well disrupt natural growth, and allow noxious weeds or nonindigenous plants to take over and negatively change the habitat.

Another concern is the USAF's statement that it cannot be held responsible for the actions of other branches of the service, or of foreign users of the proposed range. This is unacceptable, as the actions of all users will indeed have an impact on the environment of the canyonlands. The others will be present only because the USAF has allowed and encouraged them to, and convinced Idaho that the training range will not

000865

cause any serious damage. The USAF, if making promises of noise levels, minimal impact, lack of environmental damage, must stand behind those promises and enforce the regulations. If that cannot be done, then the promises are only empty.

In short, I am not convinced that the expansion (enhancement) of the training range is a good idea. It is, by the USAF admission, not needed. It would be, according to many experts, detrimental to the welfare of the wildlife, fish, habitat, scenery, solitude, and wilderness experience in the area. It is a bad idea, and I wholeheartedly stand against any expansion whatsoever.

Sincerely,

Linda Hamman
7397 N. Peppermill
Boise, ID 83703

Mary J. Tull
1010 3rd Street North
St. James, Minnesota 56081

000866

July 20, 1997

GE-1 To the Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Re: comment for permit to capture sheep

I am very concerned that we would grant permit to be issued on sheep regarding the air force bombing range.

If the aim was really research in order genetical in necessary to be replaced to do what you wish to in mystery. Obviously the sheep wouldn't like bombing! Since the population is supposedly down, perhaps the sheep in fact shelter.

Thank you

Sincerely,
Mary J. Tull

000867

July 21, 1997

USAF/BLM
Post Office Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

It is difficult to comprehend the motives of the Air Force Command structure. Twice previously citizens of Idaho overwhelmingly opposed sacrificing unique public lands for a redundant supersonic playground. What part of NO don't they understand?

Prostitution is legal in parts of Nevada; a state where money is God. I suggest the Air Force isolate their training activities where exploitation of the land resource is not only advocated but encouraged by government entities.

Leave Idaho alone. In fact, leave Idaho please. Our population has been subjected to the threat of radio active waste by the Department of Defense's nuclear navy shipping spent fuel rods to the INEL. The Department of Energy and Lockheed-Martin continue to manipulate our congressional delegation and Governor. Money is influence. Idaho's elected officials are a perfect example of how this sickness in our political system has promoted and perpetuated ignoble leadership.

The military and supporting industrial complex need to re-evaluate their mission. The by-products of our protection, for example the incineration of chemical weapons in Utah, are far more likely to kill citizens than any global political threat.

The military has proven itself inept in the management of personnel. Obvious violations in training operations have been numerous in our area. Low-flying aircraft have frightened older residents and animals both wild and domestic. Calls for accountability find the Air Force blaming the Air National Guard and vice versa. Idaho has no room for immature and irresponsible young adults in $100 million toys acting out some celluloid Tom Cruise role.

Taxpayers can no longer afford the bloated budgets the military has continued to enjoy while other programs face drastic reductions or elimination. The Air Force has spent an obscene amount of tax money campaigning for this unnecessary training range. Campaigns '89, '95, '97 . . . When will it end? When victory is attained through attrition?

Exposure of scandals in the military culture exhibit an endemic lack of respect for subordinates. This tendency was on display during the Spring of '95. Public hearings found the Air Force disrespecting the First Amendment rights of civilian grass-roots organizations opposed to this

000867

attempted land-grab. The arrogance (obviously not a function of intellect) and bullying employed at these hearings did nothing to improve the image of an already tarnished military.

Find enclosed a copy of the more emotional testimony I provided in Twin Falls last time around. Call off the dogs! We didn't want this training range then and we don't want it now!

Sincerely,

William Hughes

William F. Hughes
P.O. Box 2651
Hailey, ID 83333

000867

TESTIMONY PROVIDED AT A PUBLIC HEARING IN TWIN FALLS, IDAHO, SPRING 1995

Democracy, defined as Government by the people. To the World we glorify its principles with a righteousness usually born of religion. Yet at home, over time, these principles have become convoluted. Our representative Government invariably chooses to represent economic interests of a few over the best interests and will of the majority.

Past opposition to this bombing range expansion was overwhelming. Consequently, public meetings evolved into 'scoping hearings' to subjugate the public's freedom to exercise First Amendment Rights. Our democratic system has failed when simple manipulation of the hearing process can circumvent public opinion. Such deceit, perfected in Idaho by the DOE and now practiced upon us by the Air Force, is essential for bureaucracies competing for funding of failed and useless programs to insure that similar future failures will be budgeted annually with no accountability to the taxpayer.

The Air Force has squandered hundreds of billions on failed weapons programs -- SDI, V-22 Osprey, C-17 Cargo Transport, to name a few -- and illegally released payments to contractors with kickbacks to former pentagon officials now functioning as 'consultants'. This fiscal irresponsibility so prevalent at the Federal level is intolerable. Almost every elected official and appointee knowingly disregard tax laws with impunity, while the rest of us pay and pay and pay.

Mountain Home Air Force Base provides blood-money to the local civilian population, just as the INEL does for the Idaho Falls area. The residents of Mountain Home shudder at the thought of no longer feeding at the seemingly bottomless federal trough -- what deficit? I find totally unacceptable the idea that 250 million American citizens may actually pay to have the integrity of a beautiful wilderness, composed of many unique habitat-types, destroyed.

The years following Pearl Harbor and World War II were glory years for the military and supporting industrial complex. This relationship flourished as Cold War paranoia was nurtured by two governments that understood well the tactics of fear. At great cost, the American taxpayer brought the Soviet military machine and economy to its knees, ironic considering current funding for support of Russian economic recovery. A bloated military must redefine its mission. National security arguments are simply not viable anymore. Our government cannot even define what constitutes 'National Security interests' abroad, and this bombing range won't affect such decisions anyway.

We are only one administration removed from a blatantly self-serving President who believed that we could sustain an economy on automobile and weapons manufacture, and requisite oil production. A prehistoric, fossil-fuel fantasy resulting in a multi-trillion dollar debt. Once again the issue is PORK, who eats and what is sacrificed. There is no vision in government beyond the next election.

000867

We proceed with our eyes to the ground upon a path with which we are all too familiar. We do so because it is comfortable, at one time obviously the best way to proceed. Eventually the path grows worn -- down, down, down -- until it is a tunnel and we find ourselves stumbling in the darkness. But still we continue because it is the course long ago proven, any departure from which considered heresy. Finally the tunnel becomes our tomb when by simply lifting our head and changing direction we might have moved forward in the light.

Idaho has enjoyed recent economic good health, as the exodus from beleaguered California continues. Unfortunately, our society measures 'growth' with dollars. These short-term benefits will vanish as the frightening reality of associated impacts remains for generations to come.

In the past, leaders withdrew vast acreages of western lands from potential private ownership and placed them in the Public Trust. Perhaps their real intent was to generate revenue by selling rights to extract the various resources, with little concern or knowledge of the impact of these activities upon the land. We are the beneficiaries of their actions, regardless of their motives. The results have been curious. Pacific forests have been decimated, salmon populations eliminated, entire mountains ground into dust. Elsewhere the woods stayed quiet, fish prospered, and mountains stood tall. Access to these areas was more difficult, the resources less valuable, the people fewer. Our nation's natural heritage is priceless, something that Europe and Japan could not buy back for all the money in the world.

Wildlands like the Owyhee Watershed are of profound significance. They represent our evolution from scared bipeds scrambling to exert some control over their destiny to a global society obsessed with power and control, the resulting wars and poverty a testament to mankind's success.

This attempted huge land-grab by the Air Force in Southwest Idaho exemplifies this obsession with power and control. Further example, recent efforts at saturating the venues of these hearings with Air Force propaganda, in an attempt to exclude organized opposition from effectively presenting and distributing their materials. Continued unfavorable testimony, suppressed in Boise. Once again, more childish attempts to control participation in this hearing process -- even resorting to the use of storm troopers to silence dissent in Grand View.

Employing fascist tactics, in an agenda pursuing territorial control, does not translate to public service here in Idaho. I would remind Air Force personnel they are public servants. This recent behavior is unprofessional and betrays the principles of democracy. Such duplicity is certainly not going to win the trust of the people of this State and Nation.

Environmental Impact Statements are documents intended to bore individuals into submitting to whatever impacts the government is supposedly identifying. The following is a poem written in 1982, when I worked in a high desert ecosystem here in Southern Idaho -- I seriously doubt the ability of these lands to inspire such moods and feelings was identified in the EIS.

000868

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701 - 0329

Stephen VanZandt
176 Maurice st. N. #309
Twin Falls, ID 83301

July 22, 1997

GE-1 Dear sir or madam,

I would like to express my OPPOSITION to the latest Air Force Bombing Range proposal.

In my opinion this is nothing more than empire building and the Air Force has not established a clear need for this expansion.

The public lands are a precious resource and should be preserved as a long-term goal. The Owyhee canyon lands is one of the largest roadless areas in the United States and should not be spoiled by additional radar sites and military activity. The Mountain Home training range air space is already huge.

My Dad always told me that the only land the farmer ever wants is that which is just over the fence. The Air Force is jealously looking over the fence and yearning for more land.

Please don't give it to them. They already have plenty.

Sincerely,

Steve VanZandt

000369

337 Main Street East
Girard, PA 16417
July 21, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen:

I am writing to ask that you reconsider your plans for a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. The fact that the area is the home of one of the largest populations of California desert bighorn sheep is reason enough to leave it alone. That it is the sole source of transplant stock for re-establishing the bighorn in nine western states makes it imperative that this habitat be preserved. The rationale should be obvious. In addition, in many trips to the West, my husband and I have attempted to spot a bighorn in the wild, unsuccessfully to date; we would like the opportunity to keep trying!

I have to add that your plan to chase pregnant ewes with helicopters in order to put radio collars on them is unconscionable. Given the reduced numbers in the herd, such an operation could prove devastating, and even under more favorable conditions, is far too dangerous to implement. Research is a good thing if conducted responsibly; I am both disappointed and angered by your lack of responsibility.

If you must test bombs at all, I hope you will seek a location which will do the least harm to the environment which has been entrusted to us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Judy Kubeja

Judy Kubeja

000370

Glenn Doster
7546 N. Peppermill Way
Boise, ID 83703-2158
July 23, 1997

USAF / BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my opposition to the proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho for the Composite Wing stationed at Mountain Home AFB.

My main concerns are the adverse effects that increased low-level flights will have on the wildlife of the plateaus and canyons contained within the proposed Military Operations Areas. I am a wildlife biologist by profession, and I believe that wildlife issues have not been adequately addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Of particular concern are the

BI-2 populations of California bighorn sheep and sage grouse, whose reproductive activities would surely be disrupted by increased sonic disturbances.

That the establishment of any of the three proposed 12,000-acre drop zones would mean that the Jack's Creek area would be opened to flyovers is particularly disturbing to me. Also, the

RV-5 mobile electronic emitters and the associated impacts they would have on the area's wildlife and scenic values are inadequately dealt with in the DEIS. Of concern, too, are the increased use

SF-5 of dummy bombs, flares, and chaff.

I have spent time exploring the canyon bottoms and plateaus of the Jarbidge and Bruneau areas, and feel that they are among the most uniquely beautiful areas I have seen. I support wilderness designation for these areas, and increased levels of flyovers and noise is inconsistent with the preservation of the uniqueness of this area.

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Finally, I believe that whatever enhanced training experiences the Air Force desires that the existing Saylor Creek Range cannot provide should be obtained at other existing sites, namely the Utah Training Range and Nellis.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinions concerning Enhanced Training in Idaho. I feel that the deadline for comments on the draft EIS should be extended, to allow more people like myself to express their opposition to this proposal.

Respectfully yours,

Glenn C. Doster

000372

USAF / BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho
83701-0329

GE-1 The proposed expansion of the Bombing Range is both absolutely unnecessary and appalling.

The studies you have deigned to supply are incomplete and lacking in meaningful information.

The fact that the BLM appears to be,at least partially, endorsing the Air Force request leaves one with a great sense of betrayal. The Bureau was formed to protect and cherish our national resources, but once again they have succumbed to political blackmail.

In a world which is striving to achieve peaceful solutions to problems, the need to expand a bombing range (!!) is simply an attempt by a lot of old men to delay their obsolescence - and to prolong their adolescence !

Please DO NOT DO THIS.

Paula Caputo
Box 643
Sun Valley, Idaho 83353

Paula Caputo

000872

LAW OFFICES OF
ROGER E. CRIST
SUITE PROOF SQUARE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
208 SPRUCE AVENUE NORTH
P. O. BOX 1326
KETCHUM, IDAHO 83340
TELEPHONE 208-726-8242
FACSIMILE 208-726-8328
E-MAIL: rcrist@micron.net

July 24, 1997

USAF/BLM
P. O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Re: Bombing Range

GE-1 Gentlemen:

Please register my opposition to the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands on the basis that a bombing range would disrupt the recreational use of this area and also adversely impact wildlife populations in the area.

Very truly yours,

Roger E. Crist

REC/cc

000873

GE-1 I am strongly opposed to the Air Force plan for an enlarged bombing range in the Owyhee canyonlands. This would adversely effect Idaho's wild desert rivers and wildlife — neither of which can be replaced. Thank you

Eleanor Eland
Box 899
Sun Valley, ID 83353

July 24, 1997

000874

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise ID

GE-2 Sirs: I am writing to vehemently protest the latest attempt to turn Owyhee Canyonlands into a bombing range.

PN-1 By your own admission, it is not even a necessary plan and I find it hard to believe, that being the case, you would be pursuing this area for such use.

It is unconscionable to take a beautiful, sacred and pristine area like the Owyhee Canyon and desecrate it with the kind of damage that would be inflicted with a use such as this. Please give up this insane idea!

Sincerely,
JoAnn Boswell

P.O. Box 221
Sun Valley ID
83353

June, 1997

000877

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Name Jack Caballo
Address Box 101
City Severance State CO Zip 80546

Comments:
Can't this all be done in Telex?

000882

July 24, 1997

Arthur F. Gidel
2903 Highland Drive
Missoula, MT 59802
406-543-6352 (home phone and fax)

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Dear Sirs:

I am writing regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI). I have floated the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers (4 times), the East Fork of the Owyhee, the South Fork of the Owyhee and the main Owyhee to Rome (2 times). The quality of the river experience for all these segments is world class. The scenery, solitude, wildlife and white water make these rivers as special to me as the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. The Jarbidge and Bruneau river trip is my favorite wilderness trip, and I have a very good basis for comparison.

DP-29 PN-14 I am disappointed that the DEIS apparently does not include a "no change/no additional bombing range" alternative. Based on a 1995 report issued by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, current bombing ranges could provide adequate practice areas for composite wing additional aircraft operations from Mountain Home Air Force Base. In short, I am not convinced that additional bombing ranges are necessary and critical to our national security interest. Furthermore, even current activities adversely impact the canyons' wildlife and recreational users. I cannot describe the feeling I experienced the first time I was floating on the Owyhee when a fighter jet flew low over the canyon rim. As an analogy, try to imagine a stick of dynamite exploding in your front yard while you are asleep. In addition, all the alternatives apparently permit the same activities; the only difference is the location of the ETI range. The alternatives should include various reductions and restrictions in permitted activities so that the best compromise can be reached.

DP-7 The DEIS does not adequately address the cumulative impacts of the composite wing and B1 bomber additions to Mountain Home Air Force Base. Although the ETI may be the most significant change for the Canyons' wildlife and users, the additional overflights and activities will necessarily have an adverse effect, regardless of the ETI's approval. The total cumulative impacts should be included in the DEIS's analysis

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NO-22 NO-2 Noise is the most sever impact on wildlife and recreational users. Therefore, the DEIS should place special emphasis on this aspect of its analysis and conclusions. The DEIS evidently bases its analysis and conclusions regarding noise on twenty year old studies of people living in foreign urban environments. How can this information be relevant to rural residents and wilderness river users in Southern Idaho in 1997? Use of such information for the current decision process is ridiculous. Information on the impacts of noise must come from comparable, current situations for the DEIS to have value as a decision tool. Such shoddy reasoning has no place in any environmental impact document.

Supersonic speeds and the related sonic booms are unacceptable over this region, generally. Any final alternative should prohibit supersonic speeds.

I request that you keep me informed as to the status of the DEIS process. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS and for your efforts towards issuance of a final environmental impact document.

Very truly yours,

Arthur F. Gidel

Arthur F. Gidel

000883 LYNNE DACHMAN
11134 W. HICKORY LOOP
BOISE, IDAHO 83713
7/27/97

My comments regarding the enhanced training in Idaho Draft EIS.

I support Alternative A – the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE – for the following reasons:

(1) PN-1 The Air Force has not demonstrated a need for the new range. It is an enhancement & not a necessity. Training needs for the Airforce can & should be met w/existing ranges. The Owyhee Canyon lands are better suited for recreation & scenic beauty than for dropping bombs, chaff & flares.

(2) DP-7 All impacts related to the Air Force activity must be considered together. It is deceptive & illegal to separate the ETI, the composite wing and the addition of B-1 bombers. The Air Force must disclose and analyze the ~~on~~ cumulative impact of all new activities TOGETHER!

(3) The DEIS, as written, is flawed and does not fairly assess the impacts of ETI. 000883

NO-2 - The noise analysis is based on comparisons not applicable to the ETI area. This is unacceptable.

HZ-2 - The DEIS fails to address the environmental impacts/affects of titanium & tetrachloride, one substance found in the bombs that will be dropped in the area. This is a unacceptable.

PR-23 - No coverage of and responsibility assumed for the Navy, the Air National Guard, and other national or foreign military use. This is unacceptable.

DP-5 - No coverage of A-10 ~~crashes~~ Thunderbolt use of range. This is unacceptable.

BI-19 - impacts of military activity over Jack's Creek & ~~Sheep~~ on sheep population are not analyzed. This is unacceptable.

- one million acres of "on ground disturbance" is unacceptable.

NO-14 - noise pollution from diesel generators will disrupt the solitude of the areas. This is unacceptable.

PR-18 - The DEIS is missing key pieces of reference information this is unacceptable.

000884

Chuck Guilford • 2211 North 14th St. • Boise, ID 83702

July 29, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear USAF/BLM:

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands bombing range (Enhanced Training in Idaho). Just a few years ago a similar proposal was shot down for several good reasons.

Most of those reasons still apply to this present proposal: 1) It isn't needed militarily. Current ranges in Idaho, Utah, and Nevada are adequately serving our needs. 2.) It isn't needed to keep Mountain Home healthy. Time and again, Mountain Home AFB has survived tough budget cuts and been found essential. It's clearly an important base, which will continue to help the surrounding community thrive. 3.) It will harm the environment. This is a sensitive environmental area. Silence and solitude are part of the high desert ecology. The drop zones, and low level and supersonic flights, will create serious environmental degradation here.

Let's put an end to it. The expansion will harm the environment. It isn't necessary. Most Southern Idahoans don't want it. It was a bad idea before—and it still is.

Yours truly,

Chuck Guilford

Chuck Guilford

000885

OUR NATURAL HERITAGE IS NOT FOR SALE!

The Chaco Canyon National Historic Park in New Mexico encompasses America's finest examples of Anasazi architecture. Under proposed legislation (H.R. 104) the federal government would be empowered to sell off Chaco Canyon and all other National Historic Parks.

GE-1 NO BOMBING RANGE!!!

J Moody
Boise ID

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
40 W. 20th Street, New York, NY 10011
Phone Chris J. Calvo & Ken Cronkhite

USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise Idaho
83701

000886

Anne Herndon
6110 Bay Street
Boise, Idaho 83704

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 U.S. Air Force:

I am AGAINST any plans to expand the Saylor Creek Bombing Range. The present range provides more than enough area for live ordinance bombing practice, and the Air Force already has a sufficiently high frequency of flights over the Idaho desert and canyonlands. In addition, pilots can fly to existing ranges in Nevada should they desire more practice.

The native vegetation of our desert and canyonlands is very susceptible to fire. Should a larger bombing range be approved, there is no guarantee that sparks from combustible materials will not cause fires to start. Range fires can spread very quickly and destroy thousands of acres before they can be controlled. It only takes one mistake to cause tremendous fire damage, allowing cheat grass to become the dominant species where our precious native plants now thrive.

The Idaho desert and canyonlands provide a unique habitat for native flora and fauna; these lands should not be sacrificed for an unnecessary bombing range.

Sincerely,

Anne Herndon

I support the NO ACTION alternative. I am a native of Idaho, and I truly enjoy visiting the desert regions of Idaho. The plants & wildlife are unique to this area, & they should be allowed to thrive in an undisturbed, natural ecosystem.

Anne Herndon

000887

MARJORY R. MCFALL
2511 Maywood
Boise, Idaho 83704
208 342-4728 home
208 396-4038 work

July 25, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom It Concerns:

Subject:	Enhanced Airforce Training Needs of Composite Wing
Why:	Most combat capable unit in the world *thinks* it would be nice
Cost:	More than three million acres of Idaho, Oregon and Nevada

Our incredible shrinking wilderness areas need to be protected. It is *our* responsibility to take a stand for what we believe in and for what we believe "enhances" the quality of *our* life. Airforce training is nice, wilderness areas are a necessity. Our wildlife populations of bighorn sheep, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, cougar, and sage grouse owe their existence to the lands in question. In addition, these Owyee Canyonlands contain wild rivers, archeological treasures, unique vegetation, natural solitude and serenity. Once our primitive and wilderness lands are gone; they are lost forever. It is imperative that we do all we can to protect our environment. Do not allow our wilderness area to become a supersonic bombing range. It is up to us and we need your help.

When you are evaluating the benefit of an enhanced Air force training area with that of our natural environment please consider the following 10 reasons to oppose the proposed Air force plan.

1. The training is not necessary to keep Mountain Home Air Force Base active.

2. Training will be year round and impact more than 3,000,000 million acres of wilderness area in Idaho, Oregon and Nevada.

NO-10 3. Noise levels of sonic booms, super-sonic operations and subsonic operations on humans, animals and structures were not cumulatively analyzed and therefore the impact not accurately identified.

4. Degradation of water, land and air by toxic chemicals (specifically Titanium Tetrachloride) will occur.

5. Other branches of the military and foreign flyers will be allowed to use the training site and not be bound by Airforce regulations.

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6. Use of this wilderness area will have a very negative impact on ranching, mining and recreation industries.

7. No environmental assessment was conducted on the Jack's Creek area with regard to the Big Horn Sheep habitat.

8. Changes in the natural landscape will occur with the construction of emitter sites, generators, roads, etc.

9. Natural resources will be irreversibly altered and a lack of commitment to them will be irretrievable.

10. The people of Idaho, Oregon and Nevada do not want their state turned into a supersonic battlefield.

Do what is reasonable. Once primitive recreational land is gone it cannot be resurrected. Please, help us live naturally. Thank you for your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,

Marjory R. McFall

Marjory R. McFall

cc: Idaho Statesman
P.O. Box 40
Boise, ID 83707
Attention: John Costa, Exec. Editor

The Boise Weekly
P.O. Box 1657
Boise, ID 83701
Attention: David Madison, Editor

The Times-News
P.O. Box 548
Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548
Attn: Clark Walworth, Managing Editor

The Argus Observer
P.O. Box 130
Ontario, OR 97914
Attn: Larry Hurtle, Managing Editor

Eagle Express
332 West State
Eagle, ID 83616
Attention: Pat Casey, Editor

The Wilderness Society
413 West Idaho Street #102
Boise, ID 83702
Attention: Liz Paul

P.O. Box 85000898
Berlin, PA 15530
July 16, 1997

U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir:

I have been reading of the proposed use of the Owyhee Canyonlands by the U.S. Air Force as a bombing range.

I am aware of the need for such a range but would hope that one already used would suffice. Please leave the Owyhee alone.

From a lover of my Country and the West,
Elizabeth H. Hickman

GE-1 Friends 000869

Please do not use the Owyhee Canyonlands as a bombing range! These lands provide a home for one of the largest populations of California desert bighorn sheep in America.

Please do not use helicopters to chase down and "study" pregnant ewes and/or radio collar them.

Sincerely, Donald W Fontenot

GE-1 To whom it may concern: 000890

I am writing regarding the USAF initiative to turn the Owyhee Canyons into a bombing range. I have just returned from a 30 day trip in the Owyhee Canyons. It is an incredibly beautiful place when you get down into it. I think it would be a travesty to destroy one of the last true "wilderness" areas of the country. I hope that you will reconsider this unwanted and irresponsible initiative.

Sincerely,
S. Anderson
4817 Overton Hollow
Fort Worth, TX
76109

JACQUES BORDELEAU
GLASS
FINE STAINED & ETCHED GLASS ART
(208) 726-9241
P.O. BOX 3810 · KETCHUM · IDAHO · 83340

000891

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho

July 25, 1997

GE-1 Dear Sirs,

I wish to submit these comments on the proposed and unnessary expansion (enhancement as Air Force P.R. personnel would say) of the Saylor Creek practice bombing range.

I completely and vehemently object to ANY expansion that overflies the Jarbridge and Bruneau river canyonlands. These incredible natural areas are far too special to impact in the manner the Air Force has in mind. This past summer I had the great fortune to float the Bruneau for three great days, marveling at the spectacular scenery and wildlife and serenity while on the river. On the road into the area, however, our group witnessed numerous flight training missions in progress, and I can tell you that what was at first an interesting "aha" certainly changed with the CLOSE approach and very LOW overhead pass of a B-1 bomber at a slow cruise. The noise was very suprisingly LOUD! I have heard quite a few jets before, but this was quite unnerving, especially in this otherwise quite WILD prairie landscape.

And this is nothing compared to the almost continuous overflights the Air Force has planned for the area. This will certainly shatter the special peace and serenity of EVERYONES outdoor experience. We, the citizens of Idaho and the U.S., don't go to the great natural areas of our state to be HARRASSED by the military playing war games. If the need for more space is indeed so great (many also say IT IS NOT)then you must look elsewhere, in less sensitive and unique areas. THIS AREA IS TOO GOOD TO BOMB!

NO SIR!This is definately NOT a compatable use of a recreational and wildlife area of such special splendor as the Owhyee Canyonlands, ESPECIALLY considering the UNNESSESSARY and ILLEGAL nature of the proposal!!!!

The E.I.S. is thoroughly deficient and does NOT COMPLY WITH the National Environmental Policy Act for all the commonly cited reasons, so I won't repeat them at this time.

And while your condescending attitude toward those who ARE

000891

concerned about the wildlife is duly noted, WHAT ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON THE CITIZENS WHO HUNT, FISH, EXPLORE, RAFT, KAYAK, PHOTOGRAPH, HOLD RELIGEOUS CEREMONIES, AND JUST PLAIN ENJOY THIS AREA ON DAILY BASIS ???????????

!In conclusion,NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO !!!!!!!!!

Very sincerely yours,

Jacques Bordeleau

000892

No Bombing Range

Sincerely,

Laura Scales

Laura Ann Scales
PO Box 2015
Ketchum, ID 83340

POMEROY

000893

POMEROY BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION

U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

To Whom It May Concern:

I can't believe I am writing another letter asking, begging the government not to build this maddening bombing range. You should be ashamed of your actions in trying to run this thing down the public's throat. Keep Idaho rural and not dependent on the military. It's plain and simple.

The U. S. Air Force's proposal to establish a supersonic battlefield in the Idaho Owyhee canyonlands is unacceptable. This is an area enjoyed by floaters, hikers, campers, and others. I am very much opposed to this bombing range for the following reasons:

1. All of the proposed alternatives will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution.
2. The Air Force has underestimated the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals. I hate jets when I'm in the country.
3. The Bruneau, Jarbridge and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection.
4. The Air Force already has sufficient bombing ranges to practices their maneuvers.

NO-3

Thank you for taking these reasons into consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Pomeroy
Box 1765
Ketchum, Idaho 83340

P.O. BOX 1765 • KETCHUM • ID • 83340
TOM 208-726-4366 • CHARLIE 208-726-1756 • FAX 208-726-2913

000894

CHARLES MABBOTT
5677 WESTFORK RD.
DARBY, MT 59829

GE-1 DEAR FOLKS:

THANKS FOR ONCE AGAIN DEALING WITH THE INCREASE IN AIR FORCE ISSUE. I LOVE THE SOUTHERN IDAHO CANYON COUNTRY AND FEEL STRONGLY THAT IT SHOULD STAY AWAY (AS WILD AS POSSIBLE). IF YOU'VE EVER FLOATED THE EAST FORK OWYHEE RIVER FROM DUCK VALLEY TO ROME YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

THE AREA CONTAINS MANY WILDER/SCENIC AND SOLITUDE TREASURES. THE GEESE NESTING ALONG THE RIVER AND THE BOATERS ENJOY ON THE CLIFFS ABOVE WOULD BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY ANY INCREASE IN MILITARY JET TRAFFIC AND NOISE. SO WOULD I.

THE BLM SHOULD TAKE A STAND FOR THE OUTSTANDING QUIET VALUES OF THE SOUTHERN IDAHO DESERT AND CANYONLANDS.

ONCE AGAIN - IDAHO IS TOO GREAT TO BOMB.

SINCERELY

000895

PO Box 2671
Boise, ID 83701

July 3, 1997

U.S. Air Force/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 I would like to provide comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal for an expanded military training range. Any military operations beyond those already being conducted are unacceptable in southwestern Idaho. The impacts of noise on people and wildlife would be unacceptable.

I have spent a lot of time hiking, boating, and camping around the North, South, and East Forks of the Owyhee River, and in the Bruneau River canyon. Military overflights that already occur there are very startling and disturbing. These are areas of exceptional and rare beauty and solitude. In any state without Idaho's politics, the nationally unique values of the canyonlands would already be recognized, and they would be designated wilderness areas and designated components of the wild and scenic river system.

I also do not believe that this training range is necessary. The military has plenty of airspace and land already available for manuevers in Idaho, Nevada, and Utah that is accessable from Mountain Home Air Force Base. Those areas should be utilized instead.

Sincerely yours,

Judi Zuckert

Judi Zuckert

7/22/97

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000896

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

I, as a member of the Wilderness Society, was disturbed when informed of your plans to put a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands and your planned "study" of the effects of intrusion on the bighorn sheep. I hope my comments have not come too late.

First, I am surprised that there would be a need for a new bombing range, since I have heard of several current military bases being closed.

Second, we have sufficient power to do sufficient damage to any military opponents without much further practice - shouldn't we be allocating more resources to finding ways to get along with our neighbors and developing a sustainable lifestyle?

Last, I'm not surprised at all that today's youth is increasingly disrespectful and engaging increasingly in a destructive lifestyle, considering the example set by the military. This "keep up with the Joneses" and "we need this, so to hell with

↓

000896

the lesser creatures" attitude is not going to help us get through the 21st century.

I'm not thrilled by close fly-bys either, but I realize pilots need to practice.

PN-6 With all the outstanding technology now available to us, couldn't we make increasing use of simulators? - at least for the actual bombing? - this would mean a tremendous savings in ammunition.

I appreciate your hearing my concerns, and once again hope they have not come too late.

Sincerely -
Traci Lynn Smith

Traci Lynn Smith
657 Linden Ave #1E
Elgin, IL 60120
email: Veggie1234@aol.com

000897

GE-1 DEAR USAF/BLM

This postcard concerns the proposed USAF bombing range on Idaho's Owyhee Canyonlands. Simply put, this proposal is not a good idea, as it not only will incur great expence, but is unnecessary and of course, will cause unknown dammage to both ecological systems and wildlife! So please see that the proposed bombing range is halted! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Craig Everett

USAF/BLM

000898

July 25, 1997

GE-2 Dear Wilderness:

This is a letter opposing the Idaho Training Range. In a time of fiscal "reform" or down-sizing I cannot accept the Air Force's request to expand when the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff states that the ITR is not "strictly" necessary.

The Air Force argued that the existing training range near Mtn. Home AFB was more than adequate when they lobbied to get the Composite Wing to Mtn. Home. Why pursue it any further?

The arguments against an expanded training range are many. Recreational use of this area is an important consideration. The Owyhee, Jarbidge, Bruneau Canyons are truly unique places. The bombing done by the existing training range at Saylor Cr. is enough we don't need more. Wildlife, vegetation, and grazing concerns should not be compromised further.

If this proposal is a good example of our military in action, then I am concerned. Much of

PN-1 the EIS is incomplete. In the internal training

000898

Needs reasonable input even done yet. If I [illegible] my business the way the Air Force is approaching this proposal, I wouldn't last long.

The military is in place to protect us and our country. What good is it to "protect us", but destroy where we live.

As a native Idahoan and one that uses this truly beautiful part of the state, I beg you to abandon this proposal. Let's save something for the future.

Sincerely,

Russ McKinley
5110 Ray St
Boise, ID 83704

000899

MICHAEL J. FLANAGAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
TERRACE PLAZA
200 N. 4TH ST., SUITE 302
BOISE, IDAHO 83702
POST OFFICE BOX 2322
BOISE, IDAHO 83701
Phone: (208) 338-6558
FAX: (208) 336-1273

July 28, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

RE: Bombing Range

GE-1 To Whom it May Concern:

Once again you are attempting to circumvent public opinion and establish another bombing range in the Owyhee Mountains. Furthermore, you intend to do this at the expense of the wildlife. I'm very interested as to why we need another bombing range. Who is our mythical enemy? "We have met the enemy and they am us."

With this aside, I am very much against establishing a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. This is pristine country and the greatest expanse of land in the lower forty-eight states in which one can go and escape people. How does one find solitude with a super sonic jet exploding over ones head? If I can't find solitude can the animals find solitude?

For once do the right thing and give up on the Bombing Range.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Flanagan

MJF/lj

000900

Brenda Yoder
2700. N. 30th St
Boise, ID 83703
7-26-97

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Greetings,

I am writing regarding the Owyhee Canyonlands & the Enhanced Training Range. I am in opposition to the Air Force plan to turn the Owyhee Canyonland into a supersonic Battle field. The Training Range Expansion would severely impact wildlife in the area. The noise pollution suffered by wildlife & people in this area is not acceptable.

Concerns of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe regarding sacred sites & other sovereignty issues have not been taken seriously by the Air Force.

Contrary to what the Air Force may think, Idahoans care about the Owyhee Canyonlands and we will NOT allow this plan to proceed.

Brenda K. Yoder

000901

Tim Yoder
2700 N. 30th
Boise, ID 83703
7/26/97

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Greetings,

I am very concerned about the Owyhee Canyonlands. The proposed Enhanced Training Range is certainly not needed. In this post Cold War period, the military should be seriously downsizing, instead of wasting our taxes on more of the same.

The Training Range Expansion would be another ecological nightmare. Airspace expansion over Little Jacks Creek would severely impact wildlife in the area. The Canyonlands are home to some of the West's rarest fish and wildlife. A large population of California Bighorn Sheep live here. The endangered peregrine falcon, the rare cougar, sage grouse and redband trout also make their home here. The noise pollution suffered by wildlife and people in this area under this proposal is unacceptable.

The concerns of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe have not been taken seriously. This is disrespectful.

Please, NO bombing range!

Tim Yoder

The remarkable recovery of the Bald Eagle can be traced to the EDF-won ban on DDT and protection under the Endangered Species Act.

GE-1 I have visited the Owyhee Canyonlands — They are beautiful. PLEASE do not Turn them into a Bombing Range
Rosalind O'Neal

000902



Ms. Rosalind O'Neal
19 Highland Ct.
Ukiah, CA 95482-4662

Environmental Defense Fund, 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009.

U.S. AIR FORCE
B.L.M.
PO Box 329
BOISE
ID 83701-0329

000903

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Twin Falls

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 7/25/97

GE-1 I am against the Air Force plan for a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands because:

PN-14 1) the USAF says it is not needed - only an enhancement

PR-12 2) draft environmental impact statement is deficient, e.g. noise analysis, wildlife studies, pollution, airspace expansion

PR-23 3) USAF will not take responsibility for other branches of military that come to practice at new training range

4) the bighorn sheep population will be adversely affected.

5) wildlife including Cougar, bobcats, sage grouse, redband trout, mule deer + antelope will suffer

RV-11 6) warflights would shatter the peace + tranquility of the Bruneau + Owyhee rivers.

7) I have been to this area and would hate to see it ruined by becoming a bombing range

CU-15 8) Concerns of the Shoshone - Paiute Tribe regarding sacred sites have not been adequately addressed.

Please Print

Name: Judy Ruprecht

Address: 1520 Princeton Dr. (Street Address) Twin Falls, ID 83301 (City/State/Zip Code)

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:
U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

7/27/97

GE-1 I WOULD LIKE TO URGE THE AIRFORCE TO CONSIDER BOMBING RANGES THAT DO NOT IMPACT ON DECLINING HERDS OF BIGHORN SHEEP.

THANK YOU

Jessy Saunders

000904

000906

GE-1 To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing regarding the U.S Air Force's plans to construct a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. The California desert bighorn sheep would not benefit from the range and may even be harmed. Our Air Force has done well with all the resources it already has and I feel the protection of our Country will go on without another bombing range.

Thank you

Denise S Caterson
(military spouse)

1022 Greylag Dr.
Suisun City, CA 94585-2912

000907

July 28, 1997

USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise Id 83701-0329

GE-1 Please enter my comments into the official record on the USAF's proposal to expand/enhance the training range in Southern Idaho:

WHAT PART OF "NO" DOESN'T THE USAF UNDERSTAND!

Idaho and Idahoans have told the USAF before that we do not want to expand the training range in the Southern Idaho desert. The latest USAF plan is totally unacceptable to me.

The Owyhee Canyonlands offer river runners like myself, as well as many other recreationists spectacular scenery, solitude and and most of all, SILENCE! This modern world has become increasingly poluted with noise and this portion of Idaho offers one of the few places to escape from that noise. The occasional Air Force overflights we have to put up with nov are bad enough- the proposal would dramatically increase overflights and offers no guarantee that other branches of the military won't come along too, and make even more noise. This proposal is bad for wildlife, it is bad for Idaho and it is bad for all the people of the USA!

The high desert of Southern Idaho and the Owyhee, Bruneau and Jarbridge river canyons deserve protection as a national treasure for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Tom Chelstrom
2646 N Westminster Pl
Boise Id 83704

000908

Peggy Thomas
River Grove Farm
Box 2029
Hailey, Idaho 83333

July 27, 1997

USAF/BLM-
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

As a Nevada resident with a second home in Idaho I strongly object to a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands! Surely the bombing range in Nevada is enough. I also object to the Mountain Home-based jets buzzing a serene mountain lake in the Sawtooths that I have spent the better part of the day hiking to reach.

There are multitudes of westerners who care about the wilderness and the wildlife, and although we don't belong to powerful PACs, or have lobbyists in Washington, Federal lands belong to all of us, and we deserve to have our voices heard.

Very truly yours,

Peggy Thomas

7-28 000909

GE-1 Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing to say we are strongly opposed to the Owyhee canyonlands supersonic battlefield and bombing range. We have spent time in these beautiful desert canyons and have enjoyed their beauty & tranquillity. Aircraft & jet noise adversely effects the experience as does bombing targets & debris. We feel the Air Force does not need another or larger playground. Please help & support the public by shutting down the Air Force activity in Owyhee Canyonlands.

Sincerely, Kirk Ebertz
Kirk Ebertz
Pam Ebertz
Pam Ebertz

Box 1901
Ketchum, ID 83340

000910

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, Idaho

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

GE-1 Date: 6-12-97

PN-2 The air force already has enough bombing ranges in Idaho & other states. The Environmental Impact statement is flawed & in favor of the air force.

No Bombing RANGE!! listen to the people.

*** Please Print ***

Name: Bill Arnold

Address: 5101 Blue Jay Loop Nampa, Id 83687
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000011

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise, Idaho

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 6-12-97

GE-1 NO Bombing RANGE. The air force has enough!!!

*** Please Print ***

Name: Jo A. Smith

Address: 5101 Elva Gay Loop NAMPA, ID 83687
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 8, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000012

JAY SKEEN
HC 10 Box 32
CARMEN, ID 83462
7-29-97

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear sirs:

The Cold War is over! Why do we need more bombing ranges? We don't!! I have floated the Bruneau and Jarbidge and Owyhee rivers and they are a treasure beyond measure. Get your butts down there and see for yourself. I am totally against Air Force expansion of any type in Southwest Idaho. Thank you for recording my opinion.

Sincerely,

Jay Skeen

JAY SKEEN

000013

Mrs. Garnet Juchem
Box 809
Sun Valley, Idaho
83353

July 28th/97

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

Re: Owyhee Canyonlands Bombing Range

Further to the above I wish to object to any further development. I feel that the Airforce has sufficient training grounds already and that the resulting damage far outweighs the benefits from the additional bombing range that is being proposed.

This issue has been previously proposed and defeated. It is quite evident that public support is lacking.

I also object on the grounds that the planes do not always stay within their confines. Then there is the question of more spent nuclear rods - to be buried under our aquafier? Plus the usual - noise, environmental impact.

I say NO to the bombing range.

Yours truly,

Garnet Juchem

000014

2773 Stone Point Road
Boise, Idaho 83712

July 27, 1997

U S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701 - 0329

GE-2 **Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Air Force bombing range in Owybee Canyonlands area**

Presented below is a summary of my comments concerning the proposed bombing range expansion and the above referenced DEIS

PR-12 DP-8 1. The EIS is entirely inadequate. The alternatives are completely artificial in that they assume that there must be a 12,000 acre expansion that offer no evidence to support that requirement nor to analyze lesser or no build options

NO-2 NO-3 2. The associated noise study is based on outmoded and non-comparable situations. The DEIS and noise study failed dramatically to adequately analyze the potential impacts on wildlife and on human activity. The existing Air Force activity in the area is already, in my experience, having a significant negative impact on human use of the area. It is impossible for me to conceive that it has not already had a major negative impact on the critical wildlife habitat in the area.

DP-13 3. The analysis associated with the existing alternatives (which are inadequate as discussed above) fails to adequately identify appropriate mitigation measures to reduce and minimize noise and other impacts on wildlife, recreation, and other human activities.

In summary, my strong believe is that the DEIS fails to adequately analyze the impacts of the proposed bombing range expansion. As a business person in the Boise area who is very attentive to the economic health of the region, I see no justification nor significant benefit resulting from this proposal

Sincerely,

Bill Clark

Bill Clark

GE-2 Dear Sirs 000315 July 28 '97

The enhanced training RANGE proposed by the U SAF is not needed and the environmental impact study is incomplete deceptive and misleading i.e., noise analysis, wildlife studies pollution and airspace expansion.

PR-12

The Air Force will not take responsibility for other branches of the military and foreign armed forces that come to the new training grounds to practice their war games.

No attempt has been made to mitigate damage to the California bighorn sheep population and the Redband trout, peregrine falcon and rare species like cougar bobcat and sage grouse.

The proposed bombing range would have an enormous effect on some of North Americas most outstanding Rivers, the Bruneau and Owyhee.

Nothing can replace Idaho's wild desert rivers or wildlife.

The Air Force must look somewhere else for new training ranges or make do with its existing ones.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Jill A Bradbury
P.O. Box 2082
Ketchum, ID 83340

7/27

000316

GE-1 Dear Sir,

I am writing to strongly protest the proposed establishment of a supersonic battlefield in the canyonlands of Idaho. Over the past 6 years I have spent at least one week each year kayaking and hiking in these canyons. I drive all the way from northwest Montana because these are some of the most beautiful places in the country. The Bruneau, Jarbridge and Owyhee canyonlands are special places that deserve protection, not the addition of extremely loud and unpredictable noise which will detract immensely from the beauty and tranquility of these places. Please spare these extraordinary canyons.

Sincerely,

Andrew Zibet
145 Montana Ave.
Whitefish MT 59937

000317

July 29, 1997

Proposed Enhanced Training Range

USAF / BLM
P. O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-1 Dear Sirs;

Please consider these comments upon your proposed "Enhanced Training Range", and accompanying draft EIS.

I urge you to adopt A, the No Action alternative.

I thought we had convinced the Air Force years ago not to expand the existing training range in SW Idaho. Unfortunately, the Air Force persists in this folly, not having learned much regard for the natural values of the wild country which its proposal would degrade.

The Department of Defense has already grabbed a huge amount of land in the Western United States. I am opposed to withdrawal of any more public land for military purposes. I am especially opposed to any bombing range in the magnificent Owyhee country of southwestern Idaho, for the following reasons:

- Increased sonic booms. Sonic booms are very disturbing to many people, including myself, whether they are over cities, Indian reservations, or wildlands. They are also disturbing to some species of wildlife.
- Increased low level flights. These also are irritating.
- Significant threats to native plant communities, rare plants, wetlands, and traditional Native American plant collecting.
- Adverse impacts upon the wilderness values of BLM wilderness study areas and upon other public roadless lands, including solitude and silence.
- Adverse impacts upon cultural and archaeological resources.
- The general degradation in quality of life.

000317

The public lands of Southwestern Idaho are important for many reasons. They are a major part of the generally high quality of life there. But the AF proposal would destroy many of the values which make these lands important, along with that high quality of life.

Sincerely,

Gerald A. Jayne

Gerald A. Jayne
1568 Lola St.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

cc: Governor Phil Batt
Attorney General Al Lance
Secy. of State Pete Cenarrusa

000318

GE-1

The Chapel built in 1995 at Cathedral Pines Baptist Camp, is also used as a multi-purpose building. Cathedral Pines has been in operation since 1913.

HAILEY ID 27 JUL 1997

000319

No Bombing Range!

USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

Kathy O'Brien
1136 S. 3rd
Ketchum, ID 83340

©Photographed and Published by J.M. Osmond
P.O. Box 1420 Ketchum, ID 83340

000315

Randy Feigstok
11134 Hickory Loop Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83713

July 27, 1997.

GE-1 The following is my comment regarding the enhanced training in Idaho draft E.I.S.

I support alternative A — the no action alternative.

My reason for this is that more air combat training range space is not needed. Range enhancement or expansion would only be a convienience. Training ranges in nearby states can be used when those in Idaho do not meet needs. I recall General Foreman himself state that this range expansion is not needed. Peace is breaking out all over the world. Tax payers are being asked to do more with less. Please do not destroy this unique region of high desert while spending millions of dollars this country does not have.

000320

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-1 Dear Sirs,

I am writing you regarding your plan to transform the Owyhee Canyonlands into a training range. I would like to make the following points;

1. this is not a necessity
2. we care and do not back this plan
3. what about wildlife? It will be impacted.
4. we, the people, should be considered and so should our quality of life.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
The Hawks'

7344 Modoc
Boise, ID 83709

000322

GE-1 The people of Alaska working with the different branches of the armed services have developed bombing ranges and training areas within Alaska where minimal impact is observed on Alaska's natural resources (forests, wildlife and subsistant hunt areas).

Agreed, Alaska has more space than other states in which to conduct training for the military. But we still need cooperate to come to decisions having the least impact on all concerned party's.

It is amazing what can be developed when everyone gets together and discusses the issues. Extremists left or right, or both, tunnels vision to argument rather than solution.

It's hard for persons not directly associated with a project to comment on the project. But after 30+ years in the Airforce, 10+ years working for the Municipality of Anchorage (Information Systems), and enjoying the outdoors in Alaska since 1978, I know cooperation and exchange of ideas between party's can produce favorable results for all party's.

Direct your energies toward cooperation and ease resources (wildlife, time, money, and individual ego's) rather than extremists arguments.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond!

Dal Marks

000923

Dr. Julia Bent
P.O. Box 31745
Seattle, WA 98103

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-1329

July 30, 1997

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the establishment of any further bombing ranges in Owyhee County in Idaho. Whether called the ITR or the ETI, further bombing and training areas are a waste of taxpayer money. The 1995 Auditor's Report of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense states clearly that further training ranges are not necessary, that the training needs of the composite wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base can be met with existing ranges. PN-14

The DEIS is flawed in many ways. The method used in the DEIS to determine the effects of noise pollution from the proposed ETI (The Shultz Noise Analysis) is based on an urban model that has no relevance in the relatively wild Owyhee country. Noise averaged over a 24-hour period does not begin to compare with the effects on both wildlife and people of a sonic boom in a remote area. I've been in the Owyhee country and experienced sonic booms there. In their wake my heart raced, and I felt uncomfortable for hours afterwards. NO-2 NO-4

A further flaw of the DEIS is the cumulative impacts assessment. The effects of the ETI need to be considered along with the impacts of both the composite wing and B1-Bombers at Mountain Home AFB. It is illegal to separate these impacts and masks the real increases in noise, flares and chaff, and fire damage. A legal EIS must consider the impacts of all these activities together. DP-7

As someone who has hiked and paddled the Owyhee and Jarbidge/Bruneau canyons extensively since 1982 (yes, I kayaked the Jarbidge/Bruneau then), I am dismayed that the Air Force continues to insist on trying to establish a training range in the region. Further, I am appalled at the waste of taxpayer money that goes into inadequate planning for successive incarnations of the ITR/ETI, something that is not necessary for our national defense, by the Air Force's own admission. Who benefits from the "pork"? Whom are we defending against?

Sincerely yours,

Julia Bent, DVM

Julia Bent, D.V.M.

Allison Photography

000924

GE-2

Sirs:

This letter is to register extremely strong opposion to the expanded bombing range. Ive taken numerous trips in the Bruneau + Owyhee canyon areas, and consider them some of the best remote wilderness areas in the country. This bombing range expansion is not proven to be needed, just wanting it is not enough. I do not want the wilderness experience threatened by supersonic jets flying over it all the time. the increasing recreational use on these rivers and in the desert areas needs to be strongly recognised. The public comment period needs to be extended, with more meetings at more convenient times. This plan should not be allowed! PN-1

Glen Allison

Glen Allison • P.O. Box 3932 Hetchum, ID 83340 • (208) 726-4957

000925

Box 727
Ketchum, ID 83340
7/31/97

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

I am writing to voice my strong disapproval of the Air Force utilizing the Owyhee Canyonlands. I have recreated in that area for years and feel the bombing range would adversely affect that area both from a human + a wildlife standpoint. Thankyou for your time.

Sincerely

Kurt N. Pressman

000926

July 31, 1997

US Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you concerning the DEIS, Draft Enviromental Impact Statement, for enhanced training in Idaho recently released by the Air Force for public review. I feel the DEIS is flawed because of:

#1 All alternatives result in creation of a battle field and bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. I suggest Alternative E, or no bombing range or supersonic battlefield in the Owyhee Canyonlands.

DP-7 #2 The cumulative impact assessment is flawed. This masks the real increase in noise, flares and chaff.

NO-10 #3 I believe the noise study is flawed, as there is no way of duplicating the cumulative impact of supersonic flights in the canyonland country.

PN-1 #4 The Air Force has not demonstrated a need for this range.

I know the Owyhee Canyonland country intimately. I have kayaked the Middle-Fork Owyhee, the South-Fork as well as the East-Fork. This area is remarkable for its quiet remoteness and natural beauty. The whole wilderness experience would be severely mitigated by enhanced training in Idaho by the US Air Force.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

WB. Krissoff

William B. Krissoff, M.D.

WBK:oid

William B. Krissoff, M.D., Inc.
Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine
Mountain Medical Center
P.O. Box 2509
Truckee, California 96160
(916) 587-7461

000927

Frank A. Roberts M.D.

1701 N. 21st Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-0732
1-208-342-4711

August 1, 1997

USAF/BLM - P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you concerning the proposed enhanced training range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. I am a native Idahoan growing up in Buhl and attending Albertson's College of Idaho in Caldwell. As I grew up, I heard about the Owyhees and have looked forward to hiking and seeing this spectacular area. So it has been with great sadness that I learn about more restrictions and possible degradation of this area. However, I consider myself to be a scientist and rational person and thus able to listen to viable arguments. Below I have listed some of the areas of concern:

PN-3 1. **Cost-benefit analysis:** As we are all aware, costs and resources have to be managed in the most efficient manner and thus the question arises, "Are we, the taxpayer getting the most for our buck?" For example, what is the cost of repeated proposals of this kind ? Has the use of simulators been explored which might obviate the proposed plan? Does the cost of building and maintaining these additional facilities outweigh the cost of fuel to fly to existing sites?

PN-1 2. **Need:** Who is the anticipated enemy? We do not need star wars technology to defeat countries like Iraq. It may take a little longer to do so without this technology, but I believe we can do it efficiently and with minimal amounts of risk to military personnel. By the time we need to fight China, present techniques will be obsolete.

PR-6 3. **Advocacy:** Who is my advocate regarding these issues? The air force and other agencies have spent thousands of dollars and hours promoting their views. Or put another way, how do the Davids

000927

compete with the Goliaths especially when the Goliaths have overwhelming resources and are using our money to promote their view. I do acknowledge that there has been some input from environmental groups.

SO-7 4. **Bias:** An example of bias is seen in how different activities are viewed in the EIS. For example in Vol. II, H-12, mining is described as having a **small but important** role bringing in $6.9 million in 1994 and providing 122 jobs, whereas the recreation industry represents a **relatively small portion** of the Owyhee County economy. The report goes on to say that retail trade, indirectly related to recreation, reported 446 employees in 1994 accounting for about $5.9 million in earnings (US Bureau of Economic Analysis 1996). In my opinion, given a chance, recreation will far out strip mining in state revenues.

DP-49 5. **Expansion:** Why is the process of use of the public lands always one of expansion to the detriment of habitat and recreation? If federal agencies ever had a plan to return public land to public use or **enhance** it for the public good I would be astonished. If the equation (open public lands vs. restricted public use) is always shifted to the right, the fate of the public lands is sealed.

6. **Bottom line: High dams, no salmon, low planes, no sheep**

Sincerely,

Frank A. Roberts M.D.

000927

8260 W. Echo Falls Ln.
Boise, ID 83714
July 31, 1997

U.S. Air Force
P.O.Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sir:

For the past several years I have watched the Air Force proposal to expand its training range here in Idaho since I had some interest through two pilots in the Air Force, a brother and a nephew with his name on the Vietnam Memorial.

I've watched while we went from a "Bomb 'em and feed em" to a "Bomb it to save it." Patricia Hall's article in"The Idaho Statesman" Thursday, July 31, 1997, p. 9A says it all.

PN-2 Since this training range is definitely not needed in light of the proximity to Nevada and Utah, the next question is, "WHY?" My guess is that all we have to do is follow the money trail. Who gains and who loses?

It is useless to spend either my time or energy or a 32c stamp on giving a viewpoint but I want to tell my grandchildren that this country is worth saving and sometimes the only one who benefits is the one protesting in that he/she didn't sell out to the highest bidder, as I feel in this case the congressmen and congresswoman have done with the Air Force. Sad.

Sincerely,

Betty Luginbill

Betty Luginbill

000929

Nancy Reid
1550 E. Holly Lane
Boise, ID 83712
(208)389-9169

August 1, 1997

ASAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

Once again I am pulled into a debate that doesn't seem to want to go away. I am a fiscal conservative and native Idahoan who is concerned about her state's free and wild lands being eaten up by public and private development I oppose plans by the U.S. Air Force to expand its bombing range on the Owyhee Canyonland

GE-2 I am opposed to this expansion for two basic reasons:

PN-14 One, it is not needed and seems to me to be a careless waste of resources. (How many $900 screwdrivers does the taxpayer have to buy?) If the Inspector General of the Department of Defense states that training needs can be met with existing ranges then why would are we essentially giving the public's land away to the military.

The second reason is the area is not a barren chunk of unused land but a ever changing high desert of unsurpassed beauty In 1988, I floated the Owyhee River with a group of friends. My 70-year-old father joined us for that trip and for both of us it was probably our last opportunity to enjoy Idaho's wilderness together as we had so many times during our lives. My father and I marveled at the natural beauty and understood why this spot has been considered for a national park or monument. We agreed that that designation might spoil the canyonlands prisitine beauty with the accompanying national attention and increased traffic Certainly an area that is worthy of national park recognition and a river worthy of wild and scenic designation should not be denigrated by sonic booms, toxic chemicals, specifically Titanium Tetrachloride, and other associated ills.

Idahoans are becoming increasingly aware of our state's natural treasures and the necessity of protecting them I believe native Idahoans will no longer be complacent about protecting our natural heritage. Newcomers to the state are more emphatic about conservation after seeing the places where they grew up trashed by development and progress. Selling an expanded bombing range will be a difficult job and I believe that the attempt will only backfire by causing more negative sentiment about the Air Force

Sincerely,

Nancy Reid

Nancy Reid

000350

U.S. Air Force/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

1 Aug.'97

GE-1 Gentlemen:

I am another citizen opposed to expanding bombing range in Idaho. Your propaganda on the subject is devious and meretricious. Fools nobody. You've got all the land you need alreay in Nevada and Utah for bombing to smithereens. Defense does not require it. Every time the military wants another taxpayer scam, they say it's for defense. This is a boldfaced lie and we don't buy it.

We who live here wish to preserve what's left of our beautiful environment for future generations, as well as for our own safety and protection-- including protection from the noise of bombing ranges, which would scatter animals out of thier habitats and drive poeple out of their homes. It would scar acres and acres of now untouched wilderness. The only people who want this are a few military offices and a few citizens who see SPROFITS coming their way. WHY THE HECK SHOULd AMERICAN CITIZENs HAVE TO PUT UP WITH BOMBING THE LAND IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, IN THEIR OWN HOMES????

THE MAJORITY DO NOT WANT THIS VISITED UPON THEM. WE ARE A DEMOCRACY, AND IN A DEMOCRACY THE MAJORITY IS SUPPOSED TO RULE.

I ask you to stop this plan immediately.

Joanne Kirkpatrick
2007 N 17th St
Boise ID 83702

000351

Boise, Idaho
July 31, 1997

GE-2 USAF/BLM Re: ETI DEIS

My support is for alternative A, No action alternative in the matter of the suggested Enhanced Training in Idaho.
There is no need for ETI since adequate training range exists now.
It would be wrong to use the proposed area, this most "wild" land for any purpose than that of a home for wild plants and animals living there. We need to leave it for those wild creatures.
One of the most blatant flaws in the current DEIS is the noise analysis.
DP-5 The DEIS base line noise analysis needs to be based on pre 1992 use levels.

Ruth Herrington
1001 N. 16th, Boise, ID 83702

Beverly Gholson
1950 Wood Duck Lane
Boise, ID 83706

000352

August 1, 1997

USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Owyhee Training Range Expansion

GE-2 Dear Sir or Madam;

PN-1 I am writing to express my concern about the USAF's proposal to expand the training range in the Owyhee canyonlands. The training range expansion is not needed and is not legally supported by the DEIS.

As a resident of Idaho and recreational user of the Owyhee canyonlands, I am very concerned about the effect of increased air traffic on the unique wildlife, such as California desert bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, mountain lions, bobcat, and sage grouse, as well as the impact on the enjoyment of the Bruneau and Owyhee rivers. These are very special areas, not only to Idahoans but to the entire country.

DP-13 DP-42 RV-6 Some of the points which I find particularly troublesome are the lack of thorough, complete studies and the lack of mitigation plans. There are no plans to mitigate the damage to the bighorn sheep population and other wildlife. Also mitigation of recreational uses has not been adequately addressed.

In summary, I request that the USAF not be granted permission for the enhanced training range in the Owyhee canyonlands area. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Yours truly,

Beverly Gholson

Phone: (208) 336-9113 bevg@micron.net

000353

JOHN BRILEY

28 July 97

U.S.Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho, 83702-0329

GE-1 Sirs:

The expansion of the Mountain Home training range is something that every serviceman of any rank ought to oppose.

We now have a volunteer professional service. In a superficial sense they are removed from the normal concerns of civilian life. Yet, as our life spans extend, most servicemen will someday return to civilian life not only as retirees, but as active citizens, probably in a second profession, and certainly as parents and grandparents.

For their own retirement, for their family life, for their children and grandchildren, the preservation of the few pristine natural environments that still remain in our country is both a duty and a desired goal.

They know, and we know, that the immediate professional gain they might achieve by getting this land put under their control is fleeting compared to the damage it will create for generations to come. They know, as we know, that given the range of modern aircraft there is no real need for it, given the huge acreage available to them in neighboring Nevada.

God is not making any more spots as beautiful and enriching as the spot in southern Idaho they wish to turn into a target for bombs and missles.

We all ought to recognize that such a course is a mistake.

Yours,

PO Box 2365, Sun Valley, ID 83353
Ketchum, Idaho

JOHN BRILEY

000034

August 1, 1997
USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to my attention that the USAF would like to turn Southwestern Idaho, and the Owyhee Canyonlands in particular, into a supersonic bombing range. I recently spent 30 days in this part of the country. During this time I became very familiar with the Owyhee Canyonlands and the diverse wildlife that is contained within. I strongly believe that the bombing range should not be approved for this wild, scenic, beautiful and biologically diverse area.

Whereas I understand the need to continually train USAF pilots and hone the skills necessary to defend our country I do not see the need to severely damage a pristine wilderness area, such as the Owyhee, in the process. More than three million acres in Idaho, Oregon and Nevada would be affected by the establishment of this bombing range. These millions of acres are not wasteland, but in fact a beautiful, abundant and biodiverse region of rolling plateaus cut by dramatic canyons. The area is a haven for California bighorn sheep, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, cougar, sage grouse and may other species of wildlife. These species and the humans, like myself, that travel through the canyons would be adversely affected by the noise and chemical pollution caused by the bombing. Although you may not currently have access to information that truly determines the effects of noise levels, sonic booms and super-sonic operations on animals, natural structures, and humans I find it hard to believe that these effects could benefit the wild community. In short, this bombing range is not wanted. Furthermore, it is not needed to save the Mountain Home Air Force Base It is not beneficial for the land, the wildlife, the people of Idaho, nor for those of us around the country who have experienced the awe-inspiring beauty of the Owyhee.

I know that the sole fact that the Owyhee area is a pristine, beautiful, and magical wilderness will not save it. Yet, as I browse through the many pictures that capture the month I spent there this beauty is what makes my heart soar. As our population expands true natural areas become smaller and harder to come by. Surely even the air force generals and pilots recognize the magic of a sky smothered with stars, clean fresh air, the beauty of a sunrise and the peace and silence that accompany a sunset. Surely, they want to share this same beauty, not bomb-battered refuse land, with their families.
The Owyhee Canyonlands embody all that the USAF fights to save: Freedom. Please consider my request and withdraw your proposal.

Sincerely,
Ellen Lock
Ellen C. Lock
4018 Bluebonnet #C
Houston, TX 77025

000035

GE-1 To whom it may concern,
The canyon lands being considered for this new practice area is the most natural, quiet, and beautiful wilderness country in the continous 48 states. I do not want the intrusion of roaring jets shattering that tranquility. Even when I am not enjoying these areas by rafting or hiking, it gives me priceless confidence and peace just to know that such places still exist in this hurried world our civilization lives in. The air force does not need this range, but keeps reaching for it like a spoiled child, who continues to whine and manipulate even after being told "No" several preceding times. While it is true that well trained pilots are necessary to defend the well being of American people, they have enough to currently be the best in the world without taking what is invaluable from the people they have sworn to serve with their lives. Please leave these canyon lands as they are.
Sincerely,
Peter Pressman

Po. Box 729
Ketchum, ID 83340

Peter Pressman

000036

000036

GE-1 Dear Air force,
I'm 10 and I just went down the Bruneau-Jarbidge river I saw sheep, weasels, beaver, and tons of birds I don't want the canyons to be destroyed so others can't enjoy it. If you want to help to save the beautiful canyons you can! write back from Brooke

Po. Box 729
Ketchum, ID 83340

000037

GE-1 Dear to whomever it may concern,
Lately I've been hearing about the canyons being destroyed by being used as a bombing range. This news is heart breaking for me to hear. I feel that this is one of the last open spaces for people to enjoy and I don't want the canyons to be destroyed. I do understand that the air forces want places to practice bombing so they can save us in case of war or something, but they already have bombing ranges to practice. Please don't destroy these beautiful open spaces that we need.
Thank you for your time
Sincerely, Sage Freedman

Po. Box 729, Ketchum, ID 83340

000938

July 31

GE-1 I am opposed to the air Force plan to turn the Owyhees Canyonlands into a supersonic battle field. The training range is not needed & it is not legal. It would be tragic to see it happen. The impact on wildlife & the open space would be devastating — Please Stop! Sincerely

Kathi Anderson
P.O. Box 3163
Ketchum, Id. 83340

000939

From: James Flocchini
P.O. Box 1179
Bellevue, ID. 83313

GE-2 To whom it may concern-

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee canyon in Southwest Idaho. I am opposed for the following reasons:

PN-14 -The USAF (United States Air Force) has stated the bombing range is not needed.
-From what I understand, the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not thorough and flawed in many areas. Such as: much information covered in the (EIS) is deceptive and misleading, ie.,wildlife studies, noise analysis, pollution, etc.; The USAF is not taking responsibility to recover damage to wildlife, ie., the bighorn sheep population, golden eagles, etc.;

BI-44

CU-2 -There seems to be a real lack of concern and any viable responsibility towards the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe in regards to their rights of the land and other sovereignty issues. This behavior and attitude that exists amidst the government institutions, chiefly amongst the military(in my observations), towards the Native Americans in this country is hideous, an outrage and a serious embarrassment! I ask when will this consciousness and behavior cease?

SO-4 -That area is one of the gems that exist in the state. Recreation, one of the largest income producers in the state, will be seriously damaged with a bombing range in place.
-I have been to numerous public hearings regarding this proposal for a bombing range in the Owyhee canyon over the last 8 or 10 years. THE PUBLIC DIDN'T WANT IT THEN AND WE DON'T WANT IT NOW!
- That area of the country is very rich in both medicinal botanicals and other valuable flora as a genetic seed base.
-The integrity of the land and the shear beauty and deep spiritual aspect of what presently exists is at serious stake.
These are some of the reasons I do not want to see a bombing range implemented in the Owyhee canyon.
Thank- you for your time and concern.
James Flocchini

GE-2 7/29/97

Dear Sirs - 000940

I strongly oppose the enhanced training bombing range proposal by the USAF in 1997 in Idaho.

PN-5 There has never been a national needs assessment done on military land or air expansion. I believe one should be done covering all branches of the military, since several branches utilize the same training areas. Without such a study, any decision of this nature becomes subjective rather than objective.

I believe this expansion is wanted, not needed, by the USAF.

I believe protecting the phenomenal wildlife and wild rivers in this area to ensure wilderness recreation for future generations is the wisest use of this land. Thank you - Richard Barker

RICHARD BARKER, BOX 1308, KETCHUM, ID. 83340

000941

7-28-97

I have already submitted comment in a previous letter. I would like this to be an addition to that prior one, and I will try not to cover ground already gone over in that one.

I continue to be concerned about the impact on wildlife, and the fact that there will apparently be no attempts to mitigate that impact.

I am also concerned about the negative impact on recreational uses of the area, including camping, hiking, boating, rafting, and hunting.

PR-12 I am concerned that the draft EIS contains fatal deficiencies and flaws and does not comply with the requirements of NEPA.

PN-1 I continue to believe that the expanded range is unnecessary and illegal.

I am very concerned that other military groups may use the area and neither they nor the USAF would accept responsibility for their actions and mistakes.

I am also concerned about the USAF's disregard for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe's needs for religious use of the land.

The Owyhee Canyonlands should not be used for an expanded range unless

000941

it is absolutely necessary — and it is not.

Duane Reynolds
414 Trotter Drive
Twin Falls ID 83301

000942 7/26/97

GE-1 Please do not allow the establishment of a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands and pursue only reasonable scientific study of the bighorn sheep — chasing them with helicopters is unnecessarily dangerous to the sheep.

Thank you —

Ann Bullock

ROCKWOOD CLINIC, P.S.

000943

400 East Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 3649
Spokane, WA 99220-3649
Phone: (509) 838-2311; 1-800-776-4068
Fax: (509) 456-1997

July 27, 1997

US Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir:

I would like to express my deep concerns and objections to the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee Canyon lands area. This high desert region provides a home for one of the largest populations of California desert bighorn sheep in America, and is the sole source of transplant stock for re-establishing the species in nine western states. Certainly I would think that we have enough bombing ranges already available such that we do not have to destroy this beautiful and pristine area.

Your Truly,

Kenneth M. Mondal, MD
Ophthalmology

KMM/20.NS17.7468
D: 07/27/97
T: 07/29/97

000944

Mary C. St. John
1175 So. Oakland Ave.
Pasadena, California 91106-4338

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Re: Proposed Expansion of the Mountain Home Air Force Base Bombing Range

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

In June of this year, I had the opportunity to take a six-day whitewater rafting vacation down the Jarbridge and Bruneau Rivers. During the Bruneau portion of the trip, we saw and heard jets and planes flying to the Mountain Home Air Force Base. I learned that there is a proposed expansion of the Air Force's use of this airspace. My opinion is that further use of the airspace over these rivers for military purposes would greatly reduce the value of these areas for tourism and other civilian uses.

The river valleys are extremely beautiful and, thus far, particularly pristine. I have floated a number of other rivers in the West, including the Colorado through the Grand Canyon, the Snake and Salmon through Idaho, and the Flathead River through Northern Montana. The Jarbridge and Bruneau are special. The area they travel through is not well known to tourists. The campsites available on the river, and the plants growing near the river, are virtually untouched. Very few parts of the lower United States remain as unspoiled as this area. Preserving it as an area for tourism would be its highest and best use. Studies of leisure time indicate more time is being spent out-of-doors. The overuse of National Parks such as Yosemite and the Grand Canyon has been documented. More areas for outdoor recreation are needed, not less.

As a California resident, I am familiar with the many closures of military facilities, both in California and in other parts of the West. These existing or recently closed military sites have a history of military use, and the support of the communities surrounding their operations. If greater land is needed for military use, it seems far preferable, and less costly, to use existing sites, not expand operations into virgin territory.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Very truly yours,

Mary C. St. John

000045

Owyhee Plaza
HOTEL
1109 Main Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

July 31, 1997

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force/B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Ms. Cook;

We at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel and I support the enhanced air to ground training areas in Southwest Idaho, currently proposed by the U.S. Air Force. This training area is for the use of the Sailor Creek Range; 110 thousand acre training area and the training area South of the Mountain Home Air Force Base. These areas are to be used by the composite wing stationed there and the Idaho National Guard to participate in the training exercises with the Mountain Home Air Force Base Wing.

We are hopeful that you will get the support needed for this additional training area which is so important to the Mountain Homer Air Force Base, the Idaho National Guard, and the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

Larry J. May
General Manager
Owner
OWYHEE PLAZA HOTEL

LJM/sjw

cc: Roy Elguren
Vice Chairman of the Governmental Affairs

1109 Main Street • Boise, Idaho 83702 • (208) 343-4611
For Reservations Call 1-800-233-4611
A Member Of Grand Tradition Hotels

000046

505 L Street
Fairbury, NE 68352

July 29, 1997

GE-1 To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to rejoice my profound objection to the proposed bombing range on the Owyhee Canyonlands. The desert bighorn sheep inhabiting this area deserve to be left alone. According to the Wilderness Society, these sheep are our sole source of stock for transplanting the species to states where they need re-establishment.

I urge you to consider future generations of people who might otherwise never see such wonderful animals in their native habitat; please do not carry your plan any further.

Sincerely,
Betty Lou Zabel

000047

7/28/97

GE-1 We are writing you to tell you of our opposition to the planned bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands of Idaho. We cannot believe you require additional bombing ranges especially not in environmentally sensitive areas. Please reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,
Carl & Helen Alsobrook

Carl Alsobrooks
Dolores Alsobrooks
7668 Clawson Rd.
Johnsburg, MI 49751-9614

000048

7/31/97

U.S. Air Force
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen;

Just to inform you that i do support your efforts to expand the training range out of the Mountain Home, ID AFB.

Jerry Langenfeld
313 No. 30th St.
I-101
Boise, ID 83702

000949

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Brian & Norma Ellison
Box 1083
Sun Valley, Idaho 83353
Phone 208.726.3341
FAX 208.726.5317

U.S Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to the proposed expansion of the Mountain Home electronic warfare training range. I do not favor any expansion of the existing range.

The Air Force already controls approximately 90% of the air space over Nevada for its training purposes and more than enough air space over Idaho. The available training space in Nevada is easily reached for that purpose. This "enhancement" is not needed for safety, preparedness or crucial to our defense efforts.

The fighter jets from Mountain Home continue to fly low noisy flights over the Sun Valley area. I have actually had a fighter jet fly below me while climbing in one of the most pristine canyons in this area. With the lack of regard shown by the pilots for the solitude and beauty of this portion of Idaho, I see no reason to permit the Air Force to expand their bombing / electronic warfare range to disrupt any larger sections of Idaho.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian Ellison

cc:
Governor Phil Batt
Margaret Macdonald-Stewart

000950

P.O. BOX 837 EAGLE, IDAHO 83616 (208) 939-0377 FAX (208) 939-0397
WRIGHT BROTHERS
THE BUILDING COMPANY

Ms Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force/B L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 RE Support for Additional Training Area

To Whom It May Concern:

We at Wright Brothers, The Building Company support the enhanced air to ground training areas in Southwest Idaho, as proposed by the U.S. Air Force. We feel that it is necessary in times of budget cut backs to keep our military trained and prepared to deter any threats to our national security and citizens. This enhanced training area will allow the composite wing at Mountain Home and the Air Guard in Boise to maintain a state of readiness which will allow them to react immediately to crisis situations defending the United States and her citizens.
The Mountain Home Air Base is not only good for the United States but it also good for Idaho. We should support one of Idaho's largest employers. There have been many studies done about the impact on the area above which the fly zone will be located, some stating that there will be no impact and some showing major impact, but as an Idahoan who has hunted, camped and recreated in the area for over 30 years I have seen very little change in the area since the Air Force has trained there. There is much more impact from hunters, campers and over grazing than by planes flying over it.

Terry Hayden, Treasurer

Terry Hayden

000951

Washington Federal Savings
10150 FAIRVIEW AVE
BOISE, ID 83704-8117
PO BOX 4476
BOISE, ID 83711-4476
(208) 378-4640 FAX • (208) 378-7387

July 30, 1997

Ms Brenda Cook
US Air Force/B L M.
PO Box 329
Boise ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Ms Cook:

The United States Air Force has been using the Saylor Creek Training Range for over 50 years. Yet that range has not been bombed into oblivion and the wildlife on and around the range continue to thrive. It seems that the Air Force has been an extremely good steward of the land.

Now, once again we are faced with a proposal for additional training area for Mountain Home Air Force Base. And again out of state interests such as the Sierra Club are attempting to distort the truth and drum up public support against the range.

As free people, we Americans often seem to forget that our freedom was won and has been protected by the men and women who went into harms way and fought for this country. It is truly a sad, yet undeniable fact that the need for our military will continue. To ask our military people to defend this country without the best possible training is an incredibly arrogant request.

Although a small group of special interests will certainly be in opposition to this new proposal, the vast majority of Idaho citizens have supported past proposals, and will support this one as well.

000951

The proposed additional training range in Southwest Idaho is needed, is logical and is reasonable and should be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

Dale R Sullivan
Vice-President

DRS/cb

cc Roy Eiguren
Ray Stark

000352

July 31, 1997

USAF|BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose the expansion of the bombing range in the desert canyonlands of Idaho. These lands contain rare and beautiful flora and fauna. The delicate and pristine desert environment provides outstanding habitat for many species of animals, including the largest herd of California Bighorn Sheep.

The area is considered sacred to the Native Americans and contains many ancient artifacts that are important to their history and culture.

This area will someday be recognized worldwide as one of the most outstanding remnants of desert wilderness remaining on the planet.

To condemn this area to use as a practice field for the USAF to run bombing missions is a short-sighted, insensitive and plain stupid idea. The necessity of expansion of the bombing range is questionable. Even if a necessity exists, surely there are more suitable areas where the USAF can play wargames.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Thomas
127 Exhibition
PO Box 3234
Ketchum, Idaho 83340

000353

ROGER M. WILLIAMS
4915 LARRY LANE
MERIDIAN, ID 83642

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, IDAHO 83701-0329 Re: Enhanced Training in Idaho

GE-1 Sirs:

To thoroughly analyze this DEIS and document all the deficiencies would result in a document equal or larger to/than the DEIS itself.

This would be like plugging pinholes in the Titanic. The DEIS will sink because it fails to meet basic legal requirements of the NEPA.

E.G. No way do the options presented provide a full range of alternatives. All it offers is three geographical variations of the same proposal.

The major impact on wildlife, Native American, wild-scenic river candidate, wilderness study area, Middle Fork Salmon and Trail — and the use and enjoyment of same by humans — is noise. This, not the relatively small sites to be physically altered by proposed construction, is the overriding effect.

Most flights by new and noisier aircraft will create severe impacts which cannot be mitigated.

Lacking realistic alternatives between NO ACTION and the three listed, the only logical option is NO ACTION-Alternative "A". Both, yet I suggest the administration should direct the AF to withdraw this inadequate DEIS and save US taxpayers the waste of any more funds on a totally flawed DEIS process, not to mention the proposed cost of an unneeded range.

Sincerely,
Roger M. Williams

000354

U.S. Air Force
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

July 30, 1997

GE-1 After careful review of the E.I.S. covering the proposed alternatives for enhanced training in Idaho, I have reach a conclusion. I am requesting that the no action alternative be followed. Here are my reasons:

1. Too many people enjoy these lands for recreational use. And no matter how much gloss is put behind probable noise levels and limited road building and construction, the recreational value of these lands (primarily the solitude) will be lost.

2) These lands are too fragile to become a mock battlefield. Certainly grazing and farming have destroyed much of the native vegetation and cryptogamic crust, what remains of a healthy great basin desert needs to be protected and revitalized, not further used in an intrusive manner. Already cattle grazing in this dessert is declining and conservation groups are slowly purchasing what private lands are available. Proactive efforts to revise the dessert ecosystem will be made by those who love the desert (i.e. recreational users).

3) I can find no compelling need for this range. Certainly not at the environmental and intrusive cost that would occur. Efforts are underway to make this area a wilderness. I believe that a wilderness designation will serve Americans much better in the long run than a larger military base.

Sincerely

Charles Burke
P.O. Box 2741
Pullman, WA 99164

000355

P.O. Box 192
Blue River, OR 97413
July 31, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing today to express my concerns about the proposed bombing range in the Owhyee Canyonlands This area is home to one of the largest California desert bighorn sheep populations left in this country. This particular herd's population is already dwindling according to a recent census. It is unspeakable to think that their existence would be threatened further to create yet another training ground for the military.

Even without the bighorn herd, wildlands such as the Owhyee Canyonlands need to be managed to protect the intrinsic wilderness values not the short sighted desires of the military. There is no question that our country needs an effective military but we don't need to continue to give the military permission to expand their training areas further into this nations wildlands where their activities will have far reaching negative impact ecologically. Enough of the United States has been set aside for the military already.

I strongly urge the U.S. Air Force and the BLM to halt any further planning for the establishment of a bombing range in the Owhyee Canyonlands.

Sincerely,

Greg Downing

000356

July 31, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Dear US Air Force/BLM,

I am writing in opposition to the enhanced training range proposal in Owyhee County, Idaho.

Having visited the Little Jacks Creek area for the first time over Memorial weekend this year, I was impressed with the beauty and solitude of the area. I cannot imagine planes on training exercises flying 500 feet over this area. The bighorn sheep we viewed through a spotting scope were spectacular! The enhanced training range proposal does not attempt to mitigate damage to the bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

PN-1 While the Draft Environmental Impact statement does not meet the requirements of the NEPA, my primary objection to the range is simply that it is NOT NEEDED. The Air Force itself has said this. It already has thousands of acres of airspace in the desert West, enough for its legitimate needs.

The loss of quiet, the effect on present and future recreation, the effects on precious wildlife, and the economic value of this area for the future are all too great to allow a bombing range that is not needed. No, we do not need and I do want the bombing range in Owyhee County! Please do not allow it at all. And please, let's go on to more needed ways to spend our dollars.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.

Very truly yours,

Barbara J. Roberts

Barbara J. Roberts
1701 N. 21st Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

000357

Frank C. Monasterio
430 North 8th East
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647
July 31, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear USAF/BLM:

This is a comment, for inclusion in the record, on the proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho.

I find that the initial environmental impact statement for this proposed bombing range is inadequate both in its approach and content.

PN-2 The statement of need is inadequate. The need for more training range space in the western United States cannot be documented without a comprehensive evaluation of the existing range space as compared to current and future need. This the Air Force continues to refuse to do.

BI-54 In other areas as well the draft environmental impact statement fails to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. For example, no attempt has been made to mitigate damage to the California Bighorn Sheep population and other affected wildlife. No meaningful mitigation measures have been provided to protect recrea-
RV-6 tional use seasons on the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers. The concerns of the Shoshone-
CU-13 Paiute Tribes regarding sacred sites and other sovereignty issues have not been
CU-14 taken seriously.

This is a bombing range which should not be built.

Sincerely,

Frank C. Monasterio

000358

Mike Misner

3608 North 36th Street, Boise, ID 83703-6616 · Telephone: 208-344-6430 · E-Mail: Mmsvcdvr@aol.com

US Air Force/Bureau Of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Ladies And Gentlemen:

I have reviewed your Draft Environmental Impact statement on the Enhanced Training Range in Idaho. It is well Prepared. Your description of the rather complex Proposed Actions and Alternatives are complete and easy to read. I have the following comments on your document:

4.11. Recreation and Visual. Environmental Consequences

Your finding of no significant impact would be strengthened if you included, in the Background Section on page 4-202, some of the data contained on pages 4-3 and 4-4 of the BSU Visitor Use Survey, 1993. Some of the information that should be included for the ROI are listed below.

The six most predominant recreation activities listed by survey respondents, in the order of importance, are fishing, hiking, sightseeing, hunting, car camping and boating. It is clear from the data that a visit commonly involved more than one activity. It should be noted that boating is occurring, but at lower levels compared to other activities.

Problems encountered while recreating were addressed in the survey. Some of that data is interesting. For example, 75% of the respondents indicated that aircraft overflights were little to no problem for the visitor. While critics of the training range proposal have long

000359

indicated that hunting would be adversely affected, only 18% of the respondents identified lack of game as a problem. Of those seeking solitude, only 14% of the respondents found "too many other visitors" to be a problem. 80% of the visitors had no problem with livestock grazing. Moreover, while float boating is lauded as a "quality" experience, 70% said there is not enough water for enjoyable boating. The highest rated problems were poor roads, unavailability of toilet facilities and limited access---all of which may be improved by the training range development.

The BSU questionnaire also examined the perceived uniqueness of the area relative to recreation opportunities and use. The results showed that more than 70% of the visitors to the ROI said that there were other places where they could go for the same activities and experiences. Furthermore, the other places were rated by the visitors as comparable to the ROI and the alternative areas are in Idaho. This is not some rare and unusual area, only to be defiled by the expansion or enhancement of the training range.

This data strongly suggests that although military range activity may be perceived as conflicting with some primitive recreation, valuable recreation experiences are being achieved within and adjacent to the training range area and are unlikely to be affected by the ETR.

4.8.5.2. Large Mammals. Environmental Consequences.

You may want to consider adding the following information to this section on California bighorn sheep. It is interesting to note that that the number of bighorn sheep increased (tripled) from about 329 in 1987 to 1,033 animals in 1990 (Table 7-5, ITR). This increase coincided with a major change in the method employed to count the sheep. In 1990 a sightablity model was developed and used to analyze variables of activity and habitat. The results of that model appear to be erratic, predicting 1082 animals in 1992, 858 in 1993, 336 in 1994 and 401 in 1996. Population counts of big game animals, with or without models, have never been an exact science. Have the numbers of sheep really declined in 1994 and 1996 or is the new counting system simply reflecting more accurate data with use? In other words, did the increase in numbers of animals reported in 1990-1993 really exist?

King and Workman (1986). Krousman (1992) found that mountain sheep will run a few meters when disturbed by low level overflights and their heart rates will increase slightly, returning to normal in less than two minutes. My doctor has been trying to get me to run a few meters and increase my heart rate for years. He indicates that it is good for cardio-vascular health. Perhaps the Air Force overflights are actually exercising the sheep in manner that promotes good physical conditioning. And of course, good physical conditioning will undoubtedly result in improved reproductive potential. The Air Force, acting in it's role of "personal trainers" for the sheep, are not only furnishing beneficial exercise but may be contributing to increased animal numbers as well.

000958

Cultural Resources, 3.9 and 4.9

From a review of these two sections, it would appear that prehistoric culture resource are predominantly lithic scatters, undoubtedly containing a few arrowheads, and historic cultural resources encompass long abandoned trappings of early white settlement (garbage dumps) and remnants of early ranching operations (collapsed houses). There are a few National Register sites present and the several sites that are eligible for the Natural Register have apparently never been nominated. There is no Roman Forum, Coliseum, Pantheon, Parthenon, Agora, Temple of Apollo at Delphi or Celsius Library of Ephesus situated in the ROI. Decision-makers need to maintain some perspective in the judgment of the significance of the cultural resources present.

Finally:

Currently, there is and has been a wealth of data and information available to determine the environmental consequences of the proposed action and to select an alternative. The Air Force and the Bureau Of Land Management need to complete the EIS process and make a decision. More delay should no longer be acceptable. The citizens of Idaho and the Nation deserve a halt to the endless environmental analysis associated with this proposed action and a termination of the financial drain of this costly process.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact me.

Mike Misner

000959

BOC

August 1, 1997

Floyd G. Johnson, M.D.
W. Steven Rudd, M.D.
John G. Kloss, M.D.
John E. Bishop, M.D.
Thomas E. Goodwin, M.D.
Robert N. Walker, M.D.
Ronald M. Kristensen, M.D.
David M. Lamey, M.D.

Adult & Children Orthopedics
Total Joint Replacement
Arthroscopy, Shoulder, Wrist & Knee
Reconstructive Joint Surgery
Surgery of the Spine
Surgery of the Hand & Upper Extremity
Microsurgery
Sports Medicine
Surgery of the Foot & Ankle
Fracture Treatment
Musculoskeletal Trauma

James M. Lauberger
Administrator

Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express my opinion regarding the proposed Air Force bombing ranges over Owyhee County, Idaho. I feel that it is inappropriate for the Air Force to fly supersonic flights over the canyon areas of southwest Idaho. I have been in those canyons many times myself, and I would find my personal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities of this state disrupted if the Air Force were to fly planes overhead for practice missions.

The canyon lands are particularly sensitive due to the fact that there are Bighorn sheep, deer, and antelopes in these areas. The capability to float these rivers is available to many residents as well. Therefore, I feel that these canyon land areas receive high recreational utilization and should be protected from frequent supersonic flights.

In addition, I would like to recount an episode that happened to me about ten years ago when I was driving from Boise to Winnemucca, Nevada. I was on Highway 95 in eastern Oregon when two Air Force fighter planes came down very low to the ground, right over my car in an area of regular highway traffic. These planes could have been no more than 50 to 100 feet above my car, plus they came from behind me which startled me severely. I wrote a letter to the Air Force at that time, and I received no response. Those planes were moving too fast to catch any numbers; however, the point I wish to make is that the Air Force pilots, being young adult males, are not entirely reliable or entirely responsible. I feel that it would be very inappropriate for pilots to fly over sensitive environmental areas that are commonly used by recreational citizens of the State of Idaho.

Sincerely,

W. Steven Rudd, M.D.
WSR:lsp

BOISE ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC, P.A.
Hartman Medical Building • 1075 North Curtis Road, Suite 300 • P.O. Box 7805 • Boise, Idaho 83707-1805 • (208) 323-2600

000960

Charles S. Link
5920 Hill Road
Boise, ID 83703

August 4, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir/Madam:

Reference the enclosed July 31 commentary from The Statesman as written by Ms. Patricia K. Hall.

I totally agree with the article. She has eloquently addressed the facts and rebutted the Air Force's argument that the expansion of the Mountain Home training range is needed.

We must not cave in to the demands of the Air Force; Idaho's wildlife, flora and, yes, protection of "obnoxious noise levels" are not for sale.

I implore you to stand firm on this issue and keep Idaho's treasures safe for the generations to follow us.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Link

Encl.

000961

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise State Student Union Bldg.

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 8/2/97

GE-1 To support the Air Force and their proposed "enhanced training in Idaho plan would be to support the destruction of one of Idaho's best kept secrets: Owyhee Canyonlands. The Owyhees offers magical land including awesome caves, incredible rock formations, places for wildlife to roam & habitate. The wildlife includes Big Horn Sheep, Antelope, birds & etc. If a bombing range was approved in an area like this one - we humans can kiss this all goodbye. It won't take long for chaffe off planes or aircraft fighters to pollute the land & the noise level to scare away anything that habitates itself in this unusual & rare place. Protect the Owyhees protect ourselves protect the land protect the wildlife - If you destroy our solitude you destroy our sanity, be selfish support Alternative #1 - no action. NONE TO

••• Please Print •••

Name: Julie Richardson

Address: 1900 N. 26th Boise, Idaho 83702
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

000962

U. S. Air Force / Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 As a firm believer that a well-trained military is a great deterent to actions by other people, I am in favor of the proposed training range as it has been planned by the Air Force.

Due to personal past experiences with low-flying aircraft, I know that all animals/birds adapt very quickly and are no longer disturbed by the aircraft.

Robert M. Aleksa
812 S. Eagleson Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83705

August 4, 1997

000963

July 31, 1997

Dear Sir or Madam:

PN-1 PR-12 Please do not expand the training range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. From what I read in the papers and in newsletters I receive from environmental groups (local and national) I am not convince the enhancements are needed. Nor am I convinced that the Air Force has complied with the appropriate legal processes in its application.

I do not pretend to know or even care about the intricacies of the procedural requirements associated with EIS's and DEIS's and the like. I am not really attempting to focus on compliance or lack of it with the established procedures. Other people and groups can and already have made the appropriate remarks concerning all these issues.

I speak only as an individual who moved to Idaho nearly thirty years ago in order to get to pristine wilderness and wide open spaces. Idaho still is what America was! But proposals like the current one for enhancement of the training range will, I think, further degrade what is one of the truly unique pieces of American landscape. When I brag to people about Idaho and my favorite places, I do not talk about the Sawtooths and the pine forests. There are lots of pretty mountains and trees in other states. What I talk about is the Owyhee Desert. I talk about the wonders to be seen if one will just get out of the car and walk a bit: about deep canyons and redband trout and desert bighorns and sensational wildflowers and Indian artifacts. And the sky, and watching weather fronts move across the landscape, and most of all, the silence, the aloneness.

I believe the things I like most about Idaho are seriously jeopardized by the proposal to expand the training range. First of all, though I am not intimate with all of that area, most of the proposed new sites I have seen seemed to center on exactly the areas I know best, particularly the Deep Creek and Jacks Creek canyons. I believe it is simply unacceptable to jeopardize those areas. I must admit to lack of personal familiarity with the areas east of highway 51, but am convinced that they must share the same virtues as the rest of the Canyonlands. Second, I have already been nearly blasted off several buttes in that country by low level aircraft that you don't see until after the sonic boom scares the hell out of you. I refuse to believe this noise does not impact desert bighorns! I certainly don't want to see more of it.

The long and short of it is I care about this forlorn desert you propose to desecrate. It is as full of life and beauty as the mountains and forests and should not become a sacrifice area. The slight marginal benefits of your enhanced training range do not justify the costs you would impose upon the land and wildlife and people who use this miraculous country we call the Owyhee Canyonlands. Let it be!

Bill Eastlake
3651 Vintage Way
Boise, Idaho 83706

Bill Eastlake

GE-1 To whom it may concern: 000964 August 2, 1997

I recently read that the U.S. Air Force is planning to build a bombing range on the Owyhee Canyonlands, home for one of the largest populations of California desert bighorn sheep in America and the sole source of transplant stock for re-establishing the species in nine western states. I am deeply opposed to bombing in the Owyhee and to the USAF plans of chasing pregnant ewes with helicopters to put radio collars on them.

Sincerely, Judith E. Embry

U.S. Home Office
870 Market St. #711
San Francisco, CA 94102
TEL: (415) 837-0490
FAX: (415) 837-0491
email: TomEMW@aol.com

EAST MEETS WEST FOUNDATION
A Humanitarian Relief and Development Organization

000965

Viet Nam Office
55 B Tran Phu
Da Nang, Viet Nam
TEL: 84-51-29110
FAX: 84-51-21850

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

August 1, 1997

GE-1 Dear USAF/BLM,

I would like to take this opportunity of casting a NO VOTE on the expanded bombing range in southern Idaho. There are many reasons why I am opposed, chief amongst them, is the destruction of habitat, and damage to the sensitive environment. I, also, do not believe that you need more "space" for your excercises. The USAF is the most able fighting force on earth and I firmly believe that our current expenditures, excercises, and trainings are sufficient to meet the needs of our already very capable fighting men and women in uniform.

With budget cuts and base closures having a significant impact on our tax and defense dollars, I cannot understand why money would be spent on the expanded bombing range; especially with all the opposition from cattlemen, ranchers, farmers, native Americans, hunters, environmentatlist, retired service personnel, etc. These shrinking dollars could be better spent on other defense items - namely, a better and more comprehensive medical and dental program for military retirees and their families. (I am a retired Marine lieutenant).

Thank you,

Respectfully,

Mark Stewart

Mark Stewart
Executive Director
East Meets West Foundation

000366

1716 First Street South
Nampa, ID 83651
August 3, 1997

U. S. Air Force/
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Ladies & Gentlemen:

As a native Idahoan, I am in favor of the proposed training range as it has been planned by the Air Force.

Sincerely,

Ray Hunter

Ray Hunter

000368

FEARLESS FARRIS WHOLESALE, INC.

P. O. Box 7627 • Boise, Idaho 83707 • Phone (208) 375-0942

"NONE BETTER REGARDLESS"

July 31, 1997

Ms. Brenda Cook
U. S. Air Force/B.L.M.
P. O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Re: Support for Additional Training Area

GE-1 Dear Ms. Cook,

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and of our Company, that represents about 400 employed people in the State of Idaho, to urge you to support the additional training ground needed by the Air Force to provide them with the space they need to fully train, in the most efficient and effective way, the new Air Force pilots.

I have been personally to the current area and have watched live demonstrations of simulated "bombings", while several cows grazed peacefully in the pasture immediately adjacent to that area. I have watched "strafing runs" made at a target at the end of a field, while two babies slept in their mother's arms standing right next to me.

I am concerned with the continued cutbacks in the Military, but for the most part agree with them, certainly with the intent. However, the expansion of the Mountain Home, Saylor Creek site, makes great sense to me, since it will allow the training to be more complete, more efficient, and will be more effective.

This is space that has very little use for anything else; there is no competition for this land. It is very open and because of our great climate and weather conditions, the conditions are favorable for flying most of the time.

Thank you for your consideration, but I urge you to support this.

Sincerely,

Kent Johnson, President

MOLLY L. SMITH
Training & Consulting
P.O. Box 3814
Ketchum, Idaho 83340
(208) 788-1054

000369

August 2, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

As a native Idahoan, I am very concerned about the proposal to expand the Air Force's bombing range in the Owyhees. I am particularly concerned about the impact on the Shoshone-Paiutes at the Duck Valley Reservation. The Air Force must have other alternatives, the Shoshone-Paiutes might not be so fortunate.

Please consider the human costs first.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Molly L. Smith

cc Governor Phil Batt

000370

2685 Cherry Circle
Emmett, Idaho 83617-9406
August 2, 1997
208-365-3776

Training Range
U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

GE-1 I am in favor of the Air Force using whatever air space they need in the proposed Training Range Area. The small amount of ground disturbance that could be done is only temporary and minimal. The Air Force is called upon to perform very technical activities in highly varied and dangerous situations. The personnel deserve and need all the training they can possible get. This training needs to be over varied terrain and flying conditions.

Many people think that because the planes will fly low at high speed and with some noise it will scare the wildlife. It will scare the human in the area much more than it will the deer antelope or mountain sheep. I am a geologist and have done considerable ground geologic work in areas where the Air Force flies low altitude missions. The wildlife in such areas do not concern themselves about the noise at all. The first time a jet goes over me at 100 feet or so I about jump off the hillside. However, knowing the low altitude jets are operating in the area causes me no alarm. In fact I enjoy seeing them maneuver so close to the ground.

The wildlife will seldom even raise their heads or be concerned about the noise. In many areas Mountain Sheep graze along highways where there is noisy traffic even big trucks with "jake brakes".

I approve of the training range area.

Sincerely,

Harold A. Powers

Harold A. Powers

000371

August 3, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID
83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

I am opposed to the Airforce creating an enhanced training range in the Owyhee Desert. I have fished and hiked in the area and find it a place of rare beauty and solitude. I have been startled by jets screaming overhead and wonder what this does to Big Horn Sheep and nesting birds.

Leave the desert alone! Despite it's desolate appearance it is a treasure that must be preserved.

Sincerely,

Jane Slickers
672 Cindy Dr.
Twin Falls, ID
83301

000372 8-2-97

GE-1 Give the Air Force the training range they want. If and when they go to war they must be the best.

Rodney B. McCoy
12092 W Silverking Ct
Boise ID 83709
377-3649

000373

Peter Pressley
P.O. Box 5284
Ketchum, ID 83340
August 1, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear USAF/BLM:

I had the privilege of floating the Jarbridge and Bruneau river canyons this spring and was overwhelmed by the beauty and peaceful solitude provided by these magnificent natural resources. I am concerned about the noise pollution that will be created by your proposal for establishing a supersonic battlefield and bombing range encompassing this area.

As a biologist with a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology, I have concerns about the impact on native wildlife like the golden eagles and bighorn sheep we observed. I realize that demonstrating long term population impacts from behavioral disturbance is difficult. But there is no doubt in my mind that the recreational impacts would be severe. The quietude of a desert canyon is one of its major attractions, and the roar of overhead jets would eliminate one of the primary values in the area.

RV-6 Please provide conditions to protect the recreational use seasons for the Jarbridge and Bruneau rivers, which normally extend only from April through June.

Sincerely,

Peter Pressley

1703 E Amity 83686
Nampa, Idaho
August 3, Monday 1997

GE-1 Listen to the voices of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes nation and care about the Owyhee Desert Creatures and Then Consider all living things into will be found and/or decimated by your bombing Enough there Already! Sincerely, Lorraine C. Sundstrom

000374

Post Card
USAF/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho
83701

From
L. Sundstrom
1703 E Amity Ave
Nampa, ID 83686-5546

000375

Ann L. Christensen
HC64, Box 8288
Ketchum, ID 83340
August 2, 1997

U. S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern:

I was not able to attend the public comment session on the proposed bombing range in Twin Falls because there was no
PR-2 afternoon session. Why were we given such a limited time to testify
PR-3 and why was the deadline for comment so soon after the issuance of the new EIS?

We have been through this before and the Air Force still
DP-4 refuses to comply with the federal court order to consider the arrival of the composite wing and the plans for their training in the same EIS. Under NEPA, these two clearly linked actions must be addressed in one EIS.

It is outrageous that there has never been a national needs
PN-5 assessment done on military land or air expansion. There should be no expansion anywhere until a needs assessment has been done which covers all branches of the military.

I have canoed the rivers of the Owyhee Canyonlands and this is prime wildlife habitat which has incredible potential for Idaho's burgeoning recreational industry. America's largest population of California desert bighorn sheep will be gravely impacted by the increased activity over the canyons and the noise from sonic booms will cause pregnant ewes to abort. Other threatened and endangered species such as the redband trout will be harmed by the degradation of habitat caused by flares, bombs and chaff and increased military
BI-2 activity in the area. The DEIS does not address adequately or even seriously the subject of wildlife. The idea of averaging noise from jet warplanes over a 24 hour period is ridiculous. The sound from a sonic boom is heard at one time and it startles both humans and wildlife in that peaceful country.

Idaho's wild desert is not an appropriate place for a bombing range.

Sincerely,
Ann L. Christensen
Ann L. Christensen

000376

August 4, 1997

GE-1 U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management

I am very opposed to the proposal to establish a Supersonic Battlefield in the Idaho canyonlands. I am very concerned that the supersonic objects would be slow to the ground and be very loud and startling. I am concerned about how this extremely loud noise will affect the wildlife and people. All of the proposed alternatives will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution and adversely impact people and wildlife. I respect all of the uses in the canyonlands and I do not want this remote and wild area to be destroyed. I believe the Air Force has underestimated the adverse effects of the extremely loud noise on people and wildlife.

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE SUPERSONIC BATTLEFIELD

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this extremely important matter.

Sincerely,
Jim Allen
1107 N. 19
Boise Idaho 83702

000377

GE-1 To Whom it may Concern

I am writting this letter to register my complaint against the Owyhee Canyonlands Bombing Range. There is no need to take more land away for the use of killing machines. What benefits can from this bombing range could out weight the wildlife populations health. No bombing range is worth the life of a species. No to the bombing range and the evil it stands for.

Sincerely,
Scott Clancy
720 Sauvageau Ln.
Caldwell, ID 83605

000378

1418 East Hays Street
Boise, ID 83712
August 5, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen:

I do not think that the proposed enhanced training range planned for the Oywhee Canyonlands area is a cost effective idea. It seems that the short commute to an existing range, while less than perfect, is a far less costly alternative to building a new, state-of-the-art range. I do not believe that it is a necessary expenditure--in fact, I think it is another example of extravagance by our Department of Defense at my taxpayer expense.

In addition, such a facility carries less quantifiable costs to the environment, to citizens and tribes who live nearby, and to people like myself who will miss this wild and scenic area.

Sincerely,
Barbara Billings
Barbara Billings

000379

GE-1 USAF,

I am writing in regards to the new "Enhanced Saylor Creek Bombing Range." Once again I am opposed to the plan for several reasons. First, I take my vacations in Southern Idaho's High Desert. Second, the same environmental issues that have been addressed in previous plans, still exist. And finally, I see this persistant push for an expansion as unnecessary and expensive to the taxpayers.

Every year I use over a week of my valuable vacation time canoeing our desert rivers in Southern Idaho. This year alone my friends and I have run the Bruneau River twice, Jarbidge once and the Owyhee River. I have the choice to spend my vacation anywhere I wish, Disneyland, Oregon Coast, etc. I choose to paddle on my desert rivers. The Bruneau, Jarbidge and Owyhee areas not only offer outstanding scenery, but the peace and quiet we all deserve while on vacation, which would be ruined by a bombing range.

The environmental problems from all the previous EIS drafts are still present. Chaff and flares still threaten the native plant and animal species. Low level flying and sonic booms are still a noise problem, but I will let biologists and other professionals address those issues.

I don't believe my opinion on the expanded range is unpatriotic. Ex-military personel have said the range is not neccessary and millions of dollars have been wasted on all

000379

the processes of drafting EIS's. The Air Force has made several attempts at pushing a bombing range on Idahoans, each time Idaho has said, "No Bombing Range!" How much more money needs to be wasted?

As our cities and populations increase, the wild places become a more valuable resource. Our high desert is not a wasteland full of rattlesnakes, it has become a popular vacation destination. The Owyhee Canyonlands should be preserved.

Heidi Camp

11675 Mesquite Dr.
Boise, ID 83713

000380

Bob Einhaus
816 13th Ave.
Lewiston, Idaho
83501

GE-1 Enhanced Training Comments.

1. No Alternative is acceptable. There should be No Bombing range expansion.
2. The cumulative effects of our economic activity has reduced wildlife and fish habitat and water quality to unacceptable levels. Many species are suffering from our so called progress.
3. We must stop this assault on our environment and restore our land to historical conditions.

Bob Einhaus

000381

Saint Alphonsus
Life Flight
Where Personal Care is the Best Medicine

August 4, 1997

United States Air Force/B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

As Team Leader of Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center Life Flight, Boise, Idaho, I feel it's my obligation to comment regarding the establishment of an expanded bombing range in southern Idaho and northern Nevada to serve the Mountain Home Air Base.

Our flight service provides the only option for rapid, advanced medical transport available to the residents of the following areas impacted by the proposals:

Grasmere, ID	Mountain City, NV
Riddle, ID	Jarbidge, NV
Rogerson, ID	Jackpot, NV
Owyhee, NV	McDermitt, NV
White Rock, NV	

The proposals call for creation of a MOA large enough to encompass the airspace over these communities. While less obstructive to our flight operations than a designated Restricted Area, the frequent activity in this MOA could regularly rend the population affected incapable of accessing life-saving medical care and transport by air. The difference in the level of care between local volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians and that provided by our flight teams is substantial and can be easily demonstrated The time required for an ill or injured patient to reach definitive care at a hospital is significant as well and readily apparent after studying the routes of ground access

Though the population of the area is relatively static, the future will bring an even higher demand for medical care in the area as recreational use of the Jarbidge and Owyhee Rivers increases.

AU-2 As I've found no provision in the proposals permitting emergency civilian airspace access during periods of MOA activity I'm writing this letter in opposition to the range proposals.

Respectfully,

Hal Iverson

Hal Iverson, R.N., CFRN, NREMT-P
Team Leader, Life Flight

1055 North Curtis Road * Boise, Idaho 83706 * (208) 367-2550
A Service of Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center

000362

3018 Agate St.
Boise, ID 83705
August 5, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern:

I'm submitting this letter to express my opposition to the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee canyonlands. My opposition is based on the following issues and concerns:

- I'm greatly concerned about the numerous wildlife populations which inhabit the region. The Air Force has not demonstrated to my satisfaction that these populations will be adequately protected. I'm further disturbed by a lack of input from Idaho Fish and Game biologists because of what appears to be concerns with the views of the political hierarchy of Idaho.

BI-51
BI-31

- I do not believe that a compelling case has been made as to the need for the proposed expansion. Published statements from Air Force and the Office of the Inspector General seem to paint inconsistent views regarding current and future training needs.

PN-1
PN-14

- I have hiked in some of the areas which are proposed for inclusion in the expanded range. I would prefer that these areas be retained for public use and that alternate sites be used.

Sincerely,

John H. Griffin

000363

July 31, 1997

USAF|BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose the expansion of the bombing range in the desert canyonlands of Idaho. These lands contain rare and beautiful flora and fauna. The delicate and pristine desert environment provides outstanding habitat for many species of animals, including the largest herd of California Bighorn Sheep.

The area is considered sacred to the Native Americans and contains many ancient artifacts that are important to their history and culture.

This area will someday be recognized worldwide as one of the most outstanding remnants of desert wilderness remaining on the planet.

To condemn this area to use as a practice field for the USAF to run bombing missions is a short-sighted, insensitive and plain stupid idea. The necessity of expansion of the bombing range is questionable. Even if a necessity exists, surely there are more suitable areas where the USAF may conduct wargames.

Sincerely yours,

Gretchen E. Dale
127 Exhibition
Ketchum, Idaho 83340

000364

Aug. 2 1997

Asa Chandler
P O Box 1270
Ketchum ID 83340

U S Air Force/
Bureau of Land Managment
P O Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83705 - 0329

GE-1 To whom it may concern:

Here we go again dealing with an agency that doesn't want to comprehend that no means NO! Why should we compromise The Owyhee River and Canyon Lands by turning them in to Super Sonic Battle Fields when The Air Force may do all the training that they need in Utah and Nevada at no extra expanse to us tax payers.

I strongly urge you to remember that we live on a planet with finite resource. The Bruneau, Jarbridge and Owyhee Canyon lands with it's extremely rare fish and wildlife species deserve protection. and let's not forget that one of this country's largest population of California desert bighorn sheep resides in these Canyons.

Nothing can replace Idaho's wild desert rivers and wild life. Idaho is too great to bomb!! Let's keep Idaho Idaho!!

Sincerely,

Asa Chandler

000365

POST INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.

July 29, 1997

Mrs. Brenda Cook
US Air Force/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID. 83701-0329

Subject: Proposed Expansion of Additional Training Area

GE-1 Dear Mrs. Cook,

I am writing you in support of the additional training area needed by Mountain Home Air Force Base and the Idaho Air National Guard.

I believe I have read every conceivable reason why the training area should not be expanded. The reasons for not expanding the training area come from a mixed group of individuals who would protest the expansion of anything that had to do with military. They can come up with some of the most asinine reasons for this opposition. These same people will pressure our Government to send our military people into harms way to protect a third world country inhabitant from starvation. They wish to put our military people in harms way without adequate training which is ludicrous.

I have personally flown over this area numerous times as a private pilot. While flying over this area I have seen military aircraft during training procedures. I consider flying through this area very safe if the pilot follows the correct procedures. Unfortunately that's not always the case and some pilot probably will be involved in some type of incident if they do not follow the correct procedures. This is not the fault of the military, but normally the fault of the private pilot. I have also hunted in this area for numerous years for antelope and deer. I have been on horseback when a jet fly's over at low altitude and have never even had the horse move. Usually they hear the jets coming before the human.

Obviously there are some sensitive areas that need to be protected in the proposed expansion. I believe the Air Force is taking this into consideration in their expansion proposals.

4477 EMERALD SUITE A-200 BOX 8447 BOISE IDAHO 83707 208-336-5600 FAX 208-344-0e51

000385

In a perfect world we would not need any military, but this is not a perfect world and we are being asked to police this world and we need to insure that our military people have the best training offered.

Very truly yours,

William F. Post

000386

Colonel Gerald H. Pease Jr.
Chief, Ranges and Airspace Division
Directorate of Operations and Training
U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise Idaho 83701-0701-0329

August 4,1997

GE-2 Dear Sir:

I am disappointed to be facing yet another effort by the Air Force to expand its training range/ bombing range opportunities in Idaho. Many of the problems of the previous proposals are repeated in this proposal. I do not support existing military use of the Owyhee MOA. I see expansion as unacceptable. I do not understand why several military bases around the country are trying to dramatically increase their training infrastructure at a time when our military forces are being reduced. I see this as a land grab effort by the military to obtain control over larger areas of federal lands at a time when the public is increasingly interested in these lands for recreation purposes; that the military is trying to get as much land now before the American people realize its true value. I understand that high Air Force officials have stated that Mountain Home Air Force base does not require an expanded training range. I also understand that MHAFB air crews can continue to use training ranges in Utah and Nevada as they have been doing.

Specific problems with the latest Air Force training range proposal:

I have hiked many times in the Jacks Creek and Little Blue Table areas that would be impacted by this proposal. I have hiked in the Dickshooter ridge area and have been disturbed by low flying jets and high altitude sonic booms that come with existing military use. One of the reasons that I like to hike in the desert is for the great silence that is there, and this is shattered by both low flying jets and high altitude sonic booms. Both can occur at any moment without warning and thus seriously degrade the quality of the experience that I encounter in the military use areas. Bighorn sheep populations have recently begun to decline in areas currently used by Air Force jets in training exercises. I believe that this decline may be associated with the arrival of the 366th composite wing at MHAFB. Increasing the area and scope of military jet activity within ROI Three will likely further harm wildlife populations including Bighorn sheep.

NO-2 -- The Air Force uses a flawed estimate of the effect of military jet aircraft noise on wildlife and recreationists by averaging the noise level over a 24 hour period and comparing that noise to that of an urban residential area. The desert is much more quiet than residential areas'(when there are no jets in the desert). This estimate does not account for the startle effect of sudden very loud noises such as sonic booms and low flying jet aircraft that would occur in this proposal. These noises cannot be mitigated.

NO-12

000386

--This proposal would increase the airspace of ROI Three in three places; in particular over the Big and Little Jacks creek area. Significant areas of WSA exist in this proposed northern expansion, including lands recommended by the BLM for Wilderness status. I am against the expansion of military airspace and the imposition of restricted airspace over the 12,000 acre drop zone.

--This proposal would involve the removal of 12,000 acres of public lands from public access for the drop zone and surrounding areas.There would be mock industrial targets constructed in the drop zone and in other no drop areas. This would in effect "develop" relatively pristine areas that have not been developed. I oppose this development; particularly for military uses.

--This proposal would involve the construction of 30 one acre or quarter acre emitter sites, scattered over a huge area. These emitter sites would degrade the visual resources of the areas that they are built in. Associated with these sites would be increased military jet activity-- low level simulated attacks by jets I would assume. These emitter sites would be used frequently and require year round access for trucks and personnel. This would involve upgrading many local roads which are often impassable at present during wet conditions. This would threaten local wildlife by increasing human activity in these areas. These areas are relatively pristine now largely because of poor access; only local or determined people go there now.

--Once the expanded training range is in place it would likely be used by aircraft from around the country and around the world. If it is in place there it would be very easy for the Air Force to dramatically increase use with little opportunity for the public to have input. Also it is often very difficult for the public to monitor Air Force compliance with environmental guidelines because of remoteness and restricted access. I do not trust the Air Force to adhere to this proposal if it is put into place.

I support the no action alternative, option A. I believe that none of the three options of the proposed ETI are in the best interest of current or furture Idahoans and other Americans.

Ed Snyder
7406 w. Rygate
Boise ID 83703

000387

1017 N. 28th Street
Boise, ID 83702
August 3, 1997

U. S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen:

Being presented with new proposals for an expanded bombing range does not change my opposition to any expansion in Owyhee County. It appears that those proposing each different proposal assume that at some point the opposition will get worn down. I assure them that is not the case.

Owyhee County is a unique area. It should not be considered wasteland.

The Duck Valley Indian Reservation needs no subjection to further flights over their land. The ranchers there are trying to make a living on the land upon which their ancestors lived.

The amount of money spent already on the previous proposals as well as this one would have been better spent keeping the defense of the country at top level by flying over the areas it already has jurisdiction over, such as in Utah and Nevada.

I ask that you use the existing air space and bombing ranges as a solution.

Sincerely yours,

Rita Smith Clare

000368

1017 N. 28th Street
Boise, ID 83702
August 3, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen:

I continue to be opposed to any expansion of training range in Owyhee County.

The Duck Valley Indian Reservation should not have to be subjected to the additional flights over their land where they as ranchers are making a living to the best of their abilities.

The use of flares can add to the danger of range fires in the area, which the desert does not need.

The bombing ranges in Utah are nearby and usable.

Leave this unique area as it is to be "multiple use" not bombing range use.

Sincerely,

Eleanor L. Smith

Eleanor L. Smith

000369

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: BSU Boise

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 5 Aug 97

GE-1 It is clear that an enhanced AF Training Range is not necessary in Idaho and it is particularly not needed in the Owyhee region. This area should be set aside for preservation not bombing and strafeing. Like most of the People who attended the Boise hearings I am opposed to any expanded Bombing or training range in Idaho

*** Please Print ***

Name: MARK Kieckbusch

Address: P.O. Box 881 Boise ID 83701
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:
U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

RICHARD "LOG HOME" STOPOL
LOG CONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST
(208)788-9893
P.O. BOX 1221 HAILEY, IDAHO 83333

000370

8/2/97

USAF/BLM
Box 329
Boise, Id
83701-0329

GE-1 To whom it Concerns,

The enhanced training range for the Air Force is not needed. The answer is NO. We do not need to expand the training range in southern Idaho when there are already existing ranges in Utah & Nevada.

I'm sick & tired of going to hearings & writing letters about this issue for the past several years. We will never allow this to happen. If the existing training range is insufficient for Mountain Home AFBase then take the jets & move them somewhere else. If necessary shut down Mtn Home AF Base & find a place to fly where you are not going to disturb the wildlife & the land. Thanks

000351

4 August 1997
USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-1 I request that the USAF withdraw their proposal to expand its military use of the Owyhee Canyonlands including the airspace above the Jacks Creek canyon complex. This is such unique land containing endangered species that the USAF must find other alternative to using this for electronic combat and bombing ranges

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Nicholas
4029 Corliss Ave. N
Seattle, WA 98103

000994

Sevy Guide Service, Inc.

P. O. Box 24, Stanley, Idaho 83278

August 1, 1997

USAF/BLM
PO Box 325
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

I would like to comment on the DEIS for the Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) proposal by the Air Force. I've read the Community Report and researched topics of interest in Volume I and II of the EIS. Please record my strong support for the No Action Alternative.

River trip and big game outfitters licensed by the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Board have had long standing concerns on proposed developments by the Air Force near the Jarbidge-Bruneau and Upper Owyhee River systems. Our concerns regarding ETI are listed in order of importance as follows:

1. "An increase in aircraft overflight would occur in the new airspace and around a selected range alternative." (Page 34, Community Report) River outfitters on the Upper Owyhee River and on the Bruneau River have had a long history of negative experiences due to the noise and disturbance of low flying jets over these canyonlands. Although the Air Force has pointed out that aircraft noise has been an inherent feature of any person's experience in this area over the past forty years, the outfitting community and public can only express that loud jet noise is disruptive and that it adversely impacts our experiences in these canyonlands Alternative B (Clover Butte) and Alternative D (Juniper Butte) would concentrate more aircraft over the Jarbidge- Bruneau confluence (Indian Springs) and over the Jarbidge River itself. Aircraft encounters and jet noise have always been disruptive to our trips on the lower reaches of the Bruneau as jets approach the target area on the Saylor Creek Range. Specifically Alternatives B & D would increase the number of aircraft encountered over the upper reaches of the river. The river outfitting community finds this unacceptable. We are furthermore concerned that the proposed 640 acre No Drop Zone located to the west of the lower Bruneau River near the river rim will add more aircraft to this area and make this outstanding section of the lower Bruneau less attractive.

It appears that the Shoshone-Paiute tribes may have lobbied effectively within this current proposal to eliminate aircraft overflight of Owyhee, Nevada, and to establish a ceiling of 10,000 AGL over the entire Duck Valley Indian Reservation. We compliment the tribes for their proactive efforts. The outfitting community which includes both river and big game outfitters recognizes the need for similar concessions for our industry. Regardless of the outcome of the current ETI proposal, we are long standing proponents of an "airspace envelope" particularly over the Upper Owyhee Canyonlands. The frequent mock air battle that we observe over the Battle Creek-East Fork of the Owyhee confluence area has been a frequent complaint. With an MOA so large that it encompasses huge regions of three states, there are certainly more appropriate areas for these training exercises than the pristine Owyhee Canyonlands.

Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho's Famous "River of No Return Wilderness"
Adventure Partner Experiences
Owyhee and Bruneau Rivers, Arctic Discovery, and Sportsman's Vacations
208-774-2200 • Fax 208-774-3699

000994

We foresee that 2,000 individual river users will soon be exploring the Jarbidge- Bruneau River system. An "airspace envelope" does not seem practical for these canyonlands since aircraft are approaching targets at a low altitude on the Saylor Creek range. However, a cessation of training activity during the river season (May 15 - June 30) certainly would be appropriate.

(2) The sharp decline of the Owyhee River California bighorn sheep population and also of the Little Jacks Creek herd is of serious concern. As pointed out in the documents, causes of bighorn sheep decline can be attributed to numerous factors, including low lamb ratios, density dependent population regulation, all age die off, significant relocation activity by the Idaho Fish & Game, and documented irruptive population growth rates that have been observed historically with this animal population. Several big game outfitters derive a portion of their income on trophy hunts of legal rams in the Owyhee Canyonlands, Jack's Creek, and along the Jarbidge/Bruneau. It is significant that the legal ram count has dramatically declined in Little Jack's Creek (41 rams in 1993 to 14 rams in 1996) and along the Owyhee River in Idaho (114 rams in 1993 to 51 in 1996). The Jarbidge Bruneau herd and the Big Jack's Creek herd appear stable.

BI-49

Subsonic flights over the Owyhee canyonlands began in 1992 and the number of flights have increased annually. Could it be that the loud disruption of subsonic flight is a contributing factor to the decline of a sensitive California bighorn sheep population in this area? The outfitting industry suggests that thorough research of the bighorn sheep populations with an agreed upon methodology is needed. We furthermore support that an airspace envelope of 10,000 AGL be enforced over the canyonlands during the critical lamb rearing period in May to early July.

BI-30

SF-4

3) We are concerned that the risk of wildfire might increase from more intensive use of the area by the Air Force. A continued loss of sagebrush habitat has already seriously effected a once healthy sage grouse population in this area. Many of us foresee the listing of sage grouse as an endangered species in the near future.

BI-18

4) We foresee a huge growth of recreational activity to the Jarbidge-Bruneau region in the future. Conflicts of interest between the Air Force plan and the needs of recreation are inevitable. The recreation value of Idaho's southwestern corner with its outstanding river and backcountry opportunities demands careful planning.

We respectfully submit these comments for your review.

Sincerely,
Bob Sevy
Bob Sevy
Sevy Guide Service, Inc.

cc: Grant Simonds
Various Outfitters
Idaho Congressional Delegation

000995

8/2/97

GE-2 Dear Sirs,

I wish to voice my opposition to ALL of the proposed alternatives of the Supersonic Battlefield. The Air Force has underestimated the noise generated, and even their loose estimates assumes that the pilots will strictly adhere to the rules. From my own observation, and the observations of thousands of other people in Nevada, the pilots routinely ignore the rules and "buzz" recreationists or settlements in the desert.

NO-1

DP-30

The Owyhee Canyonlands are an incredible national resource and deserve national protection.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kelly
520 S. Cockrell
Boise, ID 83709
(205) 385-3083

4 Aug 97

000996

GE-1 I am in favor of the proposed training range as it has been planned by the Air Force.

Sincerely,
Elaine C. Allen

9724 Horse Shoe Bend Rd.
Boise, ID 83703-9742

P.O. Box 148
000397 Weiser, Idaho 83672
August 3, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

Here are my comments on the draft EIS for the Enhanced Training in Idaho.

I am still not in favor of the Enhanced Training Bombing Range in Idaho. In the draft EIS you fail to show a need for this range that outweighs the use of the Owyhees as a wildlife, native plants, cultural resources, scenery, and recreation reserve. Because in most military actions today bombers and fighters fly several hundred miles to their target areas, having the targets close at hand

PN-2 doesn't provide realistic practice. The pilots and navigators need to train to keep alert over long periods of time, so they can do it in a real war. Therefore, using the ranges in Nevada and Utah would be a better alternative.

You also do not address an issue that is of concern

PR-15 to many Idahoans, the likely future expansion of the range to include more target areas, emitter sites, roads, and the use of more destructive ordnance. Future expansion might close large areas to the public and would have a much worse effect on wildlife and native vegetation than the EIS shows. Idahoans don't want to see large areas of Idaho closed to the public as has happened in California and Nevada. Maps of those states show large areas marked "no public entry." There is no assurance that wouldn't eventually happen with the Enhanced Training.

Range.

000397

The Owyhees are a unique area where the Great Basin plant and animal communities meet those of the Northern Rockies, causing many unusual and endemic species to be present. There are 21 plants considered sensitive within the proposed area, 6 fish, 9 invertebrates, 6 amphibians and reptiles, 38 birds, and 11 mammals. The forks of the Owyhee, Big and Little Jacks Creeks, and the Jarbidge and Bruneau rivers are all scenic enough to be of national importance for recreation. The ~~~~ Owyhees also provide wintering and calving areas for elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope. The noise of overflights and the presence of emitter sites, roads, and target areas would degrade that resource. We need to think ahead 25 to 50 years to when we will need additional recreation areas to ~~ accommodate our increasing population and additional wildlife preserves to protect wildlife from that population.

In addition, you haven't shown how the

PR-7 range will be paid for in these days of spending cuts. A few miles less flying distance to training would save only a small part of the cost of the range. Can you assure the public that if the range goed in, it won't be discontinued in ten or twenty years leaving scars on the land?

We should be preparing an EIS for parts of the Owyhees to be a wildlife preserve or park, not a training range.

Sincerely,
Margaret Fuller

~~~~
~~~~

001.000 Aug 5, 1997

U.S. Airforce/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen

As a Concerned Citizen I and my wife wish to express our voices on the matter of the training range for the airforce at Mtn Home, Idaho.

We feel that the environment is an important issue, but this issue is being blown clear out of proportion. We are in favor of the proposed training range as it has been planned by the U.S. Air Force. It would be a disaster if it (the plan) failed.

Sincerely
Paul & Viola Cooper
1422 Denver St.
Boise Id 83706

001.001

Aug. 1 '97

GE-2 Dear USAF/BLM —

I am writing to comment on the proposed battlefield airspace bombing range. I am not in favor of the enhanced training range because it is not needed and it is not legal.

PR-12 The DEIS — is not in compliance with nepa in many areas. Some of these areas are: The sovereignty issues of the Dixie-Shoshone tribes.

CU-13 regarding sacred sites and other religious matters have not been dealt with in a serious manner. No attempt has been made to mitigate damage to the Calif. bighorn sheep pop. and other wildlife that may be affected. The USAF studies as shown in the DEIS are insufficient as to what the true effects the range will have on wildlife.*

BI-51 The proposed bombing range would have an enormous effect on some of North America's most outstanding rivers. The nearly continuous overflights would shatter the special silence and tranquility of Idaho's desert rivers. Noise pollution is also harmful to the animals + birds of the river habitat.

001.001

As a person who used to live out in the Three Creek area I know the special qualities and peacefulness this area contains. I really feel strongly about it being protected as it is, without any further encroachment to fit man + his great machines such as jets — We do care about this country! It is not an area devoid of wildlife and special characteristics that no one cares about. It has a lot of character and a special beauty all its own.

Please take care of it!

Susan Wood-McKean

Ms. Susan Wood McKean
3578 N. Turret Way
Boise, ID 83703-3210

001.002

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

Box 293
Ketchum, ID 83340
Aug. 5, 1997

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern,

I am opposed to the enhanced training range and feel that the

PR-12 draft environmental does not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Air Force should maintain its existing range without any expansion.

I have hiked and boated in this region and appreciate its unique character. Recreation in Idaho continues to grow with increasing demands from the public to float scenic rivers and view fauna and flora in its natural habitat. It's deserving of protection for numerous reasons. The Owyhee Canyonlands are home to the largest population of California desert bighorn sheep and its rivers host rare fish such as the redband trout. Endangered and rare species such as the peregrin falcon, cougar, bobcat, and grouse live here.

Overflights would diminish the tranquility of the canyons. A sacred solitude permeates these **canyonlands**, a place where both human and animal can commune and find connection.

The majority of Idahoans as well as Americans choose to recreate in places that offer peace of mind and soul rather than supersonic battlefields. Please do not destroy the beauty of these sacred lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Char Roth

Char Roth

001003

Aug. 4, 1997

GE-1 To Whom it may concern at the U.S.A.F and the B.L.M. ,

I am writing you to voice my my strong opposition to the proposed bombing range expansion. This is a Battle that, though fought once, has again reared it's ugly head.

My concerns and opinions are as follows:

These are special and rare places, from a National perspective. Once they become " Military Property" they are gone forever. Unbelievable river canyons, and pristine high desert. I want my kid to be able to experience these places with out having to wear earplugs.

The consolation of living in the harsh environment of this country, is solitude: not compatible with overflights, and bombs. It's not right to take this away from the ranchers and the Native Americans that live there.

The economic benefits of this proposal are non-existant to the people most impacted by this expansion.

The Big Horn will suffer.

Recreational users, who continue to be an increasingly important part of our Idaho economy, will suffer.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

William B Cardozo
Box 2889
Ketchum, Id. 83340

001004

BACKWOODS
MOUNTAIN SPORTS
EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS

US Air Force/BLM
PO329
Boise, Id. 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear sirs,

I've floated the Jarbidge/Bruneau many times and find it sickening that you are considering expanding the bombing range in that area. It is truly a world class recreational area that deserves protection rather than exploitation.

Before you force this down our throats please:1)Do a more accurate noise study on people and animals. 2)Establish a need. 3)Have as an alternative no added land and even cutting back on overflights during May and June and during critical mating seasons. 3) Properly disclose all the impacts on the area with the ETI and the composite wing of MH AFB.

Most importantly, quit the deceit and manipulations used to force this project down the throats of the people of Idaho!

Sincerely,

Andy Munter-Owner
Backwoods Mtn Sports
PO 1508
Ketchum, Id. 83340

Box 1508 • Corner of North Main Street and Warm Springs Road • Ketchum, Idaho 83340 • 208/726-5818

001005

GE-1 USAF/BLM -

I oppose your proposed bombing range plan for Owyhee. You don't need the Expansion, you will contribute all sorts of pollution to the area, and you will negatively impact wilderness + wildlife.

Please call it off!

Sincerely,

Ms. Guadalupe Flores
1916 W. 2nd #A
Spokane, WA
99204

001006

Aug 4, 1997

USAF/BLM
PO BOX 329
BOISE, ID 83701

RE: BOMBING RANGE

GE-1 SIRS,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the latest version of the Bombing Range expansion over the Owyhees. Please leave this pristine recreation area for the expanding population and continue bombing practice on land that is already devastated.

Thank you,
Nan Crocker
93 Adams Gulch Rd.
Ketchum, ID 83340
208-726-9185
(P.O. Box 974, Ketchum)

001007

6 Aug 97

GE-1 Sirs:

I highly favor and support the proposed training range that has been planned by the Air Force.

I discuss the plan with all that will listen reason. I explain the flaws of the arguments stated by the plan opponents.

How else can I best support this essential training facility?

Jim Miller M.D.
8283 Willowpark
Boise, Id. 83714

208/322-4189

001011

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern:

The high desert of the Owyhee Canyonlands provides a home for one of the largest populations of California desert bighorn sheep in America. It is the sole source of "transplant" stock for re-establishing the species in nine western states.

BI-50 The military wanted to measure the effects of intrusion on the heart rates of the animals in preparation for a proposed bombing range in the sheep habitat. The plan was to use helicopters to chase down pregnant ewes and put radio collars on them.

"The Society is not opposed to wildlife research," explains Craig Gehrke, Regional Director for Idaho, "but the U.S.A.F. plan was an unnecessarily dangerous one, considering that a recent census showed the herd's numbers down by half."

I oppose the proposed bombing range.

Sincerely,

Tamela Weaver

Tamela Weaver

P.O. Box 191
Edgewood, IL 62426-0191

Aug 6, 1997
001012

GE-1 USAF/BLM

I am writing regarding the proposed additional bombing range in the Owyhee. I have given this a lot of thought for some time. In the long run I feel that the additional bombing range should not be. It's more important to protect wild-life, the land, and the public's right to freely access this land.

Sincerely
Tom Beydeka
P.O. Box 194
Ketchum
Idaho 83340

001013

August 5, 1997

U.S. Air Force/
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir/Ma'am;

There are many good reasons why expanding the Air Force bombing range is a foolish idea. I'll just list a few here so you get the idea.

1. In case you haven't noticed, the Cold War is over. The Soviet Union no longer exists. The U.S. is already spending more on its military than the other top six military spending nations in the world. That is an appalling waste of the taxpayer's dollar which needs to stop.
2. Any increase in jobs caused by an expanded bombing range will be taxpayer supported jobs. More jobs might be a good idea if the taxpayer doesn't have to pay for them.
3. Vast amounts of land in the adjacent states of Nevada and Utah are already locked up by the military and unavailable for civilian use. The military doesn't need more. If fact we should be talking about reducing the size of existing bombing ranges in the west and returning some of that confiscated land to private or public civilian use.
4. The government and military have a record of using land they control for destructive purposes which has a harmful effect on civilians, and then refusing to take any responsible for the harm they do. Witness the nuclear testing done in the 1950's which rained toxic fallout on many western and central states, including Idaho, and we only find out about it 40 years later.
5. With more accurate weapons and delivery systems, and with computerized, high-tech equipment, it should be possible for the military to accomplish its training goals, either with significantly less locked-up terrain or in simulated situations. This is another reason to reduce, not increase the size of the bombing range.
6. The land should be treated with respect. It should be cared for, so that future generations may find it is as pristine a condition as possible. Using the land for destructive purposes is very poor stewardship.

001013

7. We should be cutting the military budget, not expanding it. This is necessary to help balance the budget, instead of trying to do it on the backs of the poor. The grossly overfunded military is a financial burden for Americans.

8. We let you know a couple years ago that we didn't want the bombing range expanded. Now you're trying to do it again. What part of "No" don't you understand?

Sincerely,

Leonard Nolt
5763 Filly St.
Boise, ID 83703

August 5, 1997

001014

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-2 I write to vehemently protest the proposed expansion of the Air Force bombing range into the Owyhee Canyonlands. This is the fourth try to slip this proposal past the people of Idaho and the northwest. It's a blatant waste of taxpayer dollars and it will never be accepted by sportsmen, conservationists, and Native Americans who love the desert lands for their intrinsic value.

The Air Force already has sufficient training areas at the Saylor Creek Range in Idaho, and bases in Utah and Nevada. The Air Force's own people have admitted that this expansion is not necessary to maintain optimum pilot training and combat readiness. Nor is it necessary for the continuance of Mountain Home AFB, which has already survived several rounds of base closures.

The Owyhee Canyonlands is rich in wildlife. A quarter of the population of the California Bighorn Sheep population in North America resides there, plus antelope, sage grouse, Peregrine falcons, redband trout, and the list goes on. The area is unparalleled in scenic beauty and grandeur - comparable to the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park. It is worthy of far more than being bombed and burned into oblivion.

No one knows for certain what the effects of supersonic overflights, bombings, chaff and incendiary flares would have on wildlife. Common sense tells us that such disruption and stress on wildlife breeding patterns and habitat can only have negative impacts. The Air Force has not complied with NEPA requirements to consider all environmental consequences. The proposal is unneeded and illegal. It should be scrapped.

PR-12
PN-1

The Owyhee Canyonlands are a national treasure and deserve our protection, not desecration by the U.S. Air Force. There comes a time when a line must be drawn as to what the people of Idaho must accept for our remaining wild lands. Enough already! The soltitude and beauty and opportunity for spiritual renewal offered by wild places such as the Owyhee Canyonlands is quickly disappearing from the Earth. Our greatest legacy to future generations will be to leave them such places intact and unscarred. The Air Force does not need the Owyhee country, and it should stay out.

Sincerely,

Susan Westervelt
P.O. Box 223
Deary, ID 83823

cc: Gov. Phil Batt
Sen. Larry Craig
Sen. Harry Reid
Pres. Bill Clinton

001015

August 4, 1997

USAS/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing once again to voice my opposition to the proposed Idaho Training Range (ITR). There are three points which support my conviction that this expansion is flawed:

1. The Environmental Impact Statement is incomplete.
BI-2 2. The adverse impact of this bombing range on wildlife has not been adequately examined.
RV-10 3. The adverse impact on recreational uses on the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers has not been thoroughly examined.

While the lack of a thorough assessment of the impact of the proposed expansion has not been completed, I believe the most important aspect of this issue is the affect of this training range on the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. I can assure you that if instead of an Indian reservation, a retirement community similar to Sun City, Arizona existed in this area, this issue would be mute. The fact is our government continues it's sad history of adversely impacting the lives of the native people whose ancestors inhabited this country prior to European expansion. It is unconscionable to me that you could even think of expanding into the Duck Valley area.

Thank you for you time and consideration of this viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Gina Cooley

P.O. Box 218
Duck Valley, ID 83353

001016

August 5, 1997

U.S. Airforce
Bureau of Land Management
P O Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 The proposed training range as planned by the Air Force is a good thing -- necessary to the development of skills that may one day be needed to protect us all.

I am in favor of such a plan.

Madeleine Rath
Edmonds, WA

513 3rd Ave. S.
Edmonds, WA 98020

001017

KEN RANSFORD, P.C.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

1775 SHERMAN STREET, SUITE 2000
DENVER, COLORADO 80203-4319
PHONE (303)-832-4400
FAX (303)-861-8853
ransford@csn.net

0475 SIERRA VISTA
CARBONDALE, COLORADO 81623
PHONE (970)-963-6800
FAX (970)-963-6700
ransford@csn.net

August 7, 1997

US Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 To whom it may concern,

I oppose the Air Force plans to create a supersonic battlefield and new bombing range in the Owyhee and Bruneau Canyonlands. The bombing will disrupt wildlife and recreational users There are very few places left in the world that are truly out of range of the sounds of technology Please find another location for your bombing range

Sincerely yours,

Ken Ransford

Ken Ransford

C:\KEN\attempt.pf

001018

Jenie Bown
Po Box 816
Jackson, WY 83001

GE-1 To whom it may concern,

Please strongly consider plans to open a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. While the defense of the United States and world Peace is very important, please do not sacrifice and harm a very vulnerable population of California desert bighorn sheep. These species deserve just as much protection as the American people.

Please protect this bighorn population and halt plans to open a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Sincerely,

Jenie D. Bown

08/08/97 11:25 ☎208 828 4205 366 WG/PA 002/004

001019

6/30/97

Captain M. Miller
Chief 366th Wing PA
366 Gunfighter Ave.
Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID 83648-5291

GE-1 Captain Miller:

We believe that the training range of Mountain Home is an absolute necessity due to unstable world conditions and the possibility that this country could be forced into additional military action in either Bosnia or Korea in the next year.

It is our opinion that the Department of Defense and other government agencies have done exhaustive research in where the range should be located. If they had a better location than Mountain Home to train pilots, we believe they would be considering that location. Because of our year around flying weather and the sparse population, this is the place. Bearing that in mind, we would suggest that of the three alternatives the air force has chosen, they should pursue the one that will affect the Indian nation least. The air force should always remember the range is for everyone under the multiple use concept.

From a hard dollar and cents standpoint, after college and five years of active duty, we have some very expensive manpower and equipment. If we lose a pilot and an airplane, we have lost over three million dollars. More than that we have lost one of the most effective, well trained weapons (pilot and jet) ever to protect this country and the free world. Replacement cost is prohibitive. The Mountain Home Air Force Base is the most advanced composite wing in the free world today and we would like it to stay that way.

We support and salute you and this republic as envisioned under the Constitution of the United States.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Jones
1107 Maple Dr
Nitro (Mountain) WV 25143

208 828 4205 08-08-97 11:25AM P002 #22

08/08/97 11:25 ☎208 828 4205 366 WG/PA 003/004

001020

505 Yellow Jacket Rd
Twin Falls ID 83301

Capt. Melissa Miller
366 WG/PA
Mountain Home AFB, ID.

7-28-97

GE-2 I am writing concerning the proposed expanded air force training range and saying that I oppose it.

Idaho rangeland and wildlands are too valuable to use as bombing ranges etc. Try the desolate salt lake in Utah or better yet turn Guantanamo naval base in Cuba into an air station and try realistic training on the Cubans.

Idaho citizens are literally nibbled to death by ducks in regard to nuclear sites, bombing ranges and welfare ranching. Governmental agencies always want more, they are never satisfied nor do we ever see anything turned back to Idahoans in the same or better shape.

208 828 4205 08-08-97 11:26AM P003 #22

08/06/97 11:26 ☎208 826 4205 366 WG/PA ⓟ004/004

001020

Why worry about defense if we are going to gradually destroy the land to be defended? Guided missiles seems to be the future technology with less and less reliance on manned airplanes. By the way don't you have simulators to train on?

PN-6

only combat trained pilots in the final analysis so the idea of more training range falls flat. However if you do want more consider flying over Twin Falls before picking on the Sheilians at Duck Valley. Bomb me just and get it over with.

please enter this letter in public record.

Yours truly

Earl D. Olson

Roberta Olson

208 826 4205 08-06-97 11:25AM P004 R22

001021

Captain M. Miller
Chief 366th Wing P.A.
366 Gunfighter Av. Suite 152
Mountain Home, AFB, Id. 83648-5291

7-28-97

GE-1 Captain Miller,

I would like to express my support for the "Enhanced Training In Idaho" proposal. The Air Force has incorporated many of the issues and concerns of special interest groups into the three proposed alternatives. I think the Juniper Butte site is the most desirable in my view. Specifically, the Juniper Butte site accommodates the concerns of the Native Americans, and the ranchers, and lowers the overall noise levels for most of Owyhee County.

I hope this time, the Air Force completes the NEPA process and builds a range.

Michael J Dietrich Jr.
Michael J Dietrich JR.
935 S 10th East St.
Mtn Home, Idaho 83647

001022

Captain M. Miller
Chief, 366th Wing PA
366 Gunfighter Av. #152
MHAFB, Id 83648-5291

19 June 1997

GE-1 Dear Captain Miller,

I would like to comment in support of the "ETI" draft EIS. Specifically alternatives, B,C, and D, will work for the residents of Elmore and Owyhee County. I support the findings concerning the projected noise levels, the impacts to wildlife and local ranchers. I do not support the claims of the Shoshone Piautes. They can not change history. They have no more rights to the use of public lands, than any other citizen.

I would also like to tell the air force that not all citizens of Idaho think that Owyhee County should be made a National Park. I for one, think it is just great now and don't want anymore federal land managers from New York telling me what I need to do for Owyhee County, Idaho. I support the "ETI" DEIS.

Dianna Huntington
DIANNA HUNTINGTON
965 Galena Ct
Mtn Home Ida 83647

001032

Captain M. Miller
Chief. 366th Wing PA
366 Gunfighter Av. #152
MHAFB, Id 83648-5291

GE-1 Captain Miller,

Please consider my comments concerning the "ETI" DEIS. I support any of the alternatives, B,C, or D. Specifically, I feel the noise analysis describes the real noise impacts. I have been a frequent visiter to the desert area called the Y-P desert and the Bruneau River / Sheep Creek system. Most of the year the area is not desirable for foot travel. Never have I been subjected to a low level overflights. I have seen jets, but they presented no problem or disruption to my travel.

I am also a hunter, and have hunted in the Owyhee area. Any hunter can be disturbed, usually it is another hunter, not a jet. To claim jets are not compatible with military training is just not true.

Finally, I would like to reject the claims to public lands as expressed by Shoshone Piaute tribal leaders. They cannot change Idaho history. They should have the same rights to public land use as I do . ... no more .. no less.

Kent J. Marcusen
KENT MARCUSEN
2407 Swallowtail Ln
Boise, Idaho 83706

001070

Enhanced Training In Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: _____

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 12 JUNE 97

GE-1 IN ORDER FOR THE USAF TO STAY AT AN ELITE LEVEL THEY MUST SET HIGHER GOALS WITHIN CAN BE REACHED BY HAVING A RANGE WHERE THEY CAN TRAIN IN REALISTIC SITUATIONS. THIS CAN BE ATTAINED ONLY IF WE ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT OUR MILITARY.

I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PROPOSAL OF EITHER B C OR D WHICHEVER ONE HELPS THE AF MAINTAIN ITS FLYING EXCELLENCE AND ALSO IS THE LEAST HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES IN EACH PROPOSAL.

*** Please Print ***

Name: SANDIE NICHOLS

Address: 1949 STONETREE DR. MTN. HOME ID 83647
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

001071

Enhanced Training In Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: ECSIC

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Date: 7-1-97

GE-1 I FEEL THIS ALTERNATIVE IS RECOGNIZED AS THE BEST APPLICATION WITH MINIMAL IMPACT ON WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. IDAHO'S RURAL SETTING SHOULD SERVE AS A LOW IMPACT TRAINING AREA. MINES IS A VALUABLE COMPONENT TO ALL OF IDAHO.

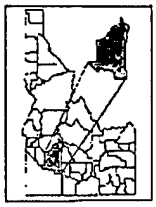
*** Please Print ***

Name: Nelson Wing

Address: 1570 N ABBOTT MT Home
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329



001079

E.C.I.S.C.

Elmore County Impact Steering Committee
Community Planning for
Economic Development

390 East 2nd North
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

Office (208) 587-2968
Fax (208) 587-5317

Captain M. Miller
Chief 366th Wing PA
366 Gunfighter Avenue
Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID 83648

June 27, 1997

GE-1 Dear Captain Miller,

The Elmore County Impact Steering Committee (ECISC) strongly supports "ETI" alternatives B, C or D. We feel that any of these alternatives provide the desired training capability as well as address concerns of others.

There would be no impact on the wild sheep. The target areas are not near the native American reservation. The few river rafters that exist would not be affected. The area is used by very few people for fishing, hunting, camping or other recreational activities.

Our eleven member committee, made up of local business/professional people, urges the Air Force to complete this training range process as expeditiously as possible. The best interests of the community, State of Idaho and our nation will benefit from your successful efforts.

Sincerely,

Gary Boehlke

Gary Boehlke,
Chairman

GB/rs

001080



Mike Misner

3400 North 36th Street, Boise, ID 83703-4616 • Telephone, 208-344-4434 • E-Mail, Mikemisner@aol.com

August 8, 1997

US Air Force / Bureau Of Land Management
PO BOX 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Ladies and Gentlemen

Please consider this a supplement to my letter of August 4, 1997, on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Enhanced Training Range in Idaho.

In 1995, the National Park Service completed the *Report on effects of aircraft overflights on the National Park System: executive summary, report to Congress, appendixes, 1995.*

Enclosed are several pages from the report. They show the impacts from overflights on park visitors I urge you to include this information, along with the data from the *BSU Visitors Use Survey*, in the Background section on Page 4-202 of the DEIS.

Table 3, on page 18, lists the number of visitors hearing or seeing aircraft and the resultant impacts Only 20 1% of the visitors reported hearing aircraft Only 1.9% reported that hearing aircraft interfered with their park visit. Only 1.6% reported that they were annoyed by hearing aircraft and only 2 8% said that hearing aircraft interfered with their appreciation of natural quiet. Moreover, only 18 8% actually saw aircraft and only 3.0% reported being annoyed by seeing aircraft.

Figure 4-3 on page 91, depicts the views of visitor who were ask how much the sounds of aircraft interfered with their appreciation of historical and cultural significance of parks. In 8 selected cultural parks, 95 3 % of the respondents reported no interference at all. In the system wide response at 39 parks, only 2% reported moderate to extreme interference. Simply stated, There is no wide-spread impact on the appreciation and enjoyment of historical and cultural resources from aircraft overflights.

Page 101 lists acoustic impacts on structures within the parks. The text states, *"This slow process, along with myriad intervening factors, make it difficult to prove conclusively*

001080

that any particular structure failed due to aircraft noise exposure alone or even that the process was hastened by such exposure."

Table 1 on page 108 shows responses by specific animals to aircraft overflights. Responses of Bighorn sheep are listed therein. A thorough review of the research documents listed in the reference section discloses no serious adverse response to overflights. Sheep will run a few meters when disturbed by low level overflights and their heart rates will increase slightly, returning to normal in less that 2 minutes. None of the researchers documented sheep "dropping dead" from overflights. The research data did show that disturbance is greatest from foot traffic followed by helicopters, fixed wing aircraft and last by military jet aircraft. The first two source of disturbance can be easily curtailed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game---reduce the number of hunting permits and terminate helicopter counts of the animals. Neither of the first two sources of disturbance are related to impacts of the Enhanced Training Range. In other words, do not get "suckered " into a heavily taxpayer-financed mitigation plan or payoff for impacts that are only minimally (jet overflights) related to the proposed action.

Figures 7.2 and 7.3, on pages 157 and 160, clearly demonstrate that neither park managers or visitors were concerned about personal safety from overflights.

The following conclusions can readily be reached from review of this 329 page report:

First, overflights have only a very minimal impact on the safety and enjoyment of park visitors. Second, overflights have a very minimal impact on visitors appreciation and enjoyment of cultural and historical resources and there is no evidence of structural damage from aircraft exposure or that that the process is hastened by such exposure. Third, overflights from military jets have only minimal impacts on the behavioral and physiological responses of bighorn sheep.

In summary, from the information furnished in my first letter on the *BSU Research Survey (1993); The US Forest Service Survey of Overflights Of The National Forest System (1992)* and the aforementioned *National Park Service Report To The Congress (1995)*, one can conclude that the sounds and sights of overflights have little to no impact on ***visitors*** to the ROI, only minimal impacts on ***large mammals*** (bighorn sheep) and no impacts on ***cultural resources*** (lithic scatters). **Overflights are not a problem.** Therefore, I urge you not to accept some *logic fallacy* that current information on noise is inadequate or unavailable and that millions of dollars in endless new studies, research or methodology are needed assess an infinite number of parameters of noise when it will have virtually no significant impact on the human or natural environment.

If I can furnish any additional information, please contact me.

Mike Misner

001081

GE-1 To whom it may concern [redacted]

It is my understanding that the Bruneau-Jarbidge River area may soon be turned into an electronic battlefield. There are three proposed "alternatives" concerning the actual location of the bombing range. All of these alternatives will in effect destroy this area to be enjoyed as a natural wonder.

Dwight D Eisenhower said:

"The problem with defense is how far you can go without destroying from within what you are trying to defend from without."

It is imperative that we think about these words

and realize what an incredible resource is at stake. 001081

Thank you,
Irene Bennett
Pullman WA

520 SE Pioneer
Pullman WA 99163

RANCHO SAN BENITO
12500 COALINGA ROAD
PAICINES, CA 95043

001082

GE-2

August 3, 1997

BI-50 Why should the Air Force be allowed to use helicopters to chase down pregnant ewes and put radio collars on them?
The high desert of the Owyhee Canonlands provides a home for a large population of California desert bighorn sheep and shouldn't be allowed for the Air Force to use it as a bombing range.
Why can't the Armed Forces stop bombing our land? The Cold War is over!

Mr C.C. Edington
Mrs Ruth T. Edington

IDAHO RIVERS UNITED

August 15, 1997

United States Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Comments on Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement

GE-2 Dear Folks,

Idaho Rivers United appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Air Force's Enhanced Training in Idaho. We support Alternative A, the no action alternative, as the only alternative which does not degrade the spectacular rivers of the Owyhee Canyonlands which IRU has been working to protect since 1990.

Idaho Rivers United is a statewide river conservation organization with over 1600 members. Our mission is to advocate for the protection of the integrity of river systems. This includes not only issues related to water quality and quantity but also issues which may impact the recreational experiences of our membership. The Jarbidge, Bruneau, and Owyhee River systems offer truly unique recreational opportunities which will be severely diminished should the Air Force proceed with any of the action alternatives. Following is a discussion of the reasons we adamantly oppose any increases in Air Force activities anywhere in the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Noise

The single biggest impact to IRU members hiking, floating and fishing in the canyons is the noise. This includes not only sonic boom events but also increased noise levels from increased overflights, night time activities and generators on the canyon rim used to power the emitter sites. None of these disturbances are acceptable or compatible with the quiet and solitude found in the canyonlands.

001093

The noise study relied on in the DEIS is ludicrous. People react to sonic booms as dramatic environmental disturbances, not general background noise. Similarly noise associated with overflights and aerial exercises is extremely intrusive and disturbing when encountered in an area as remote as the Owyhee Canyonlands. The Air Force has made no attempt to quantify the noise impacts from the perspective of outdoor recreationists in the Canyonlands.

RV-8 Comparisons to human noise tolerances in urban settings has absolutely nothing to do with this project and its impacts. The obvious lack of data on this issue does not equate to no impacts - it simply equates to an inadequate DEIS!

This argument is supported further by the Air Force's 1996-1997 Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Research, Development and Acquisition Strategic Plan which found that the Air Force's current noise analysis methods are inadequate when applied to rural and wilderness areas. The plan acknowledges that

NO-11 the methods currently being used were developed for evaluating noise impacts to urban populations and '...no useful quantitative information of any kind exists...' for evaluating the impacts of aircraft noise on outdoor recreationists. Furthermore, the plan emphasizes that the Air Force is in danger of being found in violation of NEPA which could ultimately impact their training mission.

Furthermore, the DEIS does not address the environmental consequences of authorizing supersonic flights, claiming this was

DP-4 analyzed in the 1992 AFI EIS. However, the court declined to accept the 1992 EIS because it violated NEPA. The Air Force has never completed a legally acceptable analysis of the environmental impacts

NO-10 of currently authorized supersonic flights and the DEIS does nothing to correct the situation or to analyze cumulative impacts of current and proposed numbers of supersonic flights.

Degradation of Wilderness River Experience

Over 350 miles of rivers in the Owyhee Canyonlands have been found eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Air Forces' finding that the ETI will do nothing to diminish the outstanding resource values of these rivers and thereby the likelihood of national protection is erroneous. While the canyon walls may not change, the scenic quality, opportunities for viewing wildlife, and overall recreational experience will be greatly diminished. Numerous overflights, sonic booms, chaff, and flares are incompatible with the wilderness values found in these canyons.

001093

The Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers were both found to have Class A Scenic Quality. The presence of litter in the form of Chaff, potential loss of native plant communities, and visual pollution above the canyon rim will diminish the overall scenic quality of these rivers. One of the attractions to these rivers are the frequent opportunities to hike out of the canyons and view the entire region from a different perspective. These vistas will be severely degraded by the presence of emitter sites and the accompanying new roads, not to mention the noise and air pollution associated with the diesel powered generators used to run the emitters. People go to places like the Jarbidge and Bruneau Canyons to escape these sights, sounds and smells.

Night activities and lights are particularly intrusive. One of the most spectacular features of these canyons is the night sky with incredible stars on a clear moonless night. Night exercises are completely incompatible with this peaceful time. Any lights such as those

RV-12 already found at Grasmere are inappropriate. The DEIS does nothing to evaluate the impacts to recreational users or wildlife of these nighttime intrusions.

DP-50 The DEIS provides inadequate information about the quantity of canyon and river overflights making it impossible for the reader to evaluate the exact impacts of the ETI proposal. Overflights are IRU's number one concern, so this lack of information is very problematic. However, IRU receives complaints that the number of overflights is currently unacceptable so we strongly believe any increase in the activity level over this region is too much.

Chaff

The Air Force's plans to increase the amount of Chaff used in the Canyonlands is completely unacceptable. Most of the Chaff will be dropped to the west of the target areas and emitter sites thus allowing the prevailing winds to ultimately deposit fibers into the Jarbidge -

SF-3 Bruneau Canyons. The Navy has determined that although Chaff is highly dispersed when deployed, environmental factors lead to its concentration over time. Chaff that ends up in the bottom of the canyons will most certainly stay there to be continuously resuspended as the particles become smaller.

This phenomena appears to be occurring already since IRU has received an increased number of complaints regarding the presence of Chaff in the river canyons. Our objection to the use of Chaff in the Canyonlands is twofold: first it is a source of litter and second it represents a potential health hazard. As an organization, IRU promotes low impact camping and works extensively with river

001093

management agencies to adopt recreational guidelines which protect river corridors from any permanent impacts associated with river running. Some of our members have volunteered with the Bureau of Land Management to monitor impacts to campgrounds along the Bruneau River which has experienced an enormous increase in use over the past five years. The dispersion of aluminum trash into these areas is completely contradictory to the efforts of organizations such as IRU and the BLM to maintain the pristine character of these river canyon environments.

SF-10 In addition to the overall environmental degradation caused by the presence of Chaff, there are also health concerns which have not been adequately addressed in the DEIS. In a series of memos last fall between the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Carson City District BLM, the issue of chaff as a public health hazard was discussed. The Division stated two primary concerns on how Chaff effects the environment. The first concern regards the potential for the creation of inhalable particulates to occur from the mechanical break down and resuspension of fibers. The Division's second concern deals with the physical deposition of solid waste on public and private lands. They found that there is very little information on the amounts of Chaff currently deposited and how these fibers decompose in the environment.

As a result, the departments are developing a PM10 monitoring system to evaluate the amount of particulates in the air as a result of Chaff deposits by the Navy. Air Force plans to increase the use of Chaff by 30-55% is irresponsible when there is so little information on the impacts of current use levels. The ETI DEIS needs a more adequate evaluation of the cumulative impacts of Chaff on wildlife and humans.

Water Quality

The primary cause of water quality degradation in the desert canyon rivers is sedimentation from surface erosion generally associated with roads, off-road vehicle use and the loss of vegetative cover due to fire and grazing. Activities associated with the ETI will generate increased erosion and sedimentation across the impacted watersheds. New road construction and widening of existing roads is a direct source of sedimentation. Any additional roads or road improvements also increases the amount of access into these areas and consequently the potential for human caused disturbances such as fire and off-road vehicle use.

Any use of flares over this fragile desert environment is absurd. Recreationists are told not to build fires without fire pans, yet the Air Force can drop flares throughout the MOA. We realize the flares are intended to burn out before they hit the ground, but the volatility of this landscape, particularly from June - October, is so high that the 1% risk of a burning flare hitting the ground is unacceptable. Given the use of flares throughout the MOA and the rugged terrain of the Canyonlands, it is unlikely that Air Force fire crews will be at the scene very quickly when an accidental fire does occur in a remote location. Once the native vegetation is lost, it can not be easily replaced. Any loss of native plant communities will result in the destabilization of slopes, an increase in soil erosion, and a reduction in water quality throughout the impacted watershed.

SF-9

Economic Ramifications

IRU disagrees with the Air Force's finding that there will be no economic impact on the recreation industry as a result of the ETI. These canyons offer a truly unique wilderness river experience which has been pursued by more and more people every year. Private boaters will tolerate a certain amount of disturbance since the natural features of these canyons are so spectacular. However, the escalation of activities associated with the ETI may push many who are truly seeking solitude to go elsewhere thus adversely impacting the communities that sell gas, supplies and provide shuttle services to river runners.

Individuals paying a premium price for an outfitted trip do not wish to be subjected to overflights and sonic booms. They are paying money to see wildlife and hear nothing but natural sounds - two opportunities which are becoming increasingly scarce in these canyons due to the Air Force's activities. An outfitter can not advertise a true wilderness experience with promises of wildlife viewing if the reality is floating through a war games zone. Decreases in these trips will not only impact the outfitter but their suppliers as well. There is no mention in the DEIS about such impacts.

SO-4

Procedural Concerns

IRU has several concerns related to the overall process the Air Force has been going through for the past seven years in their efforts to bomb Owyhee County. First of all, the Air Force has still not demonstrated a need for this range which can justify the environmental and economic costs associated with it. The Air Force is scheduled to conduct an overall needs assessment beginning this

PN-1
PN-15

fall. It would seem that any further plans for a range in Owyhee County should be put on hold until this study has been completed.

Secondly, the DEIS is totally inadequate. There is very little data and no cumulative impacts analysis. The fact that the entire document is based on the legally deficient 1992 AFI EIS renders it deficient. Cumulative impacts analysis is required by law and by definition mandates the evaluation of all environmental impacts in order to prevent this type of incrementalism.

DP-7

Another concern is that the DEIS does not apply to other branches of the military that will be using the range. All uses of the range need to be identified and evaluated for potential impacts. Eliminating U.S. Air Force flights during lambing season does not provide adequate mitigation if the U.S. Army or a foreign Air Force can conduct exercises during this time period.

PR-23

The DEIS does not incorporate the findings of the Integrated Scientific Assessment for Ecosystem Management in the Interior Columbia Basin. That document identifies four major problems facing land managers in the region: 1) reducing wildfire risks, 2) restoring fish and aquatic habitat, 3) reducing road related sedimentation, and 4) reducing the spread of noxious weeds. The ETI proposal will increase the risk of wildfire, potentially harm fish and aquatic habitat, increase road-related sedimentation and increase ground disturbance that leads to more noxious weeds. The DEIS also fails to explain how the proposed action fits in with the Upper Columbia River Basin Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

PR-1

Finally, the activities associated with the ETI are incompatible with the BLM's management objectives for the preservation of the wilderness character of the canyons and public education efforts regarding low impact camping, noxious weed control and protection of water quality. IRU has worked with the BLM area to try and maintain the incredible scenic and wilderness qualities associated with these truly unique rivers. The Air Force's current activities are in direct contrast to these objectives and any increase in activity is completely unacceptable.

For the rivers,

Wendy Wilson
Executive Director

Rodney J. Valentini
1979 Wood Duck Lane • Boise, Idaho 83706

August 15, 1997

GE-1 USAF/BLM

Dear Sirs,
I wish to register my opposition to expansion of the Mountain Home Air Force Training Range.
Please do not expand.

Rodney J. Valentini

2001 Primrose Drive
Nampa, ID 83686
14 August, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, I D 83702-0329

GE-1 Sirs:

This letter is a statement of protest to the Air Force and to the Bureau of Land Management in regard to establishing a training range in the Owyhee mountain and range area. We oppose the Air Force's request for more land in Owyhee County for the extension of bombing ranges.

Such action closes air space for civil aircraft and increases the danger to private planes flying in the vicinity.

Further, we believe that this encroachment by the Air Force is ecologically unsound.

Marvin Blough, M.D.

Mary Blough

February 1994
July 23, 1997

001086

Helen Langworthy
333 S. Straughan AVe. #221
Boise, ID 83712

GE-1 I am not so fearful that outside enemies will wreak havoc on this country as I am of the insidious forces within this land that are slowly eroding the hope, trust, productivity, and even creativity of our people.

Resources need to be directed towards constructive solutions to our debilitating problems rather than to destructive capabilities. I favor maintaining the viability of the Mt. Home community but through more positive activities.

With vision the facilities and personnel already at Mt. Home could be utilized to rehabilitate the country's aimless youth by doing what the military does well:

1. organize
2. discipline
3. train for jobs in the technological age
4. develop proficiency in crafts useful to society
5. put graduates to work in their communities building housing, infrastructure, and working with the inner-city youth.

I have not changed my position since I submitted this same testimony 1994.
Sincerely,
Helen Langworthy

James River Basin Canoe Livery, Ltd.
R.F.D. 6 Box 125
Lexington, Virginia 24450
(540) 261-7331
E-mail: "Information@CanoeVirginia.com"
Home page: "http://CanoeVirginia.com"
Since 1978

001087

August 13, 1997

U.S. Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please accept these comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

I oppose the Air Force plans to create a supersonic battlefield and new bombing range in the Owyhee and Bruneau Canyonlands. All of the proposed alternatives will be too loud and startling to people and animals on the ground. The roar of a jet or shock of a sonic boom is entirely unexpected in a place as wild and remote as the Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers. The character of the area will be destroyed.

NO-2 The DEIS grossly underestimates the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals. None of the studies cited evaluate noise pollution in wilderness areas. It is not acceptable to compare noise tolerance on a city street with noise tolerance on the Bruneau River. Indeed, noise on a city street does not even approach the sound level of low flying *subsonic* jets.

PN-1 The Air Force has never demonstrated a need for the new battlefield. It is wrong to sacrifice one of North America's most beautiful and enjoyable places in order to simply enhance training capabilities. In times of national crisis, such a need may be justifiable, but certainly not now.

The proposed expansion is not good for the land, the wildlife or the people of Idaho. The Bruneau, Jarbidge and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection, not military invasion.

Sincerely,
Glenn Rose

001088

August 9, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

GE-1 Dear US Air Force and Bureau of Land Management,

There has been much controversy lately in the media about the proposed extension of the Air Force training range in the Owyhee Desert. I would like to express my opinion on the matter.

While it is certainly admirable to want to protect the wildlife in the area to the greatest extent possible, I feel that we must put a higher precedence on the training of our fighting men and women.

I feel very strongly that if we are to send young men and women into combat that we have a moral obligation to provide them with the best possible training available. If that means that we need to expand the training range, at the possible expense of some wildlife, I strongly support that move.

Please put my vote down in favor of the training range expansion.

Sincerely,
Ben Jepson

Ben Jepson
2820 W. Pine Ave.
Meridian, Idaho 83642

001089

GE-1 I believe these opinions are a correct sentiment. I agree with them 100%
Doris Vaughn

001094



Stanley Potts Outfitters



Aug 12, 1997
USAF/BLM
Box 325
Boise, Id. 83701

GE-1 Dear Sirs;

as a Bighorn Sheep Outfitter that has experienced several Negative experiences with Low Level Training in the Little Jacks Creek - Battle Creek & Lower Owyhee areas, I want to have my story support for the No action alternative in the D.E.I.S. Record.

Sincerely,

Stanley Potts

Stan or Joy Potts • HC-64, Box 61 • Shoup, Idaho 83469 • Phone & Fax 208-394-2135

GE-1 Dear sirs, 001095

I would like further info on supersonic flights over the Bruneau-owyhee rivers. I would like to hear any info about the DEIS.

I feel the Airforce need to fly supersonic And this may be A good spot. I hope All works out.

THANKS.

JASON BRANTING
509-534-9386
4415 E 6th
SPOKANE WA. 99212

001096

Aug. 15, 1997
USAF/Blm
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-2

PR-3 I Request an extension of the comment period so that myself and others have adequate opportunity to express our concerns of the proposed expansion of Saylor Creek Bombing Range. I have been out of the State this summer and just heard of another proposal.

PN-1 My first thought is there should not even be a proposal to expand the range until there is sufficient documentation stating the need for expansion. I lived in Mountain Home for ten years and spent much of my time exploring and enjoying the canyons, desert and wildlife in the proposed area. I have witnessed and been subjected to the effects of the Overflights. I do not want anymore taxpayer dollars spent on expanding Saylor Creek when other ranges are available. The U.S. Air Force has been attempting to enhance its training range since 1989 and there still is not a comprehensive Final Environmental Impact Statement. I request the proposal be withdrawn entirely!

Respectfully
Jacque Freudenthal
P.O. Box 1832
McCall, ID 83638

001097

August 16, 1997
177 Washington Street North
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

GE-2 Gentlemen:

I honestly feel that Idaho is too great to Bomb. The ground that the Air Force wants is sacred. If you ever visited the area a person can feel the presence of spirits in the wind. I do not know if this feeling comes from the different Indian Burial grounds or not but it is there. I feel that this Range needs to be kept for the people of Idaho as well as for our children and grandchildren. If the Air Force does acquire this land it will be gone forever, not fit for anything, including Rattle Snakes. The people of the Air Force can not be trusted. They speak

2 001097

with a twisted voice. They will not admit to any wrong doing or lose up for there action when they have done wrong. Sonic Booms cracked the walls of a number of homes back in 1950's which the Air Force at that time claimed that could not of happened from any of there jet planes. Even when it could be proven by the average person. It took place again last fall when two Air Force jets with sonic booms blew out the windows and cracked a wall in the High School at Castleford Idaho. The Air Force stated that it could not of been any of their planes when it could be proven that the planes were from Mountain Home Idaho.

NO-18

The land that the Air Force wants is Prime Land or is Idaho Country. The River, The Land, The Mountains, The

3 001097

Rocks, and the Wild Life are priceless. They can not be measured in way to put a monetary value for this land. It belongs to the people and Indians of Idaho and should stay that way.

In 1955, I herded beef cattle not to many miles from the Bruno Bombing Range. The sonic noise and flares at night cause many of the cows to abort there young. If this took place with the beef cattle won't it also cause the Jungle wildlife animals to abort their young. I have no scientific proof but I was there. I saw what happened. I feel that this same effect will take place to the wildlife as well as to the people. Mountain Goats in the Air Force ~~gezines~~ this land. Back in the 1950's I saw Eagles [redacted] leave there nest with eggs in the nest because of

4 001097

the sonic noise and flares. Cattle herded also were in a state of total confusion not knowing where to go or where to hide from the sonic noise. The State of Nevada told the Air Force we do not want any sonic noise from Idaho Jets and to stay out of Nevada's air space or we will sue the Air Force. This statement should open your eyes and tell you that Idaho's land is for sept to bomb and that the Air Force does not need this land. They need to look else where.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely yours,

Larry Kolberg

001098

August 19 1997

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Mgmt.

P. O. Box 329

Boise, Id. 83701-0329

GE-1 To Whom it May Concern,

I have always been for Mountain Home Air Force Base. I had a son-in-law there, and I have a son that has been in the Air Force for 22 years. I have looked into the air planes effect on wild life and found they have very little. Oregon Loves their Air Base and they know the Base and people can live together. I love it when I can stand out side my home and see the planes fly over. I know the Country is protected. I know the money that is brought into the State of Idaho by having the Base here. I know you don't use a lot of live bombs. I hope we can always have the Base.
Thank you for asking me for my comments.

Thank You,

Edith Ott

Edith Ott
320 W. Wilson
Eden, ID 83325

001099

August 20, 1997

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear US Air Force and Bureau of Land Management,

PN-1 This letter contains my comments regarding the proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The ETI proposal fails to demonstrate a compelling need for its construction and air space changes. Comments made by Air Force officials contend the 366th Wing is one of the best trained and combat ready units in the world. This indicates to me the Air Force has done an excellent training job with the training resources currently available to them. A national comprehensive training needs assessment is needed to quantify

PN-5 all of the Air Force's training needs, including at Mountain Home AFB. For this reason alone the Clover Butte (Alt B), Grasmere (Alt C), and Juniper Butte (Alt D) alternatives are all unexceptable.

NO-4 A serious flaw in the EIS is the gross underestimation of the noise effects for each proposed alternative. I have been startled and scared many times by Air Force jets in Owyhee County and can attest the sound and associated effects rank much greater than a vacumn cleaner as referenced in the EIS. Evaluating noise on an "average" scale is a very misleading and inaccurate basis in this case.

DP-4 With this latest EIS, the Air Force is again illegally separating impacts associated with the proposed ETI from the impacts of creating the composite wing and bringing the B-1 bomber to Mountain Home AFB. Failure to link the cumulative

DP-7 impacts of all new actions hides the real cumulative increases in noise, fire risks, chaff and flares, and other points of contention. This was a mortal insufficiency of an earlier EIS (for the ITR) and has not been corrected in the EIS for the ETI.

The cultural, historical, recreational, wildness, spiritual, wildlife, and other biological values of the plateaus and canyons of the Owyhee landscape have regional and national significance. It is impossible to mitigate for many of these other valuse across the landscape. The EIS seems very casual about these other values in many instances and dismisses potentail impacts as minor or none.

PR-24 The EIS fails to recognize that in many cases impacts are unknown, or if taken over a longer timeframe significant adverse effects can be expected.

For all the above reasons I support a No Action alternative. I thank you for your time and look forward to a fair re-evaluation of the ETI.

Sincerely,
Michael Mancuso
Michael Mancuso
1411 N 23 St., Boise, ID 83702

06/21/97 10:51 ☎208 828 4205 366 WG/PA ☑002

001100

Captain M. Miller
Chief 366th Wing PA
366 Gunfighter Ave.
Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID 83648-5291

GE-1 Captain Miller:

We believe that the training range of Mountain Home is an absolute necessity due to unstable world conditions and the possibility that this country could be forced into additional military action in either Bosnia or Korea in the next year.

It is our opinion that the Department of Defense and other government agencies have done exhaustive research in where the range should be located. If they had a better location than Mountain Home to train pilots, we believe they would be considering that location. Because of our year around flying weather and the sparse population, this is the place. Bearing that in mind, we would suggest that of the three alternatives the air force has chosen, they should pursue the one that will affect the Indian nation least. The air force should always remember the range is for everyone under the multiple use concept.

From a hard dollar and cents standpoint, after college and five years of active duty, we have some very expensive manpower and equipment. If we lose a pilot and an airplane, we have lost over three million dollars. More than that we have lost one of the most effective, well trained weapons (pilot and jet) ever to protect this country and the free world. Replacement cost is prohibitive. The Mountain Home Air Force Base is the most advanced composite wing in the free world today and we would like it to stay that way.

We support and salute you and this republic as envisioned under the Constitution of the United States.

Sincerely yours,
William G. Moore
USAF Retired
400 S Webster St
Kimball NE 69145

208 828 4235 06-21-97 10:51AM PG02 #00

STATE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BLM/IDAHO

JUL 28 1997

RECEIVED
BLM/SO MR
JUL 28 1997
8:00 A.M.

BLM/SO MR
AUG 19 1997
8:00 A.M.

001101

Anne Herndon
6110 Bay St.
Boise, ID 83704
377-8767

Martha Hahn
Director, Idaho State BLM
Boise, Idaho

GE-1 Dear Director:

I urge you to support the NO ACTION alternative for the Enhanced Training Air Force Bombing Range.

I am particularly concerned that increased fire danger is inevitable should the Air Force be allowed to release combustible materials above areas of native vegetation. If cheat grass & noxious weeds gain a greater hold than that which already exists in southwestern Idaho, native plants & the wildlife that depends on this source of nourishment will suffer.

The proposed bombing range is NOT NECESSARY. There are sufficient target areas and practice ranges in Idaho (Saylor Creek at present size) and Nevada.

I am also concerned that chaff release will increase in this area and that noise levels will increase, disturbing wildlife & recreationists.

Please, help protect our desert & canyonlands....

No BOMBING RANGE !!

Thank you,
Anne Herndon

001102

GE-1 Dear Participant

The public comment period for the Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been extended to September 8, 1997. Public participation has helped shape the ETI proposal. Please mail any comments you may have regarding the Draft EIS to the return address noted on the front of this card.

Thank You

I would like Training Areas II, & IV
Over Saddleback!!

001103

Ken E McCarthy
12 Valley High Rd
Garden Valley, ID 83622
(208) 462-2312
kmccarth@micron.net

United States Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

August 19, 1997

Comments on Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement

GE-1 Dear Folks,

I appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Air Force's Enhanced Training in Idaho. I support Alternative A, the no action alternative, as the only alternative which does not degrade the spectacular rivers of the Owyhee Canyon lands.

I have been able to run each river only once each and I would like to be able to do them both again without the impact of the Air Force. I feel the noise associated with overflights and aerial exercises would extremely intrusive and disturbing when encountered in an area as remote as the Owyhee Canyonlands. The Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers are both very scenic. The presence of litter in the form of Chaff, potential loss of native plant communities, and visual pollution above the canyon rim will diminish the overall scenic quality of these rivers. One of the attractions to these rivers are the frequent opportunities to hike out of the canyons and view the entire region from a different perspective. These vistas will be severely degraded by the presence of emitter sites and the accompanying new roads, not to mention the noise and air pollution associated with the diesel powered generators used to run the emitters. People go to places like the Jarbidge and Bruneau Canyons to escape these sights, sounds and smells.

Please don't waste such a beautiful area.

Sincerely

Ken McCarthy

001104

Steven J. Love MD
4606 North Trotter Lane
Star, Idaho 83669
Home Phone (208) 286-933

August 19, 1997

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Mgmt.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

I would once again like to express my opposition to the proposed Enhanced Training Range. I enjoy the wildlife and recreational opportunities in this area and I believe these would be threatend by the preposed range expansion. I believe in a strong military and the need for adequate training for our service personnel but I do not believe that the expansion is necessary.

It is frustrating that this issue will not die and that we must continue to battle this proposal. I hope we can eventually put this to rest once and for all.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Love

001105

20 August 1997

Mary Ann Kruse
424 NW Federal
Bend, OR 97701

U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83710-0329

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my concern and disdain in that the Owyhee region is being considered for an Air Force combat and bombing range site. How can this be?

The Owyhee's 6 million acres are some of the few remaining untrammeled vestiges of the American Great West. The Owyhee's plateaus, her whitewater river systems, her wildlife compose this crown jewel of America's high desert.

The Owyhee is on the National Register of Archaeological Sites containing 5000-year-old human settlements. Is there no price placed on such a precious commodity? These are important Native American sacred grounds of the Duck Valley Reservation and also critical breeding habitat for bighorn sheep and antelope. Surely there are less sensitive areas that might be considered for ANOTHER bombing range--including the already existing ranges as the Utah Training Range, 20 minutes flying time from the Mountain Home Air Base.

Apparently, I understand from the media, that Mr. Babbit in conjunction with the U.S. Air Force will make the final decision whether to approve the land transfer. I fear that with so many other high-profile environmental issues on your plate, the Owyhee could become the sacrificial lamb of political expediency.

Please hear my plea. DO NOT PERMIT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OWYHEE!!!

A concerned citizen,

Mary Ann Kruse

001106

1758 Dexter Avenue N., #8
Seattle, WA 98109

August 14, 1997

U.S. Air Force / Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Subject: Owyhee Canyonlands

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

I recenty read an article stating that consideration is being given to the military's request for a bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. I strongly oppose any such action! These canyonlands are home for one of the largest populations of California desert bighorn sheep and the sole source for stock used for re-establishing the species in other areas. Please do not give approval to the bombing range request at the expense of hope for this creature.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Weeks

Kurt Butler 002107
P.O. Box 504
New Meadows, ID 83654
8/20/97

GE-2 Done s.i (sis

I wish to oppose the proposal on the Enhanced Training in Idaho EIS. I own property in Owyhee County and am also a pilot. Your enhanced (enlarged) training range would lower my property values, cause noise and create dangerous airspace for non-military visitors.

In addition, the Owyhee County area was voted as needed for ecological integrity by the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) and your bombing range would jeopardize the stability of the area, particularly impacting bighorn sheep, you failed to reference the ICBEMP project, thus violating the National Environmental policy Act. PR-1

Additionally, I see no need to have an enlarged aerial training range in Idaho as the military no longer has a will war threat, is downsizing and has open areas throughout the west to practice. The state economy isn't tied to the military either so this should have to be implemented for economic stability.

I fly over and recreate in the area you propose to turn into a bombing range. Please look for me when you drop your bombs, as I'll be down there, scared shitless, just like the sheep and other wildlife.

Sincerely,

Kurt A Butler

Kurt G. Butler

002108

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho
83701-0329

GE-1 One nautical mile is equal to 1.1508 statute miles and makes for an interesting difference in the perception of area size. The Air Force uses nautical miles to define space. The rest of us down here on the ground most likely use statute miles to measure distances. Regardless of which measurements we use we are talking about a lot of space utilized by the Air Force for training just in the Intermountain West.

The associated airspace of the Utah Test and Training Range is larger than that of the Nellis Range. The airspace taken by the Nellis Range in Nevada is larger than the European country of Switzerland which has 15,944 square miles within its borders. The Fallon Range (also in Nevada) is larger than the 8,257 square miles of the state of Massachusetts and also provides generous space to which to train American pilots. The Mt. Home proposed range is evident/ still growing but is already larger than Hawaii (Owyhee County's namesake) which the atlas says covers 6,423 square miles. Another point of interest, Delaware sits on 2,057 square miles, Connecticut covers 5,089, while New Jersey comes in at 7,836. The Mt. Home Enhanced Training request does not sound like downsizing.

The Mt. Home air space has been requested because it would save fuel. Saylor Creek has the advantage of being closer to the departure point at the Mt. Home Air Base than does the Mt. Home Enhanced Training Air Space. Enlarge Saylor Creek to save the time and fuel.

Jane Wylie

Jane Wylie

306 Parkway Dr.
Boise, ID 83706-4014

Lewis 1771 002109
1345 N. 66.
Mt Home Id 83647

GE-1

Us Air Force—
Boise Id.

Dear Sirs;

We need a well trained Service Personnel to keep other countries from trying to keep freedoms for all.

As a W. W. 2 veteran who started Training with W.W.1 uniforms and equipment and no decent planes. Also no training forces who had seen these trainings to help train new recruits.

Over here we have well fed beds and board we like to keep out of the mud.

Lets use some common sense to have the best training base available and not let a negative minority foul up a sensible solution.

We are depending on appointed and elected officials to use common sense.

Sincerely,

Robert J Lockard

002110

24 July 1997.

US Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329.

GE-1 Gentlemen;

Please accept my following comments concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Enhanced Training in Idaho.

I oppose the proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho! With certainty will exist a significant portion of Idaho, along with Oregon and Nevada.

With the actual destruction of the complex canyon lands country; such includes scenic, recreation, historical and wilderness resources of National importance.

Such training equipment will create substantial noise pollution, as well as significant air pollution.

May I suggest the cancellation by Congress of the complex additional 14,000,000 acres and the complex National Wilderness of 12,000,000 acres in Idaho!

Sincerely,

John R. Lawson.

001111

Carol Sklenicka
332 East Acacia Road
Milwaukee, WI 53217
414-352-2902

August 17, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 I am writing to comment on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (E11-EIS). A few years ago my family and I rafted down the Bruneau River and thought it was one of the beautiful places in America. One of the greatest things about it for us was that it was free of human sounds beyond our own voices.

None of the proposed plans for the supersonic battlefield are acceptable . All of them will cause noise and air pollution and disrupt wildlife as well as people. The Bruneau, Jarbridge, and Owyee Rivers should be nationally protected. It would be incredibly stupid to put it in this area. (Do we really need it? Don't you have a less special place to put it?)

So just in case you are reading in a hurry, my point is NO SUPERSONIC BATTLEFIELD!

Sincerely,
Carol Sklenicka and family

001112

HC 87 Box 220
Pine, ID 83647
Aug. 21, 1997

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen

I am wholeheartedly and unequivocally in favor of the Enhanced Training in Idaho for several reasons. I feel that the top priority for our military is preparedness. The expanded training range will provide this. I don't think that the wild life existing in the area will be severely impacted as our environmental friends would have us believe.

If "push" came to "pull" I can't imagine any member of the Sierra Club defending our country. I think that providing our military personnel with the best training opportunities takes precedence over a few sheep, coyotes, snakes, and other animals existing in a dry, desolate area.

Sincerely,
Jackie Elswood

Jackie Elswood

001116

25 Aug., 1997

GE-1 Dear Sirs,
I am writing to get my opinion recorded for the "enhanced" training range proposal. I am against this expansion. It is not needed. In particular, I have hunted upland game and recreated in all of the affected areas, including the area next to Castleford. I do not want the military to lock me out of an area that I have enjoyed for the past 22 years. The BLM lands are receiving more recreational and hunting uses now and I feel that those needs and uses outweigh the proposed benefits of the military proposal.
We already have enough problems with Larry Craig trying to give our lands to the J.R. Simplots of the world and we do not need this as a step in that direction.
Thank you for considering and recording my opinion.
Sincerely,

Robert L. Stoltz
139 Heyburn Ave. W.
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Hammett, ID
Aug. 25, 1997
001117

U.S. Air Force/B.L.M.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, I.D. 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear sirs -
This is to put me in support of the Mtn. Home Air Force Base training range expansion. After spending 4 yrs in the Air Force during WW II, 2 yr. in the European theatre, I realize how important it is to have well trained pilots manning our air craft. On several occasions, if it had not been for well trained pilots, I would not be here to write this letter. My belief is that a well trained force is a deterent to possible further engagements.
Besides my reasons for supporting the training range as a former member of the Air Force, I also believe that a ranges close to the base saves tax dollars because of more efficient use of time and equipment.
I am a rancher in Elmore County and have been running cattle in Owyhee County for the last 35 yr. The present low flying pilots has not had any ill effects on cattle. I do dispute the claim of many, including the Idaho Fish and Game, that low flying aircraft has an ill effect on wild life. I would like to point out that the deer and antelope population has increased over the past 35 years. Elk and Big Horn Sheep numbers have also gone from a few to a thousand or more. As an avid hunter,

001117

I would not be supporting an expanded range, if I thought the aircraft had a negative effect on them.

I look forward to the Air Force being a good neighbor in this area.

Sincerely,

Daryl Keck

Daryl Keck
HC 63 Box 52B
Hammett, ID 83627

8/23/97

001118

GE-1 — Concerning the ETI DEIS —

I received it, and I do not see any glaring errors.

On the other hand, the concept itself is an error; expanding the training base is not necessary, and I do not want to see the ETI occur. Military will have to "make do" with the land base they now have/are using and prepare for war under those training circumstances. Again, the ETI is not necessary, please do not do it. Thank you

Bryan Ranker
Box 6 Ranger Rd.
Hwy, ID 83701

Bryan Ranker

001119

August 23, 1997

U. S. Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sir:

Please accept these comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Enter them into the public record.

I oppose the Air Force plans to create a supersonic battlefield and new bombing range in the Owyhee and Bruneau Canyonlands. All of the proposed alternatives will be too loud and startling to people and animals on the ground. The roar of a jet or shock of a sonic boom is entirely unexpected in a place as wild and remote as the Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers. The character of the area will be destroyed. This is the largest area in the United States that has no paved road. To me this makes it exceedingly valuable. I don't want to have the sky in this remote area to become a military playground. You already have plenty of room in Utah and Nevada. I know that from frightening experience.

NO-3 The DEIS grossly underestimates the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals.

PN-1 The Air Force has never demonstrated a need for the new battlefield. It is wrong to sacrifice one of North America's most beautiful, remote, and enjoyable places in order to simply enhance training capabilities..

I think the military should concentrate on the next war,

001119

not the last. Nuclear terrorism, chemical and biological agents, and cyber-attack are unfortunately how the next war will be fought. It won't be like the Gulf War.

Sincerely,

Ralph Maughan

Ralph Maughan
PO Box 8264
Pocatello, ID 83209

001120

William Studebeker
2618 E. 4000 N.
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
(208) 733-8584
August 20, 1997

US Air Force
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Idaho Bombing Range Research Committee:

I wrote during the last go-around, and in that letter I outlined many of my objections to the purposed expansion of the Idaho based bombing (target/practice/special) range. I am still in agreement with the logic I set forth then.

However, I would like to add to the "feelings" implicit in my previous letter: I feel as though I am playing double jeopardy (perhaps googolplexinel jeopardy). I feel as though the persons promoting the range expansion control the playing field and that I will play until I lose and the "studies" will prove what they must--a quantum phenomenon.

PN-1 My objection is principally that the "military" need has not been demonstrated. The "economic" benefits are moot: military bases come and go. If the land were left in the public domain (BLM, etc.), it would still be on "reserve." future duty to be determined by greatest need.

My vote is to have the land under consideration be left as is, only altering management as environmental theories are improved.

Sincerely,
William Studebeker
William Studebaker

001121

40 Westbury ST
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
August 24, 1997

US Air Force / BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir:

I am against the expansion of the bombing range for the Mountain Home AFB. I believe we have enough existing Range in Nevada to serve the needs of the Mountain Home AFB.

I believe the EXPANSION of my home Range will have a severe negative impact on the growing California Bighorn Sheep that inhabit the Range in Idaho.

Sincerely

Dean A. Sommerby

Dean A. Sommerby

GE-1 Air Force: 24.7.97
001122

I am against an increase of military training air space of the area that includes injured wildlife habitat and popular recreation areas such as the Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers Canyons.

The quiet - quiet must be known and it will drive all the areas it would take in.

I am against more bombing range for any reason.

Sincerely.

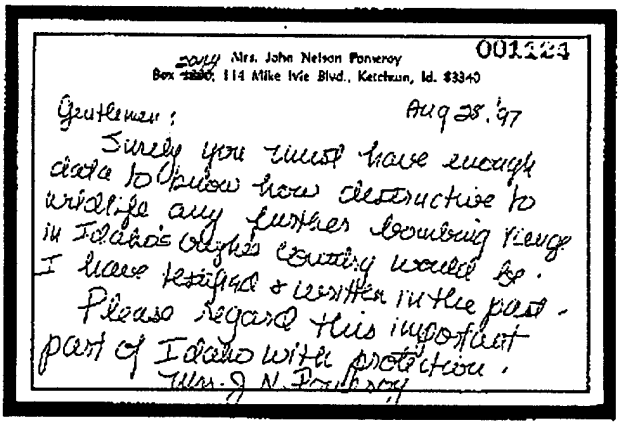
001123

GE-1 The ETI has no place in Idaho. We do not want it here or anywhere. We know it will destroy the environment no matter what. The EIS can only tell the truth. ETI means environmental degradation & destruction

Karen Youtz
1970 W State #126
Boise, Id 83702

US Air Force /
Bureau Land Mgt
PO Box 329
Boise, ID
83701-0329

GE-1



001124

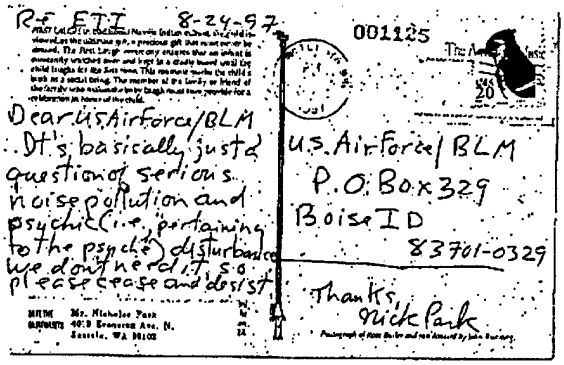
Mrs. John Nelson Ponerov
Box 2880, 114 Mike Ivie Blvd., Ketchum, Id. 83340

Gentlemen; Aug 28, '97

Surely you must have enough data to know how destructive to wildlife any further bombing range in Idaho's Owyhee country would be. I have testified & written in the past. Please regard this important part of Idaho with protection.

Thank you N. Ponerov

GE-1



R-E ETI 8-24-97

001125

Dear US Air Force/BLM
It's basically just a question of serious noise pollution and psychic (i.e. pertaining to the psyche) disturbance we don't need it. So please cease and desist.

Thanks,
Nick Park

U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise ID
83701-0329

Mr. Nicholas Park
4019 Evanston Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103

001126

U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID. 83701-0329

July 18, 1997

GE-2 Greetings:

I am writing to comment on the Air Force plans to create a Supersonic Battlefield in the Southwest Idaho Canyonlands. This plan is unacceptable. That area of Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon, is a pristine wilderness, and to desecrate it by turning it into a combat zone is completely unacceptable.

I'm an Idaho native of nearly half a century, and I've spent considerable time in the Owyhee Canyonlands. I've been boating on the Owyhee, Bruneau, and Jarbidge rivers, and hiking in places like Jacks Creek and Clover Creek. I've spent time looking for the beautiful Bruneau Jasper and other natural treasures. And, yes, I've covered my ears as combat jets came screaming by disrupting the quiet. Marveling at the incredible solitude, and learning about the Indians that used to live there has given me a respect and reverence for the beauty and history of those pristine places. It's a shame that the people that put together the your proposal don't have that same reverence and respect for one of the last truly wild places.

When the Air Force approached the citizens of Idaho with a nearly identical plan a few years ago, we rallied against the plan and told the Air Force in no uncertain terms that turning this beautiful, solitary, breathtaking place into a bombing range was NOT acceptable. Now I find that the Air Force is back with another plan which is every bit as bad as the last one. Again they try to convince us that the bighorn sheep and other wildlife that live in the area are not affected by the noise and pollution caused by a supersonic bombing range. I and the other citizens of Idaho know better. The sheep and other wildlife ARE affected by combat jets, and the Air Force's denial of the facts is, in my opinion, reprehensible. I agree that our fighting forces need to be trained and ready, but I do not believe we need to destroy the unmatched beauty and incredible solitude of that wilderness to accomplish that mission. There are existing ranges within reasonable flight times which will meet the needs of the Air Force. The Air Force itself has admitted in the past the this training range is not necessary.

PN-2

NO-3 All of the proposed alternatives will cause an increase in noise pollution which is unacceptable. I believe the Air Force has underestimated the effects of that noise on the wildlife and the people that live in and around the canyonlands. The ground based activity which will accompany the jets will have a derrimental effect on the animals and plants which make their home there. Instead of trying to destroy the solitude of those canyons, I think the Air Force should get behind the proposals to provide that area with the recognition and protection befitting a true national treasure.

I cannot support the Air Force plan. I believe the desert should be protected for generations yet to come. And I wield my money and my votes accordingly.

Thank you for listening. I truly hope you are listening this time.

Regards,

Keith Emmen
HC 33 Box 2412
Boise ID 83706

001127

> US Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
> P. O. Box 329
> Boise, ID 83701-0329
>

GE-2 > Dear Sirs and Madams,

> I would like to make a comment on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

If you have not actually seen this unique natural area, please do so before proceeding. It is truly unique, one of those refuges that we who live in big cities need to escape to for some needed peace and solitude.

I am against any operation like supersonic battlefield and new bombing range in the Owyhee and Bruneau Canyonlands.

I am for good military training, and a sound air force, which I believe we have. But there are better areas for this, that are not as important for recreation.

NO-2 I am told that the DEIS grossly underestimates the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals. None of the studies cited evaluate noise pollution in wilderness areas. It is not acceptable to compare noise tolerance on a city street with noise tolerance on the Bruneau River.

I would hope that your decision will weigh the possibility of using other areas, where the impact might be more acceptible. How about some of the wastelands of Nevada, or Arizona, where people do not camp, fish, or raft, and jet activity won't bother anyone.

001127

> Thank you,
>
Steve Waterstrat
30810 Canterfield Dr.
Temecula, CA 92592

Steve Waterstrat

001128

Gayle Buhrer
5230 N. Black Cat Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642
August 31, 1997

U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 The latest Owyhee Canyonlands bombing range proposal Environmental Impact Statement is flawed in many of the same ways that previous statements were.

DP-5 The need for the new bombing range was created by the basing of the composite wing in Mountain Home. Therefore, any bombing range environmental impact statement must include the cumulative impacts of both the new activities and those of the composite wing. Any assessment of environmental impact must use noise baselines prior to the 1992 increase in military activity over the Owyhee Canyonlands.

NO-4 The noise analysis in the EIS is fatally flawed. Using average noise levels instead of peak noise levels ignores the true impact of sonic booms and jet engines on people and wildlife. Instead of trying to increase military use in these sensitive wildlife areas, the air force should be trying to understand why bighorn sheep herds have declined 30% since composite wing activities commenced in 1992.

NO-19 The noise annoyance studies used by the Air Force to estimate the effect of military aircraft on people are completely irrelevant. The EIS should use studies of the effects of aircraft overflights on people in a wilderness setting, since that is what they doing. If complete studies on that type of noise are not available, then only the portions of the available studies that use aircraft noise over wilderness areas should be used.

NO-3 In addition, the EIS should include effects of loud aircraft on the sensitive hearing and survival of bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

DP-8 Using the Bruneau-Jarbidge area for the target area is a mistake. This area is used by hundreds of boaters and hikers every year. The deep canyons and scenic highlands of this area create a quality recreation experience and significant wildlife habitat. The EIS should include some real alternatives instead of minor variations on the same theme. For example, one alternative might be to expand the existing Saylor Creek range toward Glenn's Ferry and move the heavy air traffic out of the Owyhee Canyonlands.

PN-5 The air force needs to complete a comprehensive needs analysis for training facilities. At a time when our military is downsizing, it makes no sense for the air force to be expanding bombing ranges. If training was so important to the composite wing, then that should have been used as a criteria in deciding where to put the planes. Basing the planes in Mountain Home and assuming that additional bombing range space could be acquired is very presumptuous.

001128

In summary, the Air Force should provide a real justification for this new bombing range. The EIS should compare real alternatives. Noise and environmental impact assessments should use a pre-1992 baseline. And lastly, the Air Force should stop lying with statistics to try to say that the afterburners from a military jet and the resultant sonic booms are quieter than an air conditioner.

Sincerely,

Gayle Buhrer

Gayle Buhrer

001129

U.S. Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Sirs,

We would like you to know we approve and support the training Range Expansion for the Mountain Home Air Force Base.

Do not let the Anti- Everything Establishment over come what is needed to maintain and improve our Military Training.

Thank you.

Mark & Carolyn Schiltz - Mtn. Home 1395 E. 6th S. 83647
Colin and Barbara Lindquist - Mtn Home
Michael and Jeri Charron - Ft. Lewis Wa.
Kari Boyce - Mt. Home
Marjorie J. Wert P.O. Box 295, Wendell, Id 83355
John Wert P.O. Box 295 Wendell, Id 83355
Marlene Schiltz 3755 S. 18 W. Mtn Home ID 83647
Dick Schiltz 3755 S. 18th W. Mtn. Home ID 83647
Cathy Hoost 3573 Westpoint Boise ID 83706
Kimberly Epp 180 E. 15th N. Mtn Home ID 83647
Erin Fisher 4258C Central Rd MHAFB ID 83648
Jeffry J. Epp 180 E 15 North Mt Home ID 83647

031130

U. S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern:

The U. S. Air Force's proposal to establish a supersonic battlefield in the Idaho Owyhee canyonlands is unacceptable. This is an area enjoyed by floaters, hikers, campers, and others. I am very much opposed to this bombing range for the following reasons:

1. All of the proposed alternatives will cause an unacceptable increase in noise pollution.
NO-3 2 The Air Force has underestimated the effects of the extremely loud and unpredictable noise on people and animals.
3 The Bruneau, Jarbidge and Owyhee canyonlands are extraordinary and deserve national recognition and protection.
4 The Air Force already has sufficient bombing ranges to practices their maneuvers.

Thank you for taking these reasons into consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Lindeman



CATHERINE L. LINDERMAN
4[illegible] Whitewater Bay, Idaho Falls, ID 83[illegible]

031131

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Karen Werbelow
Executive Director

September 4, 1997

RE: Comments Enhanced Training In Idaho Environmental Impact statement

SUPPORT NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

GE-2 TO: U. S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep(FNAWS) would like to thank all for the opportunity to comment on this Draft EIS.

In the statement of need, section one, FNAWS takes exception with the entire justification stated on pages 1-16 and 17. This exception is based on the following facts and statements. General Peck, 366th wing commander, before the Idaho Legislature stated that the 366th Composite Wing "is the most combat ready wing in the world."

PN-14 Further the Government Accounting Office and the Inspector General of the Air Force in two separate documents (Idaho Training Range Justification, Report 95-274, June 1995 and Air Force Organization, GAO/NSIAD 93-44, May 1993, reports that this range for MHAFB is redundant with other existing training ranges within the Air Force's inventory. These documents stated that the Air Force fails cost justifications, benefit analysis. Basically, the USAF was told that enhanced training for MHAFB was unneeded for training and that it would duplicate facilities already available at the North Range of the Utah Test and Training Range. FNAWS through communication with the UTTR Range Director, stated that with the change of command of the Utah Facility to Air Combat Command, that they looked forward to increase usage by MHAFB simply because the logistics of scheduling missions would be easier. Documents obtained by this organization illustrate that MHAFB in 1995 and 1996 scheduled daily missions to UTTR, and their mission load at UTTR was about 20%..

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Karen Werbelow
Executive Director

PN-2 Page 1-27 states that MHAFB performed 72 Composite Wing Training in which 51 occurred at remote sites in Utah and Nevada. We find fault in the statement that the USAF feels this is inadequate. Again, this wing is well trained with these facilities. It is rated high on its ORE/ORI's. It has deployed to protect no fly zones in Iraq, and has rated very high in bright star operations in Egypt. This is without the ETI proposal.

PN-15 The draft assumes a need as depicted in section 1, but also reviewers must analyze that Congress has ordered the USAF to present a national needs assessment in 1998. This proposal will control over 3 million acres of SW Idaho. It is presented as only an enhancement for MHAFB. In 1991, the USAF and State of Idaho proposed the Idaho Training Range. This proposal would create the same scenario as depicted by the ITR, supersonic electronic battlefield, with designated impact sites; only in a different location. The ITR proposal circumvented the need to go before Congress for public land withdrawal by having the Idaho Air Guard create an expanded range using state lands for key target areas, securing management authority over adjacent federal lands, and then leasing the complex to the Air Force. This current proposal attempts to do the same. Scattering the electronic battlefield and targets widely. Although this proposal identifies withdrawing only 12,000 acres of federal land, we commend the USAF in this proposal in that they have identified the need to go before Congress for the land withdrawal and financing, but we

PN-5 strongly disagree on the need for combat readiness. FNAWS deeply believes that the USAF again is circumventing the Congressional discussion of national need. They are portraying to the public and Congress only the notion of enhancement, but in reality the ETI provides the same expansion requested in 1989 and with the ITR. It is not an enhancement but a major electronic, air combat bombing training range. FNAWS feels that this document misleads all reviewers on its true intent.

FNAWS would like to discuss need of this range further. This document fails immensely in presenting to the public of this great

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Karen Werbelow
Executive Director

PN-9 nation a standard, cost benefit analysis of how the economics of training at the proposed ETI development would compare, over time, to the economics of training at existing ranges in Utah or Nevada.

PN-15 The preparers of the document cloud the issue in that the range is simply an enhancement for training at MHAFB. FNAWS feels that this is circumvention of a request by Congress in 1998 for a national needs assessment for training by the USAF. The training that would be carried out at this range if approved is not imaginable to be less than what is currently practiced at the Utah Test and Training Range, Fallon Naval, and Nellis. These facilities appear to be places with topography, size, and facilities to support realistic training for the composite wing at MHAFB and are currently doing so. The ETI may be more convenient from a narrow prospective, but is it cost effective from a practical stand. In this document there is absolutely no discussion of the current training status of the 366th composite wing. The vast majority of reviewers are assuming that the 366th wing is inadequately trained. This is far from reality. As previously mentioned, General Peck stated that this wing is the most combat

DP-51 ready wing in the nation. The absence of this range will not degrade our national security picture and the DEIS and or a FEIS must state so. And factually it does not.

PN-17 The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to consider all reasonable environmental impacts in determining whether to proceed. In the ETI DEIS's analysis of proposals, it must be illustrated that alternatives b, c, and d have the same emitter requirement and air space expansion. Thus we feel that we are looking at one proposal that has different impact sites. The question that must be asked is what is the USAF requesting. It certainly appears that the impact sites are insignificant and the supersonic electronic battle field represented by the emitter sites and air space expansions are non-

DP-8 negotiable. We feel this document is negligent in that it does not give reasonable alternatives to the public. For example, if one disagrees with either the air space expansion or the emitter placements, they have no alternative but to support the no action alternative. This is precisely the scenario for FNAWS, we could support a 12000 acre

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Karen Werbelow
Executive Director

impact site, but they are all tied to issues which we can not support. This lacks reasonableness, and we feel the USAF has done so purposely.

The emitter sites are very costly and sophisticated instruments. Security and safety reasons will eventually have to be addressed. If vandalism occurs with these emitters, the USAF will have to secure them with withdrawn land and fences. Also these emitters emit radiation. The USAF inadequately address these issues in this document. It is opened ended, in regard to land withdrawal and restriction could occur as it did with the US Navy at Fallon. This DEIS is negligent to illustrate a Range Management Plan to future implications. There needs to be discussion of the items of future land withdrawals, security, and how these two aspects affect the public's access and usability in the reasonable foreseeable future. "Reasonable Foreseeable Future" issues are now inherent discussion items with legal concerns. This DEIS is an open ended document, and FNAWS feels that issue of Reasonable Foreseeable Future must be addressed in a Range Management Plan. SF-2

For example, the emitter sites will need continual maintenance. Owyhee County in adamant weather especially during the fall, spring, and winter is inaccessible because of the lack of improved roads. Many in Idaho realize this fact and avoid these roads and the areas they access. The ETI DEIS does not adequately address how the emitter sites will be maintained. The question to be asked, is whether the roads are going to be improved, or are helicopters going to be used to access. In either scenario impacts are going to be placed which the FEIS must address. If the roads are degraded, who is going to maintain? Will the public be allowed access on all roads? If the roads are impassable who will determine this factor? If per discussion in sections 2.3 and 2.4 will the public be allowed to participate in discussion with the BLM, State of Idaho Land Board, and Owyhee County Commission on road access concerns and mitigation measures. Accessibility with difficulty is what is unique in Owyhee County. The wildness of Owyhee county has a marketable and PR-25 DP-53 DP-43

001131

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

economic value in which this DEIS does not address. The inherent question stems to this development. Will accessibility be improved? FNAWS believes that it will. Further we believe this accessibility will change dramatically wildlife populations, rancher's lives, and habitat for both domestic and wild animals. (p3-109) LU-7

In the last two paragraphs are scenarios in which access could have a detrimental aspect or restriction of access could have public concern. In either there are reasonable foreseeable concerns which the DEIS inadequately answers.

FNAWS is a pro hunting, pro conservation organization that is solely focused on the conservation of wild sheep populations in North America. As advocates for wild sheep we also are an advocacy for wildlife populations as they are related for the members of this organization and citizens of this nation. Specifically we analyze and speak for the hunting community on issues concerning the economic well being of the hunting industry. This DEIS fails in total an analysis of the economic impact of hunting industry. Specifically there is no economic impact concerning access problems to hunting habitat. There is no economic impact to loss of hunting whether it be sheep, sage grouse, upland birds, deer, or antelope. FNAWS feels that the economic impact related to the loss of revenue for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game needs to be analyzed if hunting opportunity decreases because of declining wildlife numbers or the lack of interest secondary to these declines. The economic impact must be presented for businesses, for example outdoor sports, outfitters and guides, and ancillary equipment providers. SO-4

FNAWS commends the preparers of this Draft concerning their literature review concerning wild sheep. But specifically, there appears to be focused concerns. On going with Ogden Environmental are sheep studies to document habitat carrying capacity and affects of low level flight. FNAWS has criticized this research, but feels the public is being involved through mutual dialogue. But to propose this

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range before research is consummated is an assumption which FNAWS is not going to tolerate.

By presenting this DEIS before consummation of these sheep studies, the preparers are assuming that the USAF in the AFI EIS have had no effect. All logic with the use of public funds would be to present the final findings of this research in this proposal. It is simply premature. BI-14

The USAF fails to realize that in concept the SW Idaho ecosystem is not a desert. It is a pristine high altitude ecosystem that harbors the largest free roaming populations of bighorn sheep in the continental US. The sheep research is an admirable effort to study the concerns brought forward in subsequent attempts to place an electronic combat range in Idaho. But this is a fragile ecosystem for sheep. Many of the documents, but specifically, "A Habitat Evaluation procedure for Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep in the Intermountain West" by Smith, Flinders, and Winn, state a management treatise. This treatise was instrumental in establishing the MOU with FNAWS and the domestic sheep industry concerning disease problems on BLM inventoried lands. This document relates that if exotic species occupy a habitat(Bighorn Sheep) then adequate boundaries need definition, adequacy of quality range must exist, adequate winter range must exist, adequate lambing grounds must exist, adequate summer range must exist, and all ranges must be properly arranged and connected. In the DEIS there is no discussion if any impacts whether noise, roads, fires, human intrusion, overflight, or increase military activity will effect these critical relationships. This treatise is referred to a Habitat Evaluation Plan (HEP). FNAWS specifically relates to the IDFG concerns page 11. These are four items that are very specific and must be answered in the FEIS. BI-59

Further, the sheep studies being accomplished during scoping, Draft and Final documentation of the ETI are simply backwards. FNAWS feels the sheep issues are a critical and essential part of any expanded training range for the Composite Wing at MHAFB. Consequently any discussion relating to the ETI should be held until these studies are consummated. There is enough existing data that illustrates a concern.

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An excellent study on how bighorn sheep react to helicopter overflights in the Grand Canyon describes how sheep indeed modify their behavior in the presence of aircraft. This is one of few studies with large sample sizes and enough rigor to be published in a peer-review scientific journal. This study gives some sample insight into how behavioral reactions may influence energy budgets. The researchers found that, in the presence of helicopter overflights, sheep decrease their foraging efficiency by 43% in winter and by 17% in summer. In addition, sheep increase the number of steps taken during overflights. This decrease in energy intake, coupled with an increase in energy expenditure, could lead to weight loss. Lost foraging opportunity for sheep can have severe consequences by making sheep more susceptible to diseases and precipitating die offs. This factual analysis has been confirmed by many researchers> (Geist, Bleich, Stemp, Bleich, Toweill and Bodie, Gladwin).

The DEIS is pre-judgmental in that the ongoing sheep studies are not consummated. Also it makes does not address the level of helicopter use for maintenance of range facilities especially in the winter. There is no discussion concerning noise impacts to wildlife. FNAWS feels that any discussion of the ETI subsequent to consummation of the ongoing sheep studies is non conclusive and may be misleading to the public. Further, Odgen's personnel have stated that their studies have no focus on supersonic effect to the California Bighorn Populations, they are only focused on low level overflight. FNAWS, as per Dr. Geist's Comments in January 1994, feels that this ignorance is precursory to a catastrophe. It is precisely the supersonic noise that can and will affect sheep behavior, leading to stress, dispersal, and consequent die off. FNAWS feels that the discussion of the California Bighorn Sheep in the ETI DEIS subsequent to peer review of Ogden's consummated research project is tantamount to legal challenge. DP-54 BI-32

Legally, FNAWS has concern over the cumulative effects of Air Force Actions with in the MOA supporting MHAFB. In the AFI EIS, the bed down of the 366th composite wing was established. The change

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Karen Werbelow
Executive Director

resulted in training of aircraft at supersonic levels, use of chaff and flares, and low level random flight rather than using MTR's. Recently with an EA the Air Force changed the B-52 bomber in the 366th to the B-1 bomber. This plane can fly low level and supersonic. It has no authorization to fly supersonic but the public has witnessed this numerously. The Air Guard now fly A-10's in the MOA. The Army Air Guard has established a training range at Triangle. Now with the proposed ETI, the level of noise and military usage is going to increase again. FNAWS feels that all of these actions are cumulative and should be studied by the public in one comprehensive EIS. This was the contention in federal district court in 1994 with the Idaho Training Range. There is no discussion in the DEIS concerning cumulative impacts of these actions. There is no discussion to the cumulative impacts along with the use of chaff and flares, the biologic changes generated by the construction of roads and fences. Fences need to be defined since they can hinder or prohibit wildlife movement, even causing mortality. Fencing can severely impact the movement of wildlife from summer to winter ranges. The point FNAWS would like to make is that these issues are related and cumulative. We feel the USAF is misleading the public by not placing these issues in one encompassing EIS. The Federal District Court has agree on this issue in the past.

DP-7

The analysis for this DEIS is an attempt to mislead the public on an impact that already is having detrimental affects for the public, wildlife and economy of Idaho. The baseline is established at the level of the current usage of MHAFB 366th composite wing. The document states that it will only go up a certain percentage from what the Air Force considers acceptable. FNAWS disagrees. The current level is not acceptable. The sheep numbers have decreased since the inception of the composite wing in 1992. The lamb-ewe ratios are at an all time low. The Air Force tries to dismiss this by shifting blame to weather and IDFG management policy, but fails to look at censuses subsequent to 1992. There were severe winters then as also transplanting activities, but the California Bighorn herd flourished.

BI-11

BI-30

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The noise factor is an immense consideration. The Draft noise analysis is based on a mix of tram, railroad, road, and aircraft noise in urban communities, not on aircraft noise in a wilderness setting. The Air Force's analysis of noise incorrectly underestimates the number of people annoyed by urban noise in the 40 to 70 db range by 15 to 20 percent. Noise and annoyance estimates in the DEIS are less than half the actual percentage of people highly annoyed with aircraft noise. By not referring to any studies, the Air Force and it contractors have ignored 20 years of evidence that higher levels of annoyance exist for aircraft. This raises serious questions about the thoroughness and objectivity of the DEIS. This was presented in scoping by Mr. Harold Eshelman on behalf of FNAWS. His testimony focused on the impacts that noise and overflight had on the hunting of Bighorn Sheep in Owyhee County. Also see Clyde Hunts testimony from the ITR process. For the Air Force to deny and not discuss this issue in detail in this DEIS is unforgivable and unacceptable.

NO-2

Document 1410 (our reference number) states that the Air Force knows that its noise analysis for current military usage in the US is insufficient. The Air Force knows that it is susceptible to legal challenge and further understands that if challenged that its training mission may be jeopardized. The question FNAWS must ask, is why are we going through these proceeding when the good faith of the USAF is questioned. This is severe misuse of public funds, time, and efforts. This reflects poorly on the USAF and the preparers of this document.

NO-11

All alternatives presented in this DEIS include air space expansion of the Military Operating Area northward over Big Jack and Little Jack Creeks, and toward the Jarbibge Wilderness Area in Nevada. Alternative d includes expansion of the MOA to the east. The DEIS states on Page 3-148 that "surveys of the Little Jacks herd in 1993 also indicate a dramatic decline in lamb:ewe ratios. Total number of sheep observed in this herd has declined since 1993 while lamb:ewe ratios have increased from 1994 levels." This statement is false and definitely misleading to the public. The herd has not declined. There

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has been a natural disbursement to Big Jacks Creek complex and the Castle Creek area. This herd is flourishing. There is no military overflight, no sonic overflight, and the weather has been consistent with other parts of Owyhee County. The preparers of the DEIS have failed to properly analyze this herd along with all other on ground resources in the Northern Air Space expansion. The sheep issue is example of the cursory view the Air Force has of biologic resources. To tie all alternatives to an incomplete analysis, again limits reasonable alternatives, and consequently is a violation of NEPA. Not only should the sheep issue be further studied in this MOA expansion, but all biological, recreational, agriculture aspects need further study.

BI-58

Specifically, with the air space expansion, the DEIS fails to consider or disclose the impacts or the airspace expansion on ground resources. There is no analysis of undisturbed native vegetation. The analysis of wildlife not previously overflown low level or supersonic is non existent. There is no analysis especially to the northern expansion as it relates to the large urban population in Ada and Canyon Counties who will recreate in this area, hunting, fishing, back packing. Also there is no analysis to the large ranching and farming community bordering this expansion. In Nevada there is no consideration to ranching, wilderness experience of the Jarbidge Wilderness Area, or to those ranchers who have diversified their businesses in the fall to provide quality mule deer hunts.

RV-3

LU-7

The final EIS must deal with the reasonable, professional concerns provided by the IDFG (included). The ungulate harassment is a scientific, serious concern. The cumulative impacts of all activities ie overflight, super sonic flight, construction, research, human involvement, wildfires, fencing, are synergistic. They must be dealt with in the FEIS with relationship. (Geist and Stemp)

Richard Weaver's "California Bighorn Sheep in the Sierra Nevada Mtn Range" states that the greatest declines in Bighorns have been from the heaviest recreational use or human impact. This range does not address if road construction will increase recreational use. As it

RV-13

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stands now Owyhee county access is not for the meek at heart. It is a tough country with seasonal access by only the wisest of users. As mentioned before, even Weaver has concern about human encroachment on bighorn habitat. The construction phase as well as the training phase is synergistic, cumulative and in FNAWS opinion will be devastating. The DEIS does not address these issues in any of the alternatives.

BI-14

FNAWS finds this document pre-evidence of discussion for the California Bighorn Sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. The USAF has invested nearly $800,000.00 to study the cause and effect of military overflight to this sheep population. But this study is not even half completed before the public is asked to comment on the sheep issues. The study has been mired in controversy. Equipment has been non operatory. The data sets have been inaccurate (presented to IDFG Commission April 1997). The goal of the study has been refocused numerously. Further the USAF's contractor Ogden Environmental publicly acknowledge that the study is focused on overflight only. FNAWS feels that these studies must also be focused on supersonic overflight. Even the literature review by American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in the DEIS refers to sonic boom affects in land compatibility. This document states that sonic booms in Air Combat Maneuvers have a complex focal zone, foot prints, and can not be characterized by simple carpet booms associated with steady sustained supersonic flight. This is a very complex issue, and to neglect it in sheep research is wrong. Even Dr. Geist states that this is devastating to sheep, in that it resembles avalanches, or rocks tumbling as in cave ins.

BI-15

DP-55

Management of wildlife if a ROD reflects alternative B, C, or D will be expensive. The DEIS fails to discuss if the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has the financial capacity to do so. In the previous proposal (ITR), the Idaho legislature required the IDFG to establish two full time biologist for that range's wildlife management. The minimal cost to the IDFG budget would be over $100,000.00. This money is non existent in 1997 with the budget shortfalls of the Fish

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SO-16

The DEIS fails to portray to the public the value of the California Bighorn Sheep populations in Owyhee County. IDFG documents have established the value of Idaho's Sheep populations at 100 million dollars. With two species of sheep in this state of about equal census numbers, it is fair to assume that the value of the California subspecies to be 50 million dollars. This value is based and supported by the fact that the habitat is capable of supporting large numbers of sheep, and the fact that it can also provide transplantable stock to nine western states. The preparers of the DEIS fail to identify that there are more uninhabited California Bighorn sheep areas in the West than an other type of sheep habitat. This is import for the final discussion in that Idaho was the sole source of transplantable sheep in this nation until 1993. It is not discussed in detail and should be so. There must be a range management plan in which the USAF, IDFG, FAA, Federal Fish and Wildlife, and BLM have a MOU outlying a plan in which these sheep can be managed primarily to reestablish the transplantable objectives. If this were the case, the hunting opportunity will also increase. We feel it wrong that the DEIS does not discuss this issue in depth. A Final ROD including no action, must discuss this goal. Another illustration of the worth of these sheep, a hunter recently purchased the Idaho Bighorn Sheep permit at FNAWS's annual convention in Philadelphia for $31,000.00 solely to hunt the California Bighorn Sheep.

As recent as 1994, the Federal Fish and Wildlife Agency, listed the California Bighorn Sheep as C-2 candidate species on the endangered species list. It has consequently been removed, but the status is precarious. (Federal Register Vol. 56, #225, 11-21-91, pp58804-58808). This DEIS has no discussion of negative impacts to these sheep in Owyhee County. Again there is no discussion of a range

BI-30

and Game's budget. The Final EIS must provide funding for this essential aspect. FNAWS feels that the Air Force assumes that there will be no wildlife impact, consequently they take no responsibility. The Air Force then leaves the burden of study on the Idaho Sportsmen through management of the IDFG. FNAWS feels this is wrong.

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BI-14

PR-22

BI-44

management plan for sheep monitoring, preventing a listing as mentioned. FNAWS, if a ROD is determined, would like to see hard language funding revenue to IDFG, and a management plan to prevent the California Bighorn Sheep populations from any further decline.

Any discussion in the FEIS must address and define sheep habitat. This habitat is the unique canyons of Owyhee County, plus 3 miles lateral distance from the canyon rims. Hard language must define avoidance of critical lambing and wintering areas. FNAWS feels that any means to reduce energy expenditure and increase foraging will benefit this herd. The DEIS fails in addressing these issues because the USAF denies any effect. But the USAF has ongoing research to study these issues, but as mentioned it has not been consummated. Consequently FNAWS again feels that this document is premature. Further the FEIS must address the cumulative and synergistic affects of the construction and operational stages of the ETI on existing sheep management practices in Owyhee County.

The DEIS fails to identify management goals for the California Bighorn Sheep populations. FNAWS feels that census numbers in 1992 are adequate. This level provided ample hunting opportunity and transplantable animals to other states' identified unoccupied habitat or allowed those states to augment existing herds. With this in mind, the USAF if truly dedicated to the success of this range, should be willing to mitigate negative results. This should be presented in a "Range Management Plan." It should be backed with a monetary bond. FNAWS feels that a bond of 50 million dollars is adequate to back a range management plan for wildfires, mitigation for cattlemen, loss of hunting opportunity, management and revenue. These issues should be discussed and a memorandum of understanding signed with USAF, FNAWS, IDFG, ODFW, NDOW, BLM, FFW, and FAA. This Range is unique. It is inhabitated. It is has major visitation presence by civilians. It provides economic sustenance for thousands. The Air Force in the DEIS fails to present this. It makes assumptions that this range is much like the UTTR and Nellis, unoccupied desert.

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DP-56

SF-12

FNAWS would like the USAF to present in the FEIS an analysis to the scenario that occurred and is occurring at Fallon Naval. In relationship to Fallon Naval, private property was condemned. Public access was restricted. Hunting opportunity and wildlife management was lost. In Nevada the BLM is now focusing on the incapability of military use and public domain. This is precisely the issue in Idaho, Northern Nevada, and Southern Oregon with the ETI DEIS.

FNAWS agrees with IDFG's concerns over the potential for fires. There is a serious potential of adverse affects for wildlife habitat and as it supports the hunting industry. Also this potential has adverse affects for the ranching industry. The DEIS fails to address in detail fire suppression. The DEIS assumes that this is an insignificant consequence. IDFG's comments adequately portray this scenario. FNAWS agrees totally with this analysis. These again are "Reasonable Foreseeable Issues" that must be addressed: suppression, fire fighting and containment, and restoration of habitat in native flora. Residents of Idaho must not carry the burden. Ranchers must be compensated for loss of public land grazing or structural loss. Idaho's sportsmen must be compensated for wildlife if any species of animals decline. Since 1992, the USAF has continuously stated that they have had no effect to the Sheep populations in Owyhee County. But the Idaho Sportsmen, and other states have suffered the consequences of reduced sheep census by the loss of hunting opportunity and the loss of transplantable stock. The USAF shields itself in a sheep study that has been inconclusive, lacks mitigation, or answers for Idahoans.

FNAWS has taken the liberty to include our comments from the ITR DEIS. We include them for reviewers to see the similarities of the ITR process. The reviewers of these comments will be impressed with the issues, concerns, and inequities that where brought forward then and are still unanswered now.

FNAWS supports the No Action Alternative. We simply question the need. The lack of concern by the USAF for existing users whether it

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be ranchers, recreationalist, native Americans, hunters, or fishermen. The Air Force infers that this ecosystem is desolate. If one was from elsewhere this is true, but this area does harbor economic well being for many ranchers and farmers, it does have a large native American community, it provides habitat for some of Idaho's most pristine herds of mule deer, antelope, and sage grouse. It does harbor the continental US's largest herd of free ranging wild sheep. There simply is an incompatibility under these circumstances for an electronic, tactical combat range.

Sincerely Presented,

Robert E DiGrazia BS, DDS
Range Liaison
Past President 1992-1993 for
Board of Directors
Foundation For North American Wild Sheep

CC: President Bill Clinton
Idaho Congressional Delegation
Oregon Congressional Delegation
Nevada Congressional Delegation
Governors of Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

001132

August 21, 1997

U.S. Air Force /
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho
83701-0329

GE-2 Dear BLM and Air Force,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Enhanced Training Initiative (ETI), which would establish a supersonic battlefield over southwestern Idaho and beyond.

I strongly oppose this proposal. I was tempted to send a minimally revised version of comments on previous bombing range proposals, since so many of the issues I expressed concern about remain unchanged or unacceptably changed. Out of respect for the process, though, and to address specific issues discussed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), I hereby provide original comments with this letter.

NO-4 The noise associated with the proposed activities was grossly underestimated in the DEIS. The use of long averaging periods to assess the impacts of very short duration, very intense noise is unrealistic. It comes off as a ploy to justify what otherwise could not be justified, the overwhelming, body shaking effect of frequent supersonic flights in one of the quietest places in the lower 48 states. I have been "boomed" numerous times, and have also been shocked out of my wits while in Owyhee country's peaceful canyons only to have jets suddenly stun everyone and everything in the vicinity. This is crucial California bighorn sheep habitat. The stuns to those animals are life threatening, both because of their precarious habitats and the social interruptions caused. It's not much better for humans, either.

LU-16 The DEIS continues to propose the use of chaff over much of Owyhee county. This
SF-1 amounts to the littering of precious backcountry with potentially hazardous
HZ-2 metals. Why should this be considered or allowed? Also, the DEIS proposes the release of the extremely hazardous titanium tetrachloride in dummy bombs. This can not be allowed.

My most significant concern continues to be the proposed proliferation of "threat emitter" sites. The Owyhee desert constitutes one of the largest remaining undeveloped, roadless areas in the lower 48 states. The development inherent in establishing, supplying power and access to, and operating these sites will represent an irreversible dismemberment of this special place. The diesel generators needed to power the emitter sites will increase pollutant emissions by orders of magnitude in an area where existing air quality and the lack of air pollutant emissions result in uniquely pristine conditions. This part of the proposal seems to be trying to slip a level of development into the Owyhees which would orders of magnitude more than anything that has occurred to date, and would irretrievably compromise the integrity of the area.

It is my understanding that the Federal Courts, in their ruling on the Air Force's separation of moving the composite wing to Idaho and their subsequent requests for enhanced training capabilities needed by that wing, required the Air Force to step back and combine those considerations. This proposal, which seeks training space for units in place in Idaho, should be rejected out of hand because the existence of much of that force has not yet been justified.

The DEIS must consider use by all agencies, organizations, or affiliates who will

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PR-23 potentially be able to use the ETI. The proposal does not consider any users except the Air Force, though agencies like the Idaho National Guard will have access to the facilities.

The ETI proposes development and desecration of some of the most wild land left in the lower 48 states, an area of incredible ecological and environmental potential. The impacted area includes numerous Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers, and critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. Please do not allow it to be developed and bombed into submission, or its appreciators to be bribed and snowed for so long with our own tax money!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Johnson
Rt. 2, Box 669
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83530

(208) 983-3443

EMAIL: cjnl@camasnet.com

001133

September 3, 1997

U S Air Force/ BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 I wish to express my strong opposition to an expanded bombing range.
Not only is it unnecessary, but the damage to wildlife resources and the environment would be irreparable.
The Air Force already has too much air space.

Very truly yours,

Walt Locke

Walt Locke
805 California St.
Gooding, ID 83330

001135

Amy Haak
317 Ada St.
Boise, ID 83702

United States Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

September 3, 1997

GE-2 Dear USAF and BLM,

Please accept my comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho. As a river runner, hiker and mountain biker, I appreciate the incredible recreational opportunities available throughout the Owyhee Canyonlands. I have paddled a number of rivers over the past 15 years including the Grand Canyon, Selway and Salmon system, but these desert canyons are my favorite place on earth. I believe that they are deserving of national protection and recognition for their truly remarkable features. At a minimum these lands deserve to be managed in a manner which protects and enhances their resource values. Therefore, I support Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, as the only alternative which does not ruin one of the most spectacular places in the world!

The Owyhee country has been discovered by outdoor recreationists who seek the quiet and solitude of a primitive wilderness experience - something that is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. I have floated most of the Owyhee River system and the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers and have biked and hiked extensively across the plateau. In the 15 years that I have been exploring this country, I have seen the amount of use escalate, particularly on the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers. After the lengthy article on the Owyhee River in the ***San Francisco Examiner*** in August, I expect use will really increase on this river as well.

I have also seen the number of intrusions by the Air Force increase over the years. I have been practically knocked out of my canoe by sonic booms, startled while hiking on the plateau by low altitude overflights, and harassed while in camp by multiple pass overs. This is simply not acceptable! I have also noticed that I am currently seeing less wildlife than I saw on earlier trips. I don't know the reason for this, but can only speculate that if this country is becoming increasingly unpleasant for humans, it must also be increasingly unsatisfactory for wildlife.

001135

In the interest of being brief, suffice it to say that I find the Air Force's current level of activity to be completely unacceptable and I completely oppose any increases in activity. Specifically:

- No Chaff - this is litter, and the environmental and health implications have not been evaluated.
- No Flares - this area is volatile and once burned will be difficult to rehabilitate; any loss of native vegetation will impact everything from wildlife to water quality.
- No New Roads - roads increase the potential for human intrusion and subsequent disturbances; they are a source of sedimentation to the drainages; they encourage the growth of noxious weeds.
- No Emitters - these are a source of visual pollution across the plateau not to mention the noise, light and air pollution associated with the generators and lights of the facilities.
- No Nighttime Activities - there has to be some time that people and wildlife have a break from the activities.

DP-50
- No Increase in Overflights - the current level is too much and the DEIS does not provide adequate information on the proposed changes in overflights.
- No Supersonic Flights - sonic booms are deafening, terrifying, and inappropriate in a wilderness environment.

From a procedural standpoint, I also have found the entire DEIS process to be flawed.

PN-1
PN-5
- The Air Force has still not demonstrated a need for the range. The entire DEIS process should be delayed until the Air Force completes its own internal needs assessment.

DP-5
- The Air Force continues to ignore NEPA - there is no cumulative impacts assessment, no range of alternatives and using the AFI EIS as the base line is ludicrous.
- There is no data or real information in the DEIS - it is all fluff.

PR-1
- The DEIS fails to address the findings of the Integrated Scientific Assessment for Ecosystem Management in the Interior Columbia Basin.

PR-23
- The DEIS does not apply to all other branches of the military that will be using the range.

LU-14
- The ETI is incompatible with BLM's management objectives for the preservation of the wilderness character of the canyons.

Finally, I would just like to state for the record that I am not an 'environmental wacko' who is 'anti-business and anti-progress' as the Mountain Home City councilman testified. In fact, I own a business that is based on computer technologies so I would hardly consider myself to be anti-business or anti-progress. It is places like the Owyhees that help to make my business viable by

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allowing me to attract qualified people to Boise. People who care about Idaho and plan to stay here for a long time don't move here because of the Air Force. They move here for the quality of life and access to places like the Jarbidge and Bruneau Canyons.

I am tired. I am tired of fighting you over the same issue. Nothing has changed since this began eight years ago. I work long days and long weeks trying to run a business and I resent having to spend so much of my personal time on this issue. But rest assured that I will never quit fighting you - the Owyhee Canyonlands deserve everything I can possibly do to try and protect them.

Until the next time -

Amy Haak

001136

Nikki Balch Stilwell
3262 Catalina Lane
Boise, Idaho 83705

September 4, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Attention:
USAF/BLM personnel involved with plans for Owyhee Canyonlands

As an Idahoan born in Boise, I am voicing a strong "no" regarding the enhanced military training range proposed for the Owyhee Canyonlands by the United States Air Force.

Mountain Home Air Force Base is not threatened with closure according to a documented statement made by a vice commander at the Mountain Home Air Force Base. The United States Air Force doesn't need the expansion for military preparedness, defense efforts or the safety of our military pilots. It has been proven that established training ranges in Utah are adequate to meet the combat training needs for military personnel at the Idaho air base.

PR-8 The draft environmental impact statement prepared by the USAF is flawed and doesn't comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. It certainly can't be used by Idaho's congressional delegation to approve the devastation of this public land prized by many of Idaho's citizens.

BI-9 No credible study has determined that military flights over areas such as Little Jacks Creek will not severely impact wildlife, including America's largest populations of California bighorn sheep.

If the USAF is allowed additional access to Owyhee Canyonlands the recreational users of the Owyhee, Bruneau and Jarbidge canyons and rivers will be harassed with jet noise, views of military installations and war-time equipment, and other battlefield debris creating a less than desired wilderness experience. The effects of aluminum chaff on wildlife populations, fish habitat and water quality have not been determined.

And, how can any government entity turn the sacred area of native Americans into a battlefield -- mock or real? Such action is just another insult to a long history of mistreatment of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe.

Southern Idaho's wildlife, flora, fresh air and tranquillity are state

001136

and national treasures important to our children and grandchildren.

I have been privileged to have had access to the Owyhee Canyonlands for 58 years. My guess is that I've lived in Idaho longer than most of the people at the Mountain Home Air Force Base.

My two granddaughters are "new" Idahoans, born in Boise in the past four years. Some day I want to see their delight as they look across a steep canyon at California Bighorn Sheep, hear the canyon wrens and red-tailed hawks and see the beautiful flowers on a blooming cactus. I want to teach them about the need to be quiet as we float a river below a herd of sheep feeding on the cliff and I want to see the spark in their eyes when they discover the secrets of a hidden stream dumping into a high desert river.

Idahoans do care about the Owyhee Canyonlands. Please don't ruin it for us and our progeny. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Nikki Balch Stilwell

001107

August 15, 1997

Bureau of Land Management/U.S. Air Force
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-1 To Whom It May Concern:

In past years I have commented at hearings and written comments about the proposed training range. Nothing has changed. I am unequivacably opposed to development of a new range or expansion of the existing range into any part of the Owyhees. The reasons are too numerous to list. Any disturbance by planes, military maneuvers, or any type of construction will adversely affect the flora and fauna of the region, as well as the international migratory birds of North and South America (some of which are rare and/or endangered species). There is no need for any increased disturbance in the high desert country of Southwest Idaho.

The military repeatedly has said they have to have more realistic training. Great! Practice over the City of Mountain Home, Mountain Home Air Base, the Interstate Highway, and surrounding area which is already unfit for any native flora or fauna. Better yet - go back to the training ranges in other states where the military has already destroyed most of what is needed for the survival of flora, fauna, and man.

Why in hell does man continue to destroy that which has taken millions of years to develop? Is it ego, money, or just outright stupidity?

Expanded training range? Absolutely not!!!!

Sincerely,

Colleen Sweeney

Colleen Sweeney

PO Box 3067
Boise, Idaho 83703

001108 6-3-97

GE-1 I have heard the Sierra Club radio advertisement and am all for the Air Force having as much training space you need. Do not give in to their pressure!!
We need a strong military & live training is necessary! Go Air Force

AWC Gerald F. Burrell (USNRet)
3698 Spruce Creek Dr
Meridian, Id 83642

001109

August 29, 1997

Bureau of Land Management/USAF
Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-2 Please include these comments in the official DEIS record:

Once again, (for the fourth time), I hereby express my heartfelt opinion that the USAF has no case for turning one of the most remote, beautiful, and peaceful parts of this country into a bombing range. The reasons for my opposition are as follows:

1. The Air Force has NEVER shown that they need this bombing range. In fact, time after time, various senior officers have admitted that there really is NO NEED for this range. There are other ranges they can practice their wargames in -- as close as just over the border in Utah. During the Gulf "War" we constantly heard how wonderfully prepared the Air Force was -- the best in the world, they touted. If they are so very well trained, they must already have more than enough places to train which are more than adequate. There is NO REASON to sacrifice a virtually untouched wilderness for the whims of a few spoiled brats who want everything their way. I sometimes wonder who the "enemy" really is when our own Air Force treats us with such disdain.

2. Noise. Obviously, one of the most wonderful aspects of the Owyhee Canyonlands is its awesome silence. Even an idiot could understand that loud sounds -- especially those of jet planes -- are completely incompatible with a pristine, silent wilderness. The Air Force lied in the EIS in regard to their noise studies -- these were bogus and they knew it, but they intentionally included deceptive information. This is an outrage and is prima facie grounds to disqualify the entire EIS, under NEPA regulations. A legal EIS cannot intentionally include misleading information.

NO-1

The study of noise by eminent scientists throughout the world has produced a body of evidence. For instance:

-The US Environmental Protection Agency released a 1978 report entitled, "Noise: A Health Problem." Here are some of the findings from this report: "Unwanted sound constitutes a real and present danger to people's health." "Noise can produce serious physical and psychological stress." "Of the many hazards related to noise, hearing loss is the most clearly observable and measurable....other health hazards are....susceptibility to disease and infection....a complicating factor in heart problems and other diseases....may have a serious consequence for those already ill in mind or body." "Grade school children exposed to aircraft noise in school or at home had higher blood pressures than children in quieter areas." "Serious effects of noise on the growth and development of the unborn child."

001109

-Dr. William H. Stewart, former US Surgeon General said, "Calling noise a nuisance is like calling smog an inconvenience. Noise must be considered a hazard to the health of people everywhere."

-A study entitled, "Noise and Your Health" states, "Hearing loss can occur either through repeated prolonged exposures to noise exceeding 85 decibels, or through short exposure to an extremely intense noise." "Noise is a powerful source of stress. Your attitude toward the unwanted noise directly affects your level of stress. The more helpless you feel, the greater your level of stress. If you perceive the noise as unnecessary and preventable, your annoyance will increase as well." "Noise is unwanted sound."

-The following quotes are taken from a recent report to Congress, prepared by the National Park Service, entitled Effect of Overflights on Natural Quiet. "The NPS has long regarded natural quiet as a park resource." "The human auditory system is an excellent mechanism for determining the presence or absence of natural quiet. No readily available electronic device can duplicate human hearing for identifying audible sounds produced by non-natural sources." "If an attentive listener with normal hearing can hear aircraft, then natural quiet does not exist while the aircraft is audible." The NPS has done exhaustive visitor surveys in many national parks. Here is one result: "System-wide, enjoying natural quiet is about as important as viewing natural scenery as a reason for visiting national parks."

I have included the above quotes from respected scientific reports as evidence that the Air Force intentionally included flawed, biased, and unscientific data in the EIS.

3. The airspace expansion over Little Jacks Creek will severely impact wildlife. The Idaho Fish and Game Commissioners -- a notably conservative group -- has recently opposed the bombing range, because of adverse effects on wildlife. Since the Air Force escalated its use in the Owyhee Country the population of bighorns has plummeted -- what more evidence is necessary to prove that jet noise adversely affects that (and most other) species?

The Owyhee Canyonlands is a special place, like no other in the entire country. What rational human being would sacrifice it for no valid reason whatsoever? There can be no supersonic battlefield there, of all places! Use existing ranges. This is entirely unacceptable and unAmerican.

Sincerely,

Ellen R. Glaccum

Ellen R. Glaccum
Box 1173
Ketchum, ID 83340

001140

Sept-1-97

GE-1 To Bureau:

Recently read of the plans to put in a bombing range in the Owyhee's. - There is currently a large tract of land being used as a bombing range. - Why disturb the desert highlands - Not enough visitors to that area?

The Wilderness Society is hopefully continues to speak to you regarding these abandoned areas as a former resident and military and a hunter. Please do not open any more bombing ranges.

Thank You

Roy L. Duell (USAF) Ret.
1402 82 - Apt 5832
Condenton, Mo 65020-8225

P. O. Box 6025
Englewood, Colorado 80155-6905
September 1, 1997

001141

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Gentlemen/Ladies:

I am writing in reference to your proposal for Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI). I would like to have my comments included in your EIS and Record of Decision, due this fall. The deadline for comments may have passed, but I have been traveling this summer, and the news about the ETI just caught up with me. Deadline or not, I hope that you will take my opinion into consideration.

I am a landowner in Idaho (13319 Villi Road, Donnelly, ID), and I am opposed to the ETI. It will be situated in the vicinity of the Owyhee Canyonlands. I am shocked that the U.S. Air Force would even consider this area for the ETI. Many arguments have been advanced against this project, ranging from the nuisance effects of jet noise on the people, livestock, and wildlife living there, to the visual damage caused by flares, chaff, fires, etc. My objection is of a different kind. It is, simply put, that these canyonlands are one of the most magnificent natural areas in our country.

I find it ironic, that the US Air Force, organized to defend our country, should consider degrading a cherished part of it. The Bruneau, the Jarbridge, and the Jack's Creek canyons, are places of such fantastic and wild beauty, that it is difficult to describe them in words. The lesser-known Jack's Creek area is no less astonishing, with its narrow, deep wild gorge, than are its bigger and more well-known sister rivers. Yet this is the very region that you are also considering in this proposal for an expansion of your Military Operating Area. I can only attribute this to your ignorance of the region you covet. I urge the AF decision makers to come out of your stratosphere, and down to Earth on this matter, and take a close-up look at this land. If you hike along the canyon bottoms, or take a raft trip down one of these wonderful rivers, you too cannot help but be enthralled with them, and will realize your error.

"America the Beautiful" is a song that touches the heart of every patriotic American. Let's not make this merely a nostalgic tune. Remember, wilderness is something that can only be lost, it can never be regained. The Grand Canyon is constantly buzzed by sightseeing helicopters, Hells Canyon is often filled with the roar of jet boats. People need the few remaining wild places we have for moments of peace and tranquility.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

Ken Fischman

cc:IRU

001142

Whitney Friends Church



Pastor Vern Barnett
3102 Palouse St.
P.O. Box 5371
Boise, Idaho 83705
(208) 342-5702

September 2, 1997

US Air Force / BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 To Whom It Concerns:

Does anyone in a position of authority in regard to the development of the Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) project truly care about what is best for all? Having personally seen military agendas carried out in the past, I have no confidence in their ability to speak honestly or act with integrity to this day.

I was a Marine air traffic controller at MCAS Yuma/Yuma International Airport in the early 70's. The incredible waste of resources was so routine that I could not begin to give adequate examples. So, I'll limit myself to one of significance to this purposed training range.

The Air Force claims that it now wants to conserve on time and fuel. While any aviation related serviceman during the energy crisis of 1973 can varify that flight operations increased dramatically at the mention of possible fuel rationing. From our control tower I watched cars line up all day while our military pilots were carrying out orders to squander as much fuel as possible by filling up their tanks for short flights, then dumping the majority of the fuel before their return.

The military has proved themselves as experts at protecting their interests first without regard for the tax paying public.

This training range is nothing but another boondoggle project that has already wasted the public's resources. Enough!!!

A Witness of Truth,

Vern Barnett

Vern Barnett

THE RURAL ALLIANCE FOR MILITARY ACCOUNTABILITY

001143

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August 3, 1997

U. S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sir or Ms.,

The following are the comments of the Rural Alliance for Military Accountability (RAMA) the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Enhanced Training in Idaho.

In general, we found the DEIS much easier to read than past documents, partially due to our belief that the DEIS was sanitized to depict as few impacts as possible. The inserts did make for easy location of issues of concern.

RAMA does not accept the premise that "dilution is the solution to pollution" of impacts associated with military airspace. That notion rings of a post-facto justification for the military's insatiable appetite to garner significant new amounts of airspace while refusing to surrender any airspace designations associated with base closures. Indeed, our experience has been that any proposed airspace acquisition by the Defense Department (DOD) - once granted - becomes permanent. As opposed to military land withdrawals Special Use Airspace (SUA) and Military Training Route (MTR) designations do not have sunset clauses. Moreover, changes in airspace use, including dramatically-increased operations, often occur without public notification or involvement.

Contrary to the Pentagon's solution to impacts of military airspace, our belief is that the best way to avoid them is to decline to designate the use of airspace for military purposes.

Today, the DOD is the only federal agency which does not provide the public with the opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Assessments (EAs). For decades, this deprecation of the process under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) has allowed the U.S. Air Force (USAF) to create new Military Operation Areas (MOAs) and MTRs, and to withdraw public lands without public input or notification. We believe it is time the Pentagon allow full public participation in the decisions that impact our environment and thus our lives.

MANAGEMENT BOARD: MARION McCLAIN, Sacramento, CA; MARGENE McGEE, Utah, CA; GARY SCHWARTZ, New York, NY; JODI SCHWARTZ, San Francisco, CA; LORENZO VALDEZ, Espanola, NM; C.F.W. WHEELOCK, Questa, NM

RAMA is a project of the Tides Foundation

RAMA would also like to take the opportunity afforded through the DEIS process to again formally request grassroots representation on the Interagency Working Group for Special Use Airspace. Sherri Wasserman Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) pledged such grassroots participation before the House Natural Resources Committee on June 17, 1994. It has yet to occur. We consider any further refusal to honor this request as a this breach of trust and a true indicator of the closed door attitude which the DOD has towards airspace matters.

The DEIS notes that a National Needs Assessment in beyond the scope of the document. RAMA opposes any expansion or designation of land and/or airspace to the military until completion of a National Needs Assessment. For such as assessment to truly measure all direct and indirect impacts of these designations, it must involve all branches of the DOD, as well as the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture (USFS and NRCS), the Federal Aviation Administration, the General Accounting Office, appropriate state and local governments, and Congress. It is crucial that a strategy for strong public participation - including that of Native American tribes - be developed and implemented. Upon completion, the National Needs Assessment should be released for public comment and review and a series of public hearings held across the nation.

The reasons for a national needs assessment are clear. Without it, the military will continue to acquire land and airspace in a piecemeal fashion without either a single, defined blueprint justifying those expansions, or congressional oversight of that blueprint. Without a national needs assessment, the military will duplicate existing training capabilities located on the 25 million acres which the DOD already controls. Without a national needs assessment, the DOD can quietly expand upon the 50% of our nation's airspace that it already has.

RAMA is aware that every western state faces military expansion or renewals, and we believe that these activities are having significant immediate and cumulative environmental impacts. Among the plans currently under consideration:

* The Yuma Training Complex has proposed to "develop new target simulations" and "develop additional transmitter-telemetry facilities."
* The Marine Corps Air Station has proposed to upgrade their Tactical Air Combat Training System within the Barry Goldwater Range. The range will also be home to a new Measurement and Debriefing System.
* The National Guard has proposed a Colorado Airspace Initiative with "simulated target, surface to air threats, and simulated weapons delivery tactics."
* In Nevada, Nellis Air Force Base has proposed "Nellis Air Combat Training System Sites."
* Twenty seven additional EW and TACTS sites and one master site are proposed at Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Nevada. * In New Mexico. the USAF has proposed a new bombing Range for German Aircraft Operations at Holloman AFB.
* The Air Force has proposed doubling the size of the Lucin A & B MOAs at the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR)

* As described in the Special Nevada Report, NAS Fallon has proposed three new MOAs. The 10,000 square mile expansion anticipated by this proposal would double the size of the Navy's current airspace designations.
* NAS Fallon has also proposed a 123,000 acre withdrawal of public lands, known as the Master Land Withdrawal.
* Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico has requested "Proposed Structure Changes and Related Actions."

In addition, recently-approved proposals affecting military land- and airspace uses include:
* The 99th Electronic Combat Range at the UTTR; * Roving Sands in New Mexico;
* The Theatre Missile Defense Project in New Mexico;
* The expansion of military activities at the White Sands Missile Range;
* The deployment of German Air Force Tornadoes at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico; and
* Linkage of the electronic warfare systems of Fallon NAS and Nellis AFB.

In February 1993, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell acknowledged that, "An integrated test and evaluation range structure linking existing ranges across six western states and supersonic areas off the California coast would provide a land, airspace [and] sea area to accommodate a large portion of our joint training, test and evaluation needs well into the next century." Current expansion plans in the West, while conducted on a piecemeal basis, clearly demonstrate the DOD's effort to implement this consolidation. As such, the DOD's failure to prepare a Programmatic EIS which assesses overall needs for training and cumulative impacts of the training range expansions in the west violates the spirit and letter of NEPA.

Specific Comments

* On page 1-41, the DEIS notes that flight restrictions associated with the Duck Valley Reservation affect the utility of the eastern portion of the Paradise MOA, and that the airspace can be effectively used only for transit from one MOA to another. RAMA opposes any expansion of the Paradise MOA. Such expansion would increase the negative impacts associated with military airspace use, including chaff and flares on top of the 900 annual sorties on VR-1300/1303, VR-1304/1305, IR-303 and IR-302/305.

Chaff and Flares

Chaff is an airborne radar-detection countermeasure consisting of extremely fine fibers of aluminum coated fiberglass. A typical burst chaff bundle contains approximately 2.1 million fiberglass strands which are the size of human hairs. After its dispersal during military training exercises, it turns into a waste material that falls to the ground.

It is also omnipresent in some parts of the West. As a 1994 survey by Nellis AFB reported, "Over 10 trillion of these fibers have been dropped on Nevada alone over the last 20 years." Presently, rural residents and BLM officials are finding clumps of chaff on public

and private lands throughout central Nevada. We have attached a BLM map of known chaff littering sites.

The DEIS on Enhanced Training in Idaho states on page 2-73 that the Paradise MOA will experience a 55% increase in the use of chaff. The document later downplays the effect of this statement, when it says on page 3-33 that the use of chaff poses no known risk to humans and animals.

SF-3 The fact is, this conclusion is inconsistent with the Air Force's own findings. Section 4.4 of the April 1997 Record of Decision on the Final EIS on the Alaska Military Operations Areas made a commitment to "facilitate and encourage the continued study of chaff alternatives and biodegradable chaff." The earlier DEIS on the same proposal also found that: "The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) considers crystalline silica (as a respirable dust) a potential human carcinogen."

SF-16 The DEIS claim that chaff poses no known risk to humans and animals is also in conflict with two other DOD reports, including the January 1992 DEIS for the Aircraft Conversions at the 103rd Tactical Fighter Group, Bradley International Airport, Connecticut, as well as for the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. The earlier DEIS states, "Wind blown particles would tend to concentrate on the lee side of water bodies where nutrient levels are higher. Surface feeding wildlife, such as ducks, may consume chaff particles on the surface of their primary vegetation. These would either pass through the digestive system or form compacted pellets in the gizzard."

While other limited studies have been performed on the human health and ecological effects of chaff - including at the University of Maryland and the University of Delaware - the results are mixed, and some are not directly applicable to high desert, basin and range environments found in the western U.S.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (DEP), for example, reviewed Defense Department documentation of the risks associated with chaff. Although the state's investigation "did not provide the Division with a definitive answer as to the environmental effects of chaff on public and private lands in Nevada," the DEP identified two primary concerns:

"The first concern is from inhalable particulate below PM10 which may occur from the decomposition and resuspension of fiber particulate by mechanical means. The Division's second concern deals with the physical deposition of what could be considered solid waste on public and private lands in the State of Nevada. There is very little information on the amounts of chaff currently deposited and how these fibers decompose in the environment."

The report concluded, "... the Division does not feel that adequate studies have been done to assure that there are no environmental risks posed by the fibers." In the opinion of RAMA, this should be the jumping-off point for the DEIS, instead of the reversed position that chaff poses no known risk to human health.

Indeed, the DEIS would do well to follow the lead of the Desert Eglin South Chaff Survey conducted by Nellis AFB in March 1994. Among the survey's findings: "More research is needed, especially concerning the behavior of chaff in anaerobic or acidic conditions found in wetlands".

> "This last category of environmental damage relates to the level of litter which is currently accumulating in some areas of the MOA from the use of chaff and flare debris. In most cases the litter from aircraft operations probably is not more deleterious to the environment than common roadside litter such as bottles and cans found in the area. In the case of WSA's, however, a case can be made that litter, fire scars, and debris detract from the naturalness, and infer human presence which is specifically identified in the Wilderness Act as negative impacts for wilderness areas.
>
> "Litter from chaff and flares, and other debris from Air Force aircraft operations has the potential to impact naturalness. So do fire scars started by flares. Jet overflights have the potential to impact solitude and incur human presence.
>
> "Potential environmental issues involve injury from falling debris, impacts to air quality, effects on soil and water, and effects on biological resources. Ingestion or inhalation of chaff by wildlife or livestock, physical effects on the skin or feet (i.e. birds using chaff as a nesting material, or chaff becoming embedded in the paws of animals), indirect effects on vegetation due to changes in soil chemistry, and indirect effects of changes in water chemistry on aquatic life are also potential environmental issues related to chaff.
>
> "Some small bundles of chaff were found as well as three large clumps of chaff fibers."

While the long-term effects of chaff may be unknown, some of the immediate physical impacts are. In 1992, the Army found: "Glass and carbo fibers and, likely iron fibers deposited on soils are susceptible to wind resuspension until immobilization occurs. However, even those fibers immobilized on soil surfaces can be resuspended by physical forces such as foot and/or vehicular traffic. Thus, there is a persistent risk of fiber inhalation and mitigation efforts will likely be required for areas containing high fiber concentrations."

RAMA urges the DEIS for the Enhanced Training in Idaho to consider all of these reports before categorically discounting any impact of chaff on human health. Beyond that, we oppose the current and proposed use of chaff until sufficient independent analysis of the potential impacts has been completed. Given the amount of time that the problems with chaff have been known, residents of the rural west will no longer accept a lack of documentation as a claim of "no impact." On page 4-72 the DEIS for the Proposed Expansion of German Air Force Operations at Holloman AFB, NM, USAF, June 1997 states, "No studies on chaff consumption by wildlife have been conducted (U.S. Air Force,

1997). Hypothesized effects of chaff on wildlife have included disruption of feeding, behavior of digestion, toxicity, and inflammatory response in the respiratory system, potentially resulting in silicosis".

LU-16 Another important point is that the military is dropping chaff on private property throughout the West without permission of the landowners below. Regardless of environmental or health impacts, this may be a violation of private property rights, since it constitutes disposal of a solid waste.

But chaff represents more than garbage on the terrain. The DEIS for the Proposed Expansion of German Air Force Operations at Holloman AFB, NM, USAF, June 1997 (page 2-40) notes that "[pyrotechnic] chaff is considered to be a munition because it uses an explosive charge to disperse the chaff upon release." The DEIS for Enhanced Training in Idaho makes a similar finding: "The chaff is ejected from the plastic cartridge using a small pyrotechnic device that remains on the aircraft". If chaff is considered a munition in New Mexico isn't it also a munition in Idaho and Nevada?

The BLM has authorized the use of chaff in Idaho and Nevada over public lands associated with operations at Mountain Home AFB. In the opinion of RAMA, this raises serious questions. We believe the BLM has a mandate to protect public safety on lands it administers. But how can the BLM assure public safety on these lands where it allows the

SF-17 use of chaff and flares? How will the agency alert the public that the lands are being used as part of a training range? What are the liabilities for the BLM in the event of an accident involving chaff?

We would raise the same questions for publicly-accessible lands administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI). Since there is inconclusive evidence on the potential environmental impacts of chaff - including its effects on human health - RAMA believes the DOI and BLM should adopt a policy that the use of chaff be limited to lands which have been formally withdrawn for military uses.

Titanium Tetrachloride

HZ-2 Some of the activities proposed within Enhanced Training in Idaho - including the potential use of Cold Spot cartridges - will result in the release of titanium tetrachloride. RAMA believes the DEIS does not fully describe the possible release, the potential for off-range contamination, or the environmental consequences of the use of titanium tetrachloride, including but limited to, potential ground, air and water contamination, impacts to human health and impacts to wildlife.

Instead, the document's discussion of the environmental impacts on page 2-70 found that titanium tetrachloride "quickly becomes inert and dissipates." This is inadequate.

According to E.I. duPont deNemours & Co., the manufacturer of titanium tetrachloride: "Titanium tetrachloride (TiCl4) is manufactured by the chlorination of titanium-bearing

ores in the presence of coke as a reducing agent. Titanium tetrachloride is a colorless to light-yellow liquid with a pungent odor. Titanium tetrachloride is very susceptible to hydrolysis, and the liquid fumes strongly when exposed to moist air. The fumes are dense and persistent and consist of hydrochloric acid, finely divided particles of titanium oxychloride and hydrated oxides of titanium." In its description of health hazards, the company said: "Titanium tetrachloride is a powerful desiccant and contact with the liquid product will cause burns from both chemical and thermal effects. The vapor is also hazardous and is extremely irritating to the skin, eyes, nose and throat. Overexposure to the vapor may cause burns to the eyes and lungs."

Based upon this description and effects of titanium tetrachloride, and the precautions which OSHA and other federal, state and health organizations recommend when working with the substance (see attached fact sheets and documents), RAMA believes the military must investigate this issue much more thoroughly.

Specifically, we call upon the military to answer the questions we posed during the scoping of the proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho.

HZ-2 "Will Cold Spot cartridges be used? If so, describe in full the environmental consequences
HZ-3 of the use gunpowder and titanium tetrachloride, including but not limited to, potential ground, air and water contamination, impacts to human health and impacts to wildlife. *

HZ-2 Describe in full the highly corrosive nature of titanium tetrachloride and its ability to liberate heat and hydrochloric acid upon contact with moisture.
* Describe in full the possible injury to skin and mucous membranes to human and animal and the possibility to threaten life or to cause permanent physical impairment or disfigurement. * Can titanium tetrachloride be absorbed into the body by inhalation, ingestion and/or through the skin?
* What exposure levels would threaten human and wildlife health? Would it take seconds, minutes or hours?
* Describe in full the operational details associated with the use of the Cold Spot cartridges. Can the Cold Spot cartridge ignite vegetation? How far will the smoke cloud disperse? Is there any potential for the smoke cloud to disperse off range? What is the chemical make-up of the clouds? Will there be a requirement for Cold Spot use during the fire season?

HZ-3 * What is the chemical make-up of all inert and live ordnance which could be potentially used in the proposed training scenarios? * What are the plans for range decontamination and monitoring of all environmental consequences of all proposed activities?"

Since filing these questions, we have learned of titanium tetrachloride's connection with vanadium, and would like to submit these additional concerns for full study: "Does the

HZ-4 chemical makeup of titanium tetrachloride include Vanadium? If so, what are what are the potential health and environmental risks?"

These questions are not academic exercises, nor should they be treated as such. We believe there is the possibility of significant off-range contamination in the event that ordnance is used which releases titanium tetrachloride. In response to RAMA's investigation into the use of titanium tetrachloride at the 17,280 acre Bravo 16 Range located at NAS Fallon,

Nevada DEP Administrator Lew Dodgion noted the potential dispersal of titanium tetrachloride off-range: "If the ordnance landed near a range boundary, then the potential would exist." RAMA points out that this range is currently 5,280 acres - or 30% - larger than that being proposed in Idaho. The potential for off-range contamination in Idaho is that much greater.

Electronic Warfare

Electronic warfare (EW) and other military installations are responsible for both direct and indirect impacts on the human and natural environments. Nevadans have first had knowledge of the proliferation of Electronic threat emitters in central Nevada and throughout the west. Including the proposed withdrawal of 95,000 acres of public lands associated with EW sites. RAMA believes the cumulative impacts of these activities are frequently overlooked resulting in significant cumulative impacts thus affecting sound land management practices and public's use and enjoyment of our public lands. The cumulative and often incremental impacts associated with these activities should be analyzed taking into account possible range build out scenarios including any associated visual cueing devices, such as mock scud missiles as well as any associated air and ground maneuvers. Permanent threat emitters should be permitted only through withdrawal.

RAMA believes that current and new threat emitters on public lands are incompatible with the health, safety and quality of life of rural residents and the public's use and enjoyment of our public lands. Likewise, we understand it is BLM's responsibility to protect human health and the environment on all public lands. Therefore, as recommended, it is crucial no harmful levels of electromagnetic radiation from electronic warfare or communication facilities be permitted on open public lands.
The BLM must consider prior to approval of any treat emitters on public lands the associated infrastructure including power lines and fiber optic cables. The BLM must also take into considerations that threat emitters are often accompanied by a daily military personnel presence with in and out traffic by personnel and DOD contractors, including security patrols.

The FEIS should address the following concern:

1. Do aircraft ever go directly over or within one to five miles of the threat emitters? What percentage?

DP-57 2. Are there ever missions that suppress air defenses by including simulated direct or stand-off attacks on threat emitters? What percentage?

3. Do aircraft ever use low level terrain masking maneuvers in the vicinity of threat emitters? Are any of these within 5 miles? What percent? Are any within 20 miles? What percent?

DP-58 4. Is the projected intensity of threat emitter attack and low level avoidance maneuver greater in the Jarbidge MOA where the emitters are located or in the other MOAs without threat emitters?

DP-59 5. Is the projected increase in low level overflights in the Jarbidge MOA (Table 4.2-3) in any way related to low level terrain masking maneuvers flown in conjunction with the threat emitters?

DP-60 6. After the proposed action is implemented, what would be the increase in the number of sorties that would include flight under 5,000 ft AFL in the Jarbidge MOA (where the threat emitters would be located)?

7. Outside the existing restricted airspace (3202 A, B, and C), would there be any increase in flight under 5000 ft. agl. in the Jarbidge MOA (where the threat emitters would be located)?

DP-57 8. Would air interdiction strike training missions involve any low level maneuvers across any threat emitter areas (0-20 mile radius of an emitter)? What percentage?

9. Would any fighter air to ground maneuvers involve fighter sweep and escort activity at medium to high altitudes across threat emitter areas (0-20 miles of an emitter)? What percentage?

DP-60 10. How many sorties per year would involve horizontal and vertical maneuver below 5,000 ft. agl to avoid or defeat defensive threat from threat emitters (pg. 1-25)?

DP-57 11. Would any missions involve any jamming and electronic support measures that use low level subsonic to high level supersonic flights to search for, intercept, identify and locate electronic threat emission? Would any of these flights be within the general vicinity of the threat emitters (0-20 mile radius of an emitter)? How many sorties per year?

DP-61 12. Would any startle affets to persons on the ground occur as a result of low level vertical and horizontal maneuvering to avoid or defeat defensive threats from threat emitters? If one person would be affected by each aircraft involved in a sortie that includes this type of flight, how many would be affected in the first year after the threat emitters are fully installed?

Lasers

The military is increasingly turning rural America into a range for laser weapons research and testing, endangering residents of towns near the ranges, as well as motorists on roads around them. Military laser hazards derive from three factors: their high-powered output, their exemption from normal safety regulations and the lack of non-military controls on their use in training exercises in the rural U.S.

Despite the growing body of knowledge about the dangers which lasers represent, DOD laser components that are designed for actual combat or combat training operations or are classified in the interest of national security are exempt from radiation safety and performance standards for laser products (21 CFR 1040.11). The exemption has been in effect since June 1986, when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted a Pentagon request for the exclusion. As FDA Acting Commissioner Sherwin Gardner wrote in his letter of approval: "It is my understanding that this exemption is necessary because laser products that are used by the military ... require capabilities which do not lend themselves to full compliance with all provisions of the laser standard promulgated under the [Food and Drug] Act. Your request for exemption acknowledges that in most instances the specified defense mission for which the products are intended could not be fulfilled if total compliance with the standard were required."

Nevertheless, laser operations cause injuries to eyes and skin - more fully described below - which the military has acknowledged and taken efforts to mitigate. A year after the military received the FDA exemption, The Washington Times reported on November 19, 1987, that military officials would issue 100,000 protective eye goggles able to handle "small mass, low velocity fragments" and lasers to the troops most likely to settle into battle or global emergencies.

There are significant and documented adverse effects to exposure to lasers. Thermal burns to the retina are the greatest hazard to the eye with little recovery possible. Symptoms of corneal damage to the eye by an ultraviolet laser are red, watering eyes and acute pain. Since infrared and ultraviolet lasers cannot be seen by the naked eye, victims of corneal eye damage from lasers may not be aware of the contact with, and injury by, lasers for several hours.

The risks of direct and indirect viewing of laser training activities are clearly described in the U.S. Department of the Navy document A-6E Laser Safety Program and Operating Procedures (CMAW-1 INST 3759.4A). All bombing ranges at the NAS Fallon are presently certified for A-6E TRAM laser operation. In describing the safety hazards of A-6E Tram laser use, the report stated: "The intensity within the beam of the laser exceeds that of the sun, nuclear weapons, burning magnesium or arc lights. Though the laser beam is invisible, the eye is able to focus this energy onto the retina with possibly severe and damaging effects varying from spot blindness, if the direct beam is viewed from a long distance, to complete and total loss of sight, if the direct beam is viewed from a distance very close to the aircraft. This hazard exists within the laser beam, along the aircraft's flight path, out to a range of 6.0 nautical miles from the lasing aircraft. The distance is increased when binoculars, spotting scopes or any other magnification device (including telescopic cameras) are used."

Specular reflections -- mirror-like reflections of laser energy from very smooth, flat highly polished surfaces such as mirrors, windows, polished metal and calm standing water -- should be treated as if they were the direct laser beam, according to the Navy document. Even the reflections from curved specular surfaces such as glass bottles or car bumpers can cause damage, even though their range of danger is much smaller. Indeed, one of the most

serious eye injuries incurred from laser radiation in the Navy occurred from a specular reflection from a glass bottle. One can easily imagine the likelihood of similar injuries from unintentional exposure.

Another Navy document, NAVMEDCOMINST 6470.2, describes the biological effects of laser radiation on the skin, which range from a mild reddening to blisters and charring. Depigmentation, ulceration and scarring of the skin and damage to underlying organs may occur from extremely high powered laser radiation. The Navy is cognizant of the physical hazards associated with accidental exposure to laser radiation. As Manual SPAWARINST 5100.12A states: "All personnel in areas using Class 3b... or class 4 lasers shall be informed by formal classroom training about the potential hazard associated with accidental exposure to this form of radiation. In particular, the extraordinary danger of eye damage due to absorption by the organ shall be emphasized. Class 3b and class 4 lasers may also cause skin damage or damage to material by fire or explosion due to rapid heating from a focused beam."

Despite DOD documentation of laser hazards, unsafe training operations continue under the protection of the FDA exemption. But continued unregulated laser operations at laser ranges throughout the nation pose an unacceptable risk for rural residents and visitors. Clearly, control over training activities should be passed to a non-biased agency of the people. DOD should move to bring its ranges into compliance with FDA regulations and limit its training activities to ranges at which acceptable safety margins may be possible. These training activities should not continue at ranges that cannot meet the proper safety margins.

The DEIS provides inadequate information on the environmental consequences of laser use on the proposed range. There is even conflicting information on whether Enhanced Training in Idaho will include laser activities. On page 2-74, the DEIS first states that "Laser guided training ordnance would not be used on the training range for ETI," but then continues that control measures would be necessary for "any target area selected prior to the use of lasers on the training range." (Another conflict is that Section 2.3.7 refers to section 4.3. Section 4.3 has no section on lasers.)

RAMA finds it hard to believe that the Air Force would develop a new tactical bombing range and exclude laser targeting from their training activities.

As with our questions on titanium tetrachloride, the DEIS ignored our scoping questions on laser use for Enhanced Training in Idaho. This clearly demonstrates an attempt to discount potentially significant impacts of laser use. Given that even the military recognizes the existence of these impacts, the document's failure to discuss them is unacceptable.

RAMA's scoping comments asked the following questions:

SF-6 What type of lasers are used?What are the laser surface hazard zones for aerial lasers? What are surface laser hazard zones for ground lasers? What are the laser flight profiles?

Are there mandated flight patterns? What is the location of laser target areas? Are there laser systems used in nontraditional modes, R&D applications, and/or prototype systems?Will a map of these potential laser hazard zones be provided? If so, what classification of lasers will be used? Will the Nominal Ocular Hazard Distances be enforced? Will a health monitoring program be established on health impacts from lasers? What are the potential risks to residents? What actions will be taken to remove items which may pose a specular reflection hazard in the paths of lasing aircraft and surrounding areas within the Nominal Ocular Hazard Distances under conditions of the proposed actions? What are the Optical Densities (OD)? What are the potential burning hazards to humans, domestic animals, wildlife and lands associated with laser use? Will systems receive laser energy reflected from targets designated by either airborne or ground based lasers?If so, present a discussion of the system and associated impacts of ground laser systems, etc. What are increased laser hazards during "buddy lasing"? What are the targeting and navigational operations that may involve laser enhanced weapons systems? What are the features and operating restrictions associated with the safe usage of such systems? What is the potential for inadvertent use of these systems? What are the laser footprints associated with the proposals to conduct weapons delivery? What are the laser footprints on the ground? Will these laser footprints extend out of the current lands withdrawn? What actions will be taken to protect people from exploring and observing training activities within the Nominal Ocular Hazard Distances? Will these nominal Ocular Hazards Zones be posted? What are the impacts to wildlife and domestic animals of all conceivable laser operations? What are the impacts of a lasers aimed above the horizon?

Conclusion

In light of the significant resources already controlled by the Air Force, RAMA supports the "no action" alternative on Enhanced Training in Idaho. Clearly the Air Force's attempts to establish an electronic battlefield in southern Idaho and Nevada cannot not be supported by any national needs assessment. Furthermore, the Air Force is clearly attempting to fragment and thereby minimalize what should be a single study of the connected and cumulative impact of their activities. Until an EIS addresses both the decision to place the Composite Wing at Mountain Home AFB and the proposed tactical and electronic warfare range, RAMA believes the Air Force is in violation of the ruling by Federal Magistrate Mikel Williams.

DP-4

The U.S. District Court has ordered the military to redo the "Air Force in Idaho" EIS. In response, the Air Force has not only failed to obey the order, but has submitted this proposal in an effort to fragment the issue.

A federal judge has declared the "Air Force in Idaho" EIS illegal. Therefore, all activities covered by the EIS should be immediately and indefinitely suspended. That should cover activities anticipated by Enhanced Training in Idaho as well, to preclude the piecemeal approach which this DEIS represents. Any other outcome violates the spirit and intent of Sections 1502.4, 1508.20. 1508.25 and 1508.28 of NEPA to evaluate connected and cumulative actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

Grace Bukowski

June 19, 1997

Robert McEnaney

6178 Sterling

Boise, ID 83701

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management

PO Box 329

Boise, ID 83701

GE-2 Dear Air Force/BLM:

First of all if attention to detail means anything and it should in any EIS, the zip code listed for commentators to send their comments apparently appears to be invalid. It states that commentators should send their comments to 83702. I believe it is actually 83701. Even though the dEIS is as big as it is, this mistake on the first page should have been caught.

The Air Force is using outdated and inherently flawed methods in the dEIS to measure the noise impacts that Air Force operations will have. Their methods are not legally defensible.

NO-11 This is not my opinion, but the opinion of those who wrote this dEIS. In two recent Air Force documents, *the USAF 96/97 Environmental Safety and Operational Health Strategic Plan* and the October 96 Air Force report, *Requirements Analysis for Noise, the* Air Force identified a number of areas where their current noise models were not in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

In the *USAF 96/97 Environmental Safety and Operational Health Strategic Plan* the USAF properly identifies areas of need where the USAF has been unable to meet their regulatory obligations. Included in *the USAF 96/97 Environmental Safety and Operational Health Strategic Plan* are sections that identify that the USAF is not in compliance with the current regulations when it comes to their ability to analyze the actual impacts of USAF operations in various situations. Specifically addressed in the report is the recognition that the Air Force's method in analyzing the actual impacts of noise form USAF operations is lacking at best, and at the worse, the USAF's methods for analyzing noise impacts is not in full compliance with the laws and regulations of the United States.

The following is a listing of those areas that the USAF identified regarding the lack of proper methods and data to actually analyze the impacts of noise caused by

USAF operations (The first part is the actual category identified in the report and the following is an abstract taken from the identified area. The full text of the report is attached at the end of these comments):

NEED 1410 A new method is needed to gather defensible aircraft operational data for use in determining noise levels for aircraft beddowns:

> The current system is inaccurate in that it does not take into account all aircraft flying...In fact, the accuracy of the data is totally dependent upon human interpretation and therefore, extremely vulnerable to human error.

NEED 1411 A quantitative dosage response-relationship for predicting the effects of noise is required:

> Much of the special use airspace utilized by the Air Force is away from populated areas, as a result the outdoor recreationist is subjected to the aircraft overflight and noise exposure. Today, no quantitative dosage-response relationship has been developed for predicting annoyance in these circumstances. No useful quantitative information of any kind exists.

NEED 1412 Method's are needed to assess the annoyance of sporadic exposure to sonic booms and the combined annoyance of noise exposure of subsonic and supersonic operations:

> The dosage-response relationship on which the Air Force currently relies for predicting the annoyance of exposure to sonic booms was produced in 1981...on the basis of modest amounts of information about repetitive and expected noise exposures in residential communities. The applicability of this relationship to many settings of practical interest to the Air Force has never been demonstrated. (These) issues must be resolved to increase confidence in the Air Force's method for assessing impacts of sporadic sonic booms over largely dispersed populations.
>
> Additionally, the Air Force predicts the annoyance due to noise exposure from subsonic operations and that due to supersonic operations separately. An accurate combined annoyance prediction for both types of operations is not currently available.

The Air Force also fails to include the fact that in ESOH Need 1413, *Model Updates to the Assessment System for Aircraft Noise (ASAN) for Prediction of Noise Exposure from Military Aircraft Operations and the Resulting Impacts to Humans, Animals, and Structures* is also not mentioned in the dEIS. In reference to Need 1413 the Air Force cannot exclude information in this EIS that demonstrates that they are developing a model that will analyze the impacts of noise upon humans, structures, and animals. If the Air Force has a model or is about to release a model that deals with these issues, why is the Air Force not using this model in the development of this EIS? It is possible to make the conjecture that this model if implemented in this dEIS would result showing that there will be more than a finding of *No Significant Impact* resulting from the noise of Air Force activities.

It is heartening to see that the Air Force recognizes that their current methods are seriously in error. It is distressing though that none of these concerns are represented in the current dEIS. The Air force claims in this dEIS that they are in compliance with the law, but their own documents state that the model they are using in this dEIS has no "applicability."

It is especially distressing to see that these documents were omitted from the current dEIS due to the fact that these apparent deficiencies in the USAF's noise analysis are directly related to what the USAF's proposal entails within this dEIS. The fact that the USAF identifies that they lack a proper model to analyze the impacts of sub-sonic and supersonic areas within a rural/wilderness setting, that they have no ability to actually interpret or analyze the impacts that USAF operations have upon outdoor recreation in a wilderness like setting (akin to the Owyhee's), the fact that model that they are currently using to analyze impacts has never been proved to applicable to the USAF's operations, and that the USAF's method of gathering data is extremely susceptible to human error all lead up to the fact that these problems should have a direct bearing upon the analysis of the noise impacts of proposed and current USAF operations within Idaho represented within the current dEIS. The current dEIS does not represent these current flaws in the USAF's method of analyzing noise impacts. None of the aforementioned documents are cited within the dEIS.

In addition to the *USAF 96/97 Environmental Safety and Operational Health Strategic Plan*, the USAF took those areas of non-compliance addressed in the *USAF 96/97 Environmental Safety and Operational Health Strategic Plan* and composed the October 1996 document *Requirements Analysis for Noise* (it is submitted at the end of these written comments). The *Requirements Analysis for Noise* takes those things identified in the *USAF 96/97 Environmental Safety and Operational Health Strategic Plan* and attempts to analyze the complexity of the USAF's noise analysis problem in greater depth. This document was finished during the time of the scoping process, but again it has been suspiciously omitted from the current dEIS. It is especially curious to see that these documents were omitted from the dEIS due to the fact that the authors of *Requirements Analysis for Noise* are also USAF staff that are overseeing the completion of this ETI EIS process. In fact the very person responsible for this EIS–Brenda Cook, is the Point of Contact and one of

the authors of the internal documents that detail the Air Force's current non-compliance in the area of noise analysis.

In the *Requirements Analysis for Noise* there are a number of studies related to the Air Force's predicament and a number of scientific discussion cited within the document. Not one of those papers and discussions were cited within the current dEIS. It should be expected from the USAF that they would attempt to include all of the relevant information that they have accumulated about the impacts of noise within the current dEIS. These are studies within the possession of the USAF, studies that have been developed by the same people who are overseeing the progress of this ETI proposal. In other words, it appears that the USAF is actively concealing information from the public.

To make it easier for everyone involved, I have included copies of the USAF's two most important documents for the convenience of the USAF so that they can be added to the analysis for the final EIS:

- USAF, USAF 96/97 Environmental Safety and Operational Health Strategic Plan
- USAF, Requirements Analysis for Noise, October 1996.

In addition, these citations should also be included in the analysis for the final EIS:

AL/OEBN response 1 March 1996 to HSC/XRE Ltr., 19 Jan. 1996 Subject: Laboratory Input for ESOH Strategic Plan.

Contact Report of 4/22/96 Janice Longstreth, WPI to Bob Lee, AL/OEBN (513) 255-3664.

Cook, B.W., 1993, "Analysis Methodologies for Noise and Air Quality," Proceedings 1993 Air Combat

Command Environmental Quality Symposium, pp. 74-96.

de Jong, R.G., 1990, "Community Response to Noise: A Review of Recent Developments," Environ. Int'l, 16:515-522.

Fidell, S., Pearsons, K., 1994, "Deriving a Dosage-Response Relationship for Community Response to High-Energy Impulsive Noise," Proceedings High Speed Research: 1994 Sonic Boom Workshop, NASA Conference publication 3279, Oct., David McCurdy editor.

Fields, J.M., "An Updated Catalog of 318 Social Surveys of Residents' Reactions to Environmental Noise," (1943-1989), NASA TM-187553, 1991.

Forcier, Ronald, private communication, Chief of Real Property, Air Force Legal Service Agency, Arlington, VA, (703) 696-9166.

FY96 United States Air Force Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health Technology Needs Survey, conducted by USAF ESOH Technical Planning Integrated Product Team, December 1995.

Galloway, W.J., "Assessment of Community Response to High Energy Impulsive Sounds," Report of Working Group 84, Committee on Hearing, Bioacoustics and Biomechanics, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, 1981.

Gjestland, T., Liasjo, K.H., and Granoien, I.L.N., 1995, "Community Response to Noise from Short-Term Military Aircraft Exercise," J. Sound and Vibration, 182:221-228.

Green, D.M., Fidell, S., "Variability in the Criterion for Reporting Annoyance in Community Noise Surveys," Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, Vol. 89, No. 1, 1991.

Gummlich, H.J. and Marohn, H-D., 1995, "Aircraft Noise Metrics and Zones: International Comparisons and Conversion," Proceedings CEAS/AIAA Joint Aeroacoustics Conference. 2:911-917.

Harrison, R., Hartman, L., Makel, W., 1990, "Annoyance from Aircraft Overflights in Wilderness," Noise-Con 90, Proceedings 10th National Conference on Noise Control Engineering, Austin, TX, Oct. 15-17, pp. 327-332.

Lilja, G. and Larsson, L.-G., 1994, "Aviation and the Environment: Needs for Research in Sweden," KFBs DNR: 92-328-22, ISBN 91-88370-71-2.

Shepherd, K.P., Brown, S.A., Leatherwood, J.D., McCurdy, D.A., and Sullivan, B. M., 1995, "Human Response to Sonic Booms - Recent NASA Research," Internoise 95, pp. 871-874.

The Air Force needs to include these documents in the dEIS and they need to recognize some of the conclusions represented in these documents when considering the cumulative impacts that are proposed for the Owyhee region due to USAF operations.

PN-1 One more issue is the question of need. It is my belief that the Air Force has not shown a need to expand current training ranges in the state of Idaho. This is mainly dependant upon General Peck's statement that Mountain Home Air Force Base does not "need" the proposed expansion and due to the fact that Mountain Home is closely located to a number of neighboring ranges in the states of Utah and Nevada. These neighboring ranges seem especially adequate when one considers that the operations of the Utah Test and Training Range are being handed over to ACC in the next few months. One quote discovered on UTTR's home page on the World Wide Web confirms the notion that the training at UTTR is of the highest caliber available in the Air Force:

> "I would like to come out to the Utah Test and Training Range more than once a year," says Lt. Col. George Clark, the commander of Eglin's 86th Fighter Weapons Squadron. The 86th conducts Combat Hammer, ultimately for Air Combat Command. "Utah's biggest advantage is its large shoot cone," Clark says about the airspace and directional requirements that must be met on the range before a

> weapon can be released. "This range is a jewel. The Utah Test and Training Range is a big chunk of uninhabited DOD land. Here we can shoot HARMs, drop Paveway IIs, and fire Mavericks from a variety of altitudes. We can also perform multiship attacks."
> Source: Web Page POC:
> Lynda Peterson, Det 1, 412 TW/TSU, DSN 7
> petersnl@hillvpos.hill.af.mil

The Air Force needs to explore all the possible alternatives in the dEIS, including the possibility of using ranges outside the state of Idaho.

Due to the complete inadequacy of the current dEIS the Air Force and the Bureau of Land Management should implement the "No Action" alternative at this time.

Thank You,

Robert McEnaney

The Following are documents I wished to be attached to my comments. The first part are sections of the *USAF 96/97 Environmental Safety and Operational Health Strategic Plan* and the second document is *Requirements Analysis for Noise.*

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September 4, 1997

U. S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Enhanced Training in Idaho

GE-1 Gentlemen,

Even though I am a resident of Mississippi, I am a land owner in Idaho and spend a considerable amount of time out there each year. I participate in several activities including river rafting and wildlife conservation.

It is my opinion that the planned training range in the Owyhee canyon country will be detrimental to both wildlife and human activities in this area. I have personally been there to observe low flying jet air crafts and to hear the "sonic booms".

There is no doubt that aircraft activity in this area has been detrimental to the California Bighorn Sheep herd that lives in this area.

I am opposed to any expansion of a military training range anywhere in southwest Idaho. I would suggest that you use the training range in Utah and those available in Nevada.

Respectfully submitted,

Leland Speakes, Jr., MAI

Jeff Sharples
317 Ada St.
Boise, ID 83702

United States Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

September 6, 1997

GE-2 Dear USAF and BLM,

Please accept my comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho. As a river runner, hiker and mountain biker, I appreciate the incredible recreational opportunities available throughout the Owyhee Canyonlands. Every spring for the past six years I have done an extended river trip through one of the spectacular desert canyons. To date I have floated the Jarbidge, Bruneau, Owyhee from Garat to Three Forks, Deep Creek and the South Fork of the Owyhee. I hope to add the West Fork of the Bruneau and the Lower Owyhee to this list. In the fall I also enjoy mountain biking around Reynolds Creek and hiking all across the plateau. I have been increasingly alarmed and dismayed by the increase in Air Force activities and disturbances across this area. I find the current level of activity to be completely unacceptable and inconsistent with the wilderness character of this region. Therefore, I support Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, as the only alternative which does not ruin one of the most spectacular places in the world!

Following is a summary of my specific objections to the Air Force's proposal:

- No Chaff - this is litter, and the environmental and health implications have not been evaluated.
- No Flares - this area is volatile and once burned will be difficult to rehabilitate; any loss of native vegetation will impact everything from wildlife to water quality.
- No New Roads - roads increase the potential for human intrusion and subsequent disturbances; they are a source of sedimentation to the drainages; they encourage the growth of noxious weeds.
- No Emitters - these are a source of visual pollution across the plateau not to mention the noise, light and air pollution associated with the generators and lights of the facilities.

- No Nighttime Activities - there has to be some time that people and wildlife have a break from the activities.
- No Increase in Overflights - the current level is too much and the DEIS does not provide adequate information on the proposed changes in overflights.
- No Supersonic Flights - sonic booms are deafening, terrifying, and inappropriate in a wilderness environment.

From a procedural standpoint, I also have found the entire DEIS process to be flawed.

PN-1 • The Air Force has still not demonstrated a need for the range. The entire DEIS process should be delayed until the Air Force completes its own internal needs assessment.

DP-7 • The Air Force continues to ignore NEPA - there is no cumulative impacts assessment, no range of alternatives and using the AFI EIS as the base line is ludicrous.

DP-5 • There is no data or real information in the DEIS - it is all fluff.

PR-1 • The DEIS fails to address the findings of the Integrated Scientific Assessment for Ecosystem Management in the Interior Columbia Basin.

PR-23 • The DEIS does not apply to all other branches of the military that will be using the range.

LU-14 • The ETI is incompatible with BLM's management objectives for the preservation of the wilderness character of the canyons.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I would appreciate it if you would just abandon this idea once and for all. ***The Owyhee Canyonlands are too GREAT to bomb!***

Sincerely,

Jeff Sharples

Jeff Sharples

IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION

P.O. Box 6426 • Boise, Idaho 83707 • (208) 342-7015 • (Fax) 342-7097 • IWF80I@aol.com

The mission of the Idaho Wildlife Federation is to promote citizen support of the conservation of Idaho's wildlife and natural resources for fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation benefiting future generations.

September 3, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed are comments of the Idaho Wildlife Federation on the Enhanced Training Range in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We trust our concerns will provide information helpful in relating the proposed actions to the needs of the land, wildlife and human resources of the Owyhee Canyonlands - a truly unique area of Idaho and, indeed, the world.

Because the Idaho Wildlife Federation represents a diverse association of conservation, hunting, fishing, recreation and wildlife watching clubs and members, we have drawn on the diverse resources of our membership in preparing our comments. Our comments reflect, not only the concerns of our membership, but also the comments and concerns of a vast number of citizens and organizations in the state of Idaho.

The Idaho Wildlife Federation strongly recommends adoption of the first alternative -- no action. Our membership feels the natural resources of the area are too unique and valuable to risk, when the outcomes of the other proposed actions remain uncertain. Any change in military activity from the present will impact wildlife and wildlife habitat. Our analysis indicates that alternatives other than "A" do not provide adequate assurances that the resources of the area will not be substantially adversely affected.

The Idaho Wildlife Federation concurs with the comments of the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition and the many other conservation, sportsman, wildlife and recreation organizations who share our concerns for the future of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the region. Agreement among these diverse organizations indicates the degree of public concern surrounding the Enhanced Training in Idaho Environmental Impact Statement.

We trust our comments will be of help in preserving the uniqueness of these wild and independent lands, so reflective of the life, we in Idaho cherish so much.

Sincerely,

Russ Biaggne
President
Idaho Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATED CLUBS

Ada County Fish & Game League
Boise Valley Fly Fishermen
Boise Valley Woods Buggers
Bonner County Sportsmen's Association
Citizens Against Poaching
Coeur d'Alene Wildlife Federation
Gem State Fly Fishers
Garrison Shortbut Pioneer Club of ID
Idaho Bird Hunters, Inc.
Idaho Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
Idaho Conservation Officers Association
Idaho Horticultural Society
Idaho State Snowmobilers
Latah County Wildlife Association
Northern Bass Chiefs
North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, Idaho River Chapter
Pheasants Club
Southeastern Idaho Rod & Gun Club
Southern Wildlife Council
Trout Unlimited Teton Headwaters Chapter
Twin Falls Wildlife Federation

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

COMMENTS OF THE IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION
TO THE
ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

September 3, 1997

Introduction

The Idaho Wildlife Federation appreciates this opportunity to comment on the U.S. Air Force Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Idaho Wildlife Federation is Idaho's oldest conservation organization, formed in 1936. IWF has nearly 5,000 members and affiliated club members with a substantial interest in the impact of the Air Force's proposed actions on fish and wildlife habitats in southwest Idaho and throughout the state. Most IWF members are active anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers. Many have enjoyed, for generations, the abundant wildlife, the scenic beauty, the natural tranquility and the total uniqueness of Idaho's southwestern high desert ecosystem. The recommendations expressed in these comments reflect not only the conclusions of wildlife professionals, but also the concerns of thousands of Idaho citizens, representing several generations, who cherish Idaho's quality of life.

The significance of the Idaho Wildlife Federation's comments lies in the diversity of its membership. When IWF members express agreement on an issue, those views are most likely shared by a substantial number of Idahoans. Inasmuch as the IWF membership's views are shared by virtually all conservation organizations in Idaho, these comments support and reflect the concerns and issues raised by those groups.

Recommendations

The Idaho Wildlife Federation recommends the adoption of Alternative A (No Action) which maintains current practices in Owyhee County without increasing Military Operating Airspace.

This recommendation is based on evidence indicating that any implementation of the other proposed Alternatives will cause loss and/or degradation of native wildlife habitats and associated wildlife populations through impacts of noise, threat emitters, and lasers on wildlife species and related impacts of training activities. In turn, such activities diminish hunting and fishing recreational opportunities. These conclusions reflect the position taken on two occasions by two substantially different Idaho Fish and Game Commissions and numerous other organizations.

Our concern is not only for the welfare of the fish and wildlife in the area, but the inevitable loss of quality of outdoor experiences for all users of the unique and remarkable country. To move the airspace boundary to the north will allow the Air Force to put a drastic increase in noise in that area which is not acceptable. In addition, ground range expansion in whichever of the three sites being considered will have not only initial land disturbance and habitat loss, but also ongoing man-caused activities affecting wildlife in a negative way.

Amid all of the various analyses of all parties to the issue of expanding the training range, one significant fact remains undisputed. *Any increased military activity in the area will have a deleterious effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat, and concomitantly, on the quality of life for all Idahoans for generations to come.* To argue degrees of potential impact on wildlife simply ignores this basic fact.

Clearly, no one disputes the need for national military security and preparedness. At the same time, citizens and their government, have an obligation to recognize, preserve and protect those natural resources which are unique, and which if altered by inappropriate interference of human activity, may be inextricably changed and forever lost.

This conclusion is actually supported by a thorough analysis of the Environmental Impact Statement. Our analysis reflects similar analyses provided by the entire coalition of Idaho and national organizations and individuals concerned for the preservation of this unique desert environment.

Analysis of EIS

Assessment of impact on wildlife and habitat

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game indicates that Wildlife populations may respond to loss of individual animals within a generation, but loss of critical living space is permanent and irreplaceable. Analysis of the impacts of expanded training must reflect the impacts of the action on wildlife habitat in the area. The EIS itself states that wildlife and habitat will be affected anytime military activities occur. Detailed analysis of the EIS indicates the impact of additional military activities will be more than the "minimal" stated in the document. The Idaho Wildlife Federation concurs with the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep in identifying the following issues requiring resolution:

DP-62 1. Page 1-21 - no drop targets - There is no description of simulated weapon deliveries, i.e. minimum altitude, air space and noise. Page 1-39 - The majority of time expended over the use of the ETI is just the return flight time from the UTTR.

DP-63 2. Supersonic Flight was not part of the defense closure and realignment commission recommendations.

BI-18 3. Page 2-49 - Emitter Sites - B1, AV, AQ, BD, AU, A1, AF, AG, should not be used in the winter or spring due to conflicts with sage grouse. Also ND-5, ND-4, ND-7 and Nd-8 are in critical sage grouse habitat or next to it and should not be constructed at all. Doing any of the above violates the Idaho sage grouse recovery plan.

DP-65 4. Restricted areas are needed around no drop targets for civilian pilots identification. The no drop targets at Grasmere present a flight safety hazard and concentrate the noise over a sensitive wildlife area.

DP-66 5. Military Operations Area modifications - The expansion of Jacks Creek is not covered in the environmental analysis. No biological, recreational or other evaluation has been done

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DP-67 6. Page 2-67 -0 Composite wing training 30-40 aircraft exercises will increase from 21 to 41 per year. The DEIS does not evaluate the effects of such and exercise over the one to two hour period. It is not correct to

NO-4 average the noise over 24 hours and supersonic booms over one year. It is also wrong to average the sorties of one year (260 flying days).

DP-32 7. Page 2-72 - What type of weapons deliveries will be done on the 12,000 acre bombing range? If 5 percent of the bombs (320) will fall outside the 300 acre impact site how will the cattle graze the area?

8. Page 2-72 - Title: Chaff Flares - The people at Duck Valley are being deceived. Chaff use will increase 30 to 55 percent west of Duck Valley and with the prevailing winds the chaff will end up on the reservation.

SF-6 9. Page 2-74 - Laser Activity - The 12,000 acre target area is too small to safely use the combat mode of laser operations according to many documents on the subject. It also will not be compatible with the promised grazing operations.

BI-54 10. Page 2-78 - The ETI Proposal violates the mitigation measure in the he he table to 2-3-16 for wildlife especially sage grouse and also for the 640 acre no drop site next to the Bruneau Canyon.

BI-19 11. Page 2-80 - Table 2-13-16#10 - Expanding the MOA just moves the disturbance over more critical wildlife habit (big horn sheep) and the Jacks Creed Wilderness study area.

BI-55 12. Page 3-82 - Just because no drop (ND-8) and the emitter sites BK and AU are already developed it is not an excuse for not doing a biological survey of the area around the sites out to at least one mile due to noise and human intrusion. The area around ND-8 is sage grouse habitat and it is not a good site for the 5 acre no drop site.

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BI-21 13. Page 3-122 - Clover Butte is critical sage grouse habitat since almost 80 percent of the area east of the Bruneau has burned over the last 10 years.

BI-22 14. Page 3-124 - The 640 acre no drop site is a wintering area for antelope and deer, plus upland game birds. No biological evaluation was completed on this site

BI-18 15. Page 3-141 - 33 sage grouse at Clover Butte equals 15 to 20 percent of the population east of the Bruneau River and are critical to sage grouse recovery in that area. The no drop target and the emitter site near Clover Butte violate the Idaho sage grouse recovered plan. Also see page 3-186.

BI-30 16. Page 3-149 - Table 3 8-16 - The number of big horn sheep were only surveyed in part of the drainages. Big horn sheep have migrated as far as Castle Creek and Reynolds Creek from the little Jack's area. Most big horn sheep surveys concentrated on ewe lamb rations and not the total population.

17. Page 3-154 - Mule deer wintering areas and the numbers using it from Nevada depends on how ever the winter has been. By February most deer probably move back to Nevada.

18. Page 3-156 - Elk are already using ROI two from Nevada.

BI-12 19. Page 3 - 157 and 158 - The draft EIS is not complete. Surveys for deer and antelope will not be completed until the winter of 1997.

20. Page 3-166 - Upland Game Birds - The mourning dove is a migratory upland game bird.

21. Page 3-169 - Table 3.8-6 - The Owyhee River supports a large population of Canada geese and also water birds are concentrated on all the lakes and ponds in the area, not just in Duck Valley.

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22. Page 3 - 214 - The Nature Conservancy owns and manages the 45 ranch of the south fork of the Owyhee river for big horn sheep and other wildlife. The ranch is occupied year round. A buffer zone is needed around and over the ranch to reduce disturbance and to protect property values. No supersonic or low altitude flights should be allowed. The same is true of the ranch at Clover Crossing owned by the Bachmans. Private property and year round residents in the Grasmere area and Three creek need to be avoided and mitigated just like Duck Valley.

23. Page 3 - 232 - An NCA is being proposed for the Owyhee Canyon Lands and the Bruneau Jarbidge area. It is in draft form at the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C.

24. Page 3 - 235 - ACECs for big horn sheep - No mitigation is proposed to avoid these areas during lambing season. Noise levels be kept below 95 decibels and no supersonic flights allowed.

RV-4 25. Page 3 - 241 - There is no discussion of the centennial trail and its use and the impact of proposed actions.

DP-68 26. Page 4 - 7 - The proposed restricted area around the 12,000 acre drop site is too small and gives private pilots a false sense of security, which is a potential flight safety hazard

NO-5 27. Page 4 - 11, 13 - Table 4.2-1a and 4.2b - Noise levels used for fighter aircraft are those for cruising on MTRs and not for aircraft maneuvering in MOAs. Example, an F-16 in MOA should generate approximately 111 decibels at 1,000 feet not 97 as shown. This discrepancy makes the noise analysis and the whole DEIS

BI-2 unreliable. Averaging of noise levels does not address the impact of single sonic booms on wildlife behavior.

NO-6 28. Page 4-11 - What is the source of the statement of 95 decibels being the startle response threshold for wildlife? This document should be available to the public.

29. Page 4-15 - The conditions 3 and 4 are not acceptable over the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers The 640 acre site is too close to the Bruneau River and will create condition 4

BI-18 30. Page 4 - 27 - The use of diesel generators is unacceptable next to sage grouse habitat and violates the Idaho recovery plan.

31. Page 4 - 31 - Table 4.2-4 - Averaging sonic booms over one year does not tell you anything or show the environmental effects. How many sonic booms over a one to two hour period during a large combat exercise is better? Also, supersonic booms may be more harmful to wildlife at certain times of the year. For example during sage grouse breeding and nesting. Averaging is not an appropriate measure for sonic booms.

NO-5 32. Page 4 - 100 - The wrong figure for fighter aircraft was used in this illustration F-16 maneuvering in the MOA at 500 to 1000 feet should generate approximately 110 decibels

BI-20 33. Page 4 - 108 - Last paragraph - Studies on sage grouse and aircraft noise need to be done before the final EIS is completed. Clover Butte and Grasmere are critical sage grouse habitat for wintering and nesting. Many of the no drop targets and emitter sites violate the two mile buffer zone rule for sage grouse discussed in this document.

BI-9 34. Page 4 - 11 - This does not talk about low levels of aircraft noise, but exposure to noise from 100 to 116 decibels at 4500 feet. There is enough visual observation throughout the years that shows big horn sheep are disturbed by this extreme noise and in some instances move to less desirable habitat

BI-2 35. Page 4 - 131 - Title: Noise - If the effect of long term exposure to over flights on game birds has not been investigated or is unknown, a study is required before the final EIS. The generalization, "Impacts

would remain the same when over flights would increase," is not appropriate without substantiating information.

BI-56 36 Page 4 - 141 - If 500 meters is the recommended avoidance of raptor species while nesting, then this should be part of the mitigation for wildlife in the draft EIS. Also, note if sonic booms generate 111 - 151 decibels, the effect on the nesting sage grouse must be determined

RV-6 37. Page 4 11 Title Recreation and Visual Resources No acceptable mitigation is proposed for low level and supersonic flights over the rivers during the floating season, or over the WSAs during prime recreational use

Any action impacting fish, wildlife and outdoor-associated recreational opportunities will have far-reaching effects for both the immediate area and the region. Effects include limiting or degrading recreational opportunity leading to potential economic losses because of reduction in sportsmen activities. People, in turn will visit area communities less often, reducing purchases for food, gasoline and lodging. Removal of vegetation for construction of range associated facilities may contribute to wildfires

Assessment of impact on social, cultural and recreational resources

RV-7 The Air Force Analysis does not include impacts on intrinsic values like solitude and silence. The EIS only

CU-1 examines cultural resources that are eligible for inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Places. All historical sites should be taken into consideration.

SO-4 The statement that "No impact on mining or the recreation industry would result from any of the alternatives is unsubstantiated and inadequate Guides and outfitters will lose business Ranchers will suffer damages as a result of cattle that experience stress related illness Tourism will suffer The public will perceive the area as a military reservation and not the unique natural resource that it is

RV-14 Other issues requiring more analysis include: Changes in recreational use due to either increased access

RV-15 through improved roads or decreased access through road closures or other limitations placed on groups due to military activity; Potential loss of primitive recreational land due to the proposed target areas;

RV-7 Potential loss of solitude and serenity often sought in primitive and wilderness settings and concomitant loss

RV-5 of wilderness characteristics; Potential degradation of visual qualities of landscape as a result of target and emitter site construction and potential alteration of visual settings in the he airspace as a result of the proposed increase in flight activity.

Conclusion

The EIS does not adequately address issues relevant to the potential impact of the proposed actions on the ecosystem and natural resources of southwest Idaho. Issues are addressed as if the location were merely an empty space with a few animals and people. The EIS must take into account the uniqueness of the area as both a natural and national ecological resource. Issues needing further study include impact of increased air space over public lands; impacts of noise; impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat, impacts of increased chaff on the inhabitants of the area; impacts on the cultural traditions of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes and impacts on wilderness values.

The training range expansion is simply not needed. Ample training is available in Utah and Nevada.

PN-14 Findings of an auditor's report issued by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense in 1995 concluded the range is not necessary for the same reasons. Mountain Home Air Force Base will not close if the expanded range is not developed.

NO-11 The Air Force's own Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategies Plan states that there are currently no studies which truly determine the effects of noise levels, sonic booms, super-sonic operations and subsonic operations on humans, animals, or structures

908 North 21st Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
September 5, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear sir or madam,

I am writing in response to the Department of the Air Force Enhanced Training in Idaho Environmental Impact Statement. Since the first proposal for an expanded training range in Idaho was made public in 1989, I have been actively involved in opposing this unnecessary and highly damaging proposal which would disrupt and irreparably damage the outstanding Owyhee desert county I have orally testified and provided written comments on the various EIS's/proposals the Air Force has released over the past 8 years

I am tired of fighting this proposal - a proposal which has yet to demonstrate a National need. Eight years have passed by without the expanded training range, yet the USAF has continued to adequately train their personnel. The training needs of the composite wing obviously can be met using existing training ranges and training resources. This in itself demonstrates the lack of need for this proposal.

I testified at the latest round of public hearing held on the ETI. Whether it's served up as ITR (Idaho Training Range), or ETI (Enhanced Training in Idaho), the proposal amounts to a supersonic battlefield which would affect more than three million acres of some of the most spectacular and irreplaceable "wildlands" left in southwest Idaho, southeast Oregon, northern Nevada, and this Nation. About the only thing different with this proposal compared to the last three that have been proposed since 1989 is the location of the drop sites **I strongly support Alternative A -- the No Action Alternative!**

The more I learn about the high desert and its highly fragile ecosystem, the more I realize the highly destructive potential a bombing range will have here. Of the 119 species of migratory birds that make Idaho their spring and summer home, 105 are found in southwest Idaho's high desert Reptile diversity is also greatest within this region of Idaho. All three "action" alternatives would impact the habitat of 15 species of reptiles, 105 species of migratory birds, California bighorn sheep, antelope, mule deer, cougar, and sage grouse. Various other species would also be adversely impacted due to the direct destruction of native vegetation. Also affected would be over twenty Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and candidate wild and scenic rivers which include the Bruneau, Jarbidge and Owyhee Rivers The potential for wildfire would increase, especially with the use of SAM's (surface to air missiles), the dropping of flares, as well as an overall increase in human activity. The last thing this outstanding and unique area needs is an industrial warfare zone located within the heart of it! This project is purely pork, and if it goes through we will be left with three million acres of "moonscape" similar to what we see today in the Simco Road/Orchard Training Range area.

Following is a summary of my final comments on the ETI EIS for the public record All my previous comments and oral testimony on past proposals for an expanded training range in Idaho also remain valid and applicable to this latest proposal.

DP-5 (1) One of the most blatant flaws in the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is the noise analysis. The Air Force uses 1992 as the baseline year for conducting the noise impact analysis. This in itself poses a problem since 1992 is when the composite wing was established at

the Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB).

NO-2 (2) The DEIS uses the "Shultz Noise Analysis" as the model to identify potential noise impacts. The Shultz method was never designed for application to wilderness or rural areas. In fact, the data in the Shultz Noise Analysis is representative of large metropolitan cities in Europe, London, Paris, etc., and measures irritability as experienced by people to different decibels of urban noise within an urban setting. Although the analysis did include aircraft, it was not specific to aircraft or military aircraft performing supersonic aerial maneuvers. The baseline noise analysis needs to be based upon pre-1992 use levels, and the comparisons and averages used relative to the effects of noise are not applicable to the ETI area. These deficiencies need to be corrected in the final EIS.

PN-1 (3) Many problems surround the current DEIS, including the lack of a verifiable need for the ETI. One of the most amusing aspects of the current DEIS is the many references to the previous DEIS on ITR -- a DEIS which was successfully challenged in federal court by conservation groups and found to be inadequate.

PN-14 (4) By the Air Force's own admission, the ETI is not needed to save MHAFB. The Air Force has said time and time again, "the 366th wing at Mountain Home is the most combat capable wing in the world". My view and that of most Americans familiar with this proposal is that the ETI is not needed and most certainly is not wanted. It's simply not good for the land, the wildlife or the people of Idaho or this nation. A 1995 Department of Defense Inspector General's report found that any enhanced training in Idaho would merely replicate training that is conducted elsewhere. The conclusion and recommendation of the IG's report essentially said any expanded training in Idaho would be a waste of taxpayer money.

DP-4 (5) The DEIS is inadequate because it does not conform with Judge Lodge's ruling that a combined EIS be prepared that includes an analysis of the ITR/ETI and the composite wing at MHAFB. An analysis of cumulative effects is also required.

(6) The proposed ETI area contains some of the most "wild" land left in the continental U.S. We need to leave it that way.

HZ-2 (7) The DEIS fails to fully address the environmental affects of titanium tetrachloride. Titanium tetrachloride is the substance found within "dummy" bombs used by the USAF. According to the U.S. Public Health Service, titanium tetrachloride may cause harmful health effects due to its unique properties including the formation of hydrochloric acid when it comes in contact with water. The EPA has establisbed that it is an extremely hazardous substance.

PR-23 (8) ETI's use is not limited to just the U.S. Air Force. However, the DEIS and any guidelines established by the USAF regarding enhanced training in Idaho only apply to the Air Force. The Air Force assumes no responsibility for Navy, Air National Guard, and other national and foreign military use.

CU-18 (9) The DEIS failed to include within the Cultural Resource section the impacts on intrinsic values such as solitude and silence.

DP-6 (10) Air National Guard activities should be included in the DEIS. A serious issue arises if A-10 Warthog/Thunderbolt aircraft use the range with live-battle ready ammo. The purpose of the A-10's is to pierce armor vehicles. Ammo-piercing rounds are made of depleted uranium.

DP-7 (11) The B-1 Bomber should be evaluated in the DEIS.

(12) Currently, the existing MOA does not include airspace over the Jack's Creek WSA. With the ETI would come an airspace expansion over this area and the conduct of "staging" activities. The

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RV-3 BI-39 DEIS does not adequately analyze either the biological or recreational impacts of this change. Jack's Creek is prime bighorn sheep habitat. The impacts of military aircraft conducting staging maneuvers could seriously affect the sheep population. No mitigation proposals have been considered with regard to the ETI affect on bighorn habitat. These deficiencies need to be corrected.

BI-58 (13) The DEIS mentions that of the one million acres most affected by "on-the-ground" disturbance, 67 percent is potential sage grouse nesting and wintering habitat. This is simply unacceptable.

(14) Sonic Booms - The DEIS states that there will be a 75 percent increase in the Sayler Creek training area and a 50 percent increase in the Jarbidge/Bruneau MOA's. This is unacceptable.

(15) There would be major air and noise pollution resulting from the diesel generators needed to provide power for the emitter sites. These sites would run about 6 to 8 hours per day, 5 days a week, and sometimes on weekends. This is simply unacceptable.

I am tired of commenting on and fighting this ill-conceived proposal. It is time the Air Force and the Pentagon kill this proposal once and for all -- the environment would benefit, Idaho would benefit, the Nation would benefit, the World would benefit. We do not need the ETI Bombing Range!! I most certainly hope this proposal will die once and for all due to its lack of substantial and verifiable merits. It is a waste of my and other American's hard-earned tax dollars and, more importantly, will destroy one of the most spectacular places left in the continental U.S.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ETI and I look forward to receiving a copy of the final EIS and public notification that this proposal is dead once and for all!!

Respectfully submitted,

Steven P. Jakubowics

Steven P. Jakubowics

Paul Werner 001149
P.O. Box 2
Gibbonsville, Id.,83463
9/1/97

TO: USAF/ALM
PO Box 329
Boise, Id.,83701
SUBJECT: ETI DEIS

GE-2 Hello,
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ETI DEIS. I am a river guide licensed on the Jarbidge, Bruneau and Owyhee rivers since 1993. These are some of the most pristine river corridors I have seen in the continental United States. The only alternative I could choose of the ETI DEIS is Alternative A-No Action.
The reasons for this choice are-

NO-3 1- The DEIS is completely inadequate and unsatifactory in its' assess--ment of noise impacts on wildlife and people (especially recreation--alist).

DP-81 2- The DEIS does not adequately evaluate the impact of nighttime flights.

DP-7 3- The DEIS does not adequately evaluate the cumulative effects or need of the current or proposed number of supersonic and subsonic flights.

BI-44 4- The DEIS does not properly mitigate the restoration of Bighorn Sheep populations in Little Jack's Ck. and the Owyhee River Canyon.

SO-4 5- The DEIS does not properly take into account the trend of growing value for the recreational and wildlife resources in this area.

6- Any increase in the number of flights in the canyonlands would degrade the outstanding resource values of this area.

7- The use of flares and chaff outside of the existing range is an environmental and fire hazard.

8- Any increase in off road vehicle use would increase siltation in the rivers and sidestreams.

RV-6 9- The DEIS does not properly analyse of ceasing flight activity over the canyonlands from April thru June (floating season).

10- The DEIS does not properly analyse keeping of a minimum flight level of 30,000 feet over the canyonlands.

Sincerely,
Paul F. Werner
Paul F. Werner

001150

GE-1 To the proposed Bombing Range
The people of southern Idaho have
said no a dozen times

NO !

Gayl Upton
314 12th ave n
Bell Idaho
83316

001151

9/4/97

GE-1 U.S. Airforce Mtn. Home Buhl, Id.

Dear Sir:

I have heard it is only 5 minutes for our Airforce at Mtn. Home to fly to the training base in Utah. Please use the base there and leave our Idaho land alone.

Signed

Doris Anderson

1210 Maple

Buhl, ID 83316

001152

Sept 2, 97

GE-1 To Air Force

I am definitely against an increase of military training over an area that includes important wildlife habitat and popular recreation resources such as the Bruneau and Jarbidge river canyons which are beautiful areas. Not to mention the extra noise we would have over Hagerman. We don't want the increased noise of sonic booms and the fly overs disturbing the areas.

An increase in airspace would extend military operations over the Jacks Creek area a proposed wilderness area that is important to big horn sheep and critical winter range for mule deer, antelope and sage grouse.

I am against the noise the added space would bring to ranchers, recreationists and biological species. The Jarbidge Canyon as I know it now, is a peaceful quiet area and I object to having that changed by unnecessary increased airspace. The quiet areas would be forever lost, so few places are left.

I am definitely against more bombing range for all the above reasons and more not mentioned.

Sincerely,

D. Porter

001153

EXPLORATORY DRILLING
FOUNDATION INVESTIGATIONS

FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION
MONITORING WELLS

ROBERT P. JONES CO.
P.O. BOX 3368
BOISE, IDAHO 83703
TELEPHONE (208) 385-0151
August 24, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-1 Gentlemen:

I have reviewed the latest EIS documents for the U.S. Air Force Bombing Range in Owyhee County. There really isn't much difference between this location and the former one. In both instances this proposed bombing range impacts the BLM short term and long term objectives for the management of Owyhee County. The continuity of administration and historic usage of this fragile land will be lost forever.

This effects not only the 19,000 acres withdrawn but most of Owyhee County and Northern Nevada contrary to what the Air Force may say.

The Idaho National Guard already has 140,000 acres in Ada and Elmore counties that is being used for military training. This 140,000 acres is off limits for any agricultural or recreational use and will be forever. The U. S. Air Force has 110,000+ acres in Elmore and Owyhee Counties already for the Saylor Creek Bombing Range.

This makes a total of 250,000 acres within 50 miles of Mountain Home AFB that has been removed from the public domain for a single use. This is enough.

We know this proposal for sure will create noise, pollution, erosion, loss of vegetation either by fire or construction, decimate the wild life and severely restrict public use. This will not change, no matter how many impact statements are written or locations proposed.

The Air Force will promise anything to expand their empire. There is absolutely no way the Air Force can be monitored, either on land or air.

In fact, the Air Force already has constructed an emitter site on public land without prior notification and permission from the BLM near Grasmere.

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These impact statements use two words that are supposed to be a panacea for all the problems this expansion will cause. These two words are mitigation and trust us.

Believe me the Air Force doesn't know the meaning of these two words.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Jones

001154

Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WRITTEN COMMENT SHEET

Public Hearing Location: Boise

Thank you for providing your comments on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

GE-1 Date: Sept 3, 1997

I oppose any expansion of Air Force Training in Owyhee County. It is not necessary. The Canyonlands should be preserved and protected.

*** Please Print ***

Name: George Nibler

Address: HC 934 Boise ID 83706
Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Please hand this form in or mail before August 6, 1997 to:

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

001155

Idaho Whitewater Association
317 Ada St.
Boise, Idaho 83702

September 1, 1997

United States Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 **United States Air Force, Enhanced Training in Idaho, Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Comments of the Idaho Whitewater Association

The Idaho Whitewater Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Air Force's Enhanced Training in Idaho. We support Alternative A, the no action alternative, as the only alternative which does not degrade the recreational experience of floating through the spectacular Owyhee, Jarbidge and Bruneau River Canyons.

The Idaho Whitewater Association (IWA) is a statewide organization of recreational non-motorized river runners. We have over 300 members statewide as well as some members from as far away as Georgia. The purpose of our organization is to provide information and networking opportunities for recreational boaters of all ages and abilities. IWA also advocates for the protection of high quality recreational opportunities and public access to rivers. The Jarbidge, Bruneau, and Owyhee River systems offer a truly unique recreational experience which will be severely diminished should the Air Force proceed with any of the action alternatives.

The ***San Francisco Examiner*** recently ran a four part series on the Owyhee River Canyon titled 'Soul of a Canyon'. The series follows a canoe trip down the Owyhee River and describes the spectacular Canyon, wildlife, and surrounding plateau. At the close of the series, the author expresses hope that the Owyhee Canyonlands will remain unchanged for another 5,000 years. Any one who has ever experienced this country or plans to, shares the author's desire. In contrast an IWA member recently floating down the Bruneau River experienced a sonic boom so close that the water in the river was visibly impacted. This type of activity is completely inappropriate for these canyons.

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Following is a discussion of the reasons we adamantly oppose any increases in Air Force activities anywhere in the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Noise

NO-22, NO-14 The single biggest impact to IWA members floating through the canyons is the noise. This includes not only sonic boom events but also increased noise levels from increased overflights, night time activities and generators on the canyon rim used to power the emitter sites. None of these disturbances are acceptable or compatible with the quiet and solitude found in the canyonlands.

NO-22, RV-8 The noise study is ludicrous. People react to sonic booms as single events which are dramatic environmental disturbances, not general background noise. Similarly noise associated with overflights and aerial exercises is extremely intrusive and disturbing when encountered in an area as remote as the Owyhees. The Air Force has made no attempt to quantify the noise impacts from the perspective of outdoor recreationists in the Canyonlands. Comparisons to human noise tolerances in urban settings has absolutely nothing to do with this project and its impacts. The obvious lack of data on this issue does not equate to no impacts - it simply equates to an inadequate DEIS!

NO-11 This argument is supported further by the Air Force's 1996-1997 Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Research, Development and Acquisition Strategic Plan which found that the Air Force's current noise analysis methods are inadequate when applied to rural and wilderness areas. The plan acknowledges that the methods currently being used were developed for evaluating noise impacts to urban populations and '...no useful quantitative information of any kind exists...' for evaluating the impacts of aircraft noise on outdoor recreationists. Furthermore, the plan emphasizes that the Air Force is in danger of being found in violation of NEPA which could ultimately impact their training mission.

DP-7, DP-4 The DEIS does not address the environmental consequences of authorizing supersonic flights, claiming this was analyzed in 1992 AFI EIS. However, the court found the 1992 EIS to be in violation of NEPA so how can the Air Force propose an increase in the number of sonic booms when the current level is illegal?

Degradation of Wilderness River Experience

Over 350 miles of rivers in the Owyhee Canyonlands have been found eligible for designation as wild and scenic rivers. The Air Forces' finding that the ETI will do nothing to diminish the outstanding resource values of these rivers is erroneous. While the canyon walls may not change, the scenic quality,

001155

opportunities for viewing wildlife, and overall recreational experience will be greatly diminished. Numerous overflights, sonic booms, chaff, and flares are incompatible with the wilderness values found in these canyons.

The Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers were both found to have Class A Scenic Quality. The presence of litter in the form of Chaff, potential loss of native plant communities, and visual pollution above the canyon rim will diminish the overall scenic quality of these rivers. One of the attractions to these rivers are the frequent opportunities to hike out of the canyons and view the entire region from a different perspective. These vistas will be severely degraded by the presence of emitter sites and the accompanying new roads, not to mention the noise and air pollution associated with the diesel powered generators used to run the emitters. People go to places like the Jarbidge and Bruneau Canyons to escape these sights, sounds and smells.

RV-12 Night activities and lights are particularly intrusive. One of the most spectacular features of these canyons is the night sky with incredible stars on a clear moonless night. Night exercises are completely incompatible with this peaceful time. Any lights such as those already found at Grasmere are inappropriate. The DEIS does nothing to evaluate the impacts to recreational users or wildlife of these nighttime intrusions.

DP-50 It is difficult to evaluate the exact impact of the ETI proposal on the number of overflights for the canyons since there is so little information in the DEIS on the Air Force's actual activities in the sky. However, IWA member have complained that the number of overflights is currently unacceptable so we strongly believe that any increase in the activity level over this region is too much.

Chaff

SF-3 The Air Force's plans to increase the amount of Chaff used in the Canyonlands is completely unacceptable. Most of the Chaff will be dropped to the west of the target areas and emitter sites thus allowing the prevailing winds to ultimately deposit fibers into the Jarbidge - Bruneau Canyons. The Navy has determined that although Chaff is highly dispersed when deployed, environmental factors lead to its concentration over time. Chaff that ends up in the bottom of the canyons will most certainly stay there to be continuously resuspended as the particles become smaller.

This phenomena appears to be occurring already since several IWA members have found Chaff in the Bruneau River Canyon. Our objection to the use of Chaff in the Canyonlands is twofold: first it is a source of litter and second it represents a potential health hazard. As an organization, IWA promotes low impact camping and works extensively with river management agencies to adopt recreational guidelines which protect river corridors from any permanent impacts associated with river running. Some of our members have volunteered

with the Bureau of Land Management to monitor impacts to campgrounds along the Bruneau River which has experienced an enormous increase in use over the past five years. The dispersion of aluminum trash into these areas is completely contradictory to the efforts of organizations such as IWA and the BLM to maintain the pristine character of these river canyon environments.

SF-10 In addition to the overall environmental degradation caused by the presence of Chaff, there are also health concerns which have not been adequately addressed in the DEIS. In a series of memos last fall between the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Carson City District BLM, the issue of chaff as a public health hazard was discussed.

The Division stated two primary concerns on how Chaff effects the environment. The first concern regards the potential for inhalable particulates which occur from the mechanical break down and resuspension of fibers. The Division's second concern deals with the physical deposition of solid waste on public and private lands. They found that there is very little information on the amounts of Chaff currently deposited and how these fibers decompose in the environment.

As a result, the departments are developing a PM10 monitoring system to evaluate the amount of particulates in the air as a result of chaff deposits by the Navy. Air Force plans to increase the use of Chaff by 30-55% is irresponsible when there is so little information on the impacts of current use levels. The ETI DEIS needs a more adequate evaluation of the cumulative impacts of Chaff on wildlife and humans.

Water Quality

The primary cause of water quality degradation in the desert canyon rivers is sedimentation from surface erosion generally associated with roads, off-road vehicle use and the loss of vegetative cover due to fire and grazing. Activities associated with the ETI will generate increased erosion and sedimentation across the impacted watersheds. New road construction and widening of existing roads is a direct source of sedimentation. Any additional roads or road improvements also increases the amount of access into these areas and consequently the potential for human caused disturbances such as fire and off-road vehicle use.

Any use of flares over this fragile desert environment is absurd. Recreationists are told not to build fires without fire pans, yet the Air Force can drop flares throughout the MOA. We realize the flares are intended to burn out before they hit the ground, but the volatility of this landscape, particularly from June - October, is so high that the 1% risk of a burning flare hitting the ground is unacceptable. Given the use of flares throughout the MOA and the rugged terrain of the Canyonlands, it is unlikely that Air Force fire crews will be at the scene very quickly when an accidental fire does occur in a remote location.

SF-9

Once the native vegetation is lost, it can not be easily replaced. Any loss of native plant communities will result in the destabilization of slopes, an increase in soil erosion, and a reduction in water quality throughout the impacted watershed.

Economic Ramifications

IWA disagrees with the Air Force's finding that there will be no economic impact on the recreation industry as a result of the ETI. These canyons offer a truly unique wilderness river experience which has been pursued by more and more people every year. Private boaters will tolerate a certain amount of disturbance since the natural features of these canyons are so spectacular. However, the escalation of activities associated with the ETI may push many who are truly seeking solitude to go elsewhere thus adversely impacting the communities that sell gas, supplies and provide shuttle services to river runners.

Individuals paying a premium price for an outfitted trip do not wish to be subjected to overflights and sonic booms. They are paying money to see wildlife and hear nothing - two opportunities which are becoming increasingly scarce in these canyons due to the Air Force's activities. An outfitter can not advertise a truly wilderness experience with promises of wildlife viewing if the reality is floating through a war zone. Decreases in these trips will not only impact the outfitter but their suppliers as well.

SO-4

Procedural Concerns

Finally, IWA has several concerns related to the overall process the Air Force has been going through for the past seven years in their efforts to bomb Owyhee County. First of all, the Air Force has still not demonstrated a need for this range which can justify the environmental and economic costs associated with it. The Air Force is scheduled to conduct an overall needs assessment beginning this fall. It would seem that any further plans for a range in Owyhee County should be put on hold until this study has been completed.

PN-1

PN-15

Secondly, the DEIS is totally inadequate. There is very little data and no cumulative impacts analysis. The fact that the entire document is based on the legally deficient 1992 AFI EIS is absurd. Cumulative impacts analysis is required by law and by definition mandates the evaluation of all environmental impacts in order to prevent this type of incrementalism.

DP-7

Another concern is that the DEIS does not apply to other branches of the military that will be using the range. All uses of the range need to be identified and evaluated for potential impacts. Eliminating Air Force flights during peak recreational periods does not provide adequate mitigation if the Army or an Air

PR-23

Force from another country can come in and conduct exercises during this same time frame.

Finally, the activities associated with the ETI are incompatible with the BLM's management objectives for the preservation of the wilderness character of the canyons, public education regarding low impact camping, noxious weed control and protection of water quality. IWA has worked with the resource managers for the BLM to try and maintain the incredible scenic and wilderness qualities associated with these truly unique rivers. The Air Force's current activities are in direct contrast to these objectives and any increases in activity is completely unacceptable.

LU-14

Sincerely,



Amy Haak
Conservation Director
Idaho Whitewater Association

Toi Williamson
1355 Woodvine Ct.
Boise, Id 83704

August 29, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-2 Dear Sirs:

Just wanted to express my feelings regarding the proposed expansion of the air force bombing range. I have spent many days recreating in the proposed expansion range area and am appalled that the air force is again trying to remove such a magnificent wilderness from public utilization.

PR-12 The enhanced training range is not needed and the draft EIS is deficient and does not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The air force must make do with current training facilities or find another area that does not contain such important natural resources for both the state of Idaho and the people of the United States!

Thank you for your consideration regarding my request.

Sincerely,



Toi Williamson

002158

9/5/97

To: U.S. Air Force / BLM

From: Kerwin Jacobs, 1228 E. Peacock St, Meridian, ID, 83642
(208)-887-1957

GE-1 Subject: Mtn. Home AFB Training Range

I am an ex-U.S.M.C. pilot. I and 5 other ex-military pilots (U.S.N., USAF, USA) started visiting active, and closed Air bases, & Training Ranges in the early 1960" (mostly in the western desert areas). We were amazed one time on a visit to N.A.S. El Centro, Calif. to talk with pilots there who were from Virginia! The Navy pilots there said due to population growth & crowded skies the Training Ranges were being closed on most of the east coast! Later we heard similar stories from Army, AirForce, & Marine pilots! In our travels we verified a number of these closings, and even 2 in Calif!

The Best Environmental Impact Report I have seen is the reputable, and unbiased article in the Sept. 1984 issue of the Nat'l. Geographic p.57-58!! A Training Range protects fragile desert areas! The Goldwater Training Range has existed 55 years, and is PROOF that a Training Range PROTECTS deserts!! Destruction occurs from "off-road" vehicles of all types! I say this having flown fighters, bombers, & helicopters. I really noticed desert environment destruction when I flew helicopters!

Over the 12 years I flew I also noticed that while I flew fighters & bombers I scared wild animals such as deer, antelope, and big horn sheep briefly as I flew past fast, but I (and other pilots) noticed they were there, and

2

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in good health years later! We scared wild animals more (& out of their hiding places in canyons, & trees, & brush when we flew helicopters, as we flew more slowly so they were exposed to the engine noise, and "LOUD" "Whop"-Whop" "Whop" of the rotor blades longer!!

Modern Aerial Warfare needs pilot training on LARGE Training Ranges which are uncrowded on land around them, and in the skies overhead, plus the Training Range must be nearby! Navy pilots said that when they had to leave NAS. Miramar near San Diego, due to "base-closings" that they were sent to Fallon N.A.S., Nevada. pilot

When I visited a friend in Colorado Springs, Colorado a few years ago he said that a Training Range there was in danger of being closed due to area growth.

I live in eastern Oregon (Enterprise, & La Grande, in the Blue Mtns., near the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area where Rocky Mtn. Big Horn sheep had been "re-introduced" recently) a few years ago, and 2 "rancher" friends said that the "Big-Horn" sheep were being killed by sheep ranchers who let their sheep go graze in "out-of-bounds areas" where they gave the deadly disease to the wild sheep!! The sheep were not killed because of aircraft!

The type of warfare in Desert Storm shows why we pilots today need large Training Ranges!

Sincerely
Kerwin Jacobs

GOLDEN EAGLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

002159

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

September 4, 1997

GE-2 Dear Sirs;

The Golden Eagle Audubon Society (GEAS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Society has numerous concerns with the document. As we have stated in comments on previous proposals, we believe no proposal for a training range expansion should occur until a nation-wide assessment of training needs for the military has been conducted. The assertion that such an assessment is beyond the scope of this document inappropriately dismisses this important issue. We do not believe a need has been justified; however, we will briefly discuss our concerns with the DEIS.

DP-69 It would appear that training needs that cannot be met by the existing SCR, approximately 9% of total training, are being met at facilities in Utah and Nevada. While there may be some inconvenience, the needs are being met. As in previous proposals, the number of sorties proposed varies in different areas of the document. Table 2.3-11 indicates a net reduction in training of 551 sorties (primarily at offsite areas); however, Figures 2.3-18, 19 show a net gain of 3,858 sorties in the combined MOAs. The proposed increase of 653 sorties from 366th training in the combined MOAs represents a small portion of this increase. Is the Air Force proposing a substantial increase in training for groups other than the 366th?

Expansion of Owyhee and Sheep Creek 3 MOAs to include the Little Jacks Creek area is completely unacceptable. This area represents the only natural area in Owyhee County that is relatively unaffected by training operations. While protection of this area is not complete (for example, four A-10s were observed violating the airspace restrictions in April 30, 1997) this area provides an important control area in which wildlife responses can be compared to areas affected by training operations. The average sound increase from 46 to 53 db represents a "substantial change" which would eliminate the opportunity for solitude in any part of Owyhee County. A substantial winter population of sage grouse uses the area. Every effort should be made to protect this area considering the discussion on page 4-131 of the potential effects of noise disturbance and the considerable decline in sage grouse numbers in Owyhee County.

POST OFFICE BOX 8261 • BOISE, IDAHO 83707

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Data cited on bedding, escape, and lambing areas are for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (3-146), California bighorn sheep have different requirements and different responses. The explanation of bighorn sheep dieoffs is questionable (3-146-51). The area experienced drought conditions from 1987 through 1994, precipitation from October 1992 through September 1993 was only 1" above 1982-96 averages at both Grand View and Silver City (NOAA). The frequency of bunchgrasses remained relatively static in the Little Jacks Creek area between 1983 and 1994 (BLM monitoring data). The cyclic nature of bighorn populations cited in DEIS were all disease related; however, no disease titers were found in bighorn populations in Owyhee County.

BI-30 Therefore if weather, habitat, and disease were probably minimal factors in the decline of sheep populations, was increased military activity?

Survey data collected for most wildlife species is relatively minimal, often restricted to a one-time visit which would seldom be representative of potential animal activity for an area. While more surveys are planned, their results will not be available until the Final EIS is out.

BI-52 Confidence intervals were not given for pronghorn population estimates near the East Fork of the Owyhee River, therefore it is inappropriate, and probably inaccurate considering CIs reported for the Jarbidge River, to suggest that population numbers are increasing in the area (3-152-3). Limited conclusions can be drawn from the minimal amount of data (one survey/year) collected on highly mobile animals.

DP-70 The DEIS considers ROI One as being the 12,000 acre area. A buffer around this area should be included in this analysis as low level approaches will certainly be initiated from beyond that boundary, therefore the affected area would be considerably greater.

The treatment of noise levels is somewhat improved over previous EISs by the inclusion of maximum sound level (L_{max}) and sound exposure level (SEL) as well as the relatively meaningless average sound level. However, discussion of L_{max} and SEL is relatively limited beyond their description. Not surprisingly, average noises are reported to be below what would cause hearing damage or other problems; however, animals and people respond strongly to the numerous above average events that occur or are proposed. No matter how it is measured, any increase in sound levels has a significant detrimental impact on solitude in the areas analyzed. Almost all aircraft flying ≤ 10,000 feet produce noise classified as annoying in the Schultz curve. Referencing a USFS study on noise without mentioning the degree (if any) of military activity in the study area is misleading. Average sound levels are suspect. For instance, expansion of the Paradise East airspace and the additional 126 overflights would result in no increase in sound levels despite potential SELs of 53-80 db for aircraft flying between 10,000-20,000 ft.

Impact of increased and improved access is generally understated. Military activity alone could potentially happen every week of the year which would be a substantial increase over current levels. Recreational activity and the potential problems (increased wildfire, disturbance to wildlife) would also increase significantly. The thirty widely dispersed emitter sites have the potential to affect a large area with increased access, habitat fragmentation, and noise pollution (no mention is made of alternative power sources - ie. solar - for emitters). Powerlines, emitters, and the structures proposed would create considerable visual blight.

Affects of increased activity on wildlife are generally described as being low; however, these assertions are generally preceded by statements about the relative lack of data on the potential impacts of training operations. In cases where evidence of negative effects exists (ie. Ellis et al. 1991, Gladwin and McKechnie 1993), the effect is minimalized by the explanation that average noise levels will decrease, therefore, impacts will be minimal. Because little data exists for wildlife populations prior to or during current military operation levels, it is highly speculative to state that impacts would be low. Impacts to songbirds which rely on sound for communication and predator detection may be significant. Reporting average sound levels masks the potential impact of startle effects of sound on bighorn sheep. Startle responses by sheep during lambing periods may result in increased "accidental" mortality of lambs.

BI-2

Wildfire has the potential to significantly affect the area; however the DEIS is inconsistent in describing the potential for fire impacts. Although it is somewhat unclear, the DEIS appears to indicate that approximately 3,500 acres of ROI One (at least at Clover Butte) would burn each year. In a 4-year period the entire 12,000 acres would burn and the potential to spread beyond ROI One would be significant. This degree of burning, if the result of training operations, is unacceptable.

BI-53

We believe the proposed expansion of training activities in the DEIS would have significant and potentially irreversible affects on a variety of resources, therefore, we are opposed to the proposals contained in the DEIS.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Rains

Charlotte Rains
President, Golden Eagle Audubon Society
P.O. Box 8261
Boise, ID 83707

Steven K. Rust
1201 N. 24th
Boise, ID 83702

August 6, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

RE: Comments on Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement

GE-2 Dear Analysis Team,

I have reviewed the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (ETI DEIS). I am concerned about the quality and scope of this analysis for the enhancement of combat training opportunities for the 366th Wing.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to "serve as an action-forcing device to insure that the policies and goals defined in the Act are infused into the ongoing programs and actions of the Federal Government" (CFR 40, §1502.1). The purpose of an EIS is to provide full and fare discussion of significant environmental impacts and inform decision makers and the public of reasonable alternatives which avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment. The focus is to be on significant environmental issues and alternatives, not accumulation extraneous background information. Statements are to be clear, concise, and to the point (CFR 40, §1502.1). In general the ETI DEIS is filled with to much extraneous background information. For example, it is not necessary to know how particular aircraft performed in the Gulf War. Numerous, repeated photographs of aircraft associated with the training range are not needed and detract from the soundness of the environmental analysis.

Purpose and Need for Action. The statement of the purpose and need for action is lengthy and unspecific. CFR 40, §1502.13 states: "The statement shall briefly specify the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives including the proposed action." The ETI DEIS requires nearly 30 pages to state the following apparent purpose and need for action: (1) The 366th Wing must maintain readiness for its assigned missions; and (2) (a) the maintenance of readiness requires realistic, battlefield-type conditions (b) which are within a reasonable distance to the air base (for the purpose of efficiency and cost-effectiveness) (ETI DEIS pages 1-16 through 1-43, 2-10, and ES-3).

The purpose and need for action is the fundamental basis for proposing an action under NEPA and conducting an environmental analysis of that action. In the ETI DEIS the United States Air

PN-1 Force fails to specifically state the purpose and need for action. Thus, the scope of the analysis is inadequately defined. To effectively meet the intent of NEPA, the United States Air Force must concisely state the specific purpose and need of the proposed action. While the decision(s) regarding actions proposed in the ETI DEIS involve a complexity of irreplaceable biological, physical, and cultural resources, the statement of the purpose and need for these actions should take only one to two paragraphs.

Range of Alternatives Considered. The purpose and need for action of the proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho is: the 366th Wing must maintain readiness for its assigned missions; this requires efficient and cost-effective training in realistic, battlefield-type conditions (ETI DEIS, pages 1-16 through 1-43).

To effective attainment this purpose and need for action it is not necessary for the 366th Wing to be based at Mountain Home Air Force Base and use training facilities in the local proximity of Mountain Home Air Force Base. The maintenance of 366th Wing combat readiness and the associated required training could (and does effectively) occur at other locations within Western United States. Action alternatives which consider relocating the 366th Wing so that appropriate opportunities may be provided by efficient and cost-effective means are within the scope of this analysis. In the ETI DEIS the United States Air Force has failed to rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives. This is a serious deficiency which must be corrected.

DP-52

DP-7 Connected and Cumulative Actions. As the need for action is largely related to the availability of local training resources, the proposed action is necessarily interdependent with the base location of the 366th Wing. That is, need to enhance training opportunities for the 366th Wing is clearly connected to the decision to located the 366th Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base. In the ETI DEIS the United States Air Force has failed to comply with the requirements of NEPA to evaluate the effects of fundamentally connected and cumulative actions

Other Comments.

BI-36 Appendix L (pages L-1 through L-4) descriptions of vegetation do not provide an indication of the classification type (e.g., whether the classification is natural potential vegetation or existing vegetation) nor an analysis of the similarity of each classification unit to those described by other authors. This makes it difficult to evaluated the significance of potential environmental consequences. For example, is *Agropyron spicatum* grassland described in Appendix L a natural potential plant community? If so this is quite biologically significant, as this type of natural potential vegetation has not previously been described in this region

Table 3.8-4 differentiates native and non-native plant communities but provides no discussion of which community is considered native or non-native. For example, is *Agropyron spicatum* grassland described in Appendix L considered a native community or is this the result of human-caused alteration of fire disturbance regimes?

BI-42 One noxious weed is described as occurring in the analysis area, *Cerdaria draba* What is the

size and significance of this population?

DP-37 Section 4.8.1.2, environmental consequences of Alternative B - Clover Butte. The ETI DEIS states: "To minimize the spread and encroachment of weed species and reduce the potential for fires, the primary ordinance impact area disturbed by target construction and maintenance would be kept free of vegetation through disking." This element of the Alternative is not described (as far as I can find) in the description of the alternative (Section 2.0). This raises concern that there are other project activities that are not described and evaluated in the analysis.

Respectfully,

Steven K. Rust

Steven K Rust

001161

9-8-97

GE-1 To Whom it may concern,

My comments about the Air Forces latest plans to expand bombing ranges in Owyhee county:

I don't feel that there is any direct threat to me or my family at this time from foreign forces that would make an attempt to invade this country. The biggest threat I feel right now is that you will take even more public lands in this state for your activities. I know that Idaho is not the only place that the military is trying to gain more land at this time. It has been acknowleged that you don't need this expansion. Therefore it is my conclusion, as a third generation Idahoan (my grandfather was a scout for the Oregon trail, led wagon trains across the Snake a Three Island crossing and was one of the first settlers in the Glenns Ferry valley) that the Air Force presents the biggest threat of invasion to the State of Idaho at this time.

Who will protect us from your incursions?

Gary Hall

Gary Hall
6336 w Parapet Ct
Boise Id 83703

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10370 W. Landmark Ct.
Boise, ID 83704-5482
September 8, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (ETIDEIS).* Jack Trueblood and I are submitting joint comments on the ETIDEIS. Jack and I have camped, hunted and fished the Owyhee Country for a number of years. We enjoy the uniqueness of the canyon lands and the associated plateaus, plus the great diversity of wildlife found in the Owyhee, Bruneau and Jarbidge canyon lands and the adjacent uplands and plateaus. Another source of enjoyment is the quiet and solitude these primitive areas offer; the isolation and serenity found in this area is always a welcome break from the urban/suburban environment. We also enjoy viewing and studying the cultural material as part of our recreational experience. The amenities, both physical and spiritual, mean a great deal to us, and the degree we enjoy each outing.

Jack and I urge you to adopt Alternative A, No Action. We believe that any further expansion of airspace or physical facilities will diminish and ultimately destroy the intrinsic values of the Owyhee Country. After reading and analyzing the DEIS we have three areas of concern and some collateral issue needing resolution. The areas are airspace expansion over Jacks Creek area, noise and wildlife impacts:

Airspace Expansion

DP-66 Expanding the airspace over the Jacks Creek area would jeopardize the wilderness character and wildlife of this area. The DEIS does not evaluate this action; therefore this proposal should be eliminated. Jacks Creek and its surrounding environs is yearlong habitat for upland game birds, and it is important wintering habitat for sage grouse, pronghorn, mule deer and big horn sheep. Whenever we are upland bird hunting in this area in November and December, we observe bands of all these animals. On one hunting trip in December of 1996 my partner and I observed approximately 100 wintering sage grouse on the uplands adjacent to Big Jacks Creek, plus a band of big horn sheep. Incursion by military aircraft on a continuing basis would be detrimental to the wildlife using this ecosystem.

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Noise

NO-1 We believe the analysis of the noise level created by military aircraft over the proposed areas is flawed. First, trying to apply a model to the Owyhee Country defies practicality. Models are poor predictors of the effect of noise on humans recreating in the primitive and wilderness areas of the proposals, likewise, as regards to the impact of noise on wildlife inhabiting the proposal areas. The Depart of the Air Force,

NO-11 Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategies Plan states there are currently no studies which truly determine the effects of noise levels, sonic booms, super – sonic operations and subsonic operations on humans, animals or structures.

RV-7 Secondly, the DEIS fails to evaluate the intrinsic values of quiet and solitude in primitive and wilderness areas. People recreating use the Owyhee Country because of its remoteness, primitive transportation routes (roads) and to escape the constant bombardment of sound experienced in the urban/suburban areas. Adoption of the airspace expansion and Alternatives B, C and D would destroy what so many hunters, fisherman and general recreationists value highly.

Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

BI-18 After analyzing the impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat, we found them flawed and inadequate. Specifically, the analysis of sage grouse is woefully short of substance. On page 3-141 is the statement "The Idaho sage grouse management plan, presently in draft form, lists the goal and objectives of the IDFG to form a Idaho Sage Grouse Task Force to develop a strategy to improve sage grouse populations in Idaho. This is not a recovery plan and does not establish funding sources or criteria for sage grouse recovery." This is an erroneous interpretation. First, it was the Idaho Sage Grouse Task Force that played a major role in the draft plan. The draft now has been approved and adopted by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. As a member of the task force I reviewed several of the drafts, including the final draft; the plan does make provisions for funding and does include criteria for recovery. It also has provisions for local work groups to work on recovery strategies for the sage grouse. I have already requested the Region 3, Idaho Department of Fish and Game initiate action to form a working group for the Owyhee Country.

Sage grouse are one of the species that can experience some mortality and recover in a generation, but take away their habitat and the population is severely diminished or eliminated. Sage grouse reproduction and recruitment is slower than most other game birds. This poses a challenge to our recovery efforts. The conversion and loss of sage grouse habitat. The proposals presented in the DEIS would do jeopardize the future of the sage grouse in the Owyhee Country.

BI-1 Generally, the DEIS is deficient in the analysis of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the areas to be impacted. Seasonal needs of wildlife are simply disregarded. We believe

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the Air Force's commitment to the welfare of wildlife and wildlife is weak to nonexistent.

Issues Requiring Resolution

Other issues needing more analyses are:

RV-13 1. Changes in recreational use brought about by increased access through improved roads.

RV-14 2. Limited access due to military operations and activities.

RV-15 3. Potential loss of primitive recreational areas to the proposed target sites.

RV-7 4. Potential loss of solitude and serenity often found in primitive and wilderness settings and the concomitant loss of primitive and wilderness characteristics.

Conclusions

PR-12 The DEIS does not adequately address concerns and issues relevant to the potential impact of the proposed actions on the ecosystem and natural resources of southwest Idaho. This DEIS addresses issues and concerns as though the location was merely empty space with little wildlife and few people. The proposals in the DEIS must recognize the distinctive character of the area as both a natural and national ecological treasure. Issues needing further attention include the impact of expanding air space over public lands, impact of noise, the intrinsic value of quiet and solitude, impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat and the impact on primitive and wilderness areas.

PN-14 We doubt the need for the training enhancement. Ample training is available in Utah and Nevada. An auditor's report released by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense in 1995 concluded the range is not needed for the same reasons.

The canyon lands of the Owyhee Country and associated plateaus and uplands (mostly public lands) constitutes a high desert ecosystem which is unique not only in this nation, also unique in the world. These lands contain an incredible diversity of wildlife and vegetation which has existed for a very long time. The Owyhee Country provides unsurpassed outdoor opportunities not only for the citizens of Idaho, but for all persons sharing an appreciation of nature's beauty and bounty. The Owyhee lands of southwest Idaho are to valuable to risk by the addition of more military activities and operations, whose impact on these lands remains uncertain. The unique lands of southwest Idaho must be protected as a resource linking our past with a promising future. After all, this is all we have left of a vast public land heritage.

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Jack and I join virtually every conservation, recreation, fishing and hunting organization in the state, and the thousands of citizens in urging the adoption of Alternative A, No Action as described in the DEIS.

Cordially,

Russell W. Heughins

Russell W. Heughins

Jack Trueblood

Jack Trueblood

001163

IDAHO BIRD HUNTERS, INC.
(Affiliate of the Idaho Wildlife Federation)
PO Box 6412
Boise, ID 83707

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September 7, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern:

Attached are the comments of the Idaho Bird Hunters, Inc on the *Enhanced Training In Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (ETIDEIS)*. We trust our concerns will provide information useful in relating the proposed actions to the needs of the land, wildlife and human resources of the Owyhee Canyonlands and associated plateaus and uplands – a truly unique area, one of the gems that makes Idaho the gem state.

The Idaho Bird Hunters represents a group of hunters that devote much of their leisure tome to the conservation and hunting of game birds. We have drawn on the resources of our membership in preparing our comments. Our organization shares the common concern about the advisability in expanding training in Idaho, as expressed by a vast number of citizens and organizations in the state of Idaho.

Our organization strongly recommends the adoption of Alternative A, the No Action alternative. We feel and believe, the natural resources of the area are too unique and valuable to risk – they are all we have remaining. Any increase in military activity from the present will further endanger wildlife and valuable wildlife habitat. Our analysis indicates that Alternatives B, C, and D do not provide sufficient assurances that the resources of the area will be sufficiently protected.

The Idaho Bird Hunters concurs with the comments of the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition and the many other conservation, sportsman, wildlife and recreation organizations who share our concerns regarding the future of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the region. Agreement among such diverse organizations is indicative of the degree of public concern surrounding the *Enhanced Training in Idaho DEIS*.

We trust our comments will help in preserving the unique character of these wild and independent lands emblematic of the life we in Idaho so highly value.

Cordially,

Russell W. Heughins
Director

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Comments of the Idaho Bird Hunters, Inc.
To the
Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Introduction

The Idaho Bird Hunters appreciates the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Air Force's *Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (ETIDEIS). Our organization is an organization of individuals dedicated to the sport of game bird hunting, and the conservation of game birds and their habitat. We plan, carryout and participate in habitat enhancement projects for game birds and other wildlife species. Many of our members have enjoyed, for generations, the abundant wildlife, scenic beauty, cultural sites, natural tranquility and the stunning uniqueness of Idaho's southwestern high desert ecosystem. We hope to continue to enjoy the amenities of this region free of further encroachment and degradation.

Recommendations

The Idaho Bird Hunters recommends the adoption of Alternative A – No Action which maintains current practices in Owyhee County without increasing Military Operating Airspace. This recommendation is founded on evidence indication that implementation of Alternatives B, C and D will result in the loss and /or degradation of native wildlife habitats and associated wildlife populations through the impacts of noise, threat emitters and lasers on wildlife species and related impacts of training activities. Likewise, such activities diminish hunting and fishing recreational opportunities. These conclusions reflect the position taken by two substantively different Idaho Fish and Game Commissions and a variety of fish and game organizations, wildlife conservation and recreational organizations.

Our concern regards not only the welfare of the fish and wildlife in the area, but the inevitable loss of quality of outdoor experiences for all users of this remarkable country. Moving the airspace boundary to the north will allow the Air Force to put a drastic increase in noise in that area which is not acceptable. Additionally, ground range expansion in either of the three proposed sites will result in land disturbance and habitat loss, also ongoing human activities which negatively impact wildlife. Among the various analyses of all parties to the issue of expanding the training range, on significant fact remains undisputed. Any increased military activity in the area encompassed by the expansion will have a deleterious effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat, and concomitantly, on the quality of life for all Idahoans for generations to come. Arguing degrees of potential impacts on wildlife ignores this basic fact.

Certainly, few people question the need for national military security and preparedness. Likewise, citizens and their government have an obligation to acknowledge, preserve and protect the natural resources which are unique, and which if altered by imprudent human actions, may inextricably change the resources and permanently lose the resources.

Analyses and Assessments of Impacts on Wildlife and Habitat

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game reports that wildlife populations may respond to loss of individual animals within a generation, but loss of critical living space is permanent and irreplaceable. Analysis of the impacts of expanded training must reflect the impacts on wildlife habitat in the area. The DEIS state that wildlife and habitat will be affected anytime military activities occur. Detailed analyses of the DEIS shows the impact of additional military activities will be more than the minimal reflected in the document. The Idaho Bird Hunters believe the following issues require resolution:

DP-62 1. Page 1-21 – no drop targets. Lacks description of simulated weapon deliveries, for example, minimum altitude, air space and noise.

BI-18 2. Page 2-49 – Emitter sites B1, AV, AQ, BD, AU, A1, AF, AG should not be in operation in the winter or spring because it conflicts with sage grouse critical periods. Also, ND-5, ND-4, ND-7 and ND-8 are in critical sage grouse habitat or abut the critical habitat and, consequently, should not be constructed. Since the issuance of this DEIS, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission has adopted the sage grouse recovery plan, making it a viable and legitimate plan.

BI-19 3. Military Operations Area (MOA) modification for the Jacks Creek area is not environmentally analyzed. No biological, recreational or other appropriate evaluation has been conducted.

RV-3

NO-4 4. Page 2-67 An increase in training is indicated. The DEIS does not evaluate the effects of the training in terms of actual use time, but addresses the use averaged over a 24 hour period. We do not believe averaging depicts the actual conditions existing at the time of the event.

BI-57 5. Page 2-72 What percentage of bombs fall outside the 640 acre training range? What will be the impact in specific terms to wildlife and habitat.

6. Page 2-72 In our view, southwest Idaho has been fortunate to escape mishaps due to flares up to this time, however, we feel the use of flares should not be used below 3000 AGL, and the effect of chaff on the entire ecosystem must be scientifically studied.

7. Page 2-74 More study and research on the effect of combat laser use is needed before the laser use is implemented.

BI-54 8 Page 2-78 The ETI proposals violate the mitigation measures stated in table 2-3-16#10 for wildlife, especially sage grouse, also it violates the mitigation for the no drop sites adjacent to the Bruneau Canyon.

9. Page 2-80, table 2-13-16#10. MOA expansion just relocates the disturbance over more critical wildlife habitat. The two Jacks Creek drainages and associated plateaus provide year long use by wildlife, and is especially critical in the late fall and throughout the winter for sage grouse, pronghorns, mule deer and big horn sheep. These drainages are also wilderness study areas.

BI-55 10 Page 3-82 Because no drop (ND-8) and emitter sites BK and AU already exist is not sufficient reason for not conducting a biological survey of the area around the sites. The survey should extend one mile out from and around the site for one mile to assess the effects of human intrusion and noise. The area around ND-8 is sage grouse habitat and is not a suitable site for a no drop site.

11 Page 3-122 Clover Butte is critical sage grouse habitat since 80 percent of sage grouse habitat east of the Bruneau has been destroyed by wildfires. All sage grouse habitat is critical to the recovery of sage grouse populations.

BI-22 12 Page 3-124 No drop target area is wintering area for pronghorn, deer and upland game birds. This needs biological evaluation.

13 Page 3-141 The 33 grouse observed at Clover Butte represents approximately 20 percent of the population east of the Bruneau River and they are critical to sage grouse recovery in that area. The no drop target and emitter site near Clover Butte are not compatible with the sage grouse recovery plan recently approved by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

BI-18

14. The 45 Ranch, owned and operated by the Nature Conservancy and located near the South Fork of the Owyhee River, provides valuable habitat for big horn sheep and many other wildlife species. An airspace buffer zone is needed to reduce disturbance. No low altitude flying should be allowed over the ranch property or surrounding land.

LU-6

13. A National Conservation Area has been proposed for the Owyhee Canyonlands and the Bruneau – Jarbidge areas. A draft of the proposal is currently at the Department of Interior for consideration. Expanded military airspace and ground expansion activities should not be allowed to compromise the proposal.

NO-22

16. **Page 4-15** The criteria for noise to the uninitiated may appear reasonable under general and broad circumstances. The problem with models is they are based on theory or conjecture and are statistical. While statistics are considered factual, the users of said statistics may not. Herein lies the problem. The noise model may work elsewhere, say in an urban or suburban area, but does not work or apply well in others, recent public discussion bears this out. In the canyonlands of southwest Idaho and their associated plateaus the model fails because people highly value quiet and solitude. The DEIS, through its authors, fails to grasp the significance of quiet and solitude in the recreational life of Idahoans. The flawed reasoning appearing in the DEIS needs to be revisited. Relying on noise averaging is one of the big reasons for the flawed assumptions on the impact of aircraft noise in primitive and wilderness areas.

17. **Page 4-108** Studies of the effect and impact of aircraft noise on sage grouse needs to be conducted before the final EIS is completed.

18. **Page 4-131** Studies on the effect and impact of long term overflights on game birds needs to be conducted prior to the preparation of the final EIS.

Assessment of Impacts on Social, Cultural and Recreational Resources

The DEIS analysis does not recognize or address the intrinsic values of quiet and solitude. As previously stated, the problem rests with the reliance on modeling and averaging noise.

Claiming there will be no impact on the recreation industry is an unfounded claim. Much of the recreation in the canyonlands and primitive areas focuses on quiet and solitude. Aircraft noise will eliminate these important elements, thereby, directly impacting the income of the recreational industry. Tourism is a major source of revenue for Idaho. If the public perceives the Owyhee Country as a military reservation, tourism will suffer losses.

Other issues needing more analysis include:

RV-13 1. Changes in recreational use brought about by increased access through improved roads.
RV-14 2. Limited access and closures due to military operations.
RV-15 3. Potential loss of primitive recreation areas to proposed target sites.
RV-7 4. Potential loss of solitude and serenity often found in primitive and wilderness settings, and the concomitant loss of primitive and wilderness characteristics.

Conclusion

PR-12

The DEIS does not sufficiently address concerns and issues relevant to the potential impact of the proposed actions on the ecosystem and natural resources of southwest Idaho. Concerns and issues are addressed like the location was merely an empty space with little wildlife or people. The DEIS must recognize the distinctive character of the area as both a natural and national ecological treasure. Issues requiring further study include the impact of increased airspace over public lands, impact of noise, the intrinsic value of quiet and solitude, impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat and the impact on primitive and wilderness areas.

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PN-14

Our organization is not convinced the training expansion is needed. Ample training is available in Utah and Nevada. An auditor's report released by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense in 1995 concluded the range is not needed for the same reasons. We doubt the base will close for the lack of an expanded local training area.

NO-11

The Air Force's Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health Strategies Plan states there are currently no studies which truly determine the effects of noise levels, sonic booms, super-sonic operations and subsonic operations on humans, animals or structures. Because the issues of noise, quit and solitude are an important elements of the proposed plans, we believe much more remains to be accomplished before the preparation of the final EIS and decision.

The Owyhee Canyonlands, the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyonlands and their adjacent plateaus of southwest Idaho, consisting mostly public land enjoyed by the citizens of this state and other states, constitutes a high desert ecosystem unique in the world. These lands contain an incredible diversity of wildlife and vegetation which has existed for millions of years. The Owyhee Country provides unsurpassed outdoor opportunities not only for Idahoans, but for all persons sharing an appreciation of nature's beauty and bounty. The canyonlands of southwest Idaho are to valuable to be risked by additional military activities whose impact on these lands remains uncertain. These unique lands must be protected as a resource linking our past with a promising future.

The Idaho Bird Hunters joins virtually every conservation, recreation and sportsman organizations in the state and thousands of citizens in recommending the adoption of Alternative A, No Action as described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

001164

James Calderwood Burnham
11139 Gila Drive
Kuna, Idaho 83634

September 8, 1997

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Mgmt.
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Re: Public Comment against the Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

GE-2

To the BLM and the USAF:

1. NEPA does not permit the USAF to continue repeated submission of various proposals over the course of eight (8) and more years where *all* of those proposals have the exact same goal. In seeking enhanced training in Idaho through the use of several scuttled efforts, and now through the ETI DEIS, the USAF has perpetrated upon the American People one gargantuan waste of agency money, time and energy. This waste amounts to a "fleecing of America." If this inexcusable waste were limited to impacts on the agency, then it might be tolerable, though reprehensible, where the burden is apportioned over the American People at large. However, individual citizens and groups have been called upon to defend the United States against the USAF to the tune of countless thousands of dollars, hours, and personal commitments.

The purpose of public participation in the NEPA process is to assist in more informed agency decision making. However, while NEPA anticipates public participation in the agency process, this purpose has thus far been ignored by the USAF. Instead, at least since the 1989 scoping hearings, the USAF has milked the people for their ideas and genius for the sole apparent purpose of "testing the waters" and to see what the USAF could "get away with" politically. The USAF has continued incremental scale-back of each new proposal over the years with the intent of finally landing on a palpable alternative while still maximizing the agency "dream sheet."

The USAF abuse of process becomes manifest in comparing the various NEPA processes over the years in light of the representations made by the agency in support of each process. For one limited example, the USAF told the public each alternative in the ITR DEIS was a legitimate alternative. The USAF now tells the public each alternative in the ETI DEIS is a legitimate alternative. If these assertions are correct, then why are the alternatives of the ITR DEIS not included in the ETI DEIS? Why are the North and South ITR alternatives not in the ETI DEIS? Why did the USAF fail to consider the ETI DEIS Grasmere site in the ITR DEIS? Now, apply this *extremely limited* example to the entire administrative record generated by the USAF and the

DP-71

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BLM since 1989. Cross reference all the alternatives and proposals. Then explain why the USAF should not be branded a liar?

The conduct of the USAF over the years justifies the award of a medal of dishonor.

The USAF continues to tell the public a good-faith effort is being made to address a reasonable range of alternatives and yet the USAF keeps rejecting old alternatives and coming up with new ones. The eight (8) year course of events demonstrates that each new NEPA process is really a separate set of alternatives in one long, drawn out, bifurcated, disjointed process, resulting in huge expense, anger, and attrition in a community which seeks only to participate in a legitimate NEPA process and to protect the United States from attack by the USAF.

NEPA contemplates one good faith agency effort, in draft form, to be amended in a Final EIS if necessary. Circumstances may (if sufficient changes occur), call for a new NEPA process on the rare occasion. However, the circumstances here have not changed. The USAF still wants now what it wanted in 1989. While training methods and the world defense situation have changed over the years, such changes are not relevant to, nor have they materially altered the USAF training dream sheet as articulated over the years in the combined administrative record for each failed and ongoing process.

The undersigned participated extensively in the 1989 scoping process, followed by extensive comments on the ITR DEIS, and litigation involving the AFI EIS. On behalf of another participant, sixty five (65) pages of single space, line item comments were submitted regarding the ITR DEIS. Now, I'm called upon once again to comment on more of the same. I tire of this! Why should I submit detailed, line item comments on the ITR DEIS?

Does NEPA contemplate a war of attrition between the public and the USAF? Does NEPA contemplate the public's continued participation until the USAF gets it right? Is NEPA a new type of service obligation for those who want to defend their country? Is the tour of duty eight years? What if the USAF loses this go-around? What made the USAF think it lost the last go-around? If public comments are limited to assistance in more informed agency decisions, why didn't the USAF continue the ITR EIS process? Could it be public comment can achieve veto status in the NEPA process? Must the public continue well into the next century if the USAF loses this go-around?

For the foregoing reasons, and because I cannot be expected to continue participating in this fraud in a detailed, line item response, year after year, I hereby incorporate by reference, as if set forth in full, the entire USAF and BLM administrative record(s) generated since 1988 as it/they relate to the USAF and all of its training proposals in Idaho. For my comments on the ETI DEIS, refer to said record(s) and respond, in detail, to each and every public comment therein. Then, respond to each such comment and alternative in light of the above comments regarding alternatives and the various proposals over time. This comment will serve as an

ongoing public comment for the next USAF proposal for training in Idaho, regardless of the new acronym used, including, but not limited to ATI, ITF, ETA, AFT, TAFI, ABC, XYZ and etc.

2. If the major alleged problem with the existing situation revolves around the location of the Saylor Creek Range on the fringe of, instead of in the center of existing air space, explain what efforts, if any, have been taken to date to work with the FAA and other relevant entities to reconfigure the air space in a fashion so Saylor Creek Range is in the center thereof. Before you trash this question with some off-hand comment, explain why it would be any more difficult or impossible to make such alterations or to fight with relevant agencies, than it would be to proceed as you have for the last eight (8) years, fighting the public, the BLM, your own consultants, and various state and federal agencies.

Try placing the Saylor Creek Range at the center of your air space and putting your low flights, super sonic flights, and bomb-drops on the worthless, over-grazed and denuded desert around the Interstate north-west and south-east of Mountain Home, Idaho. Try using the plowed-up lands and the cheat grass, mustard, and non-native tumble weeds in and around the Orchard Training Range. Fly over noisy and ruined urban areas where silence is not sought, or even an option, and where nothing left of America lives any way.

Such reconfiguration may call for civilian commercial routes over the Owhyee Country at 30,000 feet. However, while this may be objectionable, it would be far preferable to USAF continued operations in the area.

3. Both the USAF and the BLM need to tell DOD that a nation-wide, comprehensive, programmatic EIS needs to be generated regarding "need." Tell DOD the EIS needs to be generated in accord with the letter and intent of the Defense Directive of August 27, 1955, as amended or followed. For background, *see Legislative History of the Engle Act*, House of Representatives Report No. 2856, 84th Congress, 2d Session, July 21, 1956, to Accompany R.R. 12185, Committed to the Committee of the Whole House of the state of the Union and ordered to be printed; House of Representatives Report No. 215, 85th Congress, 1st Session, March 21, 1957, to accompany H.R. 5538, Committed to the Committee of the Whole House of the state of the Union and ordered to be printed; Senate Report No. 857, 85th Congress, 1st Session, August 13, 1957, at 40, to accompany H.R. 5538, Mr. Bible, From the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Very truly yours,

James C. Burnham

Testimony for the hearing record for the proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho.

by John W. Allen, 2114 Ridgecrest Drive, Boise, ID 83712, September 6, 1997.

GE-2 As the deadline for further opposition to your repeated attempts at an ill conceived bombing range expansion in Idaho approaches, I sit outside my home at the edge of Boise listening to loud, unpleasant noise from 3 aircraft flying in formation directly overhead. Commercial aircraft to and from Portland fly the same path at about the same altitude and about the same speed, without much notice from us. Even when you fly slowly, your noisy aircraft will destroy the quiet of the places you fly over especially in the very quiet natural setting of remote places such as the Owyhees.

I am opposed to further expansion of the U. S. Air Force training areas in southern Idaho. I have hiked many times in areas such as the mountains near Reynolds Creek and Toy Pass, canyons off Mud Flat Road, Big and Little Jacks Creek, the Bruneau River canyon, and the Jarbidge Wilderness in Nevada. I have also become familiar with Native American archaeological sites, such as a fragile collection of rocks, which may be a summer solstice marker near Grasmere. This area is not a wasteland that no one cares about. Hundreds of thousands of people live within a hundred miles of it. It already has valuable uses that become more important as Idaho grows in population.

It is well established that accelerating and decelerating aircraft, as you will have in great numbers, produce erratic sonic booms, with pressure pulses several times that produced by supersonic aircraft moving at constant speed, as noted for example in Science News for September 23, 1995. I can imagine you might find the Owyhee canyons a great place to also try out directed sonic booms. Certain atmospheric conditions evidently also amplify the pressure pulses at large distances from the aircraft, as, for example, reported in western Oregon for aircraft training 100 miles off the coast on March 21, 1996. People from Astoria to inland Albany were jarred by a pair of thunderous booms. You need to evaluate the possible effects of sonic booms on people in a normally quiet outdoor setting; on archaeological sites, directly or from triggered rock slides; or on wildlife, such as the important bighorn sheep resource in the Owyhee country. In fact, if the Oregon coast incident is any indication, even people in Boise could have their lives disrupted from your training exercises.

NO-9
NO-23

Also, you need to address how the operations area would be policed, so that activities violating your rules, as have been reported from time to time, do not occur under the more extreme conditions you project. I am even more concerned about your establishment of emitter sites such as near Grasmere before legal approval is given. What protection do we as owners of the public lands have in situations like this?

DP-30

The Owyhee canyonlands are a high quality resource for Idaho. You need to show how existing uses such as recreation, experiencing the solitude of this remote and beautiful area, protection of archaeological sites, and wildlife production will not be compromised. If, as you say, Mountain Home Air Force Base is "mission ready" as is, justify why you can not just enhance your training by using existing and close facilities in Utah and Nevada.

John W. Allen

September 7, 1997

USAF/BLM
POB 329
BOISE, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sirs;

Please consider my comments regarding the Owyhee Enhanced Training Range (ETR) proposal put forth for public comment. Also, please incorporate by reference comments submitted by the Idaho Wildlife Federation and the member groups of the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition.

I have hunted and recreated within the affected boundaries of the proposed ETR since 1974, rarely missing a year between and typically during the spring, summer and fall months of the year. I have enjoyed viewing the bighorn sheep and many of the other splendid wildlife and scenery with family and friends. My principle concern, given the declining numbers of wild sheep in the Owyhee canyonlands, is that continued disturbance by jet trainers will only serve to accelerate the rapid decline of sheep populations. The draft EIS you have presented fails to adequately address this very issue and proposes no mitigation for displacement or decline of our California bighorn sheep.

BI-9

While hunting sage grouse in the fall or enjoying solitary hikes along the Owyhee canyons in the spring I have been distressed by the continued encroachment of low-level jet flights upon my recreation enjoyment. My bird dog has more than once crawled for a rock shelter to hide under while the jets pass overhead. I do not feel that these low-level flights are conducive to my enjoyment of the Owyhee canyonlands and adjacent desert areas.

The values I place on solitude, tranquility and abundant wildlife cannot be substituted for or mitigated away. The remote Owyhee desert offers these values like no where else in Idaho. I live in southern Idaho by choice, not by accident. It is by this choice and through my values that I believe the Owyhee uplands and canyonlands should be withdrawn entirely from any further Air Force training range proposals.

To this end I would ask that you please consider No Owyhee Enhanced Training Range. The conflicts created with wildlife and recreationists are not in your best interest or ours.

Respectfully,

Jeff Barney

Jeff Barney
1403 N. 7th St.
Boise, ID 83702

GE-1 I figure if the sheep can tolerate jet boats they can tolerate planes -

They can't be louder than four wheelers, boom boxes, motorcycles, snowmobiles etc -

In this dangerous world we need a well trained defender -

Yours truly,



3855 Northridge Way
Boise, ID 83706-5955

001168

September 8, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Re: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Enhanced Training in Idaho Proposal.

I am against the current proposal for the Enhance Training Range in Idaho in the Owyhee Canyonlands of Idaho. The U.S. Air has stated on several occasions that the Enhance Training Range is not needed for Mountain Home Air Force Base. The Air Force has also stated that only a small percentage of an airmans training would actually be facilitated by the newly proposed Enhanced Training Range.

HZ-2 The analysis of toxic chemicals associated with the dummy bombs is inadequate. A better analysis of risk to wildlife and other aspects of the environment such as potential soil and groundwater contamination needs to be performed concerning the fate of toxic chemicals used throughout the enhanced training range area.

SF-10 The analysis of the risk to wildlife and the environment concerning chaff is inadequate. A more thorough analysis of the fate of chaff in the environment is necessary. The risk posed to wildlife by ingestion of chaff needs to more appropriately analyzed with species specific studies.

NO-4 Noise is analyzed in the Draft EIS by using 24 hour averages. Noise averaging is an inappropriate method to evaluate the impacts to bighorn sheep and other wildlife. The noises experienced on the ground from overflights are not noises that are partitioned over 24 hours. The sonic booms and noise from the overflights are sudden, deafening sounds which trigger fear response in certain wildlife. The noise analysis needs to evaluate the effect of sudden, deafening noise on wildlife.

The current proposal plans a significant increase in the use of chaff and flares (see Table 2.3-15). This will increase the potential for wildfires in the arid Owyhee Canyonlands, and is unacceptable.

BI-12 The Draft EIS is not complete. Biological surveys on deer, antelope and other wildlife are not scheduled until the winter of 1997. How can an impact be analyzed if the data has not been collected?

DP-14 An environmental evaluation of the expanded air space and the ground surface of those areas is not included in the Draft EIS. The evaluations of the ground surface must be performed to be complete. Again, how can an impact or potential impact be evaluated if the data has not been collected?

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BI-58 What is the mitigation proposed with respect to the impact of the Enhanced Training Range on Big Horn Sheep habitat.

DP-7 Cumulative impacts for the Air National Guard, the B-1B Bomber and overflights from other branches of the military need to be included in the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS describes the purpose of the Enhanced Training in Idaho and states that the range will be used for the Air Forces's Rapid Response Air Expedition Wing. The impact from use by the

PR-23 Air Expedition Wing was not addressed in the Draft EIS. The EIS must analyze impacts from all of the users in the U.S. military as well as friendly foreign forces who are training at the Enhance Training Range.

Please quit spending our tax money on forcing an enhance training range in the Owyhee Canyonlands in Idaho. The Air Force and other U.S. forces have adequate training in Idaho, Utah and Nevada with existing training ranges.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Neace

Thomas F. Neace
2910 Sheffield Ct.
Boise, Idaho 83702

001169

September 4, 1997

GE-2 Dear Sir,

PN-1 I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed Idaho Training Range. The Air Force has admitted several times that additional training space in Idaho is not necessary. They state that our forces are the best-trained in the world. Crews from Mountain Home Air Force Base have ready access to existing ranges in Utah and Nevada.

I spend a lot of time hiking, hunting and camping in the proposed target areas. I know from experience that low-level overflight by jets on training exercises are a sure-fire way to degrade the wilderness experience and solitude I seek when I venture to these locales. Expanding and increasing the use of the Owyhee area for training will greatly diminish the experience for those of us who recreate there.

I today's ever-more crowded, ever-more noisy world, the chance to escape to peace and quiet is becoming rare and priceless. It is simply wrong to sacrifice that opportunity for the sake of providing unneeded training facilities.

Sincerely,

Joe Brungardt

Joe Brungardt
124 E. 8th North
Mtn. Home, ID 83647

cc: Gov. Phil Batt
Rep. Helen Chenoweth
Rep. Mike Crapo
Sen. Dirk Kempthorne
Sen. Larry Craig
Sect. of the Air Force
Director of the BLM
Idaho Fish and Game Dept.

001170

Russ F. Thurow
6650 Glacier Drive
Boise, Idaho 83712

September 5, 1997

U.S. Air Force/ Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sir or Madame:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of the Mountain Home Air Force Base bombing range. I oppose the expansion for three reasons:

PN-1 First: the evidence is clear that existing facilities both within Idaho and in close proximity in other Western States are adequate for future training needs. The need for the expansion has not been demonstrated.

BI-2 Second: the analysis of the effects of the proposed expansion on existing resources has been inadequate. More specifically, the noise analysis is severely flawed and does not adequately nor accurately reflect the potential effects of the expansion on bighorn sheep, other wildlife, and the wilderness characteristics of the Bruneau and Owyhee Canyonlands. Nor has an adequate

DP-7 analysis of the cumulative effects of the proposal been completed.

PR-1 Third: the recently completed Scientific Assessments for the Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Managment emphasize the importance of roadless areas such as the Bruneau-Owyhee Canyonlands for wildlife and fisheries resources, recreation, and the economic stability of the Region. The proposed range expansion is not compatable with the unique natural resources and wilderness qualities of the area.

For these reasons, I ask you to select the No-Action alternative and maintain the unique resources and wilderness qualitites of the Bruneau-Owyhee Canyonlands area of Southern Idaho.

Sincerely,

Russ Thurow

Russ Thurow

Sept 7, 1997

US Air Force / Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Re: Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft EIS

Following are my comments regarding the Enhanced Training in Idaho draft EIS and the proposal in general.

PN-5 PN-14 PN-2 I request that a No Action alternative be selected. There has been no comprehensive needs assessment to justify this very significant increase in the training range for Mountain Home Air Force Base. The Department of Defense Inspector General in 1995 concluded that existing ranges are adequate and the ETI is redundant. There are already large training ranges in Utah and Nevada to supplement the existing range in Idaho. Use of the existing range after realistic training, including in flight refueling, which as I understand, is required as part of training exercises. The time

supposedly lost in flying to the Utah and Nevada ranges appears to be overstated (Table 2 pg 1-39).

DP-7 If this quite significant increase in training range is needed for the composite wing that was moved to Mountain Home AFB a couple of years ago then this EIS is inadequate since it does not address the cumulative impacts of moving the composite wing and significant expansion of the training range. It is my understand that two of the three composite wings have been dismantled. Why not use the facilities where one of these wings was located.

PN-5 The need for increased training range facilities seems unsubstantiated considering the changing relationship of nations, i.e. the fall of the Soviet empire. Based on the incredible air superiority exhibited during the Gulf War over Iraq it appears to me our existing training needs are being met. What nation are we preparing to battle? A comprehensive national needs assessment is needed

before we commit the level of resources that is being proposed for the ETI under all alternatives except the No Action Alternative. A recent article in The Idaho Statesman indicates other training ranges are also under consideration for expansion. The EIS should address the cumulative impacts of multiple expansions.

NO-1 The impacts of noise have been inadequately addressed and are misleading.

BI-32 A study done to address impacts on bighorn sheep did not include all data; data that did not match the Air Forces' desired findings were deleted from the reports.

The study on page 4-154 indicates "The long-term effects of overflight noise on wildlife populations are largely unknown." Considering the lack of demonstrated need for the ETI this seems to be a quite significant risk.

I have floated the Bruneau and Owyhee River numerous times during the past 15 years. During the last two years there has been a significant increase in overflights that are very objectionable. On a Bruneau trip last Spring there were six very

loud overflights. One appeared to be less than 1000 ft above the canyon. I found these overflights quite disturbing intrusion into an otherwise wonderful wilderness experience.

RV-16 3. The EIS provides inadequate attention to recreational use. Current viable data is needed regarding recreational use for the entire area affected by the very large increase in the ETI airspace usage. Consideration needs to be given to future increased need for recreational activities. The Bruneau, Jarbidge and Owyhee Rivers canyons are worthy of national park status. A friend observed while floating the Bruneau that it is more beautiful and impressive than Zion National Park.

This area is arguably the largest wilderness area remaining in the continental U.S. The need for wilderness areas is becoming more pressing. Enclosed is an article from the Idaho Statesman that points out the problem of increasing demands on limited wilderness areas. The wilderness

experience is being found to be very important to the human psyche. I find being immersed in Nature, where man's influence is minimal to none, to be healing to my soul. A person can appreciate the Creation in an untarnished state. The overflights with sonic booms greatly diminishes this experience.

The significant increase in road construction and traffic further diminishes the area for wilderness / recreational usage, potentially irretrievably.

Considering these costs and an undemonstrated need for the expansion of the training range further justifies No Action.

SF-1 LU-2 I believe the EIS inadequately addresses impacts of the use of chaff and flares as well as increased road traffic on the environment. Useage of chaff in Nevada repeatedly causing problems with meeting air quality standards. Flares will increase the frequency of range fires, to the detriment of air quality and causing the native

plant community to convert to cheat grass causing even more range fires. Road dust will be increased. Southwest Idaho already has problems meeting Clean Air Act particulate standards; the ETI will exasperate this problem. It is my understanding that amendments AQ-3 and proposed amendments to the Clean Air Act will be even more stringent. I don't think the EIS adequately addresses those impacts.

5. The ETI will be a burden to the American Indians at the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. Our history of dealings with the Native Americans is full of dishonesty and broken promises. We have signed treaties setting aside inderivable reservation land for them, then subsequently taking this lands from them when it was discovered that good farm land, gold or oil existed on that land. The proposals for ETI bombing range expansion continue this disgusting legacy. The Air Force should be ashamed.

In conclusion, I request that the draft EIS be substantially revised to adequately address the issues discussed and that a No Action alternative be given honest consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Kreps

Bob Kreps
531 E 51 Street
Boise, ID 83714

Sept 6 1997
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GE-1 US Air Force / Bureau of Land Management

The Air Force is acting like a spoiled child. If can't accept a simple no. — but whines and begs and asks over and over expecting at a moments distraction to get a yes. No. No. No You have enough play space and toys in Nevada. Quit this accept that you shouldn't be allowed to make life miserable any place you want. Leave this area alone And in fairness — let every one else leave it alone too

Lucille Haynes Gibson
Box 2489
Ketchum, Id.

Sept. 8, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Sirs,

The following comments are offered by myself, my family and our cattle ranching operations.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Enhanced Training in Idaho does not reflect commitments made by the Air Force as well as promises and commitments made by other supporters of E.I.T. and consequently is inadequate.

DP-21 If the E.I.S. is to reflect those commitments then it needs to say in every section that pertains to grazing that for alternatives B and D, compensation in kind satisfactory to current permittees would be completed prior to withdrawal and cancellation of the grazing permits. In addition range improvements (i.e. fences, pipelines, storage reservoirs, etc.) must be completed by the Air Force on the remaining parts of the affected allotments as well as on the grazing land accepted as payment in kind prior to the Air Force taking control of the selected land. The improvements will be required to make the affected permittees operationally functional on a comparable basis as presently exists as determined by affected permittees.

If suitable payment in kind property is not secured by the Air Force prior to the final draft, then alternative B and D will not be viable alternatives and must be dropped from further consideration.

If satisfactory compensation in kind can be achieved and the withdrawal process continues, the resulting Resource Management Plan or grazing plan will contain several provisions or constraints including but not limited to:
1 If grazing is allowed on the withdrawn land, the former permittee would have the first option to graze under Air Force supervision.
2 The grazing fee charged would not exceed the BLM fee on adjacent lands.
3 Perimeter fence would be built by the Air Force that would be four (4) wire, steel posts, and steel pipe braces. (fireproof)
4 Air Force would be responsible for noxious weed control and if they did not, the county weed department could close the range, do weed control and Air Force would reimburse the county.

SO-10 Other sections are incomplete or inaccurate but the most disappointing part of the draft was failure on the Air Force's part to acknowledge the disruption, inconvenience, and increased operating costs if 12,000 acres were removed from existing grazing allotments in alternative B (Clover Butte) or alternative D (Juniper Butte). We have on numerous occasions over the past two years both formally and informally tried to convey to Air Force personnel what the impacts would be and how disruptive it would be to our operation. We detailed some of these concerns in our scoping comments in July 1996, Instead of repeating them in these comments, they are enclosed to be included as part of these comments. (See Attached)

SO-11 It appears Air Force's response can be summed up on Page 4-232 which states "use of affected lands for grazing, following acquisition would lessen or eliminate the livestock industry impacts". It seems if the Air Force is serious about honoring the commitments they have made such as the McCarthey promise they would make a more realistic acknowledgment of how disruptive the 12,000 acre withdrawal would be to our operation. Having done that, satisfactory mitigation measures need to surface to address the disruption.

SO-9 In the socioeconomic section the EIS writers "assumes" there would be 1,032 AUM's on Clover Butte and 1,171 AUM's on Juniper Butte. Those are not valid assumptions and consequently the resulting analysis is questionable. Most of the rest of the socioeconomic section is very generalized and is based on a 500 cow herd in Owyhee County and is basically meaningless. To be meaningful it needs to be site specific in relation to the particular allotment and operation.

BI-60 The vegetation maps for alternative B and D are not accurate. In addition no attempt was made to show the location of existing range improvements such as pipe lines, water troughs and fences. Consequently the DEIS does not contain accurate and complete site specific inventory.

The community report summarizes the approach taken in this project which is described as mitigation by avoidance and mitigation by design. The Air Force has attempted to accommodate every interest to the maximum extent possible with the exception of several ranchers. consequently all of the impacts are concentrated on one or two affected ranchers. While the report recognizes there are also "non-qualifiable" impacts, the only mitigation actions listed is to permit grazing on the proposed sites at reduced levels.

We trust that if the Air Force is sincere about fulfilling the promises and commitments they have made, the final EIS will reflect that intent as the DEIS does not.

Sincerely,
Bert Brackett

Bert Brackett
Flat Creek Ranch
Rogerson, Idaho 83302

cc: Governor Phil Batt
Senator Larry Craig
Senator Dirk Kempthorne
Congressman Mike Crapo
Congressman Helen Chenoweth

September 8, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

Comments on Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft EIS.

GE-2 **Purpose and Need**

1.0 Purpose and need for the Proposed Action.

1.1.3.2 IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND TRANSIENT AIRCRAFT

DP-6 This is an area of particular concern and has the potential for serious public health consequences. The ETI Draft EIS fails to address the conduct and training of transient aircraft and the use/type of ordinance from transient aircraft. Only briefly is it mentioned in the ETI Draft EIS as to what kind of operations will be taking place on the ETI range from transient aircraft. Specifically mentioned is the armor piercing capability of the A-10 Thunderbolt's of 124th Wing of the IDANG. As stated in the ETI Draft EIS, pg.1-11, "A-large part of this mission focuses on anti-armor operations" and "Training involves air to ground weapons delivery (currently conducted at Saylor Creek Range (SCR) and remote ranges). The armor piercing capabilities afforded to the A-10 Thunderbolt is attainable by using depleted uranium (DU) rounds. Many federal health studies have addressed the risks associated with exposure to DU roun

DP-72 the Gulf War have shown DU rounds to be a serious threat to human h

of Defense (DoD) agencies intending to use DU rounds have to file such intentions with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The U.S. Air Force is the lead agency in the establishment of the ETI and has the responsibility to fully analyze all associated impacts from transient aircraft, to do otherwise would be a violation of NEPA, FLPMA, and many other federal and state rules, regulations, and laws, regarding radioactive materials.

1.2 & 1.3 pg.'s. 1-16/1-17

The stated purpose is short on definition and the stated need lacks support for such a Major Federal Action. The proposal seems to be designed to meet other long term needs. After independent research it seems the needs of Composite Wing Training are actually needs associated with the development of the Air Expeditionary Force Battlelab (AEFB). The United States Air Force will establish six Battlelabs this year to identify innovative ideas and to measure how well those ideas contribute to the mission of the Air Force. With Air Combat Command (ACC) overseeing the management of three of six battlelabs developed this year through the process of the Air Force's recent long range planning effort and the publication of "Global Engagement: A Vision for the 21st Century Air Force", clearly the establishment of ETI is

DP-28 contingent with the development of these battlelabs. Where in the ETI Draft EIS is this addressed?

The only reference in the ETI Draft EIS to AEFB is in sec.1.2, bullet number two, in which the U.S. Air Force states in purpose of need; "The proposal to enhance training in Idaho would meet four key objectives for the Air Force: Supports the unique missions of the Air Force's rapid

DP-28 response air expeditionary wing." The ETI Draft EIS does not address the impacts associated with AEFB and the composite wing. Further, the ETI Draft EIS does not address the associated impacts between AEFB and the five other battlelabs, The Information Warfare Battlelab (IWB), The Unmanned Air Vehicle Battlelab (UAVB), The Space Battlelab (SB), The Force Protection Battlelab (FPB), and The Command and Control Battle Management Battlelab (C2BMB). By not adequately addressing these associations and potential impacts, the lead agency (U.S. Air Force) and all cooperating agencies (BLM, State of Idaho) are in violation of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) §1502 4 (a), (b), (c, 1,2,3), (d) and §1508.18.

In statement of need, the Air Force states, "To provide enhanced training, local training ranges, airspace and other assets should be capable of providing the most of the types of training needed." Other claims for ETI made by the Air Force; "Enhanced training offers the efficiency to ensure maximum time spent training. This is best accomplished by minimizing transit time to and from training locations, which uses finite and valuable flying time, yet yields minimal returns toward mission readiness." The argument of transit time becomes inconsequential without knowing if the 366th Wing will use the other Battlelabs and at what frequency, especially those under ACC command and operation such as Command and Control Battle Management Battlelab, (C2BMB) at Hurlburt Field, Florida, and the Unmanned Air Vehicle Battlelab, (UAVB) at Eglin AFB, Florida. Additionally, how often will the 366th Wing utilize and train at Space Battlelab, (SB) at Falcon AFB, Colorado, or the Force Protection Battlelab, (FPB) under the newly established Air Force Protection Group, at Lackland AFB, Texas, and the Information Warfare

DP-28 Battlelab, (IWB) at Kelly AFB, Texas? What impacts will occur to ETI from the association to various Battlelabs?

Furthering the irrelevance of the "close training range argument" is the fact that in previous training range proposals, the nominal flight time to the ideal training range consisted of a 150 nautical mile (NM) limit, and time limit was about fifteen minutes. Oddly, UTTR is at the 175 NM limits. This works out to be about a six-minute difference in flight in a high performance aircraft.

DP-28 Also lacking in the ETI Draft EIS is any mention of the strategic tactics associated with AEFB. Specifically, what impacts are associated with KBI's (Kenny Battlelab Initiatives) and MBI's (Mitchell Battlelab Initiatives)? Special attention should be given to MBI's. These are intense and concentrated air strikes using all available resources. As stated by the Air Force, "MBIs are initiatives that are revolutionary, complex or resource intensive ideas. AEFB MBIs will be outlined in a Campaign Concept and presented to the Air Force Board of Directors by Air Combat Command for their decision on a course of action, resourcing, and cross-command tasking." These intensive strike campaigns pose a considerable threat to the resources encompassing the proposed ETI. Why was this issue not mentioned in the ETI Draft EIS?

With this information, it becomes apparent war games will be conducted on a continuing basis over southwestern Idaho. Please consider the fragile nature of this ecosystem and the potential for permanent destruction. Once the native vegetal component is burned off, through the use of flares and ordinance, and human disturbance, this area will be a wasteland. This region of the United States, SW ID, SE OR, and N NV is one of irreplaceable biodiversity. The high desert of Idaho is home to over 116 species of migratory birds. The highest density and diversity of reptiles are found in this area. The last viable populations of quickly declining sagegrouse call this area home. All of these issues and more are not mitigable. Once these resources are gone, restoration and recovery efforts will only yield "efforts."

3.0 Affected Environment: Earth Resources

The heavier gauge paper divider that serves as a break between the last chapter/section and the preceding chapter in the ETI Draft EIS summarizes and makes the perfect argument against the establishment of ETI. One outlined issue summarized on this page is a perfect example of why this proposal and the last four proposals are not a good idea. As stated, "Bighorn Sheep were observed only on the Grasmere training range alternative where none were expected." If the Air Force had been listening, they would have heard this mentioned in previous proposals. If the Air Force had been listening, they would realize that this area is unique and one of a kind and many occurrences like the "Bighorn Sheep" example occur in the high desert of Idaho. Only, if the Air Force had been listening.

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3.2 NOISE

NO-2 This section deserves legal challenge. How could you consciously apply the results of a study not intended for use in evaluating noise in a wilderness/rural area? Why is the Air Force using flawed noise data in the ETI Draft EIS? The heart of the noise analysis is based upon a 1978 study conducted by Theodore Shultz, "Synthesis of Social Surveys on Noise Annoyance," *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, Vol. 64, 1978.

As pointed out by Dr. William J. Weida in a May 1997 paper and presented to the Air Force during public comment period this year, "There are two ways to determine how annoyed people are by aircraft noise:

[1] test their annoyance with the actual noise they will experience in the environment in which the experience will occur or
[2] use twenty-year-old surveys on reactions to a different kind of noise by unrelated groups of people living in foreign urban environments."

Why has the Air Force pursued the second course of action?

Clearly, the 1978 Shultz study uses data obtained from large metropolitan areas; First Heathrow Airport, French Aircraft, Second Heathrow Airport, Munich Airport, Paris Street, Swedish Aircraft, Swiss Road, London Street, Swiss Aircraft, French Railroad, US Street, and lastly (LAX) or Los Angeles International Airport.

Additionally, this study only measured the effects/annoyance level of people in buildings when subjected to the noises (listed above). This is not in compliance with NEPA. I can personally attest to the quietness of the area in which the Air Force wants to place ETI. This is an area where you can hear a vehicle approaching from about 3-5 on a dirt road and about 5-10 miles if you are near the only paved highway in the area (ST. HWY 51). Also, of the existing communications right of ways, you can hear their diesel generators 5-8 miles away. Once again, maybe the Air Force would know this had they been listening.

Why is it that the noise analysis in the ETI Draft EIS is based on a mix of tram, railroad, road and aircraft noise in an urban community/environment, and not on aircraft noise in a wilderness environment?

Shultz's original model underestimates the percentage of people who are annoyed by urban noise in the 50 to 75 dB range by 7 to 13 percent.

NO-2 The USAF model's incorrect curve underestimates the number of people annoyed by urban noise in the 40 to 70 dB range by 15 to 20 percent.

In 1991 Schultz co-authored a paper with Fidell and Barber updating his 1978 study. This paper again stated that the Shultz curve represents "a relationship between transportation noise exposure and the prevalence of annoyance in communities."

The 1991 study by Fidell, Barber and Shultz confirmed that the Schultz curve consistently and substantially underestimated annoyance with aircraft noise. This little issue seems to have been conveniently left out of the ETI Draft EIS.

Using either the Schultz or USAF models to predict noise/annoyance relationships is analogous to claiming that someone, who is highly annoyed by aircraft noise will become less annoyed if additional noise is created by automobiles, trains or trams.

NO-19 Noise /annoyance estimates in the DEIS are less than half the actual percentage of people highly annoyed with aircraft noise. By not referring to any of these studies, the Air Force and its

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contractors have ignored 20 years of evidence that higher levels of annoyance exist for aircraft. This raises serious questions about the thoroughness and unbiasedness of the ETI Draft EIS.

NO-21 One can calculate aircraft noise annoyance/land use compatibility that is not degraded by the inclusion of other, irrelevant data. This shows that all aircraft the Air Force proposes to fly in the ETI will exceed a 53 dB annoyance benchmark at all altitudes and that all four alternatives in the ETI DEIS exceed this level for cumulative dB at 50 percent or more (I would guess more, especially with the MBI's performed by AEFB) of their reference points.

NO-19 None of the models used in the ETI DEIS apply to wilderness noise exposure. Based on a recent Forest Service study, an additional penalty of about 30 dB should be added for wilderness noise exposure.

It seems the Noise Analysis in the ETI DEIS is just that, "NOISE".

While we are on the topic of noise, during public comment/testimony this year, I presented to the Air Force how I had heard 15 sonic booms in one afternoon out on antelope ridge. Quite honestly, this went beyond annoying. I would say it has taken this long for the experience to settle to the level of annoyance. Jets at 1000 AGL have buzzed me, I have had jets drop flares over me, and have found numerous bundles of chaff. On one occasion, during scoping, I had the opportunity to express my concern about the use of chaff to USAF Lt. Col. Wheeless. Lt.Col. Wheeless suggested what I had probably found was the old chaff, which was not as biodegradable. He invited me to present my findings at the next scoping meeting. I did and we compared his sample of the "New and Improved Chaff" with my sample. It was confirmed my findings were of the "New and Improved Chaff" and not the old stuff. The use of chaff on public lands is littering. Why not

LU-16 classify chaff as an ordinance, as it is classified it Nevada? Further, what are the public

SF-10 health/environmental risks associated with the use of chaff and exposure to the aluminum coated silica fibers? Please discontinue the use of chaff on public lands.

3.5.4.2 ROI ONE-SITE SPECIFIC PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ER-9 Under alternative C - Grasmere it is concluded, "No paleontological resources occur within the selected lands for the proposed Grasmere alternative." This is entirely untrue. I know from personal experience that this area has unique paleontological resources. This calls into question the information on all three alternatives, not to mention the entire ETI Draft EIS. Was a paleontological field survey even conducted for the alternatives or was data only gathered and presented from what little is currently known about the paleontological resources that would be expected to be found within these remote areas?

ER-10 Another fundamental error is made within this section. As stated on pg. 3-61, "A report from a vertebrate paleontologist does confirm the presence of mammalian fossils at the locality, but the material is too fragmentary for useful identification below class or order." This is a seriously misleading statement and seems to minimize the importance of the resource. Most fossil identification can only accurately occur at the class or order level, as standards for identifying fossils differ from those of living species. As is taught in Geology 101, one is usually not able to tell the biospecies (interbreeding capabilities) of a fossil, so fossils are keyed out by their respective morphospecies (structural characteristics). Therefore fossil species determination is usually unattainable.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

CU-15 All action regarding any proposed expansion or enhancement within SW. ID should immediately discontinue. The Shoshone-Piaute tribe at Duck Valley Indian reservation should have the opportunity to review and present findings of their own regarding the importance of resources affected by ETI. The cultural resource presentation and any relative cultural issues are presented

CU-13 in passive form within the ETI DEIS. This type of presentation minimizes the significance of the impact. This is not acceptable. How many Shoshone-Paiute sacred sites will be disturbed by ETI?

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SF-7 What adverse health effects would the Shoshone-Paiutes at Duck Valley reservation be subjected too, by the use of chaff, flares, laser range finding devices, and ordinance, especially armor piercing ordinance? What adverse health effects will recreations be subjected to?

SF-4 How will fire frequency increase? Can the Air Force make any guarantee's that large tracts of native vegetation will not be subjected to eradication through the use of smokey-sams? Many

DP-16 reports and studies exist on the use of smokey-sams and fire frequency. How come these are not in the ETI DEIS?

HZ-2 How can the Air Force honestly say the titanium tetrachloride used in cold spot charges is not a health or environmental hazard? The ETI DEIS fails to fully address the environmental effects of titanium tetrachloride. Titanium tetrachloride is the substance used in dummy bombs to produce the cloud of smoke for scoring purposes. This is the "cold spot" charge.

According to the U.S. Public Health Service, titanium tetrachloride may cause harmful health effects in human lung tissues due to its unique properties including the formation of hydrochloric acid when it comes into contact with water, hence the "cold spot". The cold spot is actually a cloud of hydrochloric acid vapor. What type of ordinance will be used that will never be revealed to the public? What type of equipment will be used that could pose both a human and environmental hazard, but may never be revealed to the public?

NO-18 How many times will the Castleford School foundation be broken by sonic booms and the Air

DP-6 Force denies the damage is caused by their planes? What type of on the ground training will be incorporated in the AEFB KBI & MBI wargames? Where in the ETI DEIS is this use from transient aircraft and other militaries covered?

The ETI DEIS mentions that of the one million acres most affected by "on the ground disturbance", 87 percent is potential sagegrouse habitat. Sagegrouse are close to being listed as a threatened species. The ETI DEIS would advance their decline.

The ETI DEIS states there will be a 75 percent increase of sonic booms in the Saylor Creek training area and a 50 percent increase of sonic booms in the Jarbidge/Bruneau MOA's. This is unacceptable.

Currently, the existing MOA does not included airspace over the Jack's Creek WSA. With the ETI would come an airspace expansion over this area and the conduct of "staging" activities. The

BI-19 DEIS does not adequately analyze either the biological or recreational impacts of this change. Jack's Creek is prime Bighorn Sheep habitat. The impacts of the military conducting "staging" maneuvers over this area and others could seriously affect the Bighorn sheep population. No mitigation proposals have been considered with regard to the ETI's affect on bighorn sheep habitat.

LU-9 How will ACEC's, WSA's and rivers with wild and scenic potential will be affected by ETI. This issue is never addressed. It is acknowledged, but never addressed.

There will be major air and noise pollution resulting from diesel generators needed to provide power for threat emitter sites. These sites will run 6 to 8 hours per day, 5 days a week, and sometimes on weekends. This is unacceptable.

CU-18 The ETI DEIS failed to include within the cultural resources section the impacts on intrinsic values such as solitude and silence.

The ETI is not economically feasible. How many millions have been spent already? How many more millions or billions of dollars is the United States government going to waste on this?

The ETI is not environmentally feasible. The operation of a year round war game playground would put at risk an already taxed ecosystem. The risk of complete and total destruction of the high desert ecosystem is too high.

Further, I wish the Air Force and BLM would have complied to the request of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe at Duck Valley Reservation on a one year extension of the comment period. I ask the Air Force and BLM to reconsider this decision. Is this how the Air Force and BLM have chosen to comply with the Government to Government law?

It seems many unanswered questions exist regarding the ETI proposal. It is also apparent much of the required information is missing or unusable.

CREDIBILITY

Chronology of Events

I wonder if the Air Force has made a cost of credibility analysis and weighed it against all the Bombing Range proposals. First there was the Electronic training range proposed for Utah, Electronic Combat Test Capability (ECTC) proposal. Just like all the bombing range proposal in Idaho, this proposal consisted of threat emitters, an electronic battlefield, and 360° approaches to targets. ECTC was defeated by public outcry and concern over issues of safety, cost, impacts. Might as well run for the border, so you came to Idaho with the same proposal. Only this time it was packaged as the Saylor Creek Range Expansion Project (1989). This too was defeated by public outcry over issues of safety, cost, impacts. Then came the Realignment of Mountain Home Air Force Base and Proposed Expanded Range Capability (1990), (might as well serve it up with a heaping helping of BRACC). If you can't legally obtain it, put it under a cloud of possible closure. This would obviously create conflict within the local community. It's nice to know some tactics are tried, true and tested. Divide and conquer. Then came the Final EIS (1992), this is the one that was challenged and defeated in federal court. Then came Idaho Training Range (ITR) (1993). ITR was dropped about the same time a decision had been handed down on the 1992 EIS. Now it's ETI's turn. I can assure you, the same fate and legal challenge awaits this proposal.

Really folk's, It's time to re-evaluate. I have stuck to the issues and would like to express my personal views on this and previous processes and proposals. I have been accused of being an anti-capitalist by elected Mountain Home city officials. Isn't a subsidized community more in-line with socialism? I have been called a communist; my patriotism questioned, and have been told that my concerns are just emotion. We'll, I guess I do have to admit, I do get a little emotional as a taxpayer, when gobs of taxpayer dollars are squandered on pet pork projects. I suggest the Air Force evaluate the 1995 Inspector Generals Internal Audit Report.

Also bothersome is the lack of Air Force compliance to the law. This latest ETI Draft EIS is such an example. Many discrepancies exist within the ETI DEIS. Many NEPA violations are evident. How can an armed services branch of the United States be trusted with carrying out the directives of an Executive Order, or institute democracy on a global scale when it fails to comply with basic federal and state law? The Air Force has charges of trespass from constructing facilities on BLM land in Idaho. (Enclosed is supporting documentation)

DP-4 Lastly, the ETI DEIS is inadequate because it does not conform with Judge Lodge's ruling that a combined EIS be prepared that includes an analysis of the ITR/ETI and the composite wing at MHAFB. An analysis of cumulative effects is also required. Additionally, the ETI DEIS is inadequate in that it does not mention the intentions and impacts associated with the composite wing and the AEFB mission, along with the mission of the other five battlelabs.

I support the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE!
NO BOMBING RANGE

Nick Johnson
P.O. Box 6379
Boise, ID 83707-6379

cc:
Ted Howard, Cultural Resources Director, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley
GOLD, Greater Owyhee Legal Defense
Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition
CIHD, Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Office of the President of the United States
Ms. Brenda Cook HQ ACC/CEVA
IWP, Idaho Watersheds Project
TWS, The Wilderness Society
Idaho office of the Governor
Col. Gerald F. Pease Jr. AF/XOOA
IDF&G, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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Printed by: lls
Title: Forms.acgi Reply

Monday, September 8, 1997 9:25:18 AM
Page: 1 of 2

Friday, September 5, 1997 9:50:39 PM
Message

From: cjnewell@gsl-net.com,Internet

Subject: Forms.acgi Reply

To: Liz Paul

-= Form Data =-
Name: Charles J. Newell, Ph.D., P.E.
Address: 3118 Nottingham, Houston, Texas
City: Houston
State: TX
Zip: 77005
Comments:

GE-1 Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am a long-time Air Force supporter (my Dad was a KC-135 pilot) but I would like to comment about the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

I spent one of the most memorable weeks of my life canoeing down the Owyhee River, and therefore I feel that the wilderness nature of the Owyhee (and Bruneau) must be protected. The noise caused by the training exercises will destroy the wilderness experience. A wilderness cannot be a wilderness when the sound of jets (although they are beautiful airplanes) is heard overhead.

I suggest there must be much better places for the training that are less wild and where the sound of the training will not destroy a precious natural resource.

I urge the Air Force to protect the Owyhee and Bruneau and move the planned training area to another location. Military training is important, but in this case the wilderness areas of the Owyhee and Bruneau are much much more important. Please don't destroy the Owyhee and Bruneau.

Sincerely,

001176

Jeff Barbaza
9868 Grandmoor Pl.
Boise, ID 83616

GE-1 I support the Air Force efforts to obtain the needed training in Idaho. I hope you are successful

Jeff Barbaza

001177

Idaho Cattle Association

ICA

September 2, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Greetings,

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Enhanced Training in Idaho. The Idaho Cattle Association is a non-profit association representing approximately 1500 cattle producers, feeders, agribusinesses and more than 25,000 individuals involved in the livestock industry in Idaho. A number of our members reside and conduct livestock operations in the area of Idaho impacted by this DEIS.

It is, and historically has been, the policy of the Idaho Cattle Association to support a strong national defense with the accompanying implications for land uses as a result of that policy. ICA also remains committed to the successful resolution of all issues affecting livestock interests, together with the United States Air Force, relating to the creation of an enhanced training area in Idaho.

Our concerns have been best expressed through the functioning of the Stockmen's Training Range Review Committee (STRRC). This group of ranchers represents the livestock interests within the affected area of the DEIS. They have participated in the issues and discussions surrounding current efforts to establish improved training opportunities for the Air Force since the late 1980's. Many of them and their ancestral families have historically supported necessary Defense Department activities in the area since pre-World War II days.

It is indeed ironic that, most of the concerns of recreationists, environmentalists and tribal members seem to have been adequately addressed, except for the most vocal anti-military activists, while satisfactory resolution of the needs of adjoining livestock operators and property owners appears still to be elusive.

We urge your careful consideration of the separate comments which will be submitted by the Stockmen's Training Range Review Committee seeking

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understanding and proactive resolution of the numerous negative impacts resulting from range siting decisions. The negative economic impacts must be recognized and dealt with. The STRRC is in the process, via their comments, of proposing a number of excellent and cost-effective solutions to recognized problems which may be expected to result from future range operations. Some proposed mitigation measures are cost-free while others are minimal in most cases.

We endorse the comments of the STRRC as reflecting the policy of this association.

Sincerely,

Larry Ragsdale
President

cc: Governor Phil Batt
Senator Larry Craig
Senator Dirk Kempthorne
Congressman Mike Crapo
Congressman Helen Chenoweth
Stockmen's Training Range Review Committee

001178

USAF/BLM
P.O. BOX 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-2 The USAF wants to turn Southwestern Idaho into a supersonic battlefield. You tell us that the Bombing Range would impact only a mere 12,000 acres. In fact more than three million acres of southwest Idaho, southeast Oregon and northern Nevada would be included in the system of electronic combat and bombing ranges.

The Owyhee Canyonlands, in the heart of your proposed military training range, is an abundant, biodiverse region of rolling plateaus cut by dramatic canyons. The area contains candidate wild and scenic rivers, more that 15 Wilderness Study Areas, one quarter of the California Bighorn Sheep population in the United States, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, cougar, sage grouse and many other species of wildlife.

NO-11 The Air Force's own Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategies Plan states that there are currently no studies that truly determine the effects of noise levels, sonic booms, super-sonic operations and subsonic operations on humans, animals, or structures. Yet, even without the availability of this fundamental information, you claim that you have fully evaluated all effects your proposal on the Owyhee Canyonlands. This simply cannot be true!

OP-7 The base levels you use for comparison in the NOISE sections of the DEIS are levels established since the addition of the Composite Wing 1992. In order to comply with NEPA, an analysis of cumulative effects is required. Therefore, the noise analysis in your DEIS should have been based on pre-1992 use levels. Your attempt to incrementally impact this area without a truly cumulative analysis is entirely unacceptable.

HZ-2 Another key fact (of many) that the you have failed to include in your Impact Statement has to do with toxic chemicals, specifically Titanium Tetrachloride, associated with the dummy bombs that will be dropped within the 12,000 acre drop site. You have continually downplayed and minimized the effect of these bombs, as well as potential health risks associated with chaff. A study conducted by the US Department of Health and Human Services regarding the health effects of Titanium Tetrachloride contains specific evidence to the contrary.

PR-23 An additional issue of concern that has been glossed over by the Air Force, is that no matter how many promises you make regarding airspace, environmental concerns, noise, etc., there are no assurances that those promises will apply to other branches of the military or foreign flyers that will be using your bombing range. In fact, you have implied that you will not take responsibility for other branches of the military or foreign armed forces invited to practice war games at your new and improved training range.

PN-1 Finally, by the your own admission, this plan is not needed to save Mountain Home Air Force Base. It's not needed. It's not wanted. It's simply not good for the land, the wildlife or the people of Idaho. I oppose all alternatives referred to in the DEIS and I request an extension of the comment period so that others might have adequate opportunity to express their concerns, or in the alternative, I request that you withdraw your proposal entirely!

Respectfully submitted,

FRIENDS OF THE BRUNEAU

Printed on recycled paper

Stockmen's Training Range Review Committee

Eric Davis, Chairman
HC 85 Box 136
Bruneau, ID 83604
208-845-2762

Chad Gibson, Secretary
PO Box 400
Marsing, ID 83639
208-896-4104

U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

September 5th, 1997

GE-2 Dear Sir:

The following comments are offered by the Stockmen's Training Range Review Committee (STRRC) regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Enhanced Training in Idaho (DEIS).

The STRRC is a joint committee of the 71 Livestock Association and the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association and was formed to respond to the initial training range proposals made in the late 80's . We can reasonably expect to be negatively impacted by expanded USAF training in Idaho yet we have consistently and diligently worked to develop proposals that will accommodate the needs of the USAF and maintain the viability of our ranches and private property values in Owyhee County. We believe in the multiple use concept of federal lands and have sought to be good neighbors for the USAF. We were encouraged in this effort by General McCarthy's written commitment that this proposal would not go forward unless the affected ranchers were satisfied.

We are very disappointed in this DEIS and find that none of the three action alternatives are viable unless strong mitigating action is taken to address the following concerns:

SO-10 1. The negative impacts to the ranchers whose BLM allotments may be altered by the new range sites are woefully understated. No mention is made of increased operating costs due to travel restrictions, changes in cattle movement patterns, increased maintenance of water pipelines, increased difficulty in hiring and keeping employees due to increased noise disturbance, increased fire danger and suppression costs, increased risk of catastrophic forage loss due to fire, or decreased job safety due to more noise interfering with communication.

The potential reduction in livestock numbers for that rancher has been described only in terms of net income loss for that rancher. The decrease in related regional economic activity, such as trucking, feed production, feedlot usage etc, has been ignored.

We urge that this information be made available to the public and that a compensation program that is satisfactory to the affected rancher or ranchers be developed.

SO-11 2. Compensation satisfactory to the rancher for the loss of any federal grazing permits or state leases due to the establishment of a the new range should be guaranteed. Part of that compensation should be allowing the current permittee(s) or lessee(s) and their heirs or successors to continue to graze the withdrawn land at a fee not to exceed the federal grazing fee on similar lands in the area. Any waterlines, fences, roads or other range improvements needed to maintain the economic viability of the remainder of the affected allotments or leases , or grazing lands received as compensation in kind, must be authorized. This document must constitute the analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Unless the range improvements can be completed, both administratively and physically, simultaneous with the physical withdrawal of the lands by the USAF, this alternative should not be considered viable.

SO-5 3. The negative impact of increased aircraft noise on private property values has been totally ignored. If the current trends regarding federal lands grazing continue, our federal grazing permits and many of our state grazing leases will become valueless. If grazing permits are lost, in whole or in part, or the permits lose their economic viability, the sole remaining asset in our ranches which will retain value is our private land. That land generally has value only for agricultural or recreational purposes. Without viable federal permits and state leases, the agricultural value will be minimal. Increased aircraft noise would greatly diminish the recreational value of our property. The flood of negative comments regarding increased aircraft noise and recreation values on federal lands is ample proof of this fact.

All private property owners who would experience increased aircraft noise must be contacted and that mitigation and compensation programs satisfactory to the landowners be developed. We have already assisted the USAF in the identification of affected names and locations.

Compensation could be monetary or in kind - such as road maintenance, assistance in fire suppression, assistance in fire control during prescribed burns, and providing Noise Level Reduction modifications to residences and camps. Mitigation measures could include strict and enforceable commitments to avoid increased noise levels when residences or camps are occupied, or when activities are being conducted which would be disrupted by increased noise. Independent third party monitoring of noise levels would be essential to any enforceable commitment.

An intriguing possibility exists regarding emitter sites. Apparently emitter sites will result in reduced noise levels in the immediate area due to aircraft avoidance of these sites. Perhaps emitter sites could be leased on private property as a mitigating and compensatory measure. The final decision should make this option available if needed.

4. We understand that negotiations are underway with the Three Creek Good Roads District and Owyhee County regarding USAF participation in new road construction and

road maintenance where appropriate. We strongly approve of this effort. This process

LU-13 should be completed and satisfactory to the district and county before proceeding further with the EIS process.

5. The provision of water for both federal agency and private fire fighting efforts is appreciated but remains inadequate mitigation for increased fire risks. Excessive fire is destructive to all resource values in the area. Contrary to the conclusions of this document, we are certain that the increased human presence and vehicle traffic in the area will increase fire frequency.

The range site should have a trained and equipped crew consisting of a water pumping truck, a water tanker for refilling pumpers, and a road grader. Fire suppression efforts should be coordinated with the Interagency Fire Center on federal lands, the State Department of Lands on state lands, and private property owners on private lands. This crew should be made available to suppress fires off the range site in a manner similar to the way neighboring fire departments cooperate. This fire suppression asset would mitigate many of the negative impacts on other interests. See #1 for mitigation to ranchers. Other resource values, such as sage grouse habitat, deer and antelope winter habitat would also benefit.

Making this crew available for fire control during prescribed burns on federal, state and private land would also provide mitigation for ranchers and other resource values. The seasonal nature of fire suppression and prescribed fires would make this crew and equipment available for road maintenance efforts at other times of the year. Because the equipment could serve dual purposes, and because a thorough knowledge of the area's roads would be of value for both road work and fire suppression actions, we believe this effort would be a very economical and effective mitigation for many resource issues.

LU-10 6. The discussion in Appendix M of how a Resource Management Plan would be prepared for the range site makes no mention of coordinating with the Owyhee County Land Use Plan.. The final document must recognize the significance of county efforts to guide rangeland use and management and must provide for USAF coordination with that effort.

SO-13 7. The withdrawal action should stipulate that if the USAF abandons the range in the future that grazing right preferences would be reestablished and reassigned to the permittee(s) or lessees(s), or their heirs or successors, from whom they were acquired. .

BI-47 8. Increased traffic in these remote areas will increase the risk of weed introduction and spread. Actions to prevent introduction and mitigate spread should be specified and coordinated with Owyhee County.

SF-15 9, The need for increased provision of emergency medical services in this area has not been addressed. The final document must provide an assessment of increased risk and an assessment of potential mitigation for inadequate services.

PR-26 10. Specific written agreements between affected parties indicating resolution of issues 1 through 5 and 8 above should be accomplished before the record of decision is finalized.

As we have so often in the past, we would be happy to meet and work with you on addressing these concerns. We sincerely hope these concerns can be adequately addressed in the development of a viable action alternative. We remain convinced that the needs of the ranchers and the USAF can both be accommodated if the will to seek that accommodation exists.

Sincerely,

Eric Davis

Eric Davis, Chairman

001180

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been working with the Air Force over the proposed development of a supersonic battlefield. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement the Foundation finds that the project will be detrimental to bighorn sheep populations in Southwestern Idaho. Your support is needed. Please sign this letter, add your comments and mail to the address listed.

clip here

June, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-3 To Whom it May Concern:
As a member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep I would like the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to re-establish a trapping and transplanting program from the California Bighorn sheep populations in Owyhee County, Idaho. This program has provided transplant stock to unoccupied habitat in the Western United States.

The best means to re-establish this program, which has not occurred since 1992, is by supporting the no action alternative (no development of a tactical and electronic air combat bombing range in Southwestern Idaho) in the United States Air Force's proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho-Environmental Impact Statement.

Also, I would like to see the United States Air Force mitigate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game concerning supersonic and subsonic overflight relief during lambing season and the annual hunting season, as the 366th Composite Wing at Mountain Home Air Base currently trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Signature Required

Robert D. Brazia

Name Robert D Brazia
Address 1854 Table Rock
City Boise State ID Zip 83712

Comments: I have had the opportunity To hunt California Bighorn sheep in the Big Jacks Creek Complex This Fall (1997). There are considerable numbers of animals which have not been (even) overflown supersonic or low level. Also There are numerous

001181

GE-2 Idaho Conservation League Comments

on

Department of the Air Force

Enhanced Training in Idaho

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

001181

Since 1989 the Air Force has published four Environmental Impact Statements in its attempt to establish a new tactical training range in Idaho. Only the Air Force in Idaho EIS in 1992 which established the 366th Composite Wing at Mtn. Home AFB has been completed. Since the Wing's arrival, however, the Air Force has continually pointed to it as the justification for creation of new range capabilities in southwest Idaho.

The Purpose and Need section of the ETI-DEIS continues to point to the training needs of the 366th Composite Wing as the justification for the current range development proposal.

In a suit brought by Greater Owyhee Legal Defense (GOLD) in 1992, the Federal District Court ruled that the Air Force wrongly separated environmental analyses for siting the composite wing at Mtn. Home AFB and a proposed new tactical range for wing training.

The Air Force intended at the time of the Air Force in Idaho EIS to pursue new training for the wing but it excluded consideration of the Idaho Training Range proposal in the AFI Composite Wing impact statement. The Court said, "The failure to include a study of the environmental impacts of the Idaho Training Range...was an abuse of discretion or otherwise not in accordance with law."

"The Administrative Record...shows that the (range) was pulled back out of the EIS...because of a concern that environmental opposition to the Range might delay the Composite Wing beddown," wrote Federal Magistrate Mikel Williams.

DP-4 The Court ruled the Air Force must start over again with a combined environmental impact statement that evaluates both the composite wing and its training needs.

DP-7 The Idaho Conservation League maintains that any environmental evaluation of new training facilities for the Composite Wing, such as the current ETI, must be consistent with this ruling.

The ETI-DEIS is not the combined EIS ordered by the court.

Because of the inadequacies in the 1992 AFI-EIS and the court's ruling, the training activities approved in the Record of Decision (i.e. supersonic overflight, air space modifications, and use of chaff and flares throughout the MOAs over southwestern Idaho) are considered not legal by the Idaho Conservation League.

The current ETI-DEIS points directly at the 366th Composite Wing as the justification for the establishment of new tactical training facilities in southwest Idaho. This confirms GOLD's contention that the siting of the Composite Wing at Mtn. Home AFB in 1992 and the quest for new tactical training facilities are connected actions.

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The National Environmental Policy Act states:

> "Connected actions...are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification...and therefore should be discussed in the same impact statement." §1508.25 (a)(1)

In the light of the court's order for a combined EIS, the NEPA regulations, and the fact that the ETI-DEIS is not a combined EIS, ICL must conclude that the Air Force has chosen to proceed along a course which is fundamentally illegal.

ICL's view is that the issue of whether additional training facilities for the Composite Wing are "needed", "necessary", or are for "enhancement", or whether some other characterization is applied, is not the primary legal question. The legal questions revolve around the NEPA requirements: comprehensive evaluation of connected actions, cumulative actions, and cumulative impacts.

PR-12 NEPA requires an environmental impact statement to "provide a full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts." The ETI-DEIS fails in this requirement. Again and again the ETI-DEIS avoids the crucial analysis of environmental impacts by stating that the impact of a described action would be "slight" or "insignificant" or that there would be "no impact." Other times potential impacts of proposed actions are not discussed at all. In discussing fire risk in Alternative B, the storage of diesel fuel is not seen as a fire risk because the tanks and their use would, "comply with all current federal and state safety standards for fuel storage tanks." The possible impacts of fuel handling, transport, and spillage are not discussed. There is not analysis of fire risk due to heated targets because their, "installation and maintenance would be in compliance with all federal and state standards for such equipment." These attempts to avoid analysis of impacts for proposed actions beg the question. One gets the impression when reading the ETI-DEIS that the proposal is without impact to the environment. Yet when one steps back and looks at the proposal as a whole it is clear that there would be significant impacts for a proposal of this scope.

SF-13

In Section 4.11, Recreational and Visual Resources, readers are told that a proposal which includes an air-to-ground bombing range; target industrial sites; a railyard; 30 threat emitter sites with buildings, fuel storage tanks, and 40 foot antennae; and 200 life-sized tank and vehicle targets spread over an area of about one million acres would have only a "limited effect on visual resources," however, "these impacts are not expected to be significant." This is not a full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts.

RV-5

PR-12 In Section 5.0, Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources, there is no mention of the loss of natural character of the environment. No mention of loss of solitude, natural panoramic vistas, natural quiet, natural soundscape, or loss of wildlife due to noise, disturbance, and intrusion.

PR-22 In Section 2.6, Cumulative Impacts, the ETI-DEIS "proposal" is characterized as a single action, rather than a collection of actions. This is characteristic of a fundamental flaw in the analysis of impacts addressed in the ETI-DEIS. Each component of the ETI-DEIS proposal is described as a single action and the impacts of each component are treated as single impacts. There is no frank, realistic analysis of the cumulative impacts of the many actions proposed in the ETI-DEIS. This could be interpreted as an attempt to disguise or conceal impacts of this proposal. A lie of omission rather commission, if you will. If the Air Force doesn't mention cumulative impacts maybe no one else will notice their absence. This, in spite of the fact that the ETI-DEIS has many sections purportedly devoted to cumulative impacts. If the cumulative impacts sections of the DEIS do not deal adequately with cumulative impacts, what will?

The Air Force has a history in Idaho of attempting conceal the impacts of their proposals through the use of poor science, failure to disclose impacts, and failure to analyze the cumulative impacts of related actions.

DP-4 Air Force efforts to expand training facilities in Idaho for the composite wing have been characterized by fragmentation. This piecemealing approach violates the requirements of NEPA to evaluate connected and cumulative actions in one EIS.

In 1992 the Air Force in Idaho EIS (declared illegal by the U.S. District Court) evaluated B-52 bombers as a component of the composite wing. In 1996, the Air Force substituted B-1 bombers for the B-52s. An Environmental Assessment concluded that the B-1 substitution would have no significant impact even though the B-1 is a large, noisy, supersonic bomber. The Air Force said that they wouldn't fly the B-1s supersonic, therefore there was no need to evaluate supersonic noise levels for the B-1 or how they would add to the cumulative impact of the noise levels of other aircraft. B-1s have been flying supersonic in Idaho airspace and are implicated in damage to the windows and foundation of the Castleford Highschool. NO-18

At the Grasmere emitter site, the Air Force had an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management that they could install mobile facilities on public land. The Air Force proceeded to install permanent facilities in violation of the agreement. They contracted with Idaho Power Company to construct a large array of solar panels in order to provide power for the site. BLM was not notified. There was no public involvement. There has been no

environmental evaluation of the impacts of this highly visible emitter site in spite of the fact that it is in close proximity to several Wilderness Study Areas. The Grasmere emitter is an integral part of any training range constructed in Idaho by the Air Force.

The initiation of ETI-DEIS is a continuing separation of environmental evaluation just as was the defeated ITR (Idaho Training Range) EIS. The Court ruled the '92 Air Force in Idaho (AFI) EIS illegal precisely because it separated environmental evaluation of connected actions.

DP-7 There is no mention of the Grasmere Emitter Site or the addition of the B-1 Bomber to the Composite Wing as potential connected actions or cumulative impacts. Both issues should be analyzed in the ETI-DEIS as connected actions which have cumulative impacts.

The manner of designating overlapping regions of influence (ROI) is needlessly confusing. It makes the discussion of impacts more difficult to follow and more difficult to understand.

NEPA regulations state that, "Statements shall be concise, clear, and to the point, and shall be supported by evidence that the agency has made the necessary environmental analyses." The PR-12 ETI-DEIS is not clear and to the point. It seems to ramble and obfuscate. Information that should be presented in one place is dispersed throughout the document. It is not clear that the Air Force has made the necessary environmental analyses. P. 4-108 BI-32 states, "Information about noise effects on sage grouse is not available in the literature."

Noise analysis in the DEIS is flawed and inadequate. There are two sections in the ETI-DEIS dealing with noise. Neither discussion makes clear what the noise impacts will really be like. Recent documents which are part of the Air Force 1996-97 Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Research, Development and Acquisition Strategic Plan say that the applicability of the Air Force's current methods of noise analysis to areas of practical interest to the Air Force "has never been demonstrated," and that NO-11 the Air Force needs to develop legally defensible noise analysis methods to establish, maintain or change military airspace and to predict the annoyance of sporadic sonic booms over largely dispersed populations. The plan shows that the Air Force knew the noise studies used the ETI-DEIS are invalid. The Air Force needs to make the necessary environmental analyses regarding noise. Without valid noise analysis the ETI-DEIS is invalid.

NEPA regulations state, "Environmental Impact Statements shall be analytic rather than encyclopedic." On July 18, 1997, Brian Goller was informed by Sheri Freemuth of SAIC that Section 7.0, References, was actually more of a bibliography of references and contained many more references that are actually cited in the ETI-DEIS. Mr. Goller was also informed that the list of references actually cited in the ETI-DEIS was available but would have to be requested through the office of Lt. Col. Tom Lillie or Col. Pease. This appears to be a deliberate effort to be encyclopedic rather than analytic and to restrict access to helpful information.

NEPA regulations state, "if a cost-benefit analysis relevant to the choice among environmentally different alternatives is being considered for the proposed action, it shall by incorporated by reference or appended to the statement as an aid in evaluating the environmental consequences."

The need for efficiency has long been a primary argument for developing new tactical training facilities in southwest Idaho. The Air Force produced one cost-benefit analysis which was evaluated by the Department of Defense Inspector General in Audit Report No. 95-274, released June, 1995. The DoD Audit Report stated that, "any exception to the general policy of downsizing DoD infrastructure needs to be based on well documented requirements and cost benefit analyses." The report found that the Air Force cost-benefit analysis was not valid.

PN-9 Given the reliance upon the argument for cost-efficiency and the previous invalid cost-benefit analysis, the Air Force needs to follow up with a valid cost-benefit analysis of training in Idaho compared with using other nearby ranges.

The Department of Defense is seeking expanded training facilities in many states at a time when it is officially downsizing infrastructure and closing bases. The Air Force and the Department of Defense need to prepare a programmatic EIS to evaluate military training needs and facilities on a nationwide basis prior to any further expansions, including the ETI-DEIS.

The Air Force does themselves and the American people a disservice when they continue to pursue an environmentally damaging project which they do not need. The continuing specious arguments for the project and efforts to divide the citizenry against one another in order to gain advantage contribute to the growing cynicism which is destroying our democratic government. The Air Force has millions of acres of training ranges available to it now. Some are quite close to Mtn. Home AFB. The Composite Wing is well trained and combat ready. The Air Force could gain immeasurably in public esteem by giving up this proposal and joining those who seek to protect the wonderful and mysterious Owyhee.

Written for ICL by Brian Goller

Brian Goller

WESTERN SHOSHONE DEFENSE PROJECT
P.O. Box 211106, Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821 ph: 702-468-0230, fax: 702-468-0237, email: wsdp@igc.org

September 1, 1997

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

Re: Comments on Enhanced Training in Idaho, DEIS

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to express concerns regarding the Air Force's planned expansions, termed Enhanced Training in Idaho. As a citizen of the Western Shoshone Nation, I am opposed to the ongoing and increasing militarization of Newe Sogobia (Western Shoshone homelands). When the Air Force refers to "Government to Government" relations, they must bear in mind that one community does not speak for the Nation. There are more than ten communities that comprise the Western Shoshone Nation. To date, many of these communities have been impacted by military operations and undoubtedly have concerns about the Air Force's expansions.

The Creator bestowed upon the Western Shoshone the rights and responsibilities to protect all life within our territory. That includes the lands, waters and the air upon which all life depends. These things are sacred to us. As my relatives, both young and old, who live in Duck Valley, expressed at the June scoping meeting, our lands are inextricably linked to our culture, spirituality and way of life. The health of these lands is necessary to teach our children the traditional ways. The contamination and disturbances to our territory prevents us from gathering native foods, visiting places for prayer, and destroys the resting grounds of our ancestors. Clearly, the military has no respect for life or the indigenous people.

Treaty of Ruby Valley and International Law

The DEIS makes reference to the 1863 Treaty of Peace and Friendship at Ruby Valley between the United States and the Shoshone Nation (p.3-192). The US Constitution states that Treaties are the "Supreme Law of the Land." The 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley between the US and the Western Shoshone Nation has never been superseded by any legal means. Therefore, the lands which the Treaty affirms as belonging to the Western Shoshone Nation are still under Western Shoshone jurisdiction. It is important to note that cash payments, such as the Claims Commission money, as referenced by the Air Force in the DEIS, does not nullify a Treaty. One does not buy or sell inherent sovereign rights.—The Treaty was and still is a recognition of these rights by the US. As an agreement between two nations, neither nation can make unilateral decisions that impact the other Nation. Since its signing, the US has continued to undermine the Treaty with actions such as the Indian Land Claims Commission award and now, by granting lands and airspace to the military.

The current Draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the US is a part of, further supports the position of the Western Shoshone Nation. Articles 36 and 28 are particularly relevant

Article 36

Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors, according to their original spirit and intent, and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and

other constructive arrangements. Conflicts and disputes which cannot otherwise be settled should be submitted to competent international bodies agreed to by all parties concerned

Article 28

Indigenous Peoples have the right to the conservation, restoration and protection of the total environment and the productive capacity of their lands, territories and resources, as well as to assistance for this purpose from States and through international cooperation. Military activities shall not take place in the lands and territories of indigenous peoples, unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned.

States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands and territories of indigenous peoples.

The Western Shoshone are currently in the process of applying this Declaration and other International laws to protest the United States' and its agencies' illegal usurpation of Western Shoshone rights and responsibilities. A human rights violation case has been filed against the US Government before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, a function of the Organization of American States. This case builds on the long and unrelenting struggle of the Western Shoshone Nation to secure their land rights. As a federal agency that continues to claim jurisdiction over Newe Sogobia, the Air Force is a part of this case. The Air Force should not proceed with any further actions until this case has been justly resolved.

Additionally, in 1995, the Western Shoshone National Council filed a motion to intervene in a Department of Justice lawsuit against Nye County. The National Council's intervention is part of an ongoing effort to force the United States to examine how it acquired jurisdiction over Western Shoshone homelands. Until this matter has been justly resolved, the Air Force should abstain from acquiring and/or using Western Shoshone lands or airspace.

Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898

Additionally, the Air Force violates the intent of Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." This Order calls for the Department of Defense and other federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs and activities on minority populations. Whether the Air Force recognizes it or not, indigenous peoples within the western US are disproportionately adversely affected by military operations. Essentially every base in the western US is operating on Native lands. Despite the rumors of base closures and budget cuts, the bases in the west are in the middle of enormous expansions, without the consent and input from the indigenous peoples. In the Great Basin alone, all the military bases are expanding: Mountain Home Air Force Base on Paiute and Western Shoshone lands; the Utah Training Range on Shoshone and Goshute lands; Hill Air Force Base on Shoshone and Goshute lands; Nellis Air Force Base on Western Shoshone lands; and Naval Air Station, Fallon on Western Shoshone and Paiute lands.

SO-17 Executive Order 12898 calls for an Inter Agency Working Group (section 1-102) to address issues of Environmental Justice. We demand that a Working Group compile an assessment of the past and planned impacts of military activities on the health of Native lands and peoples. As indigenous peoples, Western Shoshone and Paiute way of life is based on relationships with our lands. Our church is outside; our food is the plants, animals and fish. These things are not factored into your findings of "no significant impacts."

The indigenous peoples have been given the responsibility to speak for the health of the future generations and of those lives who have no voice. The military, including this DEIS, has tried to piecemeal their bombing ranges, air space expansions, land withdrawals, etc. into small supposedly unrelated and insignificant packages. This is an insult. If the Air Force is sincere in following the requirements of the National

PN-5 Environmental Policy Act, we should be provided comprehensive, substantive and accurate information. The only way to do this is to complete a National Needs Assessment. This study should document the need for current expansions, long-term plans of the military, direct and indirect impacts, as well as the means for citizen participation. The Air Force's DEIS should be put on hold until this Assessment is completed.

Chaff

Throughout the document there is a lack of substantive analysis of the impacts to Western Shoshone and Paiute lands. Over ten trillion chaff fibers have been dropped on Western Shoshone and Paiute lands over the last twenty years. The fibers are microfine aluminum coated fiberglass. Chaff poses a respiratory risk to humans and animals. Even though other military studies (Alaska Military Operations, Bradley International Airport and Andrews Air Force Base) have found possible risks associated with the use of chaff, this DEIS considers the ETI to be the exception. Now the Air Force wants to increase chaff use by 55% in the Paradise MOA (p.2-73). Once again, the Air Force demonstrates a total disrespect for life and the elements which sustain us all.

SF-1

SF-3 This is also an Environmental Justice issue. Only in the rural areas and on Native lands would the Air Force get away with such abuses and experimentation on humans, animals and the environment. Until an independent study of the health and environmental impacts of chaff, including the impacts on indigenous people who continue to hunt, fish and gather wild plants, has been completed, approval of this DEIS poses a potentially unacceptable risk.

Titanium Tetrachloride

HZ-2 The Air Force intends to drop "Cold Spot Cartridges" containing titanium tetrachloride on Western Shoshone and Paiute lands. In the DEIS discussion of the impacts of this chemical, the document states that titanium tetrachloride "quickly becomes inert and dissipates." (p.2-70) Yet E.I. duPont deNemours & Co., the manufacturer of this chemical warns that "titanium tetrachloride is a powerful desiccant and contact with the liquid product will cause burns from both chemical and thermal effects. The vapor is also hazardous and is extremely irritating to the skin, eyes, nose and throat. Overexposure to the vapor may cause burns to the eyes and lungs."

Based on this warning, as well as OSHA, and other federal, state and health organizations precautions with titanium tetrachloride, it is imperative the Air Force re-evaluate the human health and environmental risks associated with titanium tetrachloride.

Electronic Warfare Sites and Radioactivity

SF-2 Threat emitters are military air combat training radar emitters, set-up to simulate enemy military facilities and air combat scenarios. The emitters expel powerful non-ionizing radiation. The Naval Air Station, Fallon has already admitted that five of their current emitters pose electromagnetic radiation hazards to the land and the public. The Navy is also in the middle of a proposed expansion, including twenty five additional threat emitters in Central Nevada, Western Shoshone territory. Western Shoshone and Paiute have been very vocal opponents to these expansions.

The Air Force's proposal to place, whether mobile or stationary, another thirty electronic warfare sites is unreasonable and duplicative. There are already sixty nine electronic warfare sites in Central Nevada alone. Nevada is presently home to the most intensive and extensive use of lands by the military. Western Shoshone country is also the most bombed nation on earth; over 1,000 nuclear detonations have occurred since the 1950s. The effects of radioactive fallout and contamination are still not clearly understood or researched.

Western Shoshone people and lands, as well as other indigenous peoples from around the world, have been the military's guinea pigs for too long. This is yet another Environmental Justice issue. Any further intentional release of radiation in Newe Sogobia is entirely unacceptable.

AQ-2 Additionally, the impacts of the noise and air pollution from the diesel generators fueling the emitters should be included in the DEIS based on the maximum length of operation per day, seven days a week (p.4-27).

Noise

NO-12 The DEIS greatly underestimates the severity of disturbances from overflight noise and sonic booms. The DEIS states that sonic booms will increase by 75% in the Sailor Creek area and 50% in the Jarbidge/Bruneau MOAs. During the scoping meeting in Duck Valley in June, 1997 many speakers mentioned that the noise levels had a greater impact on their children and elders. The DEIS noise studies should differentiate these impacts. The studies should also analyze the effects of noise beyond the categories of "annoyance" levels and by simply stating that people may be startled (p.4-15). Noise levels used are for aircraft cruising on Military Training Routes, not for aircraft maneuvering in a MOA (p.4-11-13). This results in lower figures and misleading the public. Additionally, it appears that noise studies refer to a single aircraft instead of several aircraft operating as the Composite Wing. Again, this misrepresentation results in significantly lower figures and misleads the public. The noise analysis in the DEIS is based on the Shultz curze which factors a mix of tram, railroad, road and aircraft noise in urban communities—not aircraft noise in a rural and wilderness environment. In all, the noise studies in the DEIS are insufficient and misleading and should be redone.

NO-21

NO-5

NO-20

NO-2

Conclusion

The military is involved in yet another land and airspace grab. In the case of Enhanced Training in Idaho, the Air Force is grabbing for land that is not the US government's to give away. Land and Air cannot be bartered and sold based on findings of significant or insignificant impacts. Land is the home to all life; it contains the waters upon which all life depends. Land is sacred to the indigenous peoples. To dump toxic chemicals, microfine aluminum particles, and aim lasers on her, is to destroy our Mother that created and sustains us. As a traditional Western Shoshone, I must speak for the unborn that are not yet here. On behalf of the future generations and for the survival of the earth, I can not permit the Air Force's Enhanced Training in Idaho.

Carrie Dann

Carrie Dann, citizen of the Western Shoshone Nation
Director, Western Shoshone Defense Project

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

IDAHO OFFICE

September 6, 1997

U. S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
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The following are the comments of The Wilderness Society on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI). The Wilderness Society is also supporting the comments submitted by the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition as well as other comments submitted by the member groups of the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition.

While these comments are by no means all inclusive, they do outline some of the major concerns TWS has with the ETI proposal. And, while we appreciate the Air Force extending the comment period an additional 30 days, more time would have allowed us to provide even more substantial comments and suggestions. In the future, we suggest the Air Force compare current public opinion on other DEIS comment periods with their own. (i.e. Owyhee Resource Management Plan - 300 days, Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan - 270 days) While the legal requirement may be 90 days, the court of public opinion is requiring more time to thoughtfully look at and comment on documents several hundred pages in length or more. For example, the ORMP is a smaller document and covers a smaller amount of area, however, the issues are almost as broad as the issues under ETI.

About The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society (TWS) is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the wise management and conservation of public lands resources, specifically, the establishment and preservation of wilderness. The Wilderness Society has been working since 1935 to preserve wilderness and wildlife, protect America's prime forests, parks, rivers, deserts, and shorelands and to foster an American land ethic. Attached is our yearly magazine (1996), semiannual newsletter (July 1997) and special reports, America's 10 Most Endangered Wildlands and America's Bounty Our National Lands. These publications describe the work and mission of TWS, and some specifically discuss the Owyhee Canyonlands region of Idaho, Oregon and Nevada.

The Wilderness Society has 340,000 members, with 1,600 members in Idaho. Our members use the Owyhee Canyonlands region for recreational pursuits including hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, solitude, river floating and appreciating the outstanding scenic

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C

and cultural resources in the area. The use and enjoyment of these areas is currently being adversely affected by Air Force training and these impacts would significantly increase if alternatives B, C, or D were chosen under the ETI proposal.

About the Owyhee Canyonlands

The Owyhee Canyonlands embody what the West once was - solitude, silence, wide open spaces and sweeping vistas without a sign of man for many miles. The bad "roads", or two-tracks as the locals affectionately call them, make access difficult, if not impossible. Numerous wilderness study areas, candidate wild and scenic rivers, areas of critical environmental concern, sensitive wildlife, fish and plant species, nationally registered historic places and archeological districts and world class recreation opportunities are just some of the unique and irreplaceable features of this wild landscape.

The Owyhee Canyonlands are a region encompassing southwestern Idaho, southeastern Oregon and northern Nevada. This ecosystem is one of the most rugged, remote and least-known high desert canyon complexes in North America, and that's just BLM's description. Enclosed are some brochures and other publications which describe the Owyhee Canyonlands. Included is a brochure which proposes the idea that this region should be designated a National Conservation Area. This is not a new idea, but one which has been talked about for years. In fact, on numerous occasions we have discussed this idea with officials from the Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management. Some details of the NCA concept are also attached. The document, Owyhee Uplands National Conservation Area, was included in comments to the BLM on their proposed Owyhee Resource Management Plan.

Another brochure enclosed describes the resources of the proposed Jack's Creek Wilderness Area. This proposal includes the Big Jack's Creek, Little Jack's Creek and Duncan Creek Wilderness Study Areas. This spectacular area offers a taste of the rest of the Owyhee Canyonlands with relatively easy access. The Jack's Creek area also contains special bighorn sheep management areas and a research natural area encompassing several vegetation type communities. Areas like Jack's Creek provide year round recreation opportunities which can be enjoyed by everyone.

Recreation

Over 350 miles of rivers in the Owyhee Canyonlands have been found eligible for designation as wild and scenic rivers. The Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers both have Class A Scenic Quality. One of the attractions to floating these rivers are the frequent opportunities to hike out of the canyons and view the entire region from a different perspective. Another spectacular feature of these canyons is the night sky with incredible stars. More and more Americans are discovering the Owyhee Canyonlands area and floating its rivers. Enclosed is a four-part feature article from the San Francisco Examiner detailing the experience of running these rivers. You can bet many more Californians will be calling Idaho outfitters to run these famed rapids.

In 1995 the BLM produced the report Public Rewards From Public Lands. Enclosed is a copy of the information from the report on Idaho, Oregon and Nevada. The Idaho description is particularly interesting since the majority of BLM managed lands are in Owyhee and Twin Falls Counties. The report details what activities are most common on BLM lands and the estimated value of these visits. For 1994 alone, wildlife-associated recreation contributed $26,612,000 to Idaho's economy and hunting trips brought in $49,240,000. With Southwest Idaho being the center of these activities resulting in millions of dollars it is easy to see why the Owyhee Canyonlands are developing quite a reputation.

Problems

DP-73 There are a number of problems with current Air Force training in the Owyhee Canyonlands. These problems should be resolved before any new proposals for expanding existing training are considered. Alternative A, No Action, does not address these on-going problems, nor does it propose any solutions to these problems. The lack of evidence of the Air Force being forthcoming and identifying and resolving current unacceptable situations is evident in the DEIS for ETI. While those affected by current training activities have heard promises of being a good neighbor and finding solutions which balance the environment with training needs, there are no actions or efforts to back up these claims.

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley have been repeatedly exposed to low-level and super-sonic training flights over the reservation. Their windows have been broken, children and elders frightened, structures damaged, chaff, flares and other ordinance dropped on their homes and continual harassment while traveling to and from Duck Valley by aircraft has occurred. Even after the tribes signed a settlement agreement with the Air Force one year ago, these unacceptable activities have continued to occur. The Air Force and other branches of the military, including the National Guard, must work with the Shoshone-Paiute to resolve these problems. The Air Force should take the lead in working with the other branches of the military in finding solutions and avoiding the Shoshone-Paiute. By working out and adhering to a better agreement with all users and those affected, the Air Force will be dealing with one of the major problems that must be addressed before the tribes and anyone else should consider expanded training proposals.

Recreationists including campers, hikers, hunters and river floaters have had similar experiences to the Shoshone-Paiute in being harassed by aircraft, chaff and flares dropped on them and unacceptable levels of low-level and super-sonic flights, including sonic booms. Again, the Air Force should take the lead in coordinating with other branches of the military, a workable solution to the complaints of those recreating in the Owyhee Canyonlands. For years river runners and hunters have complained of noise levels affecting their experience and enjoyment of the Owyhee Canyonlands. When recreationists have called the Air Force to complain about a particular situation, most often they are told it was not the Air Force at fault, but another branch of the military. This is often the same experience members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes have had when they place similar calls. It is not acceptable to have the Air Force on one hand being the primary user of the airspace above the Owyhee Canyonlands, and on the other hand, claiming no responsibility for other users actions. The buck needs to stop some where. There is no reason agreements with other branches of the military and the Air Force for use of the airspace cannot be

negotiated. This would allow more confidence in the Air Force from the public and users of the Owyhee Canyonlands. This will also allow the Air Force to negotiate seasonal restrictions for wildlife and recreational purposes. These mitigation measures should set up in conjunction with agencies like Idaho Fish and Game and BLM staff. The seasonal agreements should be established to address problems with current use before any new proposals for expanding training are even considered.

DP-74 The impacts from introducing super-sonic flights over the Owyhee Canyonlands in 1992 has never been truly analyzed. The Air Force has still not received the approval of the FAA for the airspace modifications necessary for super-sonic exercises. There has been no analysis of the

BI-56 impacts of super-sonic flight to wildlife, specifically bighorn sheep and sage grouse. Additionally, the increase in low-level flights may be affecting wildlife as well. The Air Force should work with Fish and Game to analyze any past, current and future impacts to wildlife from the introduction of super-sonic flights and associated sonic booms. The Air Force should also work with BLM to analyze any past, current and future impacts of these same flights to WSA's and their wilderness potential. This analysis should also look at the wilderness potential and how it may be affected by the dropping of chaff and flares.. Increased use of this ordinance in the Owyhee Canyonlands over the years is beginning to lead to accumulation of litter, which is by BLM standards illegal. There should be no double standards for other public lands users and the military when it comes to littering on public lands. The BLM is currently developing policy recommendations which will try to address these problems. Until these policies are developed, we recommend the Air Force discontinue dropping chaff on public lands, at least within the airspace affected by the ETI proposal. This is an opportunity for the Air Force to provide a solution to a problem on a local basis.

Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Concerns

While The Wilderness Society is not in a position to speak for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, we feel it is important to echo their concerns which have yet to be addressed in the DEIS. First,

CU-14 the ETI proposal fails to acknowledge Shoshone-Paiute Tribal sovereignty over the affected lands. The issue of title to the tribes' aboriginal territory has never been legally extinguished. This issue seems to be ignored in the DEIS and should be discussed within the context of area treaties.

PR-21 Another specific concern lies with the BLM and their role under the Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments - 4/29/94 Presidential Memorandum. As a cooperating agency, the leading one even, the BLM also has a responsibility to comply with this memorandum. The BLM has made no effort to work with the Tribes in regards to this proposal. A true open and candid consultation process, including working cooperatively with other Federal departments and agencies, should be initiated and continued.

CU-15 Third, discussion of overall impacts and cumulative impacts to cultural resources as well as the Shoshone-Paiute culture is incomplete and misleading. On one hand, the DEIS asserts that impacts will be minimal and through agreements like the "Good Neighbor" Policy the Air Force will be able to address any unknown problems as they arise. On the other hand, current,

unaddressed problems continue and the on-going ethnographic study is vital to determining cumulative and future impacts of these problems as well as proposed expansions. Even the DEIS describes the importance of the ethnographic study and its assistance in identifying sites eligible for protection under a variety of laws. Once the ethnographic study is completed, a more accurate analysis will allow the tribes, the public and managing agencies to gauge the true potential impacts of the ETI proposal, as well as provide information on how to solve on-going

CU-12 problems. Until this ethnographic study is completed, the DEIS is incomplete and should be withdrawn from consideration.

Not only does the unfinished ethnographic study have significant implications for shaping the ETI proposal, but the other uncompleted processes of evaluating cultural resources may produce information critical to decision making. These processes are required, by NEPA and the

CU-1 National Historic Preservation Act as well as other specific regulations, and should be completed and included in a DEIS so the affected tribes, the public and management agencies can consider the potential implications to the identified resources.

One specific regulation which has not been complied with is Section 106 under the NHPA. This process entails identifying and evaluating sites and resources for their significance and integrity and eligibility for the National Register. The process then shifts to developing a mitigation plan and memorandum of agreement between the Air Force, BLM, SHPO and ACHP.

CU-12 All the steps outlined for this process in the DEIS are steps which should be taken before an alternative is selected. The completion of the ethnographic study would also significantly contribute to the Section 106 process, which in turn could have considerable significance to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Until this process is completed, the DEIS should be withdrawn from public consideration. Once the process is completed, the public, affected tribes and management agencies should have the opportunity to comment on those parts of the mitigation plan relevant to the overall enjoyment and protection of these resources. The tribes should also have the opportunity to comment confidentially on all aspects of this process and should help develop the mitigation plan and MOA.

CU-19 The entire section of the DEIS on cultural resources is a surface gloss-over lacking any real discussion or analysis of potential effects of the alternatives. The cumulative impacts section, less than a page, is even more inadequate. This section states there would be no cumulative impacts to cultural resources because the Section 106 process will address, mitigate and resolve problems with the proposal. There is no way to know for certain there will be no cumulative impacts until the Section 106 process is completed. The only way to resolve this problem is to withdraw the proposal until the proper studies have been completed and information is available on which to base projected cumulative impacts. As it stands now, the assertion in the DEIS that there will be no cumulative impacts is just that, an assertion, and is not based on any true scientific studies.

Fourth, just as the incomplete cultural studies may lack crucial information in determining effects of the proposal to cultural sites and what are thought of as traditional cultural resources, there are other resources to which this also applies. Incomplete studies on wildlife and plants

CU-13 need to be completed, including their relationship to spiritual and traditional subsistence use by the Shoshone-Paiute.

CU-20 Also dependent upon the completion of the ethnographic study is a complete understanding of the effects noise and visual intrusions have to the Shoshone-Paiute culture. The importance of solitude, naturalness and a pristine environment to the practice of Shoshone-Paiute religious beliefs is one of the most important and most significant impacts this proposal may have. Yet, the DEIS contains an incomplete analysis of this issue. In fact, the DEIS even goes so far as to say the proposal will have no impacts disproportional to any ethnic or religious populations. This is a false conclusion based on an incomplete DEIS. Until studies are completed which look at the role of naturalness and other values to the Shoshone-Paiute, there is no way to determine if they are being unfairly effected.

Noise

The issue of environmental justice will also affected by the outcomes of corrected noise studies as the studies used in the DEIS are not adequate to determine the effects of noise in a variety of situations. The U.S. Air Force FY 96/97 Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategic Plan identifies the need for a more detailed analysis of the effects of noise levels, sub-sonic, super-sonic and sonic booms to humans, wildlife and structures. The plan also identifies the policies and regulations which require this analysis to better predict the impacts of noise. All of the below mentioned sections and studies must be completed in order to fully comply with NEPA and other regulations.

NO-11 Section 1410 identifies that the data used in the computer programs to calculate noise levels "...is inaccurate in that it does not take into account all aircraft flying in the vicinity of installations". Specifically, this section states, "...the methods used to gather the information required is extremely vulnerable to litigation. The current data collection methods do not provide indisputable data. In fact, the accuracy of the data is totally dependent upon human interpretation and therefore, extremely vulnerable to human error. The Air Force needs to develop a data acquisition system that will record and store actual aircraft flight information and convert it into data that can then be read directly into BASEOPS (the computerized input program for NOISEMAP)." In summary, this section is telling the Air Force that current data is biased by human interpretation and new methods are needed to gather noise level information.

Section 1411 describes the need for studies to predict the annoyance of noise and sonic booms in an outdoor setting, specifically for outdoor recreationists. The Air Force has identified the need for these studies in order to comply with Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, as well as NEPA and other regulations. This is significant for anyone who lives or uses rural areas.

"Because training operations may overfly lands used for outdoor recreation, the Air Force requires the ability to predict the effects of aircraft noise on outdoor recreationist. Much of the special use airspace established and utilized by the Air Force is away from populated areas, as a result the outdoor recreationist is subjected to the aircraft overflight and noise exposure. Federal

and state agencies which control the areas largely utilized by the outdoor recreationist have recently made the attempt to exert greater control over the airspace above the resources for which they are responsible, including that utilized by military aircraft. Today, no quantitative dosage-response relationship has been developed for predicting annoyance in these circumstances, and information which such a relationship could be based is in short supply." The report goes on to say, "(c)onsidering the great value of reliable information about recreationists' reaction to aircraft overflights, it is worthwhile to the Air Force to undertake a study in an outdoor recreational setting."

In typical government style, the report identifies the potential costs not as monetary (or environmental), but rather the potential risk to the continuation of military training operations over non-populated areas. The Air Force also identifies the need for this information to establish, maintain or modify airspace. "In addition, adverse impacts due to legal injunction and/or public and political concern has the potential to occur thereby impacting the training mission and ability of the U.S.A.F. to establish and maintain its airspace assets." The report also identifies that this deficiency is prevalent in all branches of the military which use established airspace.

Section 1412 is very specific in the lack of information available on noise and sonic booms. "An improved model to determine the annoyance of noise exposure due to supersonic operations is needed with focus on the sporadic exposure to sparsely populated areas over which AF supersonic operations typically occur."

NO-11 Section 1413 is a real slap in our face considering the ETI proposal. This section describes a new model which was being developed to predict noise exposure from military aircraft operations and the resulting impact to humans, animals and structures. The model is called Assessment System for Aircraft Noise (ASAN). However, it appears ASAN is not referenced as a source for noise prediction in the ETI DEIS. The report specifically states, "(p)rior to the initial release of the ASAN, there exists no systematic methodology for assessing the impacts of aircraft noise and sonic booms to humans, animals and structures." Since this study was still being developed when the report was released (AF FY 96/97), it would appear that the study is still not complete, or just recently completed. In any case, the DEIS has no way to assess the impacts of the proposal on humans, animals and structures. This is a fundamental flaw and should be corrected.

The report also states, "...documents presently use a variety of noise description and assessment models/databases, often being of questionable scientific value." The Air Force admits methods used to calculate the effects of the ETI proposal are flawed and inaccurate. Without these necessary studies completed and analyzed, the DEIS is fundamentally flawed in predicting the noise impacts the proposal could have. Until this is corrected, the proposal should be withdrawn from public consideration. Once the necessary studies have been completed and analyzed, the data should be incorporated into a new DEIS.

Wildlife

The DEIS mentions that of the one million acres most affected by on-the-ground disturbance, 67% is potential sage grouse nesting or wintering habitat, page 3-141. The proposal also states, "(i)n a 46 square-mile area north of Murphy Hot Springs and east of the Jarbidge River, observed numbers of wintering safe grouse declined from 1,500 birds in 1991 to 100 birds in 1995". This is a 93% loss in sage grouse populations in four years. Many parts of the ETI proposal would violate the Idaho sage grouse recovery plan currently being developed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The above example indicates the need to take immediate actions to prevent the extinction of Idaho's sage grouse populations.

BI-18

The sage grouse is just one of many plants and animals which would be significantly impacted by the ETI proposal. These species are important to the Shoshone-Paiute culture as well as popular with hunters. Any adverse impacts to these species must be analyzed to the fullest extent. That means more studies are necessary and more time needs to be taken on the ETI proposal.

BI-12 The Air Force is rushing through the ETI process and have given the public an incomplete DEIS. For example, surveys for deer and antelope will not be completed until the winter of 1997, pages 3-155 to 3-158. Some species have not been surveyed for, nor does the DEIS propose any surveys to fill in the blanks. Page 3-163 under Juniper Butte states, "(n)o bat surveys were conducted in Juniper Butte, but some potential habitat occurs within the area." These are but a few examples of the inadequacy of the DEIS and the unethical process by which the Air Force is pushing their proposal.

Wilderness

LU-14 The BLM has yet to comply with FLPMA with regards to evaluating WSAs in Southwest Idaho. In 1991 the BLM documented in the Idaho Wilderness Study Report the number of training missions scheduled in the MOAs and MTRs for the previous year. The BLM then put the ball in the Air Force's court to evaluate upcoming increases in the numbers of flights over WSAs, including the introduction of supersonic and increased low-level subsonic sorties in the proposed Saylor Creek expansion EIS. So far the Air Force has failed to conduct any type of discussion, evaluation, etc. for the affected WSAs. Given the Saylor Creek bombing range expansion proposal was dropped, the ball was then bounced back to the BLM. The ball has been in the BLM's court for several years now. The BLM must not rely upon another government branch to do their work for them. The BLM must, with full public participation, evaluate the effects such increases and changes are having on the environment. The BLM is fully aware it must do this, but has failed to take action. Hopefully, BLM leadership will quickly realize complying with FLPMA is better than complying with a court order.

NO-22 One only needs to look back at the comments on noise to understand the lack of analysis of the impacts of ETI to the solitude of wilderness. But, to briefly repeat, there are currently no studies in the DEIS which can accurately predict or come close to predicting the impacts of noise on a rural setting, let alone a wilderness area. This is especially true for an area the size of the

Owyhee Canyonlands, an area twice the size of Yellowstone National Park. The ETI DEIS is contradictory of the 1990 Realignment of MHAFB and Proposed Expanded Range Capability DEIS in which the Air Force concluded that aircraft overflights of recreation areas, especially primitive recreation areas, could be a significant environmental impact.

LU-16 The DEIS also fails to analyze the impacts of the use of ordinance to WSAs. The use of chaff over any public lands constitutes littering and should be illegal. The use of chaff over WSA's should be of particular concern to the BLM, since these fiber-glass like strands tend to accumulate over time. For the last few years, recreationists have been finding clumps of chaff in the Owyhee Canyonlands, yet the BLM is only beginning to address the problems associated with the use of this substance. Like chaff, the use of flares is questionable over public lands, particularly WSAs. The use of chaff and flares over WSAs in Southwest Idaho has never been analyzed. The BLM's failure to comply with FLPMA in this case is entirely unacceptable, as is the lack of a similar analysis in the ETI proposal.

NEPA

DP-52 NEPA requires the Air Force to consider a range of alternatives to its proposal in order to make a reasoned choice regarding the selected course of action. 42 U.S.C. 4332; 40 C.F.R. 1502.14. However, in the ETI DEIS, the Air Force has failed to fully evaluate (aside from the required "no action" alternative) any alternative that does not include development in the Owyhee Canyonlands for expanded training capability. Because NEPA requires the consideration of locational alternative (i.e. an expanded range capability that does not include development in Owyhee County), and different methods of achieving the project goal (i.e. use of an expanded Saylor Creek Range with remote range resources), the Air Force has failed to consider a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed action. The decision on the selection of an alternative cannot be intelligently made without examining whether its impacts can be softened or eliminated by modifying training requirements or effectively utilizing existing training ranges in some combination to meet the Air Force's training needs. In fact, in all Air Force proposals for expanding training in Idaho, the Air Force has never conducted the rigorous exploration and objective evaluation of alternatives required under NEPA because it has eliminated the use of more distant ranges from the full alternatives evaluation based on arbitrary constraints.

DP-75

DP-29 The DEIS lacks a true no action alternative as required by NEPA. The DEIS proposes several changes to current operations, including changing type of ordinance from hot to cold spot.

HZ-2 The DEIS contains no analysis of the effects of this change as cold spots use titanium tetrachloride.

DP-5 The no action alternative, as with all the ETI alternatives, lacks a true baseline for determining changes to the environment. For example, in 1990 the BLM documented 365 training missions within the MOAs and 3,548 missions within the MTRs used under the ETI proposal. The BLM study, Idaho Wilderness Study Report, also explains projected increases in low-level subsonic and higher level supersonic overflights will be analyzed in the Saylor Creek bombing range expansion EIS. That particular EIS was never completed and subsequent DEIS documents have failed to fully analyze the increases in flights over WSAs as described in the BLM

DP-76

Idaho Wilderness Study Report. The ETI DEIS continues to fall short of this analysis by using 1992 levels as the baseline for all alternatives. Significant changes and increases in use of the airspace were made between 1990 and 1992, not to mention changes made before 1990. These changes have never been analyzed for their impacts to WSAs, therefore, a true baseline for ETI should include this information.

DP-76 The DEIS continues to fall short of complying with NEPA as under baseline and no action the total annual use of SCR and six associated MOAs is currently listed as 7,737. This change is an increase of 7,372 sorties from 1990 levels. Even though some changes to MTRs have moved some flights from MTRs to MOAs, thus shifting flights and causing an increase in MOA use, this increase is slight when compared to the overall training increases since the composite wing was relocated to MHAFB. This shifting from MTR to MOA also brings up another issue in the ETI DEIS, the lack of analysis of the use of MTRs. This again is treated by the Air Force as part of the baseline and therefore is not analyzed any further. However, this arbitrary baseline means nothing to the resources and residents being affected by current use. The only way to accurately depict changes to the environment related to the ETI proposal is to look at levels of training before the composite wing was relocated here.

Both NEPA and CEQ regulations require an EIS to address the purpose and need for the proposed actions. 40 C.F.R. Sec. 1502.13. The next subsection provides for the rigorous exploration and objective evaluation of alternatives, performed "in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public." Id. at Sec. 1502.14. The agency must also consider alternatives that only meet a portion of the stated need and purpose addressed; the consideration of such alternatives allows the decision maker to consider a tradeoff between preferred alternatives with greater environmental impact and alternatives partially satisfying its goal but imposing less environmental impact.

Needs and purposes cannot be arrived at arbitrarily. To the contrary, the agency must particularize and substantiate both. Stating its desires is not enough; the agency must establish what it actually needs. As the CEQ has stated: "Reasonable alternatives include those that are practical or feasible from the technical and economic standpoint and using common sense, rather than simply desirable from the standpoint of the applicant." CEQ Forty Questions, 46 Fed. Reg. at 18027. By clear implication, the CEQ regulations require purposes and needs to be stated in general terms rather than framed by the agency's desires and proposed action. The purposes and needs relate to "the alternatives including the proposed action". 40 C.F.R. Sec. 1502.13. In other words, the section of the DEIS describing the purpose and need for the proposed action does not particularize and substantiate its technical needs and those of the IDANG for either airspace modifications or military operations training. In fact, this section of the ETI proposal reads more like a wish list of Air Force wants.

DP-47 Hidden under "purpose" is mention of supporting the unique missions of the Air Force's rapid-response air expeditionary wing. There is no analysis what-so-ever of what this type of wing involves, other than a one sentence mention to try and cover it with this DEIS. The AEF wing might be a fairly new concept to the Air Force, however, its generators, leading Naval

officers, have been using similar concepts at navy training facilities. The history and future descriptions of the AEF wings read more like a move to combine training of different branches of the military at the same time. This being the case, it would only make sense for the Air Force to continue to train at other bases since this combined force training seems to be the way of the future.

The CEQ regulations also require that the environmental impact section of an EIS include a discussion of "(p)ossible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of Federal, regional, state and local (and in the case of a reservation, Indian tribe) land use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned." 40 C.F.R. Sec. 1502.16(c). In this case, the Air Force DEIS

LU-10 fails to address many of the relevant land use plans, policies, and laws applicable to the various areas in the study area.

Miscellaneous

DP-16 The DEIS does not adequately address the use of ordnance (flares, surface-to-air missiles,
SF-13 antiaircraft artillery) which may cause significant fires and other resource impacts. Nor does the
HZ-2 DEIS adequately address the use and potential effects of hazardous material. Specifically, the fuel to be used in daily refueling exercises and the use of titanium tetrachloride in the dummy bombs.

SO-15 The economic sections of the ETI proposal miserably fail to evaluate the potential effects to the economies of Owyhee, Elko, Humbolt and Malheur Counties and the communities within those counties, including Duck Valley. There should be a specific economic analysis of the potential effects to Duck Valley and the surrounding resources which contribute to Duck Valley's economy. And, there is no evaluation of the impacts to the quality of life residents of Duck Valley and the surrounding communities will most likely suffer under the ETI proposal.

BI-16 There is no evaluation or proposal to develop a plan to deal with noxious weed dispersal. The increased road building and improvements, structures, power lines and others will create weed corridors for cheatgrass, tumble-mustards and others. Potential increases in fires will also allow establishment of weedy communities to replace native sagebrush-steppe communities. The potential for the significant, long-term decline of these native shrubs, perennial grasses and the wildlife which depend upon them is high.

Summary

The Wilderness Society does not support any alternative in the ETI DEIS. We encourage the Air Force to develop a strategy plan to deal with current problems. This plan should be developed with the help of the BLM as well as other agencies. The plan should look at providing solutions to on-going problems, some of which have been outlined in our comments.

It is unfortunate that the ETI proposal is so similar to previous Air Force proposals. TWS has, for years, provided the Air Force with suggestions, criticism, concerns and ideas on Air Force training in Southwest Idaho, Southeast Oregon and Northern Nevada. With each new proposal, we become more frustrated as few real changes are made to address our concerns. We are

disappointed especially in that many of the comments we and others made during scoping and at prescoping meetings with Air Force personnel were not even carried forward into the DEIS. These same concerns have been brought forth in comments on the DEIS, but many of the necessary changes should be made and then the public should have the ability to comment on them. That would equate to a new DEIS. However, given the track record of the Air Force and the quality of environmental documents produced - we have little faith that until fundamental changes are made in the concept of expanding training and its connection to existing use that a document will ever be produced which addresses these existing as well as new issues connected to expansion.

Sincerely,

Lahsha Johnston
Regional Associate

cc: Council for Environmental Quality
Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Congressional Delegation
Governor Batt

Attachments in file

Captain M. Miller
Chief, 366th Wing PA
366 Gunfighter Av. #152
MHAFB, Id 83648-5291

19 June 1997

GE-1 Dear Captain Miller,

I would like to comment in support of the "ETI" draft EIS. Specifically alternatives, B,C, and D, will work for the residents of Elmore and Owyhee County. I support the findings concerning the projected noise levels, the impacts to wildlife and local ranchers. I do not support the claims of the Shoshone Piautes. They can not change history. They have no more rights to the use of public lands, than any other citizen.

I would also like to tell the air force that not all citizens of Idaho think that Owyhee County should be made a National Park. I for one, think it is just great now and don't want anymore federal land managers from New York telling me what I need to do for Owyhee County, Idaho. I support the "ETI" DEIS.

Corey Decker
Corey Decker
2022 so. Dove
Boise ID 83709

9/09/97 13:18 ☎208 828 4205 366 WG/PA 004

001286

Captain M. Miller
Chief 366th Wing P.A.
366 Gunfighter Av. Suite 152
Mountain Home, AFB, Id. 83648-5291

8-14-97

GE-1 Captain Miller,

I would like to express my support for the "Enhanced Training In Idaho" proposal. The Air Force has incorporated many of the issues and concerns of special interest groups into the three proposed alternatives. I think the Juniper Butte site is the most desirable in my view Specifically, the Juniper Butte site accommodates the concerns of the Native Americans, and the ranchers, and lowers the overall noise levels for most of Owyhee County.

I hope this time, the Air Force completes the NEPA process and builds a range.

Mark Russell
Mark Russell
312 Baker Dr
Mt Home Id 83647-2305

001291

Murray D. Feldman
P.O. Box 2527 - Boise, ID 83701
Telephone (208) 342-5000
Facsimile (208) 343-8369

September 8, 1997

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

Re: Comments on Enhanced Training in Idaho DEIS

Dear U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management:

On behalf of the Greater Owyhee Legal Defense ("GOLD"), I enclose GOLD's Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Enhanced Training in Idaho (April 1997).

GOLD's comments also include certain exhibits that are indexed in an exhibit list attached to the written comments. The exhibits are also enclosed as a separately bound document.

Should you have any questions about these comments or desire additional information or documents, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Murray D. Feldman

MDF:cd
Enclosures
Boise 0081397.01

001291

COMMENTS OF

GREATER OWYHEE LEGAL DEFENSE
("GOLD")

ON THE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO

Submitted by:

Land and Water Fund
of the Rockies
Counsel for GOLD

September 8, 1997

001291

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By World War II, the sparse population of the arid West meant something else: open space for military installations, spaces big enough to fly warplanes across and test weapons in, and land considered worthless enough it could be poisoned and bombed to hell without much public outcry.

DP-3 Rebecca Solnit, SAVAGE DREAMS: A JOURNEY INTO THE LANDSCAPE WARS OF THE AMERICAN WEST (1994).

INTRODUCTION

A. The Commenter.

The Greater Owyhee Legal Defense ("GOLD"), by and through its undersigned counsel, acting on behalf of the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, hereby submits comments concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") for Enhanced Training in Idaho ("ETI"), dated April 1997. GOLD is an unincorporated association of citizen environmental, sportsmen, and conservation groups, and individual members, including members of the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, concerned about the Air Force plans to construct and operate an air-to-ground bombing and training range and related training and airspace actions in and over the high desert country of the Owyhee plateau. The membership of GOLD includes the Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Idaho Wildlife Council Region 3, Idaho Rivers United, The Wilderness Society, Committee for Idaho's High Desert, and Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

GOLD has previously submitted comments in the form of oral and written testimony at the DEIS hearing held in Boise, Idaho, on June 12, 1997. Those comments are included as Exhibit 1 and are incorporated herein by reference. In addition, the organizational and individual members of GOLD are separately submitting various

comments and supporting exhibits. GOLD's present written comments also include several exhibits, and these exhibits are being submitted under separate binding.

GOLD specifically requests that all of the above-referenced comments and exhibits be included as part of the administrative record in this matter. *See County of Suffolk v. Secretary of Interior*, 562 F.2d 1368, 1384 & n.9 (2nd Cir. 1977) (addressing scope of NEPA administrative record), *cert. denied*, 437 U.S. 1064 (1978); *Silva v. Lynn*, 482 F.2d 1282, 1283 (1st Cir. 1973) (same); *see also Thompson v. United States Dep't of Labor*, 885 F.2d 551, 555 (9th Cir. 1989) (administrative record consists of all documents and materials directly or indirectly considered by agency and includes evidence contrary to agency's position). GOLD further requests that all documents, articles, and reports cited in these comments be included as part of the administrative record in this case. If the Air Force or BLM is unable to locate the documents referenced by GOLD that are not included as Exhibits to these comments, copies may be obtained by contacting GOLD's counsel at the address listed at the end of these comments.

B. Summary.

The ETI DEIS outlines the proposals by the Air Force to develop a tactical training range, no drop zones, threat emitter sites, and military airspace changes for the Air Force in southwestern Idaho and surrounding areas. Importantly, these proposals are presented as a follow-on analysis to the actions outlined and implemented in the Air Force in Idaho EIS ("AF EIS") published in January 1992, and the Record of Decision ("ROD") issued for that EIS on March 11, 1992. *See* DEIS at 1-7, 1-48. GOLD previously submitted detailed comments on the earlier AF EIS proposals, and those

comments should be considered here and made part of the DEIS administrative record as they pertain to the ETI proposal and potential impacts.

The ETI DEIS lacks the required objective and detailed analysis of alternatives and environmental impacts that is mandated for an EIS. The Air Force has consistently understated the environmental impacts of its proposed actions, presented misleading summaries of existing scientific research and data, ignored evidence contrary to the agency's "minimal impact" or "no impact" conclusions, failed to outline a reasonably complete discussion of mitigation measures to be undertaken, and has presented an analysis that is internally inconsistent on several points. Because of these shortcomings, the DEIS does not satisfy NEPA's requirements and it cannot support the proposals of the Air Force and cooperating agencies to proceed with the actions outlined to implement the ETI development. Additionally, because this DEIS is inadequate under NEPA, it also fails to provide the required environmental documentation for the proposed public land withdrawal for military purposes.

Lastly, the DEIS is an inadequate environmental document under Clean Water Act Section 404 to evaluate and/or authorize the filling and destruction of wetlands as described for the proposed action and alternatives. Accordingly, none of the wetlands alterations proposed for implementation of the ETI may occur without detailed Section 404 evaluation and compliance. However, because these wetland impacts are an integral part of and interconnected with the range development proposal, these impacts must be fully evaluated in the same DEIS as the range development proposal.

Because of the many analytical flaws and failure to comply with NEPA, the current DEIS cannot support the proposed ETI development, and the DEIS must be

withdrawn and revised to include for evaluation and decision the full scope of actions and impacts proposed by the Air Force for southwestern Idaho.

C. Background and Affected Environmental Values.

The WSAs, ACECs, and other southwestern Idaho public lands that are the subject of and subject to the harmful impacts of the proposed actions contain a wealth of wide-ranging environmental values of great regional and national significance. The canyons and plateaus of the Owyhee country provide a diversity of rugged land forms and many miles of desert river ecosystem rich in scenery, wildlife, vegetation, and cultural resources. The miles of canyons, their diversely and severely eroded rock landscapes, their steep slopes, and the dominance of subdued brown and red rock all combine to create a sense of isolation and solitude. Visitors traveling in the canyonlands are constantly aware of the forces of nature. The depth of the canyons creates a tremendous sense of seclusion from the rest of the world. Above the canyons on the plateaus, the rolling topography and low vegetation allow for viewing tens of square miles of the vast, open, seemingly undisturbed landscape. These vast open spaces instill a complete sense of separation from civilization. Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Final Environmental Impact Statement at III-6, III-7 (1989) This area is also important for its wildlife values. The upland-canyonland/sagebrush-bunchgrass ecosystem provides yearlong habitat for bighorn sheep, which are dependent on the natural undisturbed environment for their survival. *Id.* at III-14.

The bighorn sheep herds that would be affected by the ETI actions are from a population that is already suffering drastic declines in the past few years as a result of increased military combat training over the public lands of southwestern Idaho.

Following the implementation of large-scale increases in supersonic overflight and chaff and flare use in this area in 1993, the Owyhee Canyonlands bighorn sheep population plummeted by approximately 30 percent. While 669 sheep were counted in this herd in summer 1993, only 347 animals were observed in 1994. *See* Exhibit 4 (DiGrazia Decl.); *see also* Military Overflight Effects on Bighorn Sheep, Draft Study Plan at A-5 (July 10, 1996).

The proposed harassment of wild and free-roaming California bighorn sheep and other wildlife through the ETI range development and composite force training activity increases is just the latest in a continued and ongoing buildup of military activities on the public lands of southwestern Idaho. The BLM is a culpable participant in this buildup because it has authorized or participated in the series of decisions leading to the present dilemma where the California bighorn sheep population is in decline and on the brink of collapse as a result of the unevaluated cumulative impacts of these actions.

In recent years, the military buildup on the southwestern Idaho public lands includes those actions associated with the 1992 Air Force in Idaho ("AFI") environmental impact statement and ROD, for which the BLM was a cooperating agency. In the 1992 AFI EIS and ROD, the Air Force decided to expand the airspace for military operations over southwestern Idaho, allow supersonic training flights (up to 1,000 per year) at levels down to 10,000 feet above ground level, and to drop chaff and flare ordnance throughout the military airspace over southwestern Idaho and over the public lands including the WSAs and ACECs at issue here. In March 1993, the BLM entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Air Force to allow incendiary flare use over the public lands in southwestern Idaho *See* BLM MOU ID-313. In January 1996, the

Air Force, again with the BLM as a cooperating agency, published its notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the establishment of a tactical training range and electronic threat emitter sites in Owyhee County in southwestern Idaho to support training for the composite wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base and the Idaho Air National Guard. 61 Fed. Reg. 2803 (Jan. 29, 1996).

In March 1996, the Air Force filed an application with the BLM's Idaho state office requesting the withdrawal of land from the public domain for these training range and threat emitter sites. On April 8, 1996, the BLM published the notice of proposed withdrawal in the Federal Register. 61 Fed. Reg 15513 (Apr. 8, 1996). The BLM has subsequently withdrawn from the public domain for two years over 11,500 acres of land in southwestern Idaho for the planned development of the bombing range and radar emitter sites that would concentrate warplane activity and increase environmental impacts over and on the same areas affected by the proposed action. All of these military actions on the public lands are occurring in the same geographic area, i.e. in the same military airspace and on the same public lands, as is potentially affected by the ETI DEIS actions.

These other actions and proposals described above outline a broad range of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that will result in cumulative impacts when considered together with the actions proposed in the ETI DEIS. Nevertheless, the ETI DEIS analysis fails to properly consider the potential cumulative effects from any of these past, ongoing, and future military training actions and developments occurring in the same area. Instead, the ETI DEIS impermissibly limited its scope to the proposed

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range development, threat emitter sites and airspace modification actions. Applying this limited scope of inquiry, and without properly considering the range of scientific opinion concerning the potential devastating environmental effects of it actions, the ETI DEIS generally concludes that few significant environmental impacts would result from the ETI actions. *See, e.g.*, DEIS at ES-5 to ES-12.

GOLD is an unincorporated association of member citizens and public interest groups concerned about the management of airspace and public land resources in southwestern Idaho, and also concerned about the ongoing and potential impact of Air Force plans and operations on these areas The individual and organizational members of GOLD use the public land resources potentially affected by the challenged decision for recreational, aesthetic, scientific, and other purposes. GOLD members often hunt, canoe, raft, snowmobile, cross country ski, horseback ride, camp, backpack, and engage in nature study and general recreation in the WSAs and ACECs affected by the proposed action. Additionally, GOLD member Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has as its purposes to promote and enhance increasing populations of indigenous wild sheep on the North American continent, to safeguard against the decline or extinction of such species, and to fund programs for professional management of these populations. Foundation members use the WSAs and ACECs and the resources affected by this proposal for camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, observing wild sheep in their natural habitat, and observing and hunting other wildlife species found in these areas GOLD's interests in the natural resources and unique public land attributes of these areas, as well as GOLD's procedural interests in informed decisionmaking and full public disclosure

pursuant to NEPA and other applicable laws, are adversely affected by the inadequacies in the ETI EIS.

COMMENTS

I. The Air Force has Failed to Establish a Legitimate Purpose and Need for its Proposed Action as Required under NEPA.

The starting place for any federal agency preparing an EIS is the delineation of the purpose and need of its proposed action. Once these are established, the agency must then develop criteria for evaluating not only its proposed action, but also reasonable alternatives to that action, and a "no action" alternative. Here, in contravention of the Council on Environmental Quality ("CEQ") regulations, the Air Force errs even before reaching first base in the process. It never coherently explains or substantiates the technical need for or purpose of the proposed range or threat emitter sites it desires. Having failed to establish the purpose and need of the actions, the Air Force has no reasonable basis to reject the no action alternative.

PN-1

A. NEPA Requires The Air Force To Objectively Identify And Substantiate Its Purpose And Need.

The CEQ regulations require an EIS to separately address the purpose and need for the proposed actions:

> The statement shall briefly specify the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives including the proposed action.

40 C.F.R. § 1502.13. The next subsection of this regulation provides for the rigorous exploration and objective evaluation of alternatives, performed "in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public." *Id.* at § 1502.14.

The purpose and need section of the EIS provides the basis for comparison and choice. From the identified purposes and needs, criteria for evaluation must be developed. *Residents in Protest-I-35E v. Dole*, 583 F. Supp. 653, 659 (D. Minn. 1984). To be adjudged reasonable, alternatives must relate to the concerned purpose and need. *Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides v. Lyng*, 844 F.2d 588, 593 (9th Cir. 1988). The agency must also consider alternatives that only meet a portion of the stated need and purpose addressed; the consideration of such alternatives allows the decisionmaker to consider a tradeoff between preferred alternatives with greater environmental impact and alternatives partially satisfying its goal but imposing less environmental impact. *North Buckhead Civil Ass'n v. Skinner*, 903 F.2d 1533, 1542 (11th Cir. 1990); *Residents in Protest*, 583 F. Supp. At 659.

Needs and purposes cannot be arrived at arbitrarily. To the contrary, the agency must particularize and substantiate both. *Sierra Club v. Marsh*, 714 F. Supp. 539, 575 (D Me. 1989). Typically the agency explains the process by which it assesses the purposes and needs its proposed action is addressing. *North Buckhead*, 903 F.2d at 1541-42.

The agency must guard against "skew[ing] the focus of the 'reasonable alternatives' analysis by defining (or redefining) project purposes, rather than facilitating an informed evaluation of the competing environmental and developmental concerns implicated by the proposed project." *Sierra Club*, 714 F. Supp. at 577. The agency is limited to criteria bearing "a rational relationship to the technical and economic integrity of the project." *Id.*; *see also id.* at 574, *citing CEQ Guidance Regarding NEPA Regulations*, 48 Fed. Reg. 34263 (July 28, 1983); *Forty Most Asked Questions*

Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulation, 46 Fed. Reg. 18026, 18027 (1981). Stating its desires is not enough; the agency must establish what it actually *needs*. *Id.* As the CEQ has stated: "Reasonable alternatives include those that are *practical or feasible* from the technical and economic standpoint and using common sense, rather than simply *desirable* from the standpoint of the applicant." *CEQ Forty Questions*, 46 Fed. Reg. at 18027 (emphasis in original).

By clear implication, the CEQ regulations require purposes and needs to be stated in general terms rather than framed by the agency's desires and proposed action. The purposes and needs relate to "the alternatives including the proposed action." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.13 (emphasis added). The agency must rigorously explore and objectively evaluate reasonable alternatives and a no action alternative *in addition to* the proposed action. *Id.* at § 1502.14. While goals must be particularized and substantiated, they cannot be stated in such specific terms that only the agency's desired outcome can fulfill them. *Sierra Club*, 714 F. Supp. at 575; *see also Van Abbema v. Fornell*, 807 F.2d 633, 638 (7th Cir. 1986) ("[T]he evaluation of 'alternatives' mandated by NEPA is to be an evaluation of alternative means to accomplish the general goal of an action; it is not an evaluation of the alternative means by which a particular applicant can reach his goals.") (Emphasis in original.)

Thus the agency may not pre-ordain the outcome of its NEPA analysis by manipulating the purposes and needs addressed. *Sierra Club*, 714 F. Supp. at 574; *Residents in Protest*, 583 F. Supp. at 660 Here, the Air Force has done exactly that by arbitrarily selecting alternative suitability criteria and advancing a stated purpose and need for the project that it has previously disavowed. *See infra* Sections I.B. and II.

PN-1

Any range development choice made based on these flawed criteria is necessarily arbitrary, and thus in violation of NEPA, the CEQ regulations and the Administrative Procedure Act.

B. The Air Force's Statement of Need Based on the Composite Wing Establishment is Inconsistent With the Government's Previously Stated Position.

The purpose and need section of the ITR DEIS states that "the realism, quality, and flexibility of training for the unique 366th Wing . . . would be enhanced through construction and operation of a tactical air-to-ground training range, 'no-drop' targets . . . and a set of sites for mobile electronic emitters . . . ." DEIS at 1-31. This statement of need is insupportable here because the Air Force has failed to explain its shift from its previously stated position, including that outlined in the earlier AF EIS and stated repeatedly by Air Force counsel in federal court litigation, that additional training resources were not necessary to meet mission readiness requirements for the Composite Wing. Indeed, if the proposed project would only "enhance" Air Force training, then the military has completely failed to justify a "need" for the proposed actions that could possibly warrant the significant expenditures and environmental impacts it will cause.

PN-1

For instance, the AF EIS previously stated that "establishing the Composite Wing . . . is not dependent upon being able to use [a] proposed [local tactical] range." AF EIS Vol. I at 1-6. Additionally, in this same document, the Air Force indicated that "establishment of the Composite Wing is not dependent on the availability of a new range." *Id.* at Vol. II, 3-47. Similarly, in response to a General Accounting Office ("GAO") critique of the Air Force's establishment of the Composite Wing at Mountain Home, the Air Force specifically disagreed with the GAO contention that the existing

Saylor Creek Training Range is inadequate for composite force training. *See* GAO/NSIAD Report No. 93-44 at 60 (May 9, 1993).

Next, in litigation brought by GOLD concerning the adequacy of the Air Force's NEPA compliance in the earlier AF EIS, the Air Force has reiterated its position that the establishment of the Composite Wing was "totally independent of the training range proposal."[1] Similarly, Air Force counsel has stated on the record and in open court that "the composite wing was not dependent upon a new or local training range for its composite wing training. . . . [A]s the government has stipulated and has argued, the composite wing uses remote ranges such as Nellis in Nevada and Utah Test and Training Range on a transient basis for tactical air-to-ground electronic combat and composite force training."[2]

If in fact the position previously taken by the Air Force, which was used to justify the exclusion of the environmental evaluation of the training range from the other AF EIS proposals, is correct, then the Air Force has not established a legitimate purpose and need for the ETI because it has repeatedly and consistently stated that additional land-based training assets are not related to the needs of the composite wing and that the existence of these military forces does not require additional training assets. The Air Force simply cannot have it both ways; saying the tactical range and emitters are necessary when it wants to have them developed, but then saying they are not necessary

[1] *GOLD v. United States Department of Defense*, No. 92-0185-S-HLR (D. Idaho) Government's Reply Memorandum in Support of its Motion to Dismiss at 6 (filed June 28, 1993).

[2] *GOLD v. United States Department of Defense*, No. 92-0185-S-BLW (D. Idaho) Hearing on Rule 60(b) Motion Transcript (June 3, 1996)

when it wants to segment or down play the full scope of environmental impacts from the range, emitters and connected actions. Further compounding its flaws, the Air Force has failed to make available for public review and comment the seven documents listed in the ETI DEIS as the source of training requirements for the 366th Wing. Without releasing these documents (identified on page 1-23 of the DEIS), there is no way for the public and other DEIS reviewers to adequately comment on the Air Force's asserted purpose and need for the proposed actions

DP-20

In sum, if the ETI proposal is truly necessitated by the establishment of the composite wing, then this proposal must be evaluated together with the impacts of and alternatives to overall composite wing training operations. If the range and emitters are not required as a result of the composite wing establishment, then the Air Force has failed to clearly establish and justify the purpose and need for the proposed action as required under NEPA. In either case, the present purpose and need discussion in the DEIS is inadequate to support the implementation or evaluation of the proposed action. Consequently, the Air Force must withdraw the DEIS in order to revise its purpose and need evaluation in accordance with NEPA.

II. The DEIS Fails to Comply with the NEPA Requirements for the Consideration and Evaluation of Alternatives.

NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to a proposed action. 42 U.S.C. § 4332(C)(iii); 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14; *see California v. Block*, 690 F.2d 753, 765-67 (9th Cir. 1982). The range of alternatives must include a no action alternative, 40 C.F.R.§ 1502.14(d); *see Bob Marshall Alliance v. Hodel*, 852 F.2d 1223, 1228-29 (9th Cir. 1988), and the environmental effects of all alternatives,

including the proposed action, must be discussed, 40 C.F.R. § 1502.16. These requirements are the key to ensuring reasoned agency decisionmaking under NEPA. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14 (alternatives section is "heart of the environmental impact statement"); *Bob Marshall Alliance*, 852 F.2d at 1228 ("[i]nformed meaningful consideration of alternatives" is an "integral part" of NEPA); *Calvert Cliffs' Coordinating Committee, Inc. v. A.E.C.*, 449 F.2d 1109, 1114 (D.C. Cir. 1971).

> The goal of the statute is to ensure that federal agencies infuse in project planning a thorough consideration of environmental values. The consideration of alternatives requirement furthers that goal by guaranteeing that agency decisionmakers have before them and take into proper account all possible approaches to a particular project (*including total abandonment of the project*) which would alter the environmental impact and the cost-benefit balance . . . .

Bob Marshall, 852 F.2d at 1228-29 (internal citations, quotations, and alterations omitted).

DP-82

In this instance, the Air Force has failed to fully evaluate (aside from the required "no action" alternative) any alternative that does not include development in Owyhee County for the expanded training range capability. Apparently, the arbitrary exclusion of full consideration of out-of-state alternative sites was based on the state of Idaho's role in supporting development of a new range capability. However, the Air Force, as the lead agency and a federal entity, must fully evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives as required under NEPA. *See, e.g.*, 40 C.F.R. § 1508.16 (responsible or lead agency has the "primary responsibility for preparing the environmental impact statement"); *id.* § 1501.5 ("lead agency shall supervise the preparation of an environmental impact

statement"), *County of Suffolk*, 562 F.2d at 1385 (the federal agency has "primary and nondelagable responsibility" to ensure adequacy of EIS).

Moreover, even if location within the state of Idaho was not the only constraint requiring development of the additional assets within the Mountain Home AFB Range Complex, other evidence indicates that the application of this criteria was arbitrary. *See* ETI DOPPA at 5. For example, the ETI DEIS presents a biased comparison of training flight times between the Owyhee MOA and the South UTTR without presenting such data for the much closer North UTTR. ETI DEIS at 1-39. Also, the DEIS fails to recognize the different types of training (e.g. continuation of CWT) that might be occurring in the Owyhee MOA versus the South UTTR.

As a result, the ETI DEIS removed from consideration reasonable alternatives that could be reached with little additional flying time from MHAFB. Also, as addressed in Section I above, the Air Force cannot pre-ordain the outcome of its NEPA analysis by artificially manipulating the project purpose and suitability criteria. Accordingly, the Air Force has not conducted the rigorous exploration and objective evaluation of alternatives that is required under NEPA because it has eliminated the use of more distant ranges from the full alternatives evaluation based on arbitrary constraints and a too narrowly focused project purpose.

DP-75

As a result of this constrained alternatives evaluation, all of the action alternatives fully evaluated in the EIS involve the development of training range resources in Owyhee County. Also, all of the action alternatives include airspace expansion over Jacks Creek, development of 30 emitter sites, and substantial chaff use increases. *See* DEIS at 1-1 (admitting that each of development alternatives contains same set of integrated

components). In effect, the Air Force has not presented the public and decisionmakers with a true choice, but instead has merely adjusted the different elements of the same alternative. This failure to consider true locational and project alternatives is again inconsistent with NEPA's requirements. *See Methow Valley Citizens Council v. Regional Forester*, 833 F.2d 810, 815-16 (9th Cir. 1987) (Forest Service must consider alternative sites for ski resort development), *rev'd in part on other grounds*, 490 U.S. 322 (1989); *Coalition for Canyon Preservation v. Bowers*, 632 F.2d 774, 783-84 (9th Cir. 1980) (agency must consider alternative project parameters); *Concerned About Trident v. Rumsfeld*, 555 F.2d 817 (D.C. Cir. 1977) (Navy must examine alternatives to selection of single support site for Trident submarine fleet).

Under NEPA, an agency must also consider alternatives that address only a portion of the project's purpose. *Natural Resources Defense Council v. Callaway*, 524 F.2d 79, 93 (2nd Cir. 1975); *State of California v. Block*, 690 F.2d 753, 767 (9th Cir. 1982) (agency may not "consider only those alternatives with [the same] end result"); *North Buckhead Civic Association v. Skinner*, 903 F.2d 1533, 1542 (11th Cir. 1990) ("a discussion of alternatives that would only partly meet the goals of a project may allow the decisionmaker to conclude that meeting part of the goal with less environmental impact may be worth a tradeoff with a preferred alternative that has greater environmental impact"). Here, the agencies violated this fundamental NEPA requirement when it failed to consider alternatives that might meet only a portion of the outlined purpose and need. For instance, the DEIS should have considered the alternative of not developing a widespread network of threat emitter sites while still using drop zones, or

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other such combinations that might reduce the adverse military training impacts and be more consistent with the region's inherent ecosystem resiliency limits.

The agencies' failure to consider a proper range of alternatives to the proposed action presented by the Air Force is a fundamental procedural and legal flaw that undermines the adequacy and defensibility of the DEIS. Given the likelihood of adverse effects and adverse cumulative effects established in the record and other information presented in the comments submitted to the Air Force, the agencies should have examined other alternatives in order to more properly determine the relative environmental impacts and resource tradeoffs to be made in authorizing the use of public land resources for the proposed actions. This fundamental flaw in the DEIS analysis must be corrected and a full analysis conducted before the proposed actions are allowed to proceed.

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Next, while the Air Force claims that development of a local training range would be cost effective as training costs significantly increase with more distant ranges, *see, e.g.*, DEIS at ES-3, the Air Force fails to ever quantify these costs. Nor does it ever disclose what the actual costs of the proposed range and threat emitter site development will be so that decisionmakers and the public can make an informed choice among the alternatives presented, including the no action alternative.

Some of the Air Force rationale for rejecting more distant range sites from full evaluation is simply ridiculous. For instance, the Utah Test and Training Range, which lies just beyond the Air Force's previously-identified arbitrary 150 NM distance criterion, was rejected from full consideration as an action alternative in the DEIS because during certain periods range time might not be available to the composite wing. According to

the Air Force, "scheduling of the [UTTR] range is difficult . . . because of the priority given to primary users." DEIS at 2-21 to 2-22. It is preposterous for the Air Force to assert that the greatest military force in the world cannot simply make arrangements for reasonable shared use of the Utah Test and Training Range, but instead must develop entirely new range assets in previously unimpacted areas. The Air Force's assertion is all the more hollow because it fails to respond to the 1995 Department of Defense Inspector General's audit report.[3] That audit report confirmed that the UTTR capabilities satisfy training quality attributes for any enhanced 366th Wing training. DOD IG Report at 11.

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The fallacy of the Air Force argument is all the more apparent when one considers that the Utah Test and Training Range is currently under-utilized. *Id.* at 9. Based on these factors, the UTTR appears to be a prime candidate alternative to the development of a new training capability in a remote, pristine area of Idaho high desert country. At the very least, these are the types of trade-offs that must be fully explored and evaluated in the DEIS. Lastly, the fact that the Composite Wing and IDANG may be excluded from UTTR usage at certain times should not preclude it from full alternative consideration since the Air Force readily notes in other instances that additional range assets are only needed for a small portion of composite force training. *See, e.g.* GAO report ("only 20% of the Mountain Home Composite Wing training will be composite force training, which means 80% will be focused on individual proficiency," much of which can be supported by existing Saylor Creek Range); DOD IG Report ("only 8 percent of all training flights" for 266th Wing are flown to remote ranges).

[3] DOD IG Report No. 95-274.

A true alternatives analysis complying with NEPA must consider options such as expansion of the existing SCR together with the use of more distant ranges. No such alternative is evaluated in the current DEIS. The decision on the selection or rejection of an ETI alternative "cannot be intelligently made without examining whether its [impacts] can be softened or eliminated" by modifying training requirements or effectively utilizing existing training ranges in some combination to meet the Air Force's training needs. *See California v. Block*, 690 F.2d 753, 766-67 (9th Cir. 1982) (Forest Service must evaluate alternative of increased timber production on federal lands already opened to development when making trade offs between wilderness and development values of roadless land in RARE II EIS). Only by fully developing and analyzing the environmental impacts of such alternatives will the Congress and citizens, and Air Force, BLM, and FAA decisionmakers be able to see a comparison of environmental impacts that provides a clear basis for choice among the options truly available.

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Further, none of the choices presented in the DEIS (except for the required "no action" alternative) includes any alternative to the establishment of over thirty threat emitter sites across the Owyhee plateau. *See* DEIS at 1-1, 2-25, 2-48 to 2-52, 2-85, 2-104, and 2-118. Clearly, this "all or nothing" choice on the implementation of the threat emitter development is not a reasonable range of alternatives to this proposed action complying with NEPA's mandate. The Air Force makes a similar error by not presenting any alternatives to the proposed airspace modifications. *E.g.*, DEIS at 2-55 to 2-70.

DP-10

III. The DEIS Contains an Inadequate Discussion of Key Resources in the Affected Environment and Fails to Fully Evaluate Impacts of the Proposals.

Under NEPA, an agency must honestly address the various uncertainties surrounding the scientific evidence upon which it relies in its environmental evaluations. The agency has a duty to respond to credible opposing points of view, and it may not ignore reputable scientific opinion. *See, e.g., Seattle Audubon Soc'y v. Espy*, 998 F.2d 699, 704 (9th Cir. 1993); *Public Service Co. v. Andrus*, 825 F. Supp. 1483, 1496-99 (D. Idaho 1993); *see also Sierra Club v. Watkins*, 808 F. Supp. 852, 864-69 (D.D.C. 1991). An agency's NEPA analysis must expose scientific uncertainty regarding the risk of a proposed action and inform decisionmakers of the full range of responsible scientific opinion on the environmental effects of the proposed action. *Friends of the Earth v. Hall*, 693 F. Supp. 904, 926, 934 (W.D. Wash 1988). Also, federal agencies are responsible for overseeing and ensuring the accuracy of environmental impact statements produced by contractors. 40 C F.R. § 1506.5(c).

BI-66 In this instance, the agencies failed to consider or address properly the wide range of scientific opinion from previous studies indicating that the proposed actions could result in a significant environmental impacts, including impacts to the California bighorn sheep populations, recreation opportunities, wilderness study areas, water quality and wildlife habitat generally. While the references section of the DEIS identifies certain previous studies of aircraft overflight effects on bighorn and other species, the cited work is almost entirely that conducted by Air Force contractors and does not represent the full range of scientific opinion and research available from which conclusions may be drawn, and it also fails to respond to both credible scientific opinion extant in the

literature and the specific comments raised in response to previous Air Force EIS efforts for expanded training in Idaho.

A. The DEIS Fails to Adequately Assess Wildlife and Related Impacts.

1. Bighorn Sheep.

BI-67 The DEIS significantly understates and fails to fully explore the environmental impacts on California Bighorn Sheep and habitat affected by the proposed enhanced training developments. *See* DEIS 4-111 to 4-112. Numerous other commentators have noted this fundamental shortcoming. For example, the DEIS fails to even reference several important peer-reviewed studies. Scientific studies regarding the impact on bighorn sheep are either overstated or ignored. Previous Air Force documents and other information establish that overflights create negative physiological effects on bighorn sheep. *See* ITR DEIS at 4-156 to 4-158. Yet, inexplicably, the Air Force fails to acknowledge these adverse effects as either a direct, indirect or cumulative impact in the ETI DEIS.

The broad range of scientific information available indicating potential serious adverse effects to bighorn sheep from the stress and stimulus of the proposed activities is thoroughly documented in the Declaration of Douglas Gladwin, a noted expert on the impacts to wildlife from aircraft activities, previously provided to Air Force counsel.

BI-66 This declaration was filed in the *GOLD v. DOD* litigation. The portions of the Gladwin declaration set forth below set out the range of adverse and respected scientific opinion that the ETI DEIS failed to consider.

19. It is clear from a number of studies that bighorn sheep show both physiological and behavioral responses to aircraft

overflights, suggesting that they are disturbed by the sight or sound of aircraft.

20. Studies of bighorn sheep living in areas with high aircraft activity show that sheep walk or run during overflights,[4] and they often stop normal activities such as feeding.[5] One study shows that the foraging efficiency (the number of seconds actually spent eating, divided by the total number of seconds spent foraging) of bighorn sheep exposed to low-level helicopter overflights decreases by 17% in summer and by 43% in winter.[6] Another study of bighorn sheep in Arizona showed that light, fixed-wing aircraft interrupted feeding activities and caused animals to move at least 300 feet in response to 19% of overflights.[7] Biologists cite concern that chronic overflights could cause significant energy losses over time because energy expenditures are increased when sheep move, and energy intake is reduced when sheep feed less often.

21. Physiological effects on bighorn sheep may occur from chronic overflights as well. It has been calculated that, during overflights, ungulates experience an increase in metabolism above resting rates by twenty percent.[8] Studies of bighorn sheep responses to helicopters show that heart

[4] *J. Kiger*, 1970, Helicopter Observations of Bighorn Sheep on the San Andreas National Wildlife Refuge, Trans. Desert Bighorn Council 14:23-27; *B. Horejsi*, 1975, Wildlife Studies Section III *in*: Baseline Studies of the Biology of Streams and Wildlife Populations in the Sheep Creek Drainage, Alberta, Aquatic Environments Ltd., Crossfield, Alberta; *Bleich, et al.* 1990.

[5] *C.A. Stockwell and G.C. Bateman*, 1991, Conflicts in National Parks: A Case Study of Helicopters and Bighorn Sheep Time Budgets at the Grand Canyon, Biological Conservation 56:317-328; *P.R. Krausman and J.J. Hervert*, 1983, Mountain Sheep Responses to Aerial Surveys, Wildlife Society Bulletin 11:372-375.

[6] *C.A. Stockwell and G.C. Bateman*, 1991.

[7] *P.R. Krausman and J.J. Hervert*, 1983.

[8] *S. Brody*, 1945, Bioenergetics and Growth, Reinhold Co., New York, 1023 pp.; *G. Maitfeld*. 1974, The Energetics of Winter Foraging by White-Tailed Deer--a Perspective on Winter, Ph.D. Thesis, State Univ. of New York, 306 pp.

rates triple during overflights.[9] Bighorn sheep in Alberta, Canada showed reactions to helicopters by running when the aircraft were 0.5 miles away.[10] It is reasonable to suggest that physiological and behavioral responses will occur from military jet overflights of Owyhee County as well.

22. Disturbance can produce long-term deleterious effects on the metabolism and hormone balances in wild bighorn sheep which in turn could have the following effects: 1) increased susceptibility to disease, 2) inefficient use of energy and nutrients, and 3) weight losses.[11] Research has shown that stress induced by other types of disturbance produces long-term, deleterious effects on the metabolism and hormone balances in wild ungulates such as bighorn sheep.[12] Many animal biologists maintain that excessive stimulation of the nervous system can amount to chronic stress, and that continuous exposure to aircraft overflights can be harmful for the health, growth and reproductive fitness of animals.[13]

[9] *R.A. MacArthur et al.*, 1982, Cardiac and behavioral responses of mountain sheep to human disturbance. Journal of Wildlife Management 46:351-358.

[10] *B. Horejsi*, 1975. Wildlife Studies Section III *in*: Baseline Studies of the Biology of Streams and Wildlife Populations in the Sheep Creek Drainage, Alberta. Aquatic Environments, Ltd., Crossfield, Alberta.

[11] *V. Geist*, 1971. A Behavioral Approach to the Management of Ungulates. in: E. Duffey and A.S. Watt, eds. The Scientific Management of Animal and Plant Communities for Conservation. Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications; *V. Geist*, 1978. Behaviour. Chapter 19, pp. 283-296 in: Schmidt, L.L. and D. L. Gilbert, eds., Big Game of North America. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, PA.

[12] *R. Stemp*, 1983. Heart rate responses of bighorn sheep to environmental factors and harassment. MS thesis, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary; *V. Geist*, 1971.

[13] *J.L. Fletcher*, 1980. Effects of Noise on Wildlife: A Review of Relevant Literature, 1971-1978 pp 611-620 in: J V. Tobias, G. Jansen, and W.D. Ward, eds. Proc. Third International Congress on Noise as a Public Health Problem. Am. Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Rockville, MD, ASHA Report 10; *J.L. Fletcher*, 1990. Review of Noise and Terrestrial Species: 1983-1988. pp. 181-188 in: B Berglund and T. Lindvall, eds. Noise as a Public Health Problem Vol. 5: New Advances in Noise Research Part II. Swedish Council for Building Research, Stockholm.

23. Studies on the Owyhee Canyonlands bighorn population, like studies in the Grand Canyon, the Arizona desert and in Alberta,[14] show that bighorn sheep take flight when disturbed by overflights.[15]

24. The outcome of chronic disturbance could be that bighorn sheep avoid habitat, a very serious consequence. Studies in the Owyhee Canyonlands do show that the way in which bighorns utilize their habitat is affected by the presence of aircraft. Responses to helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, rather than military jets, are being tested in this ongoing study. It is not known whether sheep will respond to increases in military jet overflights. However, Toweill and Bodie's assessment suggest that they will respond to particularly low-altitude sorties . . . . There is already evidence that sheep are altering their patterns of distribution; areas historically used by sheep (Battle Creek drainage) now have only a few sheep groups.[16] Significant jet activity currently occurs in this area. This evidence, when coupled with information from other studies, strongly suggests that military jet activity is a factor causing habitat abandonment.

25. According to biologists at Idaho Fish and Game,[17] abandonment or reduced use of currently occupied habitats appears likely, and bighorn sheep are likely to withdraw to less-disturbed habitats. This concern has also been iterated by members of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.[18] Reduction of usable habitat will ultimately reduce bighorn populations. . . .

[14] *C.A. Stockwell and G.C. Bateman*, 1991; *B. Horejsi*, 1975; *P.R. Krausman and J.J. Hervert*, 1983.

[15] *D.E. Toweill and W. Bodie*, 1992. Biological Determination of the Effects of Low-level Overflights, Sonic booms, Flares and Chaff on Bighorn Sheep in Owyhee County, Idaho. Idaho Fish and Game, Boise. 16 pp.

[16] Memorandum from *L.E. Oldenburg*, Wildlife Game/Research Manager, IDFG, to *D. Toweill*, December 22, 1993.

[17] *D.E. Toweill and W. Bodie*, 1992.

[18] *Idaho Fish and Game Commission*, 1994. Detailed comments of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game regarding the Idaho Training Range Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Plan Amendment. Submitted February 1994. 25 pp.

26. Decreased survival and recruitment rates for bighorn sheep will result if sheep move into less optimal habitat. Biologists also have predicted that reduced recruitment of lambs is likely due to impacts to current lambing grounds near Dickshooter Creek and Black Canyon. Availability of high-quality lambing habitat can significantly affect lamb survival, and if the lambing grounds are subjected to continued overflights, sonic booms, and chaff and flare ordnance, ewes are likely to seek other habitat that will be of lower quality.[19] Lambs and ewes are particularly susceptible to the effects of stress during the critical lambing period. Disturbance at this time can severely reduce the survivorship of lambs.[20]

27. Since the species inhabiting Owyhee County (California bighorn sheep) is considered a sensitive species by the BLM, and since the Composite Wing activities described [ongoing military flight activities] will impact BLM-designated areas of critical environmental concern for bighorn sheep, it is reasonable to conclude that these sheep will be disturbed by overflights and that the consequences may be severe. While occasional overflight disturbance might have no lasting consequences, the high number of military sorties, sonic booms, and composite force exercises planned annually suggest that effects likely could be severe for the Owyhee County bighorn sheep populations.

Gladwin Decl. at 10-15 (all footnotes and citations are from original declaration but have been renumbered here).

[19] *D.E. Toweill and W. Bodie*, 1992, Biological Determination of the Effects of Low-Level Overflights, Sonic Booms, Flares and Chaff on Bighorn Sheep in Owyhee County, Idaho, Idaho Fish and Game, Boise, 16 pp.

[20] *A.M. McKechnie and D.N. Gladwin*, 1995, Impacts from Helicopter Tour Activities on Specific Wildlife Populations in the Banff-Wind Valley Region, Prepared for Alpine Helicopters, Ltd., Canmore, Alberta. 28 pp.; *H.K. Buechner*, 1960, The Bighorn Sheep in the United States, its Past, Present and Future. Wildlife Monographs No. 4, 174 pp.; *R. Stemp*, 1983.

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In this instance, the agencies failed to objectively evaluate or present this range of scientific evidence indicating the likelihood of severe environmental effects to the bighorn sheep, WSA and ACEC resources from the proposed activity, and from the proposed activity in combination with the other ongoing and planned activities. Accordingly, the Air Force and BLM did not take a hard look at the environmental issues presented, and their conclusions and analysis are not reasonable where the agencies failed to consider a substantial body of scientific evidence that questions the blithe assertions of no significant effects on the resources at issue.

2. Chaff and Flare Impacts on Wildlife.

The Air Force proposes increased or extensive use of chaff and flares as part of the ETI. DEIS at 2-72 to 2-73. It estimates 5,794 additional bundles of chaff would be dispensed in the affected airspace each year. *Id.* Chaff consists of fiberglass fibers the thickness of a human hair coated with aluminum. ITR DEIS Appendix B at 1. It is dispensed in bundles containing up to three million fibers and is used as an electronic cloud to confuse enemy radar. *Id.*

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The ETI DEIS falsely states that chaff has been used throughout the Owyhee and other southwestern Idaho MOAs for over 30 years. DEIS at 2-18, 2-23. This assertion is patently incorrect and invalidates the entire baseline for the chaff impacts analysis. The Air Force's own 1992 AF EIS and ROD make clear that prior to 1992 chaff was used only on the SCR and was not used in the MOAs or MTRs. *See* AF EIS at 2-15

("Currently chaff is used only within the [SCR] complex . . . .").[21] This fundamental baseline flaw must be corrected and re-evaluated in a recirculated supplemental DEIS.

Chaff may cause significant impacts on wildlife. Although the toxicity of the chaff may be low in animals, "the non-toxic mechanic effects of chaff inhaled or ingested can result in death of wildlife or livestock." *See* IDFG Remarks Regarding "Proposals for Air Force in Idaho" (Nov. 18, 1991) (Exhibit 37 to GOLD's Dec. 10, 1991 comments on AF EIS); *see also* AF EIS, Vol. II at 2-163.. The primary impact of chaff on wildlife is its ability to cause severe internal damage if ingested. Inhalation of chaff fibers may: (1) puncture intestinal mucosa, resulting in internal ulceration; (2) interfere with the digestive system in ruminant animals such as the bighorn sheep, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope; and (3) result in the blocking of the intestinal tract as the fibers accumulate in the intestines of the exposed animals. AF EIS, Vol. II at 2-163.

While chaff inhalation poses significant risks to virtually every species in the area, the risk is considerably enhanced by wildlife startle effect caused by low-level flight and/or sonic booms. Bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, raptors, and other forms of wildlife often exhibit escape behaviors when exposed to low-level aircraft or sonic booms. As wildlife is startled, often moving quickly and breathing heavily, the air is filled with millions of strands of chaff particles, making it very likely that particles will be ingested by wildlife.

[21] The Air Force has stipulated in federal court that the 1992 AF EIS was the basis for the significant expansion in chaff use from the SCR to throughout the southwestern Idaho MOAs. *See GOLD v. DOD*, No. 92-189-S-HLR, Stipulation of Facts (Stip. Fact 11) (D. Idaho July 21, 1994).

In describing the potential impacts of chaff on bighorn sheep, Toweill and Bodie reported that:

> Although it is unclear if chaff ingestion could result in digestive tract lesions, such lesions could result in ulcerations . . . .
>
> Data are also unclear regarding the potential for inhalation of chaff into the bronchial apparatus of bighorn sheep. The Air Force safety manual has stringent requirements for humans working with chaff regarding protection from involuntary inhalation of chaff fibers. One study indicated that domestic sheep either inhaled or ingested chaff, but concluded that chaff particles, if inhaled, were too large to pass beyond the larynx, and were either expelled or swallowed . . . . Bighorn sheep, due to their larger body size and much more active behaviors (which require processing large volumes of air through larger breathing passages than those of domestic sheep) would seemingly be at greater risk than domestic sheep, although no studies have apparently been conducted. Bighorn sheep are especially susceptible to pneumonia syndromes, and at least one extensive all-age die-off associated with increases in atmospheric dust has been documented . . . .

Toweill & Bodie at 8-9.

Toweill and Bodie also listed a number of factors that could lead to cumulative effects on the California bighorn sheep, including adverse effects from repeated disturbance, physiological excitement of preparing for exertion, the energetic cost of locomotion or other overt activity, the cost of food intake foregone, and the cost of suboptimal habitat selection. *Id.* at 9. Additionally, the data reviewed by Toweill and Bodie

> indicates that bighorn sheep typically exhibit increased heart and respiration rates due to low-level overflights and sonic booms. Wild and free-ranging bighorn sheep, particularly those subjected to such potentially life-threatening situations as predators, annual hunting seasons, and annual capture

> efforts, typically couple this physiological excitement with over behavioral actions, such as running to an area of perceived security—even when that area may lie at a considerable distance. Physiological excitement, running, and loss of forage opportunities during periods of disturbance all increase metabolic demands and potentially reduce the bighorn's ability to survive.

Id. at 10.

The DEIS also fails to consider several important land management policy considerations and conflicts concerning military use of chaff on public lands. Specifically, BLM has reported that "[c]haff is being dropped on public lands without authorization." BLM, Final Report: Military Use of Public Lands Workshop - March 4 & 5, 1997 at 19 (May 1997) (excerpt in Exhibit 2). According to the BLM:

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- There is inconclusive information on the environmental impacts of chaff.
- There is inconclusive information on the human and health and safety aspects of chaff.
- Chaff is litter.
- BLM has not authorized disposal of chaff on public lands.
- Billions of chaff fibers are currently being dropped on public lands.
- The issue goes beyond public land and involves airspace, private land issues, etc.

Id.

To address these problems, the BLM has recommended several measures including:

1. Establish policy guidance that states:

   The droppings of nonbiodegradable chaff on nonwithdrawn public lands constitutes littering and

   potential public health, safety, and environmental hazards and will not be authorized

2. Notify the services that the disposal of nonbiodegradable chaff on public lands is limited to withdrawals consistent with that use.
3. BLM/DOI should offer to participate in the environmental and public health analysis of biodegradable chaff to determine appropriate stipulations for its use.
4. BLM/DOI should offer to participate in an analysis of the feasibility of cleaning up chaff contaminated areas as proposed by the U.S. Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center.

Id.

LU-16

The DEIS fails to identify or address these substantial BLM concerns with chaff use and resulting contamination of public lands. The failure to do so shows the agencies have neglected to address all of the relevant factors, thus rendering the DEIS analysis inadequate under NEPA. Also, the Air Force's failure to evaluate this issue demonstrates that it is violating 40 C.F.R. § 1502.16(c) which requires that the DEIS address possible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of federal, regional, state, and local land use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned.[22]

SF-3

The BLM itself in other instances has noted the serious public health and safety concerns raised by military use of chaff. In the *Central Nevada Communication Sites Proposed Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment* (March 1996), EA No.-NV-030-96035, the BLM stated that:

[22] Similarly, the Air Force must also evaluate potential conflicts between its proposed actions and the joint Forest Service/BLM ecosystem management plans for the Upper Columbia River Basin area which includes the Owyhee Plateau

> Chaff consists of microfine silica fibers coated with aluminum. It is used to mask aircraft from radar. In training missions its use is associated with both air-to-air combat training and the ground-to-air threat emitters that have caused concern in central Nevada. Over two trillion chaff fibers have been dropped on central Nevada over the last 20 years . . . .
>
> Concerns about the biological effects from the use of chaff include the potential for ingestion of aluminum and silica glass and the inhalation of chaff fibers. Chaff fibers are very brittle and easily broken. Silica dust, consisting of small fragments of silica glass dispersed in the air is considered a nuisance dust and has been identified as a potential human carcinogen by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Public concern has been expressed about the relationship between aluminum and Alzhiemers disease . . . In addition, although aluminum occurs naturally in the body, it has been reported to accumulate in brain tissues with age, that aluminum can be transported to the brain via the nasal passageways, and that there may be a positive relation between aluminum concentration in drinking water and regional rates for dementia

Central Nevada EA at 18-19 (citations omitted)

SF-9

The DEIS estimates 20,000 flares will be ignited annually under the proposed ETI. DEIS at 2-73. The Air Force has previously recognized the potential fire hazard associated with the use of flares. ITR DEIS at 4-19, 4-33, 4-37, 4-41. It fails, however, to realistically identify the impact of flare fires on wildlife. In addition to loss of forage and cover, direct mortality, and long term habitat alterations caused by flare fire, flares may also produce startle effects and cause vision impairment. The DEIS recognizes only that habitat could be lost. The DEIS takes no steps to analyze the magnitude of the fire impact on habitat, nor does it analyze any of the other potential effects on wildlife in the proposed area.

3. Laser Impacts.

SF-6 The Air Force intends to utilize laser systems in the proposed training activities. DEIS at 2-74. These systems are used for terrain following and weapons targeting. *Id.* The DEIS fails to address deals with the problem of thermal burns to an animal's eyes when the lasers are used in combat mode. The DEIS assures that any laser operations will be reviewed by a bioenvironmental engineer who will certify the operations as "safe." *Id.* It does not specify what this generic bromide means, nor does it specify that if a procedure that is safe for wildlife cannot be developed such operations will not happen.

4. The DEIS Fails to Consider the Cumulative Impacts on Wildlife.

Although the DEIS identifies various factors that will impact wildlife in the region (e.g., noise from aircraft, sonic booms, construction activities, use of flares and chaff, loss of habitat, increased accessibility, etc.), it does not consider the cumulative impact of all these effects on the wildlife in the proposed area. While exposure to chaff, low flying aircraft, habitat alteration from flare-induced fires, or sonic booms may have a minimal impact on certain species or specific animals, the combined effect of all the BI-62 stresses on the wildlife may have a significant impact. The cumulative, potentially synergistic, effect of all the potential stresses on wildlife must be adequately identified in order to adequately assess the true impacts on wildlife. *Cf. National Wildlife Fed'n v. FERC*, 801 F.2d 1505 (9th Cir. 1986) (acknowledging need to evaluate cumulative impacts of development on fish and wildlife).

In this instance, the Air Force and BLM simply failed to conduct the required cumulative impact analysis of a proper scope to include an evaluation of the impact of

the proposed ETI actions together with the other past, present, and reasonably future actions of composite force military training, and discharge of chaff and flare ordnance onto the lands and into the habitat of these same bighorn sheep populations. Not only did the ETI DEIS fail to consider the potential devastating effect of this wide scope of cumulative impacts, it even failed to properly acknowledge, as required by the NEPA PR-22 regulations, that some of that environmental documentation is as yet not final and cannot be relied on to support the lack of environmental impact for further actions or lack of cumulative effects from the present action because that environmental analysis is subject DP-4 to ongoing judicial review. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1506.3(d). In this instance, the 1992 environmental impact statement that purported to evaluate the effects of increased military overflights, increased military airspace designations, widespread supersonic flight and flare use over the southwestern Idaho and the WSAs and ACECs at issue here is the subject of a judicial action in which the court has indicated that that 1992 EIS itself was of improper scope. *Greater Owyhee Legal Defense v. Department of Defense*, 889 F. Supp. 1295 (D. Idaho 1995) (holding that Air Force failed to follow procedure required by law in preparing 1992 AFI EIS).

DP-7 The ETI DEIS failed to identify all relevant areas of environmental concern and carefully review those issues because it failed to include a cumulative impacts analysis of proper scope. This cumulative impacts analysis is all the more crucial for an informed NEPA analysis here where: (1) the Ninth Circuit has recognized the sensitive nature of bighorn sheep species to human disturbance and required careful analyses to evaluate the potential impacts to these species; (2) the breadth of the scientific literature and the Air Force's own data confirm that bighorn sheep are easily stressed by human disturbance

such as the proposed action and that the sheep may abandon their habitat or suffer population losses as a result of this stress; and (3) previous analyses suggests the likelihood of adverse cumulative impacts from the range of military training activities already occurring and planned in the area affected by the ETI actions, especially when considered in combination with the further stresses to be imposed on the sheep by the intensive CWT activities to be facilitated by ETI.

In *Foundation for North American Wild Sheep v. U.S. Department of Agriculture*, 681 F.2d 1172 (9th Cir. 1982), the court noted the special status and environmental sensitivity of bighorn sheep, and rejected agency attempts in that case to slant the evaluation of potential bighorn impacts in favor of a proposed action by relying on an inadequate scope of studies in an environmental assessment. *Id.* at 1179-80. Also, the Ninth Circuit indicated that "[t]he Bighorn require a finely tuned ecological balance for their 'lambing' and rearing functions . . . '[a]ny disturbance of these areas would be a catastrophe to the sheep'" where the ecosystems required by the sheep are a limited resource. *Id.* at 1180. In that case, the unique ecological characteristics of the bighorn, inadequately addressed by the Forest Service, were sufficient to show a risk of unevaluated environmental effects undermining the no significant impact conclusion reached in the agency's EA. *Id.* at 1180-82. Similarly, the same ecological factors here, and the range of scientific opinion and analyses overlooked by the agencies in reaching their conclusions, demonstrate the serious risk of unevaluated environmental harm requiring the Air Force and BLM to reconsider their analysis.

As detailed herein, the scientific literature has identified a wide range of adverse stress responses and physiological impacts to bighorn sheep and similar ungulates

resulting from aircraft overflight and human disturbance. The Air Force's own data collected during Phase I of its overflight effects study further confirms the conclusion BI-70 that the bighorn sheep may be subject to severe stress from the ETI DEIS proposed actions. For instance, the field notes from the Air Force's Phase I investigation chronicle the severe reaction of California bighorn sheep in the study area to the stress of repeated low-level military overflight in close temporal proximity combined with the added stress of human intrusion by the observers into the sheep's habitat. *See* Ex. 5 (copy of field notes).

On June 15, 1995, the Air Force researchers located a band of sheep in the area of the confluence of Deep and Dickshooter Creeks. Fourteen sheep were eventually observed on a sagebrush slope foraging that morning. At 9:31 a.m., two jets at less than 1,000 feet flew directly over the sheep. The sheep looked up and moved abruptly when the noise was the loudest. Two minutes later, an additional jet flew overhead and the sheep looked up. Eventually fifteen sheep were observed in this group. At 9:59 a.m., the fourth jet in 28 minutes flew over this band and banked directly above the sheep The rams that bedded down stood up and those rams foraging looked up, ran briefly, and stopped foraging. Within two minutes, at 10:01 a.m. all of the sheep were moving and were out of view of the observers by 10:04 a.m. The sheep had abandoned the area in which they were grazing and had traveled far enough so that the researchers required an additional 37 minutes to relocate the sheep at 10:41 a.m. In response to these repeated stress stimuli, all of the sheep were up and moving in a tight group. The sheep traveled in this tight group up a slope and out of view of the researchers. The field notes concluded that the "sheep [were] startled by jets.

These field observations and similar ones contained in the record belie the cursory evaluation in the DEIS that potential impacts to bighorn sheep would be low in most areas. *See* DEIS at 4-112. Thus, these field data, taken together with the existing base of scientific knowledge (which again was not properly considered in the DEIS), indicate that the bighorn sheep may be easily distressed by the combined disturbance of the proposed actions together with the other stress effects of past, ongoing, and planned military training activity in the same area. None of these potential and highly relevant cumulative impacts were evaluated in the DEIS.

BI-13 Previous analyses suggest a high likelihood of adverse cumulative effects from the ongoing activities of low-level and supersonic flight, and chaff and flare ordnance use by the Air Force over the public lands, WSAs, ACECs, and bighorn sheep populations that would also be affected by the proposed action. For instance, in the February 1992 "Biological Determination on the Effects of Low-Level Overflights, Sonic Booms, Flares and Chaff on Bighorn Sheep in Owyhee County, Idaho," Dr. Dale Toweill and Walt Bodie of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game concluded that these actions: (1) "may adversely affect bighorn sheep populations associated with East Fork Owyhee River and its tributaries;" (2) "may adversely affect the sport hunting spectrum in Idaho;" and (3) "may reduce options available for management of California bighorn sheep nationwide, based on future availability of transplant stock from the East Fork Owyhee herd." Indeed, these 1992 predictions have come true. The annual trapping and transplanting program for California bighorn sheep has been indefinitely suspended by IDFG for the Owyhee canyonland herd due to that herd's dramatic population size decline following increases in military training activities. Also, the hunting opportunity

was reduced from three individual hunts of ten tags each in 1993 to two individual hunts of ten tags since 1993, a 33 percent reduction in hunting opportunity. *See* Exhibit 4 (DiGrazia Decl.).

B The DEIS Fails to Adequately Describe Recreation Resources and Fails to Adequately Evaluate Potential Impacts on Recreational Use of the Affected Area

RV-17 The DEIS contains an inadequate and internally inconsistent evaluation of the recreation resources and impacts of the proposal. For instance, the DEIS claims that the recreational use in the affected areas is not likely to be affected by any of the alternatives. DEIS at 4-204 to 4-231. However, this determination is plainly inconsistent with the descriptions in other segments of the DEIS which note the high-value natural and cultural resources found in the proposed range development and impact areas, and fail to objectively evaluate whether the recreation opportunities provided by the ETI-affected resources are truly "substitutable" and can be found elsewhere.

The area affected by the ETI proposals has the highest density and highest productivity of pronghorn in Idaho, there are numerous species that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act that occur within the affected environment, a portion of the BLM's Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area of Critical Environmental Concern is near one of the target areas, sage grouse leks and brood-rearing areas occur within the area, and the Pole Creek and Camas Creek Archeological Districts are within the region of influence. Moreover, the wetlands affected by the proposals are rare resources, DEIS App. E-6,and several rivers in the region of influence "have been identified as having outstandingly remarkable recreation, scenic, geologic, and wildlife values." ITR DEIS at 3-230. Several wilderness study areas are within the region of influence; by definition, these

areas exhibit a potential for "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation," 16 U.S.C. § 1131(c) (Wilderness Act).

Certainly, this combination of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and open space provides for outstanding recreational opportunities that cannot be found in other areas. Indeed, in recognition of these high-value resources, the area has been suggested for National Park status,[33] another important recreation resources attribute conveniently

RV-25 overlooked in the Air Force's analysis. Furthermore, the Air Force's sweeping statement that no recreation impact is expected from the land withdrawal is not supported by its own analysis nor previous analyses of similar proposals. The analysis in the DEIS looks

RV-17 only at the attributes of the specific target areas without incorporating the impact on surrounding areas as a result of bombing range and emitter site development.

RV-18 The Air Force's startling conclusion on potential recreation impacts is apparently based on the study and discussions contained in the previous ITR Recreation Technical Support Document and similar materials. *See, e.g.*, DEIS at 3-248 (relying on same flawed recreation baseline information as did withdrawn ITR DEIS). Unfortunately for the flyboys, and the cooperating agencies, the Recreation TSD lacks any explicit theoretical basis for its conclusions regarding the purported substitutability of alternative locations for the recreation opportunities provided in Owyhee County. Additionally, the

RV-19 DEIS fails to provide a reference citation for the 1976 Bureau of Outdoor Recreation document that the Air Force contends supports its cramped analysis that military training

[33] *See* James G. MacCracken & Jay O'Laughlin, University of Idaho Forest, Wildlife and Range Policy Analysis Group Report No. 7, "A National Park in Idaho? Proposals and Possibilities" at 3, 22-23, 26-27 (June 1992).

overflights will not adversely affect recreation use or potential special land-use designations. DEIS at 3-248. Without such a reference, the public is unable to locate or review the document the Air Force is apparently referencing, once again showing the Air Force's violation of NEPA's full public disclosure requirement.

The outdoor recreation literature, which the Air Force must consider to ensure the scientific integrity of its DEIS analysis, is replete with numerous studies on recreation choice and behavior, and evaluations of the uniqueness or substitutability of particular recreation areas or experiences.[34] Despite this body of research, the Boise State University public *opinion* (not recreation use and perception) study which forms the basis for the ETI DEIS's baseline recreation analysis, DEIS at 3-248, does not draw on

RV-20 the available scientific literature. Indeed, none of the DEIS preparers shows any extensive outdoor recreation management background or experience. With the research being performed by unqualified and uninformed individuals, the Air Force has failed to ensure the scientific integrity of the DEIS analysis as required by law. 40 C.F.R. § 1501.24.

RV-21 The DEIS conclusions about recreation effects are based on a series of questions in the BSU survey that were asked only of "highly qualified" individuals, which often resulted in small sample sizes insufficient "to allow for statistical interpretation." *E.g.*, BSU Survey at 31. These questions focused on whether there were other areas that respondents visited to experience similar recreation values. *Id.* at 29-43. However, the

[34] *See, e.g.*, USDA Forest Service, *Proceedings--Symposium on Recreation Choice Behavior*, General Technical Report INT-184 (May 1985).

questions addressed only very general experiences and activities such as "viewing wildlife," "viewing scenic beauty," "fishing," "hunting," and "hiking."

These general inquiries do not capture the site- and resource-specific attributes that may make a recreation visit to the Owyhee Country area unique. Previous recreation research has readily acknowledged such area-specific differences. "An activity such as hiking, for example, is basically the same in each area, but the motives for engaging in the activity, the style of participation, and the resulting experiences can vary dramatically from one area to another."[25] Indeed, the BSU survey failed to directly ask, as other recreation use surveys commonly do,[26] whether recreationists perceived any unique attributes in the Owyhee County areas visited or whether these unique features motivated their visit or precluded the use of alternative sites for the same experience.

Setting aside for the moment the BSU survey's serious sampling and statistical problems, the questions asked and the analysis offered in the BSU survey fail to acknowledge that whether alternative recreation sites exist is a complex phenomenon that includes many factors beyond the simple activities or generic values/experiences measured in the BSU study. For instance, previous research has provided clear evidence that recreationists perceive important differences between apparently similar recreation

[25] Roger N. Clark and Kent B. Downing, "Why Here and Not There: The Conditional Nature of Recreation Choice," pp. 61-70, at 64 *in* USDA Recreation Choice Symposium (May 1985).

[26] *See, e.g.*, 1 William J. McLaughlin and Murray D. Feldman, *Idaho River Study: A Look at Boater Use on Ten Non-Designated River Segments in Idaho* at 1-68 to 1-70, 1-94 (Study for Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, November 1983) (asking respondents whether the "special characteristics this river offers" was a reason for recreation visit).

resources.[27] This research indicates that "the foreclosure of on opportunity cannot be presumed to be offset by the physical presence of another in some simple one-for-one fashion."[28] Unfortunately, that is precisely the conclusion that the BSU researchers and the Air Force attempt to reach here without considering contrary evidence in the scientific literature or contrary evidence regarding the uniqueness of Owyhee County recreation resources and settings as described in other sections of the DEIS and in other commenters' remarks.

Other studies in recreation choice behavior have evaluated and confirmed the importance of over a dozen dependent variables that affect an individual's decision to recreate in a particular place.[29] Even when these factors are aggregated into four general categories, the BSU survey addresses at most only two: social/psychological benefits and activity attributes. The BSU survey fails to consider the important physical attributes of a recreation location (such as landscape character),[30] nor did it measure the managerial attributes. Such oversight and generalization in the BSU survey approach is indefensible from a recreation research perspective. The literature confirms that "some

[27] Bo Shelby, "Resource and Activity Substitutes for Recreational Salmon Fishing in New Zealand," pp. 79-85 *in* USDA Recreation Choice Symposium (May 1985).

[28] Stephen F. McCool, George H. Stankey, and Roger N. Clark, "Choosing Recreating Settings: Processes, Findings, and Research Directions," pp. 1-8, at 4 *in* USDA Recreation Choice Symposium (May 1985).

[29] *See* Jean T. Beaulie and Richard Schreyer, "Choices of Wilderness Environments--Differences Between Real and Hypothetical Choice Situations," pp. 38-45 *in* USDA Recreation Choice Symposium (May 1985).

[30] Indeed, such a site-specific description of the affected environment is required under NEPA. *See California v. Block*, 690 F.2d at 763-64.

forms of the same activity are not good substitutes,"[31] underscoring the need to examine all of the factors influencing recreation choice in order to draw the substitutability conclusions the Air Force attempts to reach based on inadequate data here.

The BSU survey failed to ask the questions that might further ascertain whether true recreation alternatives exist or whether Owyhee County is providing unique recreation experiences. For instance, the BSU survey could have asked directly whether Owyhee County recreation visits were motivated by the unique characteristics of the area, and it also could have inquired about whether alternative sites were considered when planning the Owyhee County visit. These questions would then give a better means of truly assessing the potential substitutability of the alternative recreation locations.

Overall, the conclusions in the DEIS and Recreation TSD regarding alternate recreation locations are scientifically insupportable and inconsistent with the findings of a large body of recreation literature, as well as being inconsistent with the unique physical and biological characteristics of the ETI region of influence as described elsewhere in the DEIS. At the very least, this inconsistency between the BSU survey findings and other recreation literature must be explained in the DEIS. Undoubtedly, such an evaluation would indicate not that the Owyhee County area lacks unique recreation resources, but only that the BSU survey was *unable to measure* these attributes in the perceptions of the "rigorously qualified" visitors it contacted. As it now stands, the Air Force's reliance on the BSU study as a predictor of recreation impacts is

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[31] Shelby, *supra* note 8, at 84.

not scientifically credible and is contrary to NEPA's rigorous environmental evaluation requirements.

The BSU survey suffers from additional research shortcomings that render it scientifically inadequate, despite its description as a "statistically reliable" study. BSU Study at 1. For instance, the BSU study reports a cooperation rate of only 39% for actual telephone contacts made. *Id.* at 55. Yet there was no attempt made to ascertain the non-response bias that may have resulted when the opinions of the 61% of those contacted that did not answer are considered. Such a determination of the non-response bias is a standard part of scientific sampling and telephone surveys.[32]

Next, the BSU survey makes no attempt to validate its rather surprising findings through other research techniques. For instance, on-site surveys of recreation visitors or surveys of known user groups could have been done to confirm whether the substitutability findings of the study could be replicated with different recreation user populations. Again, such validation and reliability checks are an important social science research technique[33] that must be performed before relying on a single study to draw the conclusions presented in the DEIS.

Also, the DEIS contains broad statements about the lack of military overflight impact on recreation visitors that are not supported even by the flawed BSU survey. *See, e.g.*, DEIS at 3-248, 4-202 to 4-203. The BSU study did not inquire about the impact of current military training overflights, instead it asked generically "How much of

[32] *See, e.g.*, D.A. Dillman, *Mail and Telephone Surveys: The Total Design Method* (1978); K.D. Bailey, *Methods of Social Research* (1982).

[33] *See* Bailey, *supra* note 14.

a problem was airplanes flying overhead." BSU Study at 64, question 426. Thus, this question addressed aircraft overflights generally (e.g. commercial, civil, and military traffic) and does not support the specific conclusion stated in the DEIS.

Moreover, even if present military overflights are not a "problem," that does not indicate that the tremendously increased activities proposed in the DEIS will not create an impact on recreation activities in Owyhee County, an impact that must be evaluated in the DEIS. Similarly, the Recreation TSD, in the BSU study report, states that respondents were specifically asked about "low flying aircraft being a problem." BSU Study at 2. Again, question 426 was not directed specifically to low-flying aircraft, but addressed aircraft overflights generally. Indeed, if the BSU survey truly wanted to measure the items that the DEIS and the survey report claim it measured, then it could have asked questions about military overflights, low-level flights, or whether respondents saw such flight activity on their visits. Instead, as with many other portions of the DEIS, the Air Force simply stuck its collective head in the sand and refused to ask the questions to which it did not want to know the answers, even though the law requires that such issues be evaluated.

The BSU survey assumed that the SCR area could form a benchmark for comparison of future impacts in the region of influence. *See* BSU Study at 7. However, this is a faulty benchmark. This assumption fails to recognize that ongoing activities at the SCR at the time of evaluation for the survey (1991) are *not* the same as the then-proposed ITR, or currently-proposed ETI, activities. The proposed activities involve a marked increase in supersonic flight, as well as increased number of aircraft performing coordinated attack exercises at the time. Indeed, the very shortcomings of the SCR

played up by the Air Force in the DEIS indicate that the proposed activities are not merely a continuation of prior SCR training in a different location. Therefore, the SCR area is not an appropriate benchmark, thus calling into question the majority of the conclusions reached in the BSU survey. *See, e.g.*, BSU Study at 29, 31, 33, 35, 39, 41, 43; Recreation TSD at 5-1; DEIS at 3-248.

C. The Noise Impact of the Proposed Action Has Not Been Adequately Analyzed.

1. Inappropriate Measurement Technique.

NO-2 Although the area affected by the Air Force proposals is only sparsely populated, the region of influence overlays numerous special use areas and noise sensitive locations. Despite the adverse affect noise can have on such areas, in addition to the adverse affect noise can have on human experience of the enjoyment of nature and solitude, the DEIS fails to adequately analyze the noise impacts that would be created by the proposed action. In large part, this inadequate analysis is due to the use of an inappropriate noise evaluation metric that is an averaging measure designed for use in urban, and not wildland, settings. This point is thoughtfully addressed in the DEIS review and comments provided by Dr. William Weida. The full comments of Dr. Weida are included in the attached exhibits and the noise evaluation discussions therein are incorporated herein by reference. *See* Exhibit 3.

NO-4 The L_{dn} is an average noise impact, and does not fully account for the episodic impact created by such events as sonic booms or low-level fly bys. The analysis used in the DEIS heavily relies upon a fact that, averaged over a sufficient period of time, the noise impact of composite force training exercises becomes less significant. Data that

presents the noise impact of a limited time frame of military exercises each month averaged over a complete month is much less significant than a computation of the actual noise impact that occurs while the training exercises are being conducted. A proper analysis must include both episodic and average data in order to provide the decisionmaker and the public with an accurate picture of the noise impact of the proposed action. *Allison v. Dept. of Transportation*, 908 F.2d 1024 (D.C. Cir. 1990) (noise impact from airport analyzed using data portraying the average increase in noise, and the episodic increase in noise). However, the DEIS only highlights the more favorable averaging data. By emphasizing the average noise impact and ignoring the episodic noise impact, the DEIS improperly suggest that the increase in noise will not be significant.

In addition to averaging the noise impact over a larger period of time than it takes for the noise event to occur, the DEIS also averages the event over the whole area affected by the proposed action instead of the area impacted by the noise. An example of this inconsistency is found in the DEIS's evaluation of noise impacts on recreation use. A person traveling through the area affected by the proposed ETI actions will not experience the noise impact of a nearby low-level flight or sonic boom over a day or a month, but in time it takes for sound waves to hit his or her ears --- a matter of seconds. People, like wildlife, are adversely affected by startling noise events. At least for purposes of determining the noise impact on recreation and wildlife the use of average data should be disregarded or considered with episodic measurements.

NO-11 The Air Force's noise evaluation in the ETI DEIS also fails to frankly acknowledge the scientific shortcomings of the methods used, and therefore it fails to

candidly disclose in the DEIS the risks of the proposed actions. For example, the Air Force itself has repeatedly acknowledged that its NOISEMAP methodology is an imperfect predictor of noise impacts and resulting annoyance. In its fiscal year 1996-97 Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategic Plan, the Air Force states that "the methods used to gather the information required [for NOISEMAP] is [sic] extremely vulnerable to litigation. The current data collection methods do not provide indisputable data. In fact, the accuracy of the data is totally dependent upon human interpretation and therefore, extremely vulnerable to human error." USAF FY 96/197 ESOH Strategic Plan at 1a. Under NEPA, the Air Force must disclose these shortcomings in its noise evaluation methodology in the ETI DEIS, and it must account for the range of potential impacts that might occur given the uncertainty in the methodology and data collection methods for that methodology.

Further, the Air Force itself has noted that "no quantitative dosage-response relationship has been developed for predicting annoyance in these circumstances [where Air Force operations are occurring over federal lands used for outdoor recreation purposes]." *Id.* at 1b. Again, the Air Force needs to disclose these shortcomings and consider the impact of these data gaps in its ETI DEIS. Similarly, the Air Force acknowledged that it has no accurate method of predicting annoyance from the combined effects of exposure to subsonic operations and supersonic operations. *Id.* at 1c. And, the agency has also admitted that "there exists no systematic methodology for assessing the impacts of aircraft noise and sonic booms to humans, animals and structures. Environmental impact analysis process (EIAP) documents presently use a variety of noise description and assessment models/data bases, often being of questionable scientific

NO-11

value." *Id.* at 2d. As before, the Air Force must disclose these shortcomings of its EIAP methodology in the ETI DEIS, and it must undertake further analyses of potential environmental impacts to account for the extremely large analytical shortcomings of the methodologies it has applied.

2. Misuse of Forest Service Overflight Study.

The Air Force inappropriately attempts to downplay potential recreational visitor impacts from overflying military aircraft by citing to a 1992 Forest Service Report to Congress on the Potential Impacts of Aircraft Overflights of National Forest System Wildernesses (July 1992). *See, e.g.*, DEIS at 4-202 to 4-203. However, as this Forest Service study readily acknowledges, "generalization of inferences drawn from these studies must be made with care" because of the unique conditions of the Forest Service research. Forest Service Report at 2-22. Nevertheless, the Air Force proceeds with abandon to rely on this study to support their conclusion that aircraft noise intrusions do not appreciably impair recreation visitors' primitive wilderness experience.

NO-19

The Forest Service study simply does not provide the support that the Air Force sees in it. The Forest Service research looked at all types of aircraft overflights of wilderness areas, not just the military aircraft performing combat training exercises that are of concern for the DEIS. Indeed, the Forest Service study reported that the greatest problems with aircraft overflights arose in areas where "outdoor recreationists are most commonly exposed to the noisiest overflights; i. e., low-altitude, high-speed tactical military operations," exactly the type of operations that will occur with the ETI proposal. Forest Service Report at 2-23. Thus, contrary to the Air Force's summary, the Forest Service study compels the opposite conclusion: wargame overflights may

cause a serious impact on recreational visitors' experience and enjoyment of the area. The Air Force's summary also fails to acknowledge the Forest Service conclusion that visitors in wilderness setting are approximately 10 dB less tolerant of noise than in residential settings. *Id.* at 2-22. Again, this finding suggests a much greater noise impact from the proposed action than is disclosed by the Air Force in the DEIS; given this greater sensitivity to noise in the wilderness setting of the Owyhee Country, it follows that even a small noise increase will have a disproportionately larger effect on recreation visitors' experiences.

The ETI DEIS also tries to conceal the true noise impact on recreationists and sportsmen when it asserts that high-altitude aircraft such as those in a MOA should not lead to visitor annoyance. How can it assert that the MOA flights will be non-annoying and at high-altitude when other Air Force analyses disclose that a person standing at any given point underneath the Owyhee MOA could expect to be subject to three low-level overflights a day after implementation of the ETI, with almost four low-level overflights a day for those underneath the Jarbridge MOA? *See* ITR DEIS at 4-228. Once again, the minimal environmental impact conclusions trumpeted by the Air Force are not even supported by the data provided in its own documents.

Similarly, the Air Force cannot rely on the Forest Service study as support of the conclusion that the majority of wilderness visitors were not annoyed at all by overflying aircraft. *See* DEIS at 4-203. The Forest Service study is so different in terms of the

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varying types of disturbance it measured in locations very different from the Owyhee Country's canyonlands and plateaus that its conclusions are not transferable to the present ETI proposal. For all the Air Force knows, the 75 percent non-annoyance

finding from the Forest Service study could relate to non-military aircraft overflights, unlike the situation here where the vast majority of overflights will be low-level military training missions. In short, there is simply no scientifically supportable approach for the Air Force's broad generalizations about noise impacts based on the Forest Service study.

D. The DEIS Fails to Evaluate the Consistency of the Proposed Action With Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act.

The CEQ regulations require that an environmental impact statement include a discussion of "[p]ossible conflicts between the proposed actions and the objectives of Federal, Regional, State, and local (and in the case of a Reservation, Indian Tribe) land use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.16(c).[34] In this case, the DEIS fails to address the relevant federal policy for the protection of public parks, recreation areas, and wildlife refuges embodied in Section 4(f) of the Department

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of Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. § 303.

The actions contemplated in the DEIS will require the cooperation and approval of the Federal Aviation Administration, DEIS at 1-39, 1-40, an agency of the Department of Transportation. Under Section 4(f) of the Transportation Act:

> The secretary [of Transportation] may approve a transportation program or project . . . requiring the use of publicly owned land of a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuse of national, State, or local significance . . . only if –
>
> (1) there is no prudent and feasible alternative to using that land; and

[34] The CEQ Regulations further require that an EIS "shall discuss any inconsistency of a proposed action with any approved state or local plan and laws." *Id.* § 1506.2(d). "Where an inconsistency exists, the statement should describe the extent to which the agency would reconcile its proposed action with the plan or law." *Id.*

> (2) the program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the park, recreation area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge . . . resulting from the use.

49 U.S.C. § 303(c).

In this case, the transportation program (i.e. the redesignation of MOAs and restricted air space) proposed in the DEIS will result in the use of publicly owned land of the categories described under Section 4(f). Clearly, as the DEIS indicates, much of the land underlying the proposed restricted air space for the training range action is land held in federal or state ownership. Additionally, the DEIS also makes clear that many of these lands are special use areas managed to protect their unique recreational or wildlife attributes. These areas will be "used" within the meaning of Section 4(f) because the special attributes for which they are managed will be impacted by the Air Force proposal. The use of park lands and protected areas within the meaning of Section 4(f) includes not

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only the actual, physical takings of such lands, but any significant, adverse indirect impact as well:

> [A] project which respects a park's territorial integrity may still, by means of noise, air pollution and general unsightliness, dissipate its aesthetic value, crush its wildlife, defoliate its vegetation, and "take" it in every practical sense.

Allison, 908 F.2d at 1028 (quoting *D.C. Fed'n of Civic Ass'ns v. Volpe*, 459 F.2d 1231, 1239 (D C. Cir.), *cert. denied*, 405 U.S. 1030 (1972)).

Despite this "use" of such protected special use areas and public lands that will occur as a result of the Air Force's proposals, the DEIS fails to evaluate whether there exists prudent and feasible alternatives to using that land, and whether the program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the recreation and wildlife

areas that may be impaired from the use. As detailed in other sections of these comments, the mitigation measures inadequately discussed in the DEIS cannot satisfy this requirement since there is no binding agreement to undertake such mitigation measures, nor are the mitigation measures described in sufficient detail to enable a DEIS reviewer to determine their effect in ameliorating the potential impacts.

Similarly, the alternatives analysis of the DEIS is inadequate to satisfy this Section 4(f) policy since it fails to consider all reasonable alternatives. Moreover, the Section 4(f) alternatives analysis may differ in that it should consider alternatives to not using the land protected under Section 4(f), i.e., the special use areas designated for recreation and wildlife purposes by the land management agencies such as BLM.

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Lastly, under Section 4(f) the potential noise impact of the proposed action on these special areas must be evaluated in the context of these Department of Transportation Act requirements. *See Allison*, 908 F.2d 1024. Because the DEIS fails to consider potential conflicts with the policy and requirements of Section 4(f), it fails to comply with NEPA and also fails to provide the necessary documentation for the Secretary of Transportation's decision that will be required for the FAA approvals outlined in the DEIS. *See, e.g., Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, Inc. v. Volpe*, 701 U.S. 402 (1971) (outlining Secretary of Transportation decisionmaking requirements under Section 4(f)).

E. The DEIS Inadequately Evaluates the Potential Impacts on Wilderness Study Areas.

Several BLM wilderness study areas are present within the areas affected by the proposals and underneath the modified airspace and region of influence of these

proposals. *See, e.g.*, DEIS at 3-223 to 3-228. These WSAs will be adversely affected by ongoing and increased military overflights, as well as the increased use of chaff and flares. The DEIS fails to consider the on-the-ground impacts of chaff and flare use on these WSAs. This impact must be evaluated since, under FLPMA, these lands are to be managed in a manner that preserves their suitability for wilderness designation. 43 U.S.C. § 1782(c). The DEIS fails to consider how the effects of repeated chaff and flare use, either through wildfire resulting from flares in WSAs or from adjacent lands, or the deposition and accumulation of chaff materials, might impact the wilderness characteristics of these areas.

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The ETI DEIS actions will occur over and on number wilderness study areas in southwestern Idaho. A WSA is a roadless area that has been identified as having a wilderness characteristic and as being reviewed for possible designation as wilderness, pursuant to the Wilderness Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1131-1136. During the period of wilderness review, BLM is required by Section 603(c) of FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. § 1782(c), to manage WSAs "in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness." To date no action has been taken by Congress to designate these three WSAs as wilderness, so the WSA lands and resources involved here remain subject to the Section 603(c) nonimpairment mandate. *See Ronald A. Pene*, 135 IBLA 143, 144 (1996).

Under the Wilderness Act, a wilderness area is one "where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man" and that may contain "ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value." Wilderness Act § 2(c). It is these values, including the significant wildlife resource of the California

bighorn sheep herds, which make the areas suitable for wilderness designation. For instance, the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness FEIS (1989) states that "the rhyolite upland-canyonlands/sagebrush-bunchgrass ecosystem provides yearlong habitat for bighorn sheep (on the sensitive species list for Idaho . . .). Bighorn sheep are dependent upon a natural undisturbed environmental for their survival. The Owyhee River system presently provides for this environment." *Id.* at III-14. These values are to remain nonimpaired during the wilderness review process.

In furtherance of FLPMA's nonimpairment standard, the Department of Interior has adopted the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review ("IMP"), which are binding on all BLM state offices. These guidelines provide guidance to BLM employees in the management of WSA's pending ultimate congressional determination on whether the study areas should be included in the permanent wilderness. *See Ronald A. Pene*, 135 IBLA at 147. The IMP also outlines the evaluation procedures to be followed by the BLM to determine whether a proposed activity will satisfy the nonimpairment standard. *See* 44 Fed. Reg. 72014, 72021-23 (Dec. 12, 1979).

Under section B.2. of the IMP, the BLM may permit activities to proceed in a WSA only when it has determined that the activity will not impair the land's suitability for preservation as wilderness. This determination must be made by first ensuring that the activity conforms to the existing management and framework plan for the affected area. The BLM must also review the proposed activity through an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement to determine whether it will be nonimpairing and to ensure that approval of such activity will not create a situation in

which the cumulative effect of existing uses and the new proposed uses would impair the suitability of the area for designation as a wilderness. *See* 44 Fed. Reg. at 74022-23.

Specifically, the NEPA documentation for a proposed activity in a WSA must consider under the nonimpairment standard whether:

> the addition of this proposal produce[s] an aggregate effect upon the area's wilderness characteristics and values that would constrain the Secretary's recommendation with respect to the area's suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness, considering the area in its expected condition at the time the Secretary sends his recommendation to the President?

44 Fed. Reg. at 72023. Additionally, for "wilderness study areas that are pristine in character," the nonimpairment determination must ask whether "the addition of this proposal significantly reduce[s] the overall wilderness quality of the WSA?" *Id.* The 1989 Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness FEIS (and similar statements for the Jarbidge and Little Jacks WSAs), which the Air Force failed to properly consider in its DEIS, documents the pristine nature of the WSAs prior to the cumulative impacts of the proposed action and other past, ongoing, and future military actions in and over these WSAs. *See, e.g.*, Owyhee Canyonlands FEIS at III-5, III-6, III-14 (all of Owyhee WSAs possess high degree of naturalness and provide outstanding opportunities for solitude; Owyhee River WSAs provide excellent habitat for many species of wildlife).

The ETI DEIS failed to follow the evaluation procedures of the IMP and it fails to apply properly the nonimpairment standard in determining whether the proposed actions can be approved consistent with this standard. For instance, the DEIS does not address the required nonimpairment standard analysis, but instead simply states in a conclusory fashion that all activities will comply with the IMP. However, this terse discussion is

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inadequate to provide the initial nonimpairment analysis, including the important cumulative impacts analysis, that is required in the NEPA documentation for an activity proposed in, on, or over a WSA.

The ETI DEIS analysis also fails to provide the required description of the wilderness characteristics as documented in the BLM's previous inventories for these areas, including the inventory reported in the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness, Final Environmental Impact Statement (1989) and the BLM's Idaho Wilderness Study Report (1991). The terse summary of the wilderness study areas in the DEIS, and the conclusory evaluation of potential impacts to the wilderness study areas in the DEIS, fail to describe the specific wilderness characteristics of these areas that require special consideration under the nonimpairment standard. This specific inquiry is required by the evaluation procedures outlined in the IMP. 44 Fed. Reg. at 72022. The unique wilderness characteristics of these areas include the California bighorn sheep and other wildlife. *See California v. Block*, 690 F.2d 753, 763 (9th Cir. 1982) (wildlife are wilderness attribute that must be evaluated in determining impacts of future management options for roadless areas). Yet the DEIS failed to discuss the present nature of these characteristics in terms of their wilderness values as well as the potential impacts on these characteristics and values from the proposed action and the aggregate effect of the proposed action combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions occurring over and upon the same WSAs.

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Although the ETI DEIS references the IMP, it never properly applies the evaluative procedures or the nonimpairment standard to determine whether the proposed activities might impair the suitability of these areas for designation as wilderness.

LU-21

Significantly, the DEIS entirely fails to consider whether the additional impacts of the proposed actions, i.e. increased use of the WSAs for warmaking and military ordnance disposal and overflight, together with the past, ongoing, and reasonably foreseeable impacts of stepped-up military war game activities in and over these WSAs, would have such an aggregate effect on the area's wilderness characteristics and values (including wildlife) that it would affect the suitability or nonsuitability of the three areas for preservation as wilderness. Instead, the agencies punt on this required analysis and state that the "ultimate disposition of the WSAs in the ROI will be decided by Congress." DEIS at 4-191. That, however, simply begs the question required by the IMP analysis; i.e., will the WSAs remain suitable for designation following the devastating environmental effects of noise, supersonic overflight, chaff, flares and visual intrusion that will impact the solitude, wildlife values and habitat, recreation opportunities, and pristine nature for which these areas were initially selected as suitable by BLM.

Without such a determination, the agencies have not complied with the IMP standards. Because the nonimpairment standard of the IMP and the evaluation procedures required to implement that policy are binding on all BLM offices, *see, e.g. Ronald A. Pene*, 135 IBLA at 147; *The Wilderness Society*, 106 IBLA 46 (1988); *Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance et al.*, 135 IBLA 138, 139 (1996), BLM's failure to conduct this analysis as a cooperating agency shows it has failed to consider relevant environmental factors in its decisionmaking. Thus, the ETI DEIS analysis cannot support implementation of the proposed actions where that analysis has failed to fully consider all the factors required to be considered under the IMP nonimpairment standard evaluation procedure.

LU-22

Additionally, the DEIS repeatedly suggests that overflight impacts should be minimal since military training activities have occurred previously in this area and were occurring at the time the lands were selected as wilderness study areas. *See, e.g.*, DEIS at 4-191. What this conclusory evaluation fails to consider is that the current proposal is very different in scope and duration from the training activities that have previously occurred in this area. For instance, the description of composite force training in the DEIS, *see* DEIS at 1-18 to 1-27, confirms that the large-scale CWT training exercises proposed are not the activities that have been routinely occurring in the military operations areas over the affected WSAs. *See id.* at 1-27. Also, the recent changes implemented in the 1992 AF EIS proposals, such as supersonic flight and chaff and flare use throughout the MOAs in southwestern Idaho, further distinguish the present project from past activities. Thus, comparisons to past use as a basis for determining no impact to the wilderness characteristics of the area are unfounded based on the different nature of past activities and the current proposals.

LU-1

Moreover, the Air Force repeatedly and shamelessly falsifies previous statistics concerning overflight activity above the Idaho WSAs. The Air Force, throughout its expanded training debate of the 1990s, asserts that these WSAs have been subject tc similar overflight activity and numbers such as that proposal for the current ETI actions. *See* DEIS at 4-191. ("It is estimated that an average of more than 7,000 sorties used the airspace over some of these WSAs from 1972 through 1986."), *see also* AF EIS at 4-20 (making similar assertions).

The BLM documents cited by the Air Force belie the DEIS assertions. Significantly, the 1991 Idaho Wilderness Study Report states that in 1990 there were

only approximately "365 training missions . . . scheduled in the MOAs and 3,548 missions were scheduled in the MTRs." *Id.* at 8. Thus, the Air Force's already flawed WSA analysis is further flawed because it applies an incorrect baseline.[35]

Next, the Air Force wrongly concludes that the BLM has previously sanctioned the proposed overflight and range/emitter sites development activity as not affecting WSA suitability for designation as wilderness. DEIS at 4-191 Once again, this position intentionally misstates what is set out in the BLM documents. For example, the 1991 Idaho Wilderness Study Report notes only that the Air Force was preparing training activity expansion plans and that in the Air Force EIS, "the impact of the proposed range expansion and associated increased flight activities on wilderness values will be analyzed." *Id.* at 8. Thus, there is no "precedent" in this BLM study report, only an acknowledgment that the later Air Force EIS should evaluate the WSA impacts of the Air Force proposals. Instead of providing this required evaluation, the Air Force simply tries to pass the buck back to the earlier BLM study reports. *But those reports never evaluated the WSA impacts of the currently proposed Air Force actions.* Thus, the Air Force's superficial discussion is nothing more than bureaucratic fingerpointing that, as a result, never makes the required WSA impact analysis. This serious flaw requires the ETI DEIS to be withdrawn for further evaluation and recirculated if both agencies' NEPA and FLPMA obligations are to be satisfied.

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[35] Appendix N of the ETI DEIS confirms that the Air Force's use of the term "sortie" in that document refers "exclusively to the flight of a single aircraft from takeoff through landing." *Id.* at n-3. The Air Force provides no explanation for how the 365 MOA training missions baseline of the pre-composite wing overflight use of the Idaho WSAs equates to an average of 7,000 sorties.

Also, in the Air Force's previous evaluation of the impact of overflights on recreation areas in the 1990 Realignment of Mountain Home Air Force Base and Proposed Expanded Range Capability DEIS, the Air Force concluded that aircraft overflights of primitive recreation areas were a potentially significant environmental impact. *See* 1990 Realignment DEIS at E-12 (Exhibit 3.A). Considering the overall similarity between the overflight activities evaluated in that 1990 DEIS and the current DEIS, the Air Force has failed to explain why the overflight impacts previously considered to be potentially significant are now evaluated a s not significant Such an explanation is required in order to demonstrate that the Air Force has taken the "required hard look" at the environmental impacts of its proposed actions.

LU-18

LU-19 The current DEIS also takes a single factor approach to evaluating wilderness study area impacts that is inconsistent with the multiple purposes of wilderness preservation outlined in the Wilderness Act and incorporated into FLPMA. *See* 43 U.S.C. § 1782; 16 U S.C. § 1131, et. seq. For instance, the DEIS fails to specifically evaluate the potential effects on wildlife from the proposal as it relates to the wilderness and WSA values in the special use areas considered in the DEIS. This evaluation is crucial to considering environmental impacts on these WSAs since the presence and abundance of wildlife can be an important attribute of these and other roadless areas *See California v. Block*, 690 F.2d at 763 (wilderness values include wildlife type and quantity in a particular area) Instead, the present DEIS evaluates potential WSA impacts only with regard to recreation impacts and without adequately considering wildlife and plant life impacts from the proposed training range operations Further, the WSA impacts analysis fails to consider the potential conflicts imposed by the use of lands

adjacent to the WSA in a manner that is inconsistent with the wilderness characteristics and resources managed for within the WSAs

Such an inquiry and evaluation is important from the recreation management perspective,[M] and to satisfy the interdisciplinary approach required by NEPA. 42 U.S.C. § 4332(A), 40 C F.R. § 1501.2(a). Overall, these flaws in the DEIS analysis of the impacts on WSAs and other primitive areas lead the Air Force to understate the potential environmental effects of its proposals on these lands

F. The ETI DEIS Failed to Adequately Evaluate and Protect the Unique ACEC Resources

The proposed actions would take place over and within the Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat ACEC and the Bruneau/Jarbidge River Bighorn Sheep Habitat ACEC, among other areas DEIS at 3-230. Under FLPMA, ACECs are "areas within the public lands where special management attention is required . . . to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or process." 43 U.S.C. § 1702(a); *see also* 43 C F.R. § 1601.0-5(a) The BLM's designation of an area as an ACEC means that it contains "significant historic, cultural, or scenic values; [or] a fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process," and "qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern." 43 C.F.R. § 1610.7-2(a).

[M] USDA Forest Service, The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: a Framework for Planning, Management, and Research, General Technical Report TNW-98 (December 1979) (problems posed by inconsistencies in management of adjacent lands and impact on recreational opportunities).

In this instance, the ACECs at issue were designated to provide special management attention to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important wildlife resource of the California bighorn sheep and their habitat. In the ETI DEIS, the agencies did not properly consider the potential impacts of the proposed actions in conjunction with other past, present, and ongoing wildlife stresses and military training activities occurring over and on these ACECs, and how those impacts would affect the special values for which the ACECs were designated or might require further management attention to prevent irreparable damage to that wildlife resource. *See* DEIS at 4-193.

Once again, the DEIS only makes generic reference to the purposes of ACECs and it never properly considers whether significant adverse impacts may occur to this wildlife resource as a result of the particular proposed action or from a result of the proposed action when considered together with the cumulative impacts of other actions in the same ACECs. Significantly, the DEIS analysis fails to consider in the ACEC context the potential impacts to the bighorn sheep in the ACECs, i.e. the specific wildlife resource for which these areas were designated *See Id.*

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Given the Air Force's NEPA duties here, and the BLM's special obligation and authority to manage for both the wildlife resource and wildlife habitat, it is impermissible for the agencies to dismiss an evaluation of potential impacts on the ACECs by focusing only on a lack of surface habitat disturbance (which assertion itself is unfounded given the ordnance deployment that will occur over these areas) and not considering the potential impacts directly to the wildlife resource itself *See* 43 U.S C. § 1702(c) ("multiple use" means the management of the public lands for resource uses including

"wildlife and fish"), 43 U.S C. § 1732(a) (Secretary of Interior shall manage public lands under principles of multiple use); 43 C.F.R. § 24.3(a) (Department of Interior has jurisdiction to manage fish and wildlife resources on federal lands). In short, the Air Force and BLM cannot adequately evaluate the potential impact to the ACEC resources, nor the need for whether additional special management measures are needed to regulate the proposed use, when the agencies failed to consider relevant environmental factors. Those factors are the impacts to the bighorn sheep population itself from the proposed activity and from the proposed activity considered in combination with other military training activities recently approved, ongoing, or planned to occur over, in, and upon the same ACECs.

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G. BLM's Analysis Abdicated the Agency's Responsibility and Authority to Protect and Conserve Wildlife Resources on the Public Lands.

Under FLPMA and NEPA and in its role as a cooperating agency, the BLM is responsible for ensuring the professional integrity, including the scientific integrity, of the discussions and analyses in the DEIS. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1502.24; *Id.* § 1506.5(a), (b); *County of Suffolk v. Secretary of Interior*, 562 F.2d 1368, 1385 (2d Cir. 1977) (primary and nondelegable responsibility for providing environmental analysis lies with the agency). Thus, the BLM cannot simply defer to the Air Force or IDFG for an evaluation of the direct and cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on wildlife, WSA, or ACEC resources. Moreover, the record here does not provide BLM's independent evaluation of the likely range of impacts of the proposed action, especially in light of the high likelihood of stress, disturbance, and cumulative effect on wildlife and WSA resources as discussed above

BI-68

As a legal matter, BLM cannot assert that it is only required to manage or evaluate impacts to bighorn sheep habitat, and not address directly management or impacts to the wildlife species itself. The Bureau of Land Management has the authority and responsibility to manage for wildlife as well as its habitat on lands under its jurisdiction. The Supreme Court has concluded that the United States can assert management powers over wildlife on federal lands. *Kleppe v. New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529 (1976). "In our view, the 'complete power' that Congress has over public lands necessarily includes the power to regulate and protect the wildlife living there." *Id.* at 540-41. This power is based on the Property Clause and Commerce Clause of the federal Constitution. *See* 43 C.F.R. § 24.3(a).

Congress explicitly recognized BLM's authority and responsibility to manage wildlife in the adoption FLPMA. According to that statute, BLM must manage its lands for multiple use, defined as the production and stewardship of:

> a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber minerals, watershed, *wildlife* and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values.

FLPMA § 103(c), 43 U.S.C. § 1702)c) (emphasis added); *see also* Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act, 16 U.S.C. § 528-531. Note that the statute does not mandate management of "wildlife habitat," but of "wildlife."

The Wilderness Act also requires BLM to protect and manage wilderness values, including wildlife. Agencies have often proposed, and Congress often approved, designation of wilderness areas in large part because of wildlife values. Native fish and

wildlife are important components of wilderness. They are interdependent with biophysical features of the wilderness landscape – features such as soils, water, geology, and plants. Wildlife is obviously among the "conservation" purposes for which wilderness is to be managed. 16 U.S.C. § 1133(b).

BLM's Interim Management Policy (IMP) for lands under wilderness review – which applies to the Wilderness Study Areas at issue in this case – shows that BLM recognizes wildlife as an important attribute of wilderness. "Enhancing wilderness values . . . means that a natural distribution, number, and interaction of indigenous species will be sought; natural processes will be allowed to occur as much as possible; and, wildlife species should be allowed to maintain a natural balance with their habitat and with each other." IMP, H-8550-1, Ch. 3, § G(4), page 44 (July 5, 1995). *See also id.* ("the existence of a native species may enhance wilderness values").

The Interim Management Policy also states that the agency shall *cooperate* with state wildlife departments, not that BLM shall *abdicate* its authority.

> The BLM will continue to cooperate with State wildlife agencies in the management of resident wildlife species in accordance with established policies and procedures.

IMP, H-8550-1, Ch. 3, § G(1), page 43 (July 5, 1995).

In addition, the issue of whether BLM has authority to manage wildlife is irrelevant to whether the agency must independently review the impacts of agency action on wildlife. NEPA requires that federal agencies disclose "the environmental impacts of the proposed action." 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C)(i); *see also* 40 C.F.R. 1508.8(b) (definition of "effects" which must be analyzed includes "ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected

ecosystems)." It is irrefutable that impacts to wildlife – as distinct from impacts on habitat – are environmental impacts. *See, e.g., Progressive Animal Welfare Soc'y v. Department of the Navy*, 725 F. Supp. 475 (W.D. Wash. 1989) (NEPA review of project to capture live dolphins must assess potential impacts to the captive dolphins themselves).

Federal courts have repeatedly held that multiple-use agencies have a responsibility to determine the impacts of their actions on wildlife species. In *Foundation for North American Wild Sheep v. U.S. Department of Agriculture*, 681 F.2d 1172 (9th Cir. 1982), the Ninth Circuit struck down the Forest Service's failure to consider adequately the impacts of road construction on a herd of wild sheep. The court held that this failure was a violation of NEPA. The Ninth Circuit based its decision not upon the disturbance of wildlife habitat, but on the potential impact on the wild sheep herd itself, exactly the question at issue here.

BI-68 Accordingly, because the BLM does possess the authority and responsibility to conserve the wildlife species on the public lands (especially those is WSAs and ACECs), the lack of an independent BLM review of the potential wildlife impacts here is predicated on a clear error of law where the agency failed to acknowledge this responsibility and failed to properly evaluate the direct and cumulative impacts of the proposed action on wildlife, WSA, and ACEC resources. The ETI DEIS therefore must be withdrawn and reissued for appropriate consideration of these impacts in light of BLM's authority and responsibility to manage and conserve public land, WSA, and ACEC wildlife resources.

H. <u>The DEIS Fails to Adequately Evaluate the Potential Impacts on Wetlands</u>.

The DEIS notes that development of the range proposal may impact wetlands. DEIS at 4-92 to 4-93; E-13 to E-15. These wetland impacts are of great concern here since very few "wetlands are found within the high desert of Owyhee County." DEIS at E-6. "Because wetlands are so rare, they are a critical resource for the survival of many wildlife species and represent a unique biotic ecosystem . . . ." *Id.* Reduction of these wetlands could cause a reduction of species dependent on them. The DEIS acknowledges that Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is the primary legal authority controlling wetland regulation. DEIS at I-5. However, neither the DEIS analysis nor the appendices satisfies the analytical and evaluative requirements of Section 404.

BI-45 At a minimum, the wetlands analysis must demonstrate whether the proposed fills will comply with the Section 404(b) guidelines promulgated by EPA pursuant to the Clean Water Act. 33 U.S.C. § 1344(b); 40 C.F.R. pt. 230. These guidelines prohibit a regulated discharge that "will cause or contribute to significant degradation of the waters of the United States." 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(c). Additionally, no wetland discharge or alteration is allowed under Section 404 "if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem." *Id.* § 230.10(a). Importantly, "all practicable alternatives to the proposed discharge which do not involve a discharge into a special aquatic site are presumed to have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, unless clearly demonstrated otherwise." *Id.* § 230.10(a)(3).

BI-37 In this case, wetlands are included as "special aquatic sites" under the applicable regulations. *Id.* However, the Air Force has failed to consider or evaluate whether

practicable alternatives to the wetland fills proposed in the DEIS exist. Considering the high value of the wetland resources in this area, and the nonwater-dependent nature of the proposed activity (an Air Force bombing range and associated target development), it is difficult to conceive how there cannot be other practicable alternatives that do not involve the wetlands impacts outlined in the DEIS.

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Next, the Section 404 guidelines require that "appropriate and practicable steps" be taken to minimize potential adverse impacts on the aquatic ecosystem, including wetlands. 40 C.F.R. § 220.10(d). Wetland mitigation efforts are addressed by a Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers which provides that project proponents must sequence their mitigation efforts to avoid wetland impacts to the maximum extent practicable, minimize unavoidable wetland impacts to the extent appropriate, and, as a last resort, compensate for otherwise unavoidable impacts *See* 55 Fed. Reg. 9210, 9212-13 (March 12, 1990). Here, the DEIS fails to include any discussion of wetland mitigation to compensate for the proposed wetland losses.

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Also, the DEIS fails to identify the unique functions and values of the affected wetlands. Although the DEIS provides standard wetland classifications for each of the impacted wetlands, it does not discuss in specific detail what wildlife species, for instance, may depend on each wetland, nor does it provide the type of site-specific resource description required in an EIS. *See California v. Block*, 690 F.2d at 763-64. Without this description of the unique functions and values of the impacted wetlands, no effective mitigation can be developed or evaluated since the Section 404 mitigation policy requires no net loss of wetland functions and values, and it requires that mitigation efforts be based on replacement of similar wetland functions and values to

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those impacted. Additionally, the Section 404 mitigation policy exhibits a preference for wetland compensation in the same watershed or general area as the affected wetland. Given the scarcity of wetland resources in the Owyhee plateau country, the DEIS fails to explain how this like-kind mitigation may be obtained.

Overall, the scope of the wetland impact requirements not considered in the DEIS conclusively demonstrates that it is inadequate to establish the Air Force's compliance with Section 404 requirements. Moreover, the Air Force cannot delay this consideration of Section 404 issues to a later environmental analysis since the wetland fills are part of the currently proposed action. Thus, the failure to consider the Section 404 factors here violates the connected actions analysis requirements of NEPA, as well as the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulatory requirements. *See, e.g., Town of Huntington v. Marsh*, 859 F.2d 1134 (2nd Cir. 1988) *cert. denied*, 495 U.S. 1004 (1990); *Morgan v. Walter*, 728 F. Supp. 1483, 1493 (D. Idaho 1989) (connected actions including Section 404 permit must be considered together in a single EIS).

IV. The DEIS Fails To Consider the Full Scope of Connected Actions.

Because the Air Force justifies its current training range proposal based on the training needs of the composite wing, the scope of the environmental analysis must be expanded to include an evaluation of the environmental impacts of those actions as well. NEPA does not allow the Air Force to segment its environmental decisionmaking to consider only the impacts of the current proposal when it is related to, flows from, or has cumulative impacts with the recent proposals evaluated in the 1992 AF EIS. *See Concerned About Trident v. Rumsfeld*, 555 F.2d 817, 827 (D.C. Cir. 1977) ("It is the essence and thrust of NEPA that the pertinent statements serve to gather in *one place a*

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discussion of the relative environmental impact of alternatives.) (emphasis added) (quoting *Natural Resources Defense Council v. Morton*, 458 F.2d 827, 834 (D.C. Cir. 1971)).

Moreover, the Air Force's approach of deferring the evaluation of environmental impacts impermissibly separates the consideration of connected actions in two different documents. The CEQ regulations require that connected actions must be considered together in a single EIS. *Thomas v. Peterson*, 753 F.2d 754, 758 (9th Cir. 1985); 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a)(1).

Connected actions are defined under the regulations as actions that:

> (i) Automatically trigger other actions which may require environmental impact statements.
> (ii) Cannot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously.
> (iii) Are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification.

40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a)(1).

In this case, based on the Air Force's own statements in the DEIS, the development of the tactical training range such as the ETI proposal and the electronic training range with thirty threat emitter sites is sufficiently and intimately connected to the composite wing realignment that a full discussion of all the environmental impacts of these connected actions must be presented in one EIS. Under the CEQ regulations, the ETI range development and threat emitter installations are connected actions because these actions require an environmental impact statement (the current DEIS) and the actions were triggered by the establishment of the composite wing, as acknowledged by the Air Force. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a)(1)(i). Additionally, the development of the ETI proposal and the threat emitter sites represents "interdependent parts of a larger

action," the larger action being the establishment of the composite wing and satisfying the training needs related to the establishment of that unit. *Id.* § 1508.25(a)(1)(iii). Accordingly, because the development of the ETI and electronic threat emitter range is a connected action to the 1992 AF EIS proposals, a full evaluation of the environmental impacts of all of these connected actions must be considered in a single EIS. *See Thomas v. Peterson*, 753 F.2d at 758-759.

V. The DEIS Fails to Consider the Full Scope of Cumulative Impacts for the Proposed Actions

The ETI DEIS completely fails to evaluate the full scope of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable military training and other public land resource management activities occurring in the same area and affecting the same WSA, ACEC, and special concern wildlife resources as the ETI proposed actions. Under the applicable NEPA regulations, the scope of an environmental document includes the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in that document. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25. The impacts to be considered include those that are direct, indirect, and cumulative. *Id.* § 1508.25(c).

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The CEQ regulations require the discussion of cumulative impacts in environmental impact statements. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7; *Thomas v. Peterson*, 753 F.2d 754-758 (9th Cir. 1985); *LaFlamme v. Federal Energy Regulatory Comm'n*, 852 F.2d 398, 402 (9th Cir. 1988) (individual project cannot be considered in isolation without considering the net impact that all projects in an area may have on the environment). The regulations define a "cumulative impact" as:

> The impact on the environmental which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past,

> present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

40 C.F.R. § 1508.7.

In this instance, the DEIS contains numerous sections in the individual resource impact analysis entitled "Cumulative Impacts." *See, e.g.*, DEIS at 4-9, 4-34, 4-50, 4-154, 4-200. However, these DEIS cumulative impact discussions specifically do not include any consideration of the environmental impacts attributable to the past federal actions outlined in the recent 1992 AF EIS proposals. *See* DEIS at 1-47, 1-48 (issues beyond the scope of this environmental impact statement). This failure to consider and evaluate the cumulative impact of recent federal actions in the same geographic area is entirely inconsistent with NEPA's cumulative impact assessment requirement. Clearly, the recent 1992 AF EIS actions qualify as "past" actions that may result in cumulative impacts. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7. Indeed, this conclusion cannot be denied by the Air Force since its own 1992 AF EIS acknowledges several significant cumulative impacts that would occur from development of a proposed tactical training range together with those 1992 proposals. *See, e.g.*, AF EIS vol. I, 2-34, 2-35; *see also id.* at Section 2.5 and table 2.5-1 (acknowledging several cumulative impacts arising from interaction of range development proposal and other 1992 AF EIS actions).

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Despite this Air Force acknowledgment, the present DEIS does not properly consider or identify the cumulative impacts of these recent past actions together with the proposed and reasonably foreseeable actions in the same EIS as required by the CEQ regulations and applicable case law. By doing so, the Air Force has thwarted the full

disclosure and informed decisionmaking purposes of NEPA, and has consciously understated the potential environmental impact of its proposals. The other past cumulative actions that must be considered in the cumulative impacts analysis in the DEIS include supersonic overflight, increased composite wing training sorties, increased noise levels, and increased chaff and flare use over the baseline existing prior to the implementation of the 1992 AF EIS actions.

Several important cases elaborate on the cumulative impact analysis required by the CEQ regulations. First, in 1987 the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit stated that 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7 requires that the agency "consider cumulative impacts of the proposed actions which supplement or aggravate the impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions." *Oregon Natural Resources Council v. Marsh*, 832 F.2d 1489, 1497-98 (9th Cir. 1987), *rev'd on other grounds*, 109 S. Ct. 1851 (1989); *see* Terence L. Thatcher, *Understanding Interdependence in the Natural Environment: Some Thoughts on Cumulative Impact Assessment Under the National Environmental Policy Act*, 20 Envtl. L. 611, 624-625 (1990).

Second, the Fifth Circuit addressed the issue by stating a five element standard for what constitutes a "meaningful cumulative-effects study." *Fritiofson v. Alexander*, 772 F.2d 1225, 1245 (5th Cir. 1985). The Ninth Circuit adopted this five element standard in 1996. *City of Carmel-By-The-Sea v. U.S. Dept. of Transp.*, 95 F.3d 892, 902 (9th Cir. 1996). The standard requires the EIS to identify:

> (1) the area in which effects of the proposed project will be felt;
> (2) the impacts that are expected in the area from the proposed project;

> (3) other actions—past, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable—that have had or are expected to have impacts in the same area;
> (4) the impacts or expected impacts from these other actions; and
> (5) the overall impact that can be expected if the individual impacts are allowed to accumulate.

City of Carmel-By-The-Sea, 95 F.3d at 902. The standard requires that "probable impacts be identified and considered." *Fritiofson*, 772 F.2d at 1245 n.15.

The DEI DEIS contains only a conclusory cumulative impact analysis. In addressing cumulative impacts, the EIS separates the discussion into three elements: (1) an express dismissal of the need to analyze cumulative impacts of related yet past actions; (2) an identification of the reasonably foreseeable future actions; and (3) consideration of the cumulative effects of various environmental benchmarks. DEIS at 2-92 to 2-95.

The DEIS states that past and present actions are considered as the baseline condition for examining the ETI proposal. DEIS at 2-92. The Air Force identifies three past actions that are considered part of the ETI baseline condition: (1) conversion of aircraft types at Gowen Field; (2) B-1B bomber squadron relocation to Mountain Home AFB; and (3) realignment of military aircraft training routes in northern Nevada. After several sentences describing each past action in the broadest terms, the DEIS concludes that "[t]hese cumulative impacts are included as a baseline condition for the ETI proposal, since implementation of the [action] . . . has already occurred." DEIS at 2-92 to 2-93. Thus, the Air Force improperly begins its cumulative impact analysis by dismissing any analysis of past actions.

Next, DEIS section 2.6.2 identifies four reasonably foreseeable future actions: (1) a communication tower at Blue Butte; (2) a transfer of administrative responsibility for a combat mission control center; (3) installation of two wind turbines at the Grasmere electronic combat site; and (3) the location of an Air Force BATTLELAB at Mountain Home Air Force Base. EIS at 2-94, 95. Each future action is described with a few sentences, such as the anticipated construction, the acreage affected, and the number of personnel involved. *Id.*

Finally, the DEIS considers the cumulative impacts of other actions on various environmental and socioeconomic values. These values include airspace use and management, noise, safety, hazardous materials and solid waste, earth resources, water resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, land use and transportation, recreation and visual resources, and socioeconomics. EIS at 4-9, 4-34, 4-50, 4-56, 4-64, 4-71, 4-82, 4-154, 4-185, 4-200, 4-231, 4-247. For each category, only the reasonably foreseeable actions listed in section 2.6.2 are discussed. Additionally, the discussion is limited to one paragraph in seven of the twelve categories, with the remaining discussions less than a page in length. This level of attention to cumulative impacts, out of an EIS containing well over 700 pages, not including appendices, is strikingly short of the requirement for an analytic evaluation of cumulative impacts.

The EIS fails to meet the regulatory requirements and the standard expressed by the Ninth Circuit regarding cumulative impact analysis. It fails for two reasons. First, the depth of discussion is shallow. The discussion of cumulative impacts must

demonstrate an analytical approach and identify and consider the impacts. Instead, the DEIS only briefly mentions and then dismisses any potential cumulative effects.

DP-44 Second, the DEIS arbitrarily limits itself to cumulative impacts from reasonably foreseeable actions. The regulations clearly state that an EIS must consider past and present actions, yet the Air Force expressly limited the review to future actions. Past actions are relegated to the baseline condition upon which the ETI proposal rests. This is not allowed by the CEQ regulations. The choice of which cumulative actions to evaluate is not discretionary. Past actions that have a cumulative affect when combined with the proposed action must be evaluated. The wholesale increase in military warplay operations since 1992, including supersonic overflight, widespread chaff and flare use, and more intensive overflights and mission profiles are substantial past actions that must be examined together with the proposed actions in the cumulative impact analysis.

The overall tone of dismissal calls into question the Air Force's commitment to fulfill the orders of the district court in *Greater Owyhee Legal Defense v. U.S. Dept. Of Defense*, 889 F. Supp. 1295, 1312 (D. Idaho 1995). In 1995, the district court found the proposed assignment of the composite air wing to Mountain Home AFB and the development of tactical training assets for that wing to be cumulative actions. *Id.* The Air Force uses the fact that the composite wing assignment actually occurred to bring it out of the realm of cumulative impact analysis and into the realm of the baseline condition. The Ninth Circuit has spoken on this issue and stated that cumulative impact analysis is not limited to the proposed action, but includes analysis of the proposed action's aggravation of past, present, and future actions. *Oregon Natural Resources Council*, 832 F.2d at 1497-98.

The ETI DEIS lacks a legally adequate consideration of cumulative impacts. The brief DEIS discussions on cumulative impacts are vague and conclusory. Thus, the ETI DEIS fails to meet the requirements of NEPA and must be withdrawn for revision of the cumulative impact analysis so that the public and agency decisionmakers are fully informed of the complete scope of environmental impacts from the proposed actions. Despite the wide range of potential adverse impacts and potential cumulative effects occurring from the past, ongoing, and planned actions in the proposed action area, when considered together with the additional stress imposed by the proposed ETI actions, these adverse cumulative effects are not properly evaluated in the ETI DEIS. Thus, the agencies have failed to identify and carefully review a relevant area of environmental concern, and the agency's evaluation is not reasonable in light of this improper analysis. Accordingly, the ETI DEIS must be withdrawn or a proper supplemental DEIS prepared to fully evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed actions.

VI. The DEIS Fails to Contain an Adequate Discussion of Measures to Mitigate Adverse Environmental Impacts.

An "important ingredient of an EIS is the discussion of steps that can be taken to mitigate adverse environmental consequences." *Robertson v. Methow Valley Citizens Council*, 490 U.S. 332, 104 L.Ed. 351, 371 (1989). NEPA requires a "reasonably complete discussion" of possible mitigation measures. *Id.* "Without such discussion, neither the agency nor other interested groups and individuals can properly evaluate the severity of the adverse effects." *Id.* A reasonably complete mitigation discussion helps guarantee that the decisionmaking agency has taken a "hard look" at the environmental consequences of the proposed action. *Id.*

The CEQ regulations require that an EIS address mitigation measures in evaluating the proposed action, alternatives to proposed actions, and environmental consequences. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.14(f), 1502.16(h), & 1508(25)(b). Also, the Air Force has to address mitigation measures in explaining its decision. 40 C.F.R. § 1505.2(c). The CEQ regulations define mitigation to include:

> (a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
> (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
> (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
> (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
> (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

40 C.F.R. § 1508.20.

The superficial treatment of mitigation measures in the DEIS clearly fall short of the required "reasonably complete" discussion standard. The only mitigation measures presented are those in a brief summary chart on pages 2-78 to 2-80. Significantly, this chart presents only "avoidance" and some "minimization" type mitigation measures. Wholly lacking is any discussion of other types of measures that could be used to mitigate the environmental impacts remaining following minimization and avoidance.

A. Wildlife.

The DEIS fails to explain how the Air Force and BLM propose to protect the bighorn sheep from the potential impacts outlined in previous Air Force documents in order to prevent a decline in the bighorn's status.

B. Cultural Resources

In its rush to evaluate and implement the proposed action, the Air Force acknowledges in the DEIS that it has failed to complete the necessary baseline studies to inventory and evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources in the training range area. DEIS at 4-162 to 4-164. How can the Air Force satisfy its full disclosure requirement and include a complete discussion of mitigation measures when it does not even know the extent of the resources that exist in the affected environment? This slipshod and incomplete analysis is entirely inconsistent with NEPA's informed decisionmaking purposes.

Nevertheless, the Air Force asserts that a future "Mitigation Plan" to be developed would contain measures to mitigate the disturbances of sensitive cultural sites, if they occur. DEIS at 4-163. Again, such undefined future actions do not satisfy the requirement for a reasonably complete discussion of mitigation measures to be taken in the DEIS. Such a shortcoming is inexcusable here when the DEIS further notes the general sensitivity of the area and indicates that ETI development could adversely affect as many as 547 National Register eligible or potentially eligible archeological resources

DP-31 present within the affected areas. DEIS at 4-167. Clearly, more complete mitigation measures and discussions are required in order to ascertain the true potential impact on these special resources.

C. Recreation

DP-31 There is no discussion of potential mitigation measures (such as flight path adjustment or increases in minimum altitudes) for recreation impacts. The DEIS analysis

should discuss mitigation measures based on the full scope of potential mitigation as described in the CEQ regulations. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.20.

D. Wetlands.

As discussed above, *see* Section III.H., any discussion of mitigation measures for the wetland impacts described in the DEIS is entirely lacking and therefore also fails to satisfy the required reasonably complete discussion standard for the DEIS.

E. Summary.

The shortcomings in the mitigation analysis identified here and similar shortcomings in other sections of the DEIS entirely undermine the public disclosure and informed decisionmaking purposes of NEPA. These shortcomings mandate that the DEIS be redrafted to contain the reasonably complete discussion of possible mitigation measures required by NEPA. The development of these mitigation measures cannot be deferred until later land use plans and analyses are conducted. NEPA must be complied with at this stage of the proposed action if decisionmakers and the public are to carefully consider detailed information on significant environmental impacts at the time the decision on the Air Force's proposals is made.

CONCLUSION

As set out above, the Air Force and cooperating agencies have completely failed to comply with the full scope of their NEPA obligations here. The myriad flaws in the DEIS noted in these comments have undermined NEPA's twin goals of informed decisionmaking and informed public participation. *California v. Block*, 690 F.2d 753, 761 (9th Cir. 1982). Furthermore, the DEIS shortcomings discussed here "are not mere legal nitpicking, but go to the heart of the NEPA process." *California v. Bergland*, 483

F. Supp. 465, 493 (E.D. Cal. 1980), *aff'd in part sub nom. California v. Block*, 690 F.2d 753 (9th Cir. 1982). Because the DEIS has failed in so many crucial respects to comply with the NEPA standards for EIS preparation and analysis, the Air Force must withdraw the DEIS and prepare a new DEIS that fully responds to the issues raised in these comments.

That the proposed dramatic increases in military war exercise activities have created great public outcry and concern should come as no surprise to the Air Force. In 1967, United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas wrote to President Johnson complaining of the adverse effect of sonic booms from military overflights in the wilderness areas around Goose Prairie, Washington. Said Justice Douglas, "People here are up in arms; and many lawsuits will follow."[37] That same sentiment holds true today should the Air Force and cooperating agencies persist in pursuing their ill-advised proposal.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of September, 1997.

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[37] Melvin I. Urofsky ed., *The Douglas Letters* at 250 (1987).

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DT: 9/5/97
TO: USAF/BLM
FR: The Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition*
RE: The BOMBING RANGE - USAF ETI DEIS

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

The member groups of the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition (OCC) would like to thank the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Air Force for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) regarding the Enhanced Triaing in Idaho (ETI) proposal.

The ETI proposal put forth by the USAF pertaining to the training range at the Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAB) is the fourth proposal of its kind to be propounded since 1989. Each of the previous proposals were soundly defeated either on a legal basis or through citizen opposition. In essence, it is our position that this latest proposal in nothing more than a reiteration of past proposals.

Nothing has changed. The ETI is nothing more than the "same gift wrapped in a different package." Millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent in studying, scoping, preparing, printing, distributing, and holding public hearings on the various environmental impact statements. The money spent on these futile efforts to expand training in Idaho could have more effectively been used to pay the minimal fuel costs to fly to existing nearby training ranges in Nevada and Utah.

It is our position that existing concerns must be dealt with before allowing the Air Force to introduce a whole new set of problems. Even the so called "NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE" presents a quagmyer of new and different problems. The use of the language "no action" is nothing more than rhetoric - a non-sequitur.

The most dissappointing aspect of the latest proposal is that the Air Force and the BLM seem to have learned little or nothing from their previous experience. The ETI DEIS is hardly worth the paper its printed on. It is jam packed with misinformation and wrought with deficiencies the following are just a few.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

The DEIS states that past and present actions are considered as the baseline condition for examining the ETI proposal. DEIS at 2-92. The Air Force identifies three past actions that are considered part of the ETI baseline condition: (1) conversion of aircraft types at Gowen Field; (2) B-1B bomber squadron relocation to MHAFB; and (3) realignment of military aircraft training routes in northern Nevada. After several sentences describing each past action in the broadest terms, the DEIS concludes that "[t]hese cumulative impacts are included as a baseline condition for the ETI proposal, since implementation of the [action] . . . has already occurred." DEIS at 2-92, - 93. Thus, the Air Force begins its cumulative impact analysis by dismissing any analysis of past actions.

DP-7

Next, DEIS section 2.6.2 identifies four reasonably foreseeable future actions: (1) a communication tower at Blue Butte; (2) a transfer of administrative responsibility for a combat mission control center; (3) installation of two wind turbines at the Grasmere electronic combat site; and (4) the location of an Air Force BATTLELAB at MHAFB. DEIS at 2-94, 95. Each future action is described with few sentences, such as the anticipated construction, the acreage affected, and the number of personnel involved. Id.

Finally, the DEIS considers the cumulative impacts of other actions on various environmental and socioeconomic values. These values include airspace use and management, noise, safety, hazardous materials and solid waste, earth resources, water resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, land use and transportation, recreation and visual resources. DEIS at 4-9, 34, 50, 56, 64, 71, 82, 154, 185, 200,231,247. For each category, only the reasonably foreseeable actions listed in section 2.6.2 are discussed. Additionally, the discussion is limited to one paragraph in seven of the twelve categories, with the remaining discussions less than a page in length. This level of attention to cumulative impacts, out of a DEIS containing well over 700 pages, not including appendices, is insufficient and does not meet the requirement for an analytical evaluation of cummulative impacts.

The DEIS fails to meet the regulatory requirements and the standard expressed by the Ninth Circuit regarding cummulative impact analysis. It fails for two reasons. First, the depth of discussion is shallow. While the discussion of cumulative impacts is not required to be an exhaustive environmental analysis, it must nevertheless demonstrate an analytical approach. The approach must identify and consider the impacts, not briefly describe and dismiss the potential cummulative effects.

PR-22

Second, the EIS arbitrarily limits itself to cummulative impacts from reasonably foreseeable actions. The regulations clearly state that an EIS must consider past and present actions, yet the Air Force expressly limited the review to future actions. Past actions are regulated to the baseline condition upon which the ETI proposal rests. This is not allowed by the CEQ regulations. The choice of which cumulative actions to evaluate is not discretionary. Past actions that have cumulative affect when combined with the proposed action must be evaluated. The relocation of a composite wing to the area is

directly related to the purported need to increase the size of the training range, therefore it must be examined in the cumulative impact analysis.

The overall tone od dismissal calls into question the Air Force's commitment to perform a comprehensive Environmental Assessment. The Air Force uses the fact that the composite wing assignment actually occurred to bring it out of the realm of cummulative impact analysis and into the realm of the baseline condition. The Ninth Circuit has spoken on the issue and stated that cummulative impact analysis is not limited to the proposed action, but includes analysis of the proposed action's aggravation of past, present, and future actions. *Oregon Natural Resources Council*, 832 F. 2d at 1497-98.

PR-22 The ETI DEIS contains no effective consideration of cumulative impacts. The brief discussions on cumulative impacts are vague and conclusory. Therefore, it would appear that the Air Force has failed to meet its obligations under NEPA in its deficient preparation of the ETI DEIS.

NOISE:

In order to evaluate the NOISE section of the ETI DEIS it is necessary to evaluate the effect noise will have on the people, wildlife, and economies in rural and wilderness areas of Idaho. There are two ways to determine how annoyed people are by aircraft noise:
[1] test their annoyance with the actual noise they will experience in the environment in which the experience will occur or
[2] use twenty-year-old surveys on reactions to a different kind of noise by unrelated groups of people living in foreign, urban environments.
The United States Air Force (USAF) has chosen to pursue the second course. As a result, the DEIS for ETI has the following major deficiencies:

PN-14 A. Failure to provide a satisfactory rationale for the proposed action:
The Department of Defense Inspector General, the Deputy Director of the Air Force for Test, Systems Engineering, and Evaluation, and the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations all found or claimed that the expansion planned by the Air Force is either not adequately justified or not necessary. However, this DEIS provide no cost benefit analysis for the decision concerning Enhanced Training in Idaho.
B. Failure to test against the true "No-Action" alternative:
The Air Force has used noise levels associated with the Composite Wing as the baseline (No-Action Alternative) instead of the true No Action alternative of the force structure that preceded the arrival of the Composite Wing.
C. Failure to adequately consider economic impacts from proposed activities:

SO-12 (1) Costs arising from Enhanced Training are shifted from the residents of Elmore County to the inhabitants of the Duck Valley Reservation and Owyhee County.
(2) Economic benefits from Enhanced Training are narrowly focused on Elmore and Ada Counties.
(3) Noise of the kind generated by the proposed activity has been found to lower the value of property by .5 to 1.9% of the market value per decibel of acoustic measurement.

(4) The incorrect No Action alternative in the DEIS cannot be evaluated by the information presented in the socioeconomic section of the DEIS because the economic information predates the activity it is supposed to analyze by at least four years.
(5) Losses in recreation revenue from Composite Wing activity already translate to a "tax" of about $35.00 on each citizen of Owyhee County or a "tax" of about $100 on each family.
D. Failure to adequately consider cumulative impacts:

NO-20 (1) The DEIS limits its consideration to single aircraft, and it does not adequately discuss the cumulative effects of noise and other environmental degradation that would result from Composite Wing maneuvers.
E. Failure to properly account for Aircraft Noise:

NO-5 (1) The DEIS uses noise figures for MTRs instead of the higher figures for MOAs that account for the maneuvering that takes place in combat training.
The Air Force is urged to refer to the documents it used in the Pennsylvania National Guard EIS on MOA expansion where the Air Force itself showed that higher noise levels are appropriate.

NO-2 (2) The noise analysis in the DEIS is based on a mix of tram, railroad, road and aircraft noise in urban communities--not on aircraft noise in a wilderness environment. Using either the Schultz or USAF models to predict noise/annoyance relationships is analogous to claiming that someone who is highly annoyed by aircraft noise will become less annoyed if additional noise is created by automobiles, trains or trams.
(3) Schultz's model underestimates the percentage of people who are annoyed by urban noise in the 50 to 75 dB range by 7 to 13 percent. The 1991 study by Fidell, Barber and Schultz confirmed that the Schultz curve consistently and substantially underestimated annoyance with aircraft noise.

NO-19 (4) The USAF model's incorrect curve underestimates the number of people annoyed by urban noise in the 40 to 70 dB range by 15 to 20 percent.
(5) Noise/annoyance estimates in the DEIS are less than half the actual percentage of people highly annoyed with aircraft noise.
(6) A number of well accepted studies and court decisions over the last 20 years show that annoyance with aircraft noise is about twice as high as that predicted by the Air Force. By not referring to any of these studies, the Air Force and its contractors have ignored substantial evidence that higher levels of annoyance exist for aircraft. This violates the NEPA and raises serious questions about the thoroughness and unbiasedness of this DEIS.

NO-21 (7) A model based on aircraft noise only shows that all aircraft the Air Force proposes to fly in the DEIS will exceed a 53 dB annoyance benchmark at all altitudes and that all four alternatives in the DEIS exceed this level for cumulative dB at 50 percent or more of their reference points

NO-19 (8) A 1992 Forest Service study that suggests persons in wilderness settings are at least ten times more sensitive to aircraft noise than those in urban settings. The Air Force discussion of this study fails to mention this finding and its interpretation of the data in the rest of the study is questionable to the point of being disingenuous.
(9) The 1996 Final Report on Requirements for Analysis for Noise by the USAF Human Systems Center, Environmental Planning Directorate at Brooks AFB, TX states clearly that the Air Force itself is well aware its sound studies are inadequate and that they are not

NO-11 defensible. It states that "accurate combined annoyance prediction from both types of operations is not currently available." And the Air Force claims that new and refined methods of analysis are needed to...ensure Air Force actions in response to environmental issues are based on legally defensible ..analysis methods. The dosage-response relationship on which the Air Force currently relies for predicting the annoyance of exposure to sonic booms...is based on modest amounts of information about repetitive and expected noise exposures in residential communities. The applicability of this relationship to many settings of practical interest to the Air Force has never been demonstrated.
(10) The 1996 Final Report on Requirements for Analysis for Noise by the USAF Human Systems Center, Environmental Planning Directorate at Brooks AFB, TX lists on page 19 a bibliography of fifteen separate documents that show that Air Force noise studies are inadequate and not defensible. Only one of the these documents, the 1992 Forest Service Study, is mentioned in the DEIS. These documents were available prior to October 31, 1996, to the same individual who is listed as the point of contact for the DEIS. Failure to include these documents and their findings in the DEIS is a clear violation of the NEPA.

CHAFF and FLARES

A 55% increase in the use of chaff and flares (DEIS p. 2-73) is totally unacceptable. The Air Force's own findings (Section 4.4 of the April 1997 Record of Decision on the Final EIS on the Alaska Military Operations Areas made a commitment to "facilitate and encourage the continued study of chaff alternatives and biodegradable chaff.") indicate concern with the use of chaff and flares. The earlier DEIS on the same proposal also found that: "The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) considers crystalline silica (as a respirable dust) a potential human carcinogen."

SF-16 Two other DOD reports: the January 1992 DEIS for the Aircraft Conversions at the 103rd Tactical Fighter Group, Bradley International Airport, Connecticut, as well as for the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland conflict with the DEIS claim that chaff poses no known risk to humans and animals. The earlier DEIS states, "Wind blown particles would tend to concentrate on the lee side of water bodies where nutrient levels are higher. Surface feeding wildlife, such as ducks, may consume chaff particles on the surface of their primary vegetation. These would either pass through the digestive system or from compacted pellets in the gizzard."

While other limited studies have been performed on the human health and ecological effects of chaff - including at the University of Maryland and the University of Delaware - the results are mixed, and some are not directly applicable to high desert, basin and range environments found in the western U.S.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (DEP), for example, reviewed Defense Department documentation of the risks associated with chaff. Although the state's investigation "did not provide the Division with a definitive answer as to the

environmental effects of chaff on public and private lands in Nevada, the DEP identified two primary concerns:

1)"The first concern is from inhalable particulate below PM10 which may occur from the decomposition and resuspension of fiber particulate by mechanical means."
2) "The Division's second concern deals with the physical deposition of what could be considered solid waste on public and private lands in the State of Nevada. There is very little information on the amounts of chaff currently deposited and how these fibers decompose in the environment."

The report concluded, "8A the Division does not feel that adequate studies have been done to assure that there are no environmental risks posed by the fibers." In the opinion of The Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition (OCC), this should be the starting point for the DEIS, instead of the reversed position that chaff poses no known risk to human health.

Indeed, the DEIS would do well to follow the lead of the Desert Eglin South Chaff Survey conducted by Nellis AFB in March 1994. Among the survey's findings: "More research is needed, especially concerning the behavior of chaff in anaerobic or acidic conditions found in wetlands.

"This last category of environmental damage relates to the level of litter which is currently accumulating in some areas of the MOA from the use of chaff and flare debris. In most cases the litter from aircraft operations probably is not more deleterious to the environment than common roadside litter such as bottles and cans found in the area. In the case of WSA's, however, a case can be made that litter, fire scars, and debris detract from the naturalness, and infer human presence which is specifically identified in the Wilderness Act as negative impacts for wilderness areas."
"Litter from chaff and flares, and other debris from Air Force aircraft operations has the potential to impact naturalness. So do fire scars started by flares. Jet overflights have the potential to impact solitude and incur human presence."

"Potential environmental issues involve injury from falling debris, impacts to air quality, effects on soil and water, and effects on biological resources. Ingestion or inhalation of chaff by wildlife or livestock, physical effects on the skin or feet (i.e. birds using chaff as a nesting material, or chaff becoming embedded in the paws of animals), indirect effects on vegetation due to changes in soil chemistry, and indirect effects of changes in water chemistry on aquatic life are also potential environmental issues related to chaff."
"Some small bundles of chaff were found as well as three large clumps of chaff fibers."

While the long-term effects of chaff may be unknown, some of the immediate physical impacts are. In 1992, the Army found: "Glass and carbo fibers and, likely iron fibers deposited on soils are susceptible to wind resuspension until immobilization occurs. However, even those fibers immobilized on soil surfaces can be resuspended by physical forces such as foot and/or vehicular traffic. Thus, there is a persistent risk of fiber inhalation and mitigation efforts will likely be required for areas containing high fiber concentrations."

SF-10 OCC urges the DEIS for the Enhanced Training in Idaho to consider all of these reports before categorically discounting any impact of chaff on human health. Beyond that, we oppose the current and proposed use of chaff until sufficient independent analysis of the potential impacts has been completed. Given the amount of time that the problems with chaff have been known, residents of Idaho will no longer accept a lack of documentation as a claim of "no impact."

The BLM has authorized the use of chaff in Idaho and Nevada over public lands associated with operations at Mountain Home AFB. In the opinion of OCC, this raises serious questions. We believe the BLM has a mandate to protect public safety on lands it administers. But how can the BLM assure public safety on these lands where it allows the use of chaff and flares?

SF-17 How will the agency alert the public that the lands are being used as part of a training range? What are the liabilities for the BLM in the event of an accident involving chaff?

We would raise the same questions for publicly-accessible lands administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI).

Since there is inconclusive evidence on the potential environmental impacts of chaff - including its effects on human health - OCC believes the DOI and BLM should adopt a policy that the use of chaff be limited to lands which have been formally withdrawn for military uses.

WILDLIFE/WSA'S

LU-14 The BLM's involvement in this process violates its obligation to manage the wilderness study areas in the region affected so as not to impair their suitability for designation as wilderness, and it also violates the agency's obligation to provide special management for areas of critical environmental concern to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important wildlife and other natural resources located there. The BLM abdicated its responsibility and authority to protect and conserve the wildlife resources on the public lands.

LU-1 BI-48 The DEIS contains serious procedural irregularities, analytical flaws, and errors of law regarding effects on wildlife. The lack of mitigation efforts to protect the important WSA, ACEC, and bighorn sheep public resources in the

area to be affected should be reason enough to abandon the ETI proposal until a proper NEPA analysis of the likely effects of the proposed action is performed.

BI-63 Further studies are necessary to protect the 36 bighorn sheep, a significant portion of a rapidly dwindling population, from the unevaluated environmental impacts that may occur from the intensive capture, handling, and tracking procedures of the proposed action. The stresses imposed on the population from ongoing and planned military ordnance use in the area (including the dispersal of potentially toxic chaff and incendiary flares over the WSAs and ACECs at issue)

BI-64 and the pending development of ground-based military combat exercise resources in this area is entirely unacceptable.

PR-22 The cumulative effects of all these measures involved in the increasing buildup of military activities on the public lands in southwestern Idaho were not adequately addressed in the DEIS. There has not been full public disclosure and informed decisionmaking under NEPA, which is necessary to ensure that BLM properly discharges its FLPMA duties in the management of the WSAs and ACECs at issue, as well as satisfying the agency's independent responsibility to protect the wildlife resources found on the public lands.

The WSAs, ACECs, and other southwestern Idaho public lands that are the subject of the proposed action contain a wealth of wide-ranging environmental values of great regional and national significance. The canyons and plateaus of the Owyhee country provide a diversity of rugged land forms and many miles of desert river ecosystem rich in scenery, wildlife, vegetation, and cultural resources. The miles of canyons, their diversely and severely eroded rock landscapes, their steep slopes, and the dominance of subdued brown and red rock all combined to create a sense of isolation and solitude. Visitors traveling in the canyonlands are constantly aware of the forces of nature. The depth of the canyons creates a tremendous sense of seclusion from the rest of the world. Above the canyons on the plateaus, the rolling topography and low vegetation allow for viewing tens of square miles of the vast, open, seemingly undisturbed landscape. These vast open spaces instill a complete sense of separation from civilization. This area is also important for its wildlife values. The upland-canyonland/sagebrush-bunchgrass ecosystem provides yearlong habitat for bighorn sheep, which are dependent on the natural undisturbed environment for their survival.

The implementation of large-scale increases in supersonic overflight and chaff and flare use in this area in 1993, the Owyhee Canyonlands bighorn sheep population plummeted by approximately 30 percent. While 669 sheep were counted in this herd in summer 1993, only 347 animals were observed in 1994. *See* Military Overflight Effects on Bighorn Sheep, Draft Study Plan at A-5 (July 10, 1996). This is unacceptable. The USAF and the BLM can not, in good faith, proceed with the ETI with knowledge of these facts.

The process has been flawed from the very start. When the BLM stated in the EA, that the ETI would present no significant impacts, they embarked upon a path which has lead to a breach of trust to the public and the species they are obliged to protect.

Under NEPA, an agency must honestly address the various uncertainties surrounding the scientific evidence upon which it relies in its environmental evaluations. The agency has a duty to respond to credible opposing points of view, and it may not ignore reputable scientific opinion. *See, e.g., Seattle Audubon Soc'y v. Espy*, 998 F.2d 699, 704 (9th Cir. 1993); *Public Service Co. v. Andrus*, 825 F. Supp. 1483, 1496-99 (D. Idaho 1993); *see also Sierra Club v. Watkins*, 808 F. Supp. 852, 864-69 (D.D.C. 1991). An agency's NEPA analysis must expose scientific uncertainty regarding the risk of a proposed action and inform decisionmakers of the full range of responsible scientific opinion on the environmental effects of the proposed action. *Friends of the Earth v. Hall*, 693 F. Supp. 904, 926, 934 (W.D. Wash. 1988).

BI-15 The BLM failed to consider or address the wide range of scientific opinion from previous studies indicating that the proposed actions could result in a significant source of stress to the California bighorn sheep population under consideration. The USAF's insistence on proceeding in their relentless efforts to expand the training range at any cost (financial or environmental) must be abandoned and the BLM should be made to support action to abandon the proposal in order to uphold their ageny obligation.

Phase II of the military overflight effects study will occur within three wilderness study areas in southwestern Idaho: Owyhee River Canyon WSA (ID-16-48B), Little Jacks Creek WSA (ID-11-16), and the Jarbidge River WSA (ID-17-11). *See* EA at 3-8. A WSA is a roadless area that has been identified as having a wilderness characteristic and as being reviewed for possible designation as wilderness, pursuant to the Wilderness Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1131-1136. During the period of wilderness review, BLM is required by Section 603(c) of FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. § 1782(c), to manage WSAs "in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness." To date no action has been taken by Congress to designate these three WSAs as wilderness, so the WSA lands and resources involved here remain subject to the Section 603(c) nonimpairment mandate. *See Ronald A. Pene*, 135 IBLA 143, 144 (1996).

Under the Wilderness Act, a wilderness area is one "where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man" and that may contain "ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value." Wilderness Act § 2(c). It is these values, including the significant wildlife resource of the California bighorn sheep herds, which make the areas suitable for wilderness designation. For instance, the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness FEIS (1989) states that "the rhyolite upland-canyonlands/sagebrush-bunchgrass

ecosystem provides yearlong habitat for bighorn sheep (on the sensitive species list for Idaho . . .). Bighorn sheep are dependent upon a natural undisturbed environment for their survival. The Owyhee River system presently provides for this environment." *Id* at III-14. These values are to remain nonimpaired during the wilderness review process.

LU-14 By allowing the USAF ETI proposal to advance to this stage, the BLM has fallen short in it's duty to protect WSA's as provided under The Wilderness Act. If the ETI is ratified and the USAF is allowed to proceed with construction of the expanded range, the WSA's will be placed under a serious threat.

BI-65 The bottom line, with regard to wildlife is the same as with every other aspect of the DEIS. It is deficient, incomplete and misleading. The idea that the proposed action under alternatives B, C, and D will have no effect on wildlife is pure balderdash!

This is a fragile ecosystem for sheep. Many of the documents, but specifically, "A Habitat Evaluation procedure for Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep in the Intermountain West" by Smith, Flinders, and Winn, state a management treatise. This treatise was instrumental in establishing the MOU with FNAWS and the domestic sheep industry concerning disease problems on BLM inventoried lands. This document relates that if exotic species occupy a habitat (Bighorn Sheep) then adequate boundaries need to be defined. Adequate range quality must exist. Adequate winter range must exist.

BI-59 Adequate lambing grounds must exist. Adequate summer range must exist, and all ranges must be properly arranged and connected. The DEIS lacks any discussion of any of the impacts created by noise, roads, fires, human intrusion, overflight, or increase military activity and how these factors will effect these critical relationships. This treatise is referred to a Habitat Evaluation Plan (HEP). OCC specifically relates to the IDFG concerns page 11. These are four items that are very specific and must be answered in the FEIS.

BI-12 The DEIS was premature in that certain sheep studies have not been completed and will not be conducted until winter 1998. The DEIS does not address the level of helicopter use for maintenance of range facilities especially in the winter. This is a critical oversite as it will have a potentially huge affect of wildlife habitat.

BI-32 OCC is of the opinion that any discussion of the ETI subsequent to consummation of the ongoing sheep studies is non conclusive and misleading to the public. Further, Odgen's personnel have stated that their studies have no focus on supersonic effect to the California Bighorn Populations, they are only focused on low level overflight. As per Dr.

BI-30 Geist's scoping comments in January 1994, this ignorance is precursory to a catastrophe. It is precisely the supersonic noise that can and will affect sheep behavior, leading to stress, dispersal, and consequent die off. OCC feels that the discussion of the California

BI-32 Bighorn Sheep in the ETI DEIS subsequent to peer review of Ogden's consummated research project is premature and raises several potential legal issues

The Air Force claims that they only need a few thousand acres for their operations, but history has shown that this is probably only the beginning of a larger land grab The Grasmere sight is one example of the Air force being unable to honor the promises they make. The Grasmere sight was leased to the Air Force by the Bureau of Land Management to be used as a singular pad that would host a portable radar station The Air Force violated the lease by constructing a number of permanent structures including buildings, towers, and diesel generators—all which clearly violated the wilderness values of the area. The BLM gave the Air Force notice that the Grasmere site was in violation of the law. The Air Force's response was to ask BLM to expand the Grasmere site.

The Air Force has not demonstrated a history of being a good steward of public land. The Grasmere sight is one example of the Air Force having difficulty recognizing the letter of the law.

As in the Grasmere experience, each proposed emitter site has the potential of being a launching pad for something bigger. In this environmental impact statement, there are few measures that would deter the Air Force to expand their proposal in a similar fashion if the Air Force is granted a favorable Record of Decision.

BI-51 The ETI DEIS does not adequately address wilderness and wildlife impacts - not only as pertaining to the California Bighorn Sheep, but also with regard to all other species that make their homes in the Owyhee canyon country. The only suggestion we can offer, short of abanoning this proposal in it's entirety, is that all wildlife and wilderness studies be redone. The cost to taxpayers for the numerous proposals put forth over the past several years has already gone beyond comprehension, therefore, if you are going to do it again, please do it right this time.

RECREATION/ECONOMIC CONCERNS

Over 350 miles of rivers in the Owyhee Canyonlands have been found eligible for designation as wild and scenic rivers. The Air Forces' finding that the ETI will do nothing to diminish the outstanding resource values of these rivers is erroneous While the canyon walls may not change, the scenic quality, opportunities for viewing wildlife, and overall recreational experience will be greatly diminished Numerous overflights, sonic booms, chaff, and flares are incompatible with the wilderness values found in these canyons.

The Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers were both found to have Class A Scenic Quality. The presence of litter in the form of Chaff, potential loss of native plant communities, and visual pollution above the canyon rim will diminish the overall scenic quality of these rivers. One of the attractions to these rivers are the frequent opportunities to hike out of the canyons and view the entire region from a different perspective. These vistas will be severely degraded by the presence of emitter sites and the accompanying new roads, not to mention the noise and air pollution associated with the diesel powered generators used to run the emitters. People go to places like the Jarbidge and Bruneau Canyons to escape these sights, sounds and smells.

Night activities and lights are particularly intrusive. One of the most spectacular features of these canyons is the night sky with incredible stars on a clear moonless night.

RV-12 Night exercises are completely incompatible with this experience. Any lights such as those already found at Grasmere are inappropriate and unacceptable. The DEIS does nothing to evaluate the impacts to recreational users or wildlife of these nighttime intrusions

It is difficult to evaluate the exact impact of the ETI proposal on the number of overflights for the canyons since there is so little information in the DEIS on the Air Force's actual activities in the sky. However, OCC is receiving complaints that the

DP-73 number of overflights is currently unacceptable so we strongly believe that any increase in the activity level over this region is too much.

The Air Force finding that there will be no economic impact on the recreation industry as a result of the ETI is utterly incorrect. These canyons offer a truly unique wilderness river experience which has been pursued by more and more people every year. Private boaters will tolerate a certain amount of disturbance since the natural features of these canyons are so spectacular. However, the escalation of activities associated with the ETI will drive those who are truly seeking solitude to go elsewhere, thus adversely impacting the communities that sell gas, supplies and provide shuttle services to river runners This is a recreation concern as well as an economic concern.

SO-4 Individuals paying a premium price for an outfitted trip do not wish to be subjected to overflights and sonic booms. They are paying money to see wildlife and hear nothing - two opportunities which are becoming increasingly scarce in these canyons due to the Air Force's activities. An outfitter can not advertise a true wilderness experience with the promise of wildlife viewing if the reality is floating through a supersonic battle zone. Decreases in these trips will not only impact the outfitter but their suppliers as well.

CONCERNS REGARDING SHOSHONE-PAIUTE

First of all, with regard to concerns related to THE SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES OF THE DUCK VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION, the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition hereby incorporates by reference, the enclosed copy of comments from the DEIS DRAFT PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE IDAHO TRAINING RANGE, NOVEMBER 1993.

The Air Force claims that the alternatives outlined in the ETI proposal take a careful look at concerns raised by the residents of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation The fact is that current flight patterns resulting from exsisting operation of the MHAB training facilities cause a great deal of disturbance to the members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe Testimony to this effect was made by several members of the Sho-Pai at the Duck Valley hearing on June 9th and again in Boise on June 13th

How the USAF can proceed having heard such testimony is beyond comprehension. Terry Gibson, a Sho-Pai Tribal Council member testified that he received his "Cultural Report" on Monday June 9th, over one month after the release of the DEIS.

The report which made references to "pre-history" was insulting and demeaning to the members of the Sho-Pai community. This sort of insensitivity to Tribal concerns has been the cornerstone of the vast majority of dealing between the USAF and the Sho-Pai people

Claire Manning stood and testified that her great grandmother is burried in an area that will be restricted if the ETI proposal is approved. It is unlikely that any member of the Air Force would allow the government to erect a fence and lock them out of the cemetary where their great grandparents are burried.

Fences that will be put up in constructing the training range expansion will interupt the practice of Sho-Pai religious ceremony and although the Air Force has stated that they will be happy to come and unlock the gates anytime, this compromise is NOT acceptable.

These remarks are less technical than the remarks presented in the other sections of these combined comments. The reason is that the concerns related to the rights of the Shoshone-Paiute that will be affected by the ETI have little to do with technicalities, scientific data and statistics. What we are addressing here is an issue of basic respect for a people that have already been subjected to far more than their share of indignity and disrespect. Proceeding with the ETI would indeed add insult to an already injured relationship between Soverign Tribal Nations Americans and the United States Government.

CONCLUSION

In a time of national deficit and budget cuts the idea of proposing expansion of military training ranges seems down right greedy. Make due with what exists. In so doing our national security will not be put in peril, our soldiers will not be less prepared, our environment will be far better off and our taxpayers will save millions of dollars Please, get honest with yourselves and be honest with us. The Air Force does <u>not</u> NEED this range!

Our citizenry, the people you portend to protect have been making due. Jobs have been lost, incomes have faultered, children of middle and lower income families have settled for community college or vocational training rather than going to university. We are in a time of belt-tightening. If the average citizen is tightening their belts than so should our government and that includes our military!

pc: President Clinton
Kathleen McGinty
Bruce Babbit
Governor Batt
Idaho Congressional Delegation
Nevada Congressional Delegation
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September 8, 1997

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re: Air Force ETI-DEIS—Comments

Bold is page and language from the ETI-DEIS

Italics are comments.

The Air Force has identified the following issues but has not adequately analyzed or has incorrectly addressed specific issues in the ETI-DEIS. The ETI-DEIS contains conflicting conclusions.

PN-5 **Pg. 1-47, 1.4.1.5 – Issues beyond the scope of this EIS -- National Needs Assessment** – *Is this assessment currently being prepared? If so we need to review those findings*

Pg. 1-33 "Figure 1.3-3 Saylor Creek Range" -- *Exclusive Use Area(EUA)/Training Ordinance Impact Area (Fenced) is not shown on any other map that includes SCR in the DEIS -- 110,000 in the current SCR withdrawal -- 12,200 EUA acres that are fenced*

DP-64 *Pg. 2-3– Because SCR is proposed to be used simultaneously with a new tactical range, EUA and Range Boundary need to be identified on every map that includes SCR to give the true picture of SCR and the relationship of the EUA to any of the proposed sites.*

SO-15 *Pg. 1-32– states that SCR is 6 miles south of Snake River, but does not state how many miles from the community of Bruneau. What are the Cumulative Impacts of ETI to Bruneau and the other small communities causally mentioned in the DEIS? Bruneau is approximately 5 miles from SCR restricted air space, approximately 7.5 miles from SCR range boundary, and approximately 11.5 miles from SCR-EUA. Bruneau and communities like Bruneau are mentioned in the draft, but the Cumulative Impacts are not adequately addressed.*

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SO-15 *The community of Bruneau, Idaho is not within ROI one, two or three, even though it is located on Highway 51 between MHAFB, SCR, and Alt. B, C, or D. At least 7% of Owyhee County's population (Bruneau Area) is affected by the proposed ETI. See: pg. 3-261. All ground personnel pass through Bruneau. Planes regularly fly over Bruneau and surrounding area. Bruneau is outside the ROI, so any cumulative impacts to Bruneau are not analyzed in the ETI-DEIS. This needs to be addressed and analyzed by adding Bruneau and the surrounding impacted area (Grand View, ID) to ROI Two.*

DP-47 Pg. 1-16 *What, specifically is one of the Air Force's four key objectives--* "Support the unique missions of the Air Force's rapid-response air expeditionary wing" *and is the* Pg. 2-94 "Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) BATTLELAB" *linked to the air expeditionary wing? What are their "unique missions"?*

DP-48 Pg. 2-92– *If the expeditionary wing is different than the 366th Wing then the Cumulative Impacts have not been addressed (40 CFR s1508.7)*

LU-15 Pg. ES-10 in the "Land Use and Transportation" *section of the Executive Summary states* "Proposed road improvements would slightly benefit travel ability without significantly increasing traffic. Access to all areas outside the selected range would be maintained."

Chapter 2.0 second pg. *states under the* Operational Considerations "Site on relatively flat terrain with reasonable year-round access" *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option then Alternative sites B or D do not have reasonable year-round access.*

Pg. 2-4 "For the 12,000-acre range, the system must also provide a high-probability of access throughout most of the year." *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option then Alternative sites B or D do not have reasonable year-round access.*

Pg. 2-42 "The roads to the maintenance facility would not be plowed in winter, unless required under emergency conditions." "Approximately 8 to 12 people would work on site during days when flying occurs." "Although no personnel would live on site,..." *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option then Alternative sites B or D do not have reasonable year-round access.*

Pg. 2-48 "Personnel would commonly be at the range on weekdays." "Personnel would routinely commute in groups to the site on a daily basis..., or as needed." *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option then Alternative sites B or D do not have reasonable year-round access. Under ideal conditions, the round trip, road trip from MHAFB to Alt. B or D and return is 4 hours.*

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Pg. 2-52 "Personnel would always be present during emitter operations." *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option, then some emitter site associated with the Alternatives do not have reasonable year-round access.*

Pg. 2-67 (based upon 260 flying days)

Pg. 2-54 "...Clover-Three Creek Road would not require seasonal limitations;" "In all cases, roads would not be used when weather conditions do no permit travel. The Air Force would not routinely plow or remove snow." "The Air Force intends to develop interagency service agreements with the applicable jurisdiction for annual road maintenance."

Pg. 2-76 "Once constructed, use of the 12,000-acre training range would occur year-round." *The Clover-Three Creek Road does have seasonal limitations and if the road is upgraded with gravel to accommodate wet weather, the lack of snow removal will limit access in the winter to Alt. B or D and some of the emitter sites. (See pg. 3-237)****

LU-15 Pg. 2-89 Transportation Activity *does not address snow removal to have year-round access.*

pg. 2-93 2.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS – *states that* "Routine Road Maintenance is ...included in the baseline analysis (Chapter 3)".

pg. 3-237 through 3-240–ROADS–3.10.4.1– (Chapter 3)

pg. 3-237***, "Vehicle volumes are extremely low, and travel can be slow, particularly during wet periods. Due to the lack of snow removal operations, roads remain generally unused during the winter." *This statement is repeated on* pg. 3-239, Pg. 3-239–3.10.4.2–Region Of Influence(ROI) One, Alternative B, C, & D.

Alternative B & D also state that "...of the range lies Clover-Three Creek Road which provides main access to roads leading in to the training range."

Figure 3.10-7 *shows road construction and improvement–That will solve the wet weather problem but does not address snow removal. Access can not be consistently gained to the proposed range site in Alternative B or D in the winter without snow removal. Part of the Clover-Three Creek Road is maintained by the Three Creek Good Roads Highway District--they have placed warning signs on the portions they maintain stating that chains and 4-wheel drive are advised and that they do not plow snow. Snow will also need to be plowed to some of the emitter sites. Any site south of Clover Crossing, because of the rise in elevation, has a high likelihood of snow removal being necessary to gain access to Alternative B or D and any of the emitter sites in that area involved with the proposed ETI.*

LU-17 Pg. 3-238, Figure 3.10-7 – *shows the road to emitter sites AC & AJ (Crows Nest Road) as possibly being paved. It is not paved, in fact it only has a small amount of gravel and according to the DEIS will not be*

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improved. Therefore, when conditions are too wet or there is too much snow, emitter sites AC & AJ will not be usable. Also, figure 3.10-7 *does not show access road to emitter site AC and shows a possible paved road to emitter site AJ.*

Pg. 2-44, 2-45, Figure 2.3-10 & Chapter 2.0 seventh & ninth pg. *–Alternative B & D include approximately 16.5 miles of 208-volt, three phase transmission line to be constructed above ground – This preferably needs to be constructed underground if either of these alternatives are selected.*

DP-77 Pg. 2-46– *Are the telephone lines going to be installed underground and from where?*

DP-78 Pg. 2-47– *What is a lack spotting charge?*

DP-35 Pg. 2-64 – 2.3.4 Sorties and Sortie-Operations *are not adequately addressed in the ETI- DEIS and is presented in a confusing manner.*

Pg. 2-64 & 2-67 "Enhanced training opportunities in Idaho would increase total 366th Wing sorties from Mountain Home AFB to the local airspace by approximately 7 percent (653 sorties). A corresponding reduction in the use of remote ranges would occur under Alternatives B, C, or D."

Pg. 2-68 "366th Wing sorties to NAFR, FTRC, and UTTR would decrease overall by 46 percent."

"The decrease in remote range sorties would result from increased training opportunities in Idaho."

PN-1 *How does the Air Force justify constructing ETI for a 7 percent increase use of local airspace?*

PN-7 *How can the 366th Wing sorties to remote ranges decrease by 46 percent and the increase to the local airspace only be 7 percent?*

DP-37 Pg. 2-54 "...the Air Force proposes to replace the bridge at Three(*Three is incorrect. Replace "Three" with Clover*) Creek crossing to accommodate heavier equipment use."

Pg. 2-76 "...include construction of a new bridge over Clover Creek adjacent to the current bridge on Clover-Three Creek Road."

DP-79 • *The existing bridge is located on private land with a right-of-way and is adjacent to the landowner's irrigation diversion dam in Clover Creek. It is impracticable to locate a new bridge on public land. The new bridge will have to be constructed on private land, a new right-of-way established, and the impacts to the landowner's diversion dam addressed. The landowner has since 1984, in cooperation with the BLM, been involved in a riparian restoration project on Clover Creek. The impact to the private land owner, the irrigation diversion dam and irrigation ditches, and to Clover Creek (surface water) and its*

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adjacent floodplain and riparian areas have not been adequately addressed in the DEIS. See: pg. 4-66 and 4-71.

Pg. 2-85 WATER RESOURCES "No impact on surface water, ground water, floodplains, or claims to water rights"

Pg. 2-86 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES "Direct impacts to...1 perennial stream from new and upgraded road construction"

WR-3 *Analysis of Clover Creek, in Alt B & D--Water Resources and Biological Resources contradict each other. Finding training ordinance and chaff outside of the 12,000 acre EUA at SCR is an indication that misfired training ordinance or chaff could directly impact Clover Creek if Alt. D is selected for the proposed tactical training range.*

BI-8 Pg. 2-86 *Please explain and identify location of 2.4 miles:* "would include a loss of...2.4 miles of "Waters of the U.S." *Definition of "Waters of the U.S." is on pg. 3-100 and 3-101.*

DP-37 Pg. 2-86 *Alternative D, last paragraph states:* "...and the adjacent canyon of the East Fork Bruneau River". *River is incorrect. East Fork Bruneau Canyon is correct. (e.g. East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek.) Clover Creek runs into the Bruneau River through the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, therefore East Fork Bruneau Canyon and Clover Creek are one in the same.*

RV-14 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT–second pg.– "Interesting results addressed in the resource section include the following: Road improvements do not lead to recreation destinations or other sensitive resources and would not encourage increased access to any area."–*This statement is misleading. Any road improvement to any maintained road in Owyhee County will enhance and therefore increase public access to recreation destinations and sensitive resources in Owyhee County. Construction and improvements of roads to emitter sites can also be used by the public to explore parts of Owyhee County that currently have limited access. See: pg. 2-79, Table 2.3-16 and pg. 3-238, Figure 3.10-7 and pg. 4-205, 4-223.*

Pg. 2-89, Figure 2.5-1 *states:* "Potential impact on traditional resources from improved access".

RV-24 Pg. 4-224 *states:* "One road would be closed to public access. ...road that dissects part of the Juniper Butte site. ...and is not used regularly for access..." *There is not a figure in 4.11 RECREATION AND VISUAL RESOURCES that shows road closures and alternate access routes.*

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Pg. 2-91, Figure 2.5-1 *states:* "Negligible effects on recreation industry". *It remains to be seen what effects the ETI will have on the recreation industry in Owyhee County. Solitude is a major contributor to recreation values in Owyhee County.*

DP-7 Pg. 2-92, 2.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS– "The 124th Wing of the IDANG...increased usage of general aviation airspace and SCR. ...a FONSI was issued in August, 1996. *The A-10s of the 124th Wing of the IDANG have had a significant impact to the SCR and Bruneau Area residents. (e.g. The construction and use of strafing pits on SCR and concurring noise associated with the low AGL flights and actual firing of the weapons on the A-10s at SCR.)*

NO-16 3.2 NOISE third pg., *Figure* "Reference Points Used in the Baseline Noise Analysis" and pg. 3-19, Figure 3.2-1 *would be more useful if identifiable landmarks were added. (e.g. Roads, Communities and Rivers.)*

SF-4 Pg. 3.23, 3.3.1 Fire Risk... *Air Force officers have stated at numerous meetings, when the BLM has issued an Extreme Fire Danger warning, the proposed tactical training range would not be used. The ETI-DEIS does not analyze this issue as it pertains to the proposed alternatives or take into account the amount of flying days this could deduct. This issue is discussed on pg. 3-27 for the existing SCR.*

DP-37 3.6 WATER RESOURCES, 1st pg. *states:* "A portion of the water for the Bruneau River originates in the Jarbidge and Owyhee Mountains in northern Nevada." *This is a misleading statement. The Bruneau River headwaters are in the Jarbidge Mountains in northern Nevada.*

This page also states: "Water resources and canyonlands were avoided during the site selection so that they would not be affected by any project alternative." *Alternative D abuts the East Fork Bruneau Canyon rim (pg. 3-98, Figure 3.8-5, and pg. 3-123) directly affecting the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek. Finding training ordinance and chaff outside of the 12,000 acre EUA at SCR is an indication that misfired training ordinance or chaff could directly impact Clover Creek if Alt. D is selected for the proposed tactical training range. Clover Creek is less than 2.5 nautical miles from the 30-acre Industrial Complex Target in Alt. D. See: pg 2-38, Figure 2.3-6.*

WR-3 *The cumulative impacts of the proposed tactical training range, Alt. D, on the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek have not been adequately analyzed.*

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WR-4 Pg. 3-63 and pg. 3-64, 3.6.2.1 ROI Two—Regional Surface Water—Water Availability and Use. *The 3rd paragraph, pg. 3-63, contains so many inaccuracies it needs to be researched and totally rewritten. The 1st full paragraph, pg. 3-64 states:* "The Owybee River drainage... These watersheds are shown in Figure 3.6-1." *Figure 3.6-1, pg. 3-65 does not show the Owyhee River drainage, shows only a portion of the Bruneau River drainage, and does not identify the streams in the C.J. Strike Reservoir watershed. Section 3.6.2.1 needs to be researched and rewritten.*

WR-3 Pg. 3-67 *states for Alt. D:* "Currently, there is no perennial stream at the proposed site;..." *Clover Creek, East Fork Bruneau Canyon is adjacent to the Alt. D site, is a tributary to the Bruneau River and is a perennial stream. Clover Creek is less than 2.5 nautical miles from the 30-acre Industrial Complex Target in Alt. D. Finding training ordinance and chaff outside of the 12,000 acre EUA at SCR is an indication that misfired training ordinance or chaff could directly impact Clover Creek if Alt. D is selected for the proposed tactical training range. See: pg 2-38, Figure 2.3-6.*

Pg. 3-89 *states:* "Sheep Creek provides another dominant, deep narrow canyon north of the confluence of the Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers." *East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek also provides another dominant, deep narrow canyon north of the confluence of the Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers and Sheep Creek. The lower portion of the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek is in a WSA, an ACEC, VRM Class 1 and also in ROI Two. See:* Pg. 3-226, Figure 3.10-4. *Finding training ordinance and chaff outside of the*

SF-5 *12,000 acre EUA at SCR is an indication that misfired training ordinance or chaff could directly impact Clover Creek if Alt. D is selected for the proposed tactical training range.*

This ETI-DEIS continues to ignore the significance of the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek and the close proximity of Alt. D to a perennial stream. Clover Creek is less than 2.5 nautical miles from the 30-acre Industrial Complex Target in Alt. D. See: pg 2-38, Figure 2.3-6.

RV-22 Pg. 3-256 *incorrectly identifies the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek as the* East Fork of the Bruneau River *and fails to mention the lower reaches of the East Fork are in VRM Class 1. See:* Figure 3.11-5

LU-11 Pg. 3-215, Figure 3.10-1 and pg. 3-217, Figure 3.10-2 *Need to have roads and communities identified on them.*

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DP-37 4.6 WATER RESOURCES 2nd pg. *states:* "During the siting process, major water sources, such as the East Fork of the Bruneau River shown below, were avoided." "*East Fork of the Bruneau River*" *is incorrect. It is called East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek. Abutting Alt. D to the rim of the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek is not avoiding impacts to this major water source. Finding training*

WR-3 *ordinance and chaff outside of the 12,000 acre EUA at SCR is an indication that misfired training ordinance or chaff could end up in Clover Creek if Alt. D is selected for the proposed tactical training range. Clover Creek is less than 2.5 nautical miles from the 30-acre Industrial Complex Target in Alt. D. See: pg 2-38, Figure 2.3-6.*

Comments in Support of ETI:

- *Only support the development of the following if the Air Force coordinates all land use planning activities with Owyhee County: one(1), 640-acre No-Drop Target, exclusive use, fenced (wildlife fence) and five(5), 5-acre No-Drop Targets, exclusive use, fenced (6' chain link). Ten(10), 1-acre emitter sites, exclusive use, fenced (6' chain link) --and twenty(20), 0.25-acre emitter sites, temporary use, unfenced. No-Drop Targets must not affect potentially significant archaeological resources.*
  In these designated areas: Recreation would be prohibited in certain areas, Grazing would be restricted in certain areas and Military activities would be a new land use. See: pg. 2-40 through 2-50, Figures 2.3-8, 2.3-11, 2.3-12 and pg. 2-87, 2-88, Table 2.5-1.
- *Support the objectives in 3.1 AIRSPACE–and agree that the proposed airspace additions and changes will benefit and enhance training at MHAFB. See: pg. 2-80, Table 2.3-16 and pg. 2-69, Figure 2.3-20, Proposed Airspace Structure and pg. 2-82, Table 2.5-1.*
- *Support airspace expansion and increased noise levels in the Jacks Creek WSAs. Monitoring the affects of the expansion and increased noise levels on wildlife, the human wilderness and recreational experience and seasonal restrictions are requested mitigation. See: pg. 2-89, Table 2.5-1.*
- *Support the establishment of a Military Radar Unit (MRU) at MHAFB -- "Cowboy Control". See: pg. 3-12.*

001193

SO-11 *Only support the loss of federal AUMs and/or State AUMs and grazing acreage if compensation/mitigation is satisfactory to the affected permittee/lessee. See: pg. 2-91, Table 2.5-1.*
Pg. 2-34, 2.3.1.5 Non-Project Lands *states:* "To the extent that livestock grazing operations are disrupted, the Air Force proposes to compensate the permittee through monetary or in-kind compensation which could involve acquisition of private lands."
Pg. 4-67 *states:* "The training range...would be available in July and August to livestock;...The Air Force intends to permit continued grazing on land inside the training range but outside the primary ordnance impact areas." *Grazing livestock at the same hot season time each year is not good rangeland management and will create an economic hardship on the permittee. This hardship will be compounded if July and August are not the traditional months the permittee grazes this area.*

Comments of Opposition to ETI:

- *Oppose the creation of a new 12,000 acre tactical training range located in Owyhee County.*

LU-20
1. *Land withdrawal is not consistent with Owyhee County's "Land Use Plan". See: pg. 3-222 and 3-223. Alt. B withdraws 11,864 acres, Alt. C withdraws 9,264 acres and Alt. D withdraws 11,269 acres. See: pg. 2-88, Table 2.5-1, and pg. 5-1 and 5-2* (5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES).
2. *Oppose new restricted airspace over tactical training range. See: pg. 2-81, Table 2.5-1.*
3. *Oppose the increased noise levels directly above and in the new restricted airspace associated with each of the alternatives. Noise levels at Alt B will be 3.33 times greater, noise levels at Alt. C will be 6.67 times greater and noise levels at Alt. D will be 6 times greater than current average noise levels. See: ES-6 and pg. 2-82, Table 2.5-1.*
4. *Oppose the loss of over 500 acres of native plant communities associated with each of the alternatives. See: pg. 2-86, Table 2.5-1 and pg. 3-93 through pg. 3-99, Table 3.8-4,-5,-6 and Figures 3.8-3,-4,-5, and pg. 5-1 and 5-2* (5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES).
5. *Oppose the loss of approximately 300 rare plants associated with Alt. D. See: pg. 2-86, Table 2.5-1 and pg. 3-112 through 3-118, and pg. 5-1 and 5-2* (5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES).
6. *Oppose the indirect impacts on 1,875 to 7,609 acres of native vegetation associated with each of the alternatives and 33 acres of wetlands associated with Alt. C. See: pg. 2-86, Table 2.5-1 and pg. 3-93,*

Table 3.8-4, and pg. 5-1 and 5-2 (5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES).

7. *Oppose the moderate impacts human presence may have on easily disturbed protected and sensitive wildlife species and general wildlife species associated with each of the alternatives. See: pg. 2-86, 2-87, Table 2.5-1 and pg. 3-125 through 3-151, and pg. 5-1 and 5-2* (5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES).

8. *Oppose the potential indirect impacts that could affect the diversity and abundance of wildlife species associated with each of the alternatives. See: pg. 2-86, Table 2.5-1 and pg. 3-152 through 3-186 and pg. 5-1 and 5-2* (5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES).

9. *Oppose the affect ground disturbance could have on an estimated 1 to 3 National Register-eligible archaeological sites in the primary ordinance impact area of Alt. B and C. See: pg. 2-87, Table 2.5-1 and pg. 3-195 through 3-212.*

10. *Oppose the affect ground disturbance could have on an estimated 4 to 13 traditional cultural resources in the primary ordinance impact area of Alt. B and C. See: pg. 2-88, Table 2.5-1 and pg. 3-187 through 3-195, and pg. 5-1 and 5-2* (5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES).

SO-14 11. *Oppose the loss of approximately 1% PILT revenues for Owyhee County associated with each of the alternatives. See: pg. 2-90, Table 2.5-1.*

12. *Oppose the loss of primitive/semi-primitive recreational opportunities associated with each of the alternatives. See: pg. 3-254, Figure 3.11-4, and pg. 4-224 and pg. 5-1 and 5-2* (5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES).

13. *Oppose the closure of any road associated with each of the alternatives. See: pg. 4-224.*

Thank you for extending the comment period and the opportunity to comment on the ETI-DEIS. Hopefully these comments are written clearly. If you have questions concerning these comments, please call.

Sincerely,

Cindy L. Bachman

Cindy L. Bachman

Jody A. (Craig)Tremblay
P.O. Box 1206
Twin Falls, ID 83303-1206

September 8, 1997

GE-1 U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

To Whom It May Concern:

Again, we are asked to give comments on the enhanced Air Force training range. My opinion on the matter is "NO!" The Air Force has publicly stated that it does not need the expansion. That should be the final say, as far as I am concerned. Last week, the Defense Department spokesman said that they knew nothing about the plan.

The expansion will infringe on a beautiful, secluded recreational area in Idaho. Idaho already has to contend with a Government's blunder---the INEEL, why do we have to take on another?

Sincerely,

Jody A. (Craig) Tremblay

1150 East Addison
Twin Falls, ID 83301
August 10, 1997

USAF/BLM
Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Please enter my objection to any extension of USAF bombing range activities in Idaho. In addition please reproduce, in your report, my comments as they appeared in the Twin Falls TIMES-NEWS, page A-15, this date.

Bob Oslund

2 cents worth on political turkeys (er, representatives)

Our political turkeys are now officially on vacation. Crapo got a plus for recycling his black box idea. They will continue to gobble about all they have accomplished. Balderdash!

Just what have they done for us lately? We pay each of them about $11,000 a month plus the kind of perks that made Steve Simms a millionaire. They have plans for another of those "I didn't vote for it" pay raises. So, it is valid to ask what do we get for our money before they steal any more money.

Our turkeys have taken lying lessons from the Air Force so they know better than to challenge the Castleford school sonic boom coverup. In Nevada, the politicians have forced the Navy to pay for flattened buildings. Not in Idaho!

Thirty million dollars has gone into just studying the bombing range boondoggle.

Do Batt, Crapo, Craig or Kempthorne care? Ask them! Listen to the nonsense our turkeys spout about freedom. They are talking about their freedom to wheel and deal, not our freedom to enjoy the Owhyee Desert. They lie a lot.

The Bureau of Land Management report on the Nevada bombing range describes a disaster that our turkeys would happily duplicate in Idaho for the agreed-upon fee.

Fish and Game has finally surprised us by releasing a critical report on the proposed boondoggle. There are just too many bad facts for the staff to ignore, even as Batt throws a tantrum and continues to lie.

The budget-accord signing at the White House prompts me to ask Larry Craig if his mother didn't teach him that if you sleep with dogs you get fleas.

The Auger Falls fiasco is begging for a politician with some moral fiber and backbone. Ask them! They have said they are powerless. We should make each one of them truly powerless next time we vote.

The Air Force has extended the comment period on the bombing range boondoggle until September 8th. Please express your opinion on a postcard addressed to USAF/BLM, Box 329, Boise, ID 83702-0329.

Incidentally, would you like to hire away any of our turkeys for $63.46 an hour plus perks? Please do, they are all for sale to the highest bidder. If you could see your way clear to hire them for menial tasks, they would drop the bombing range hot potato.

I've offered my two cents!

BOB OSLUND

Twin Falls

Beth Workman
723 Pierce
Boise, Idaho 83712

United States Air Force
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

September 8, 1997

GE-1 I am writing because I am totally against the proposed bombing range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. It is unbelievable that the Air Force wants to desecrate this beautiful part of our country. What for? We have enough bombing ranges! It doesn't make any sense!

There is no need for this bombing range. The GAO report and the DEpartment of Defense substantiates this. This beautiful area deserves to be protected not destroyed.

If this range is so imperative to the future of Mountain Home, I suggest you locate it next to the Mountain Home Air Force Base. It's already a wasteland. Then the Mountain Home bombing range boosters would be close enough to appreciate the beauty of what they've created.

Sincerely,

Beth Workman

001197

Jeff Swanstrum
723 Pierce
Boise, ID 83712

US Air Force/Bureau of Land Mgmt.
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

September 5, 1997

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

Enclosed are comments on the proposed training range in southern Idaho.

First, let me thank you for the opportunity to comment and I hope you consider each individual's viewpoints carefully as many people consider this special part of Idaho their backyard.

My comments are directed towards the planning process and the history of the Air Force proposals in southern Idaho over the last ten years.

The first proposal I recollect was a massive land withdrawal proposed in the southern desert including the Bruneau/Jarbidge river canyons, the high desert plateaus of Three Creek and the East Fork Bruneau River area. After a horrendous public outcry, the proposal was scaled back. However, it still was recognized as a "land grab" to tie up public lands for a very special purpose. This was recognized by cattlemen, conservationists, sportsmen, Indian peoples and the general public for what it was and was later dismissed by the Air Force. Interestingly enough, an isolated parcel, a "satellite site" was also proposed at this time west of Highway 51 in the Dickshooter canyon and plateau area.

Unfortunately, today's proposal is right back within the boundaries of the original bombing range proposal northwest of the Bruneau/Jarbidge river system. Herein lies a very basic and unacceptable fact: The Air Force planners are attempting to disguise the land grabs by using isolated emitter and bombing target sites spread over a large geographic area. So what happens is that the planes fly the entire "target site", emitter site area and actually impact the entire geographic area the same way as if the Air Force tied up the entire areas as in the original proposal. The argument is that public access to historical uses, such as hunting, river running, cattle grazing and general public travel will be unaffected with the current proposal. This is utter bullshit. With the domination of the landscape by training jet exercises, the noise and associated development of emitter and target sites, the dominant land use becomes Air Force training and all other uses suffer greatly. This proposal is as bad or worse than the original proposal because it attempts to dupe the public as to the real use by the Air Force.

001197

The citizens of Bruneau-Grandview were treated to a realistic "Fly Over" by jets in an exercise to demonstrate the noise and effect of direct fly overs, back in the first proposal several years ago. The jets come in low and supersonic and literally shook people standing on the ground. We were appalled by noise of the exercise and it was obvious the people saw the true impacts of Air Force fly-overs after the ensuing public outcry. There is no getting around the fact that supersonic flights are very upsetting to traditional users. After all the controversy the Air Force retreated with a sound defeat. But low and behold the taxpayers were treated to a new proposal within the Owyhee Canyonlands a short two years later. This proposal included the original "satellite" bombing range on Dickshooter Ridge as well as extensive air space additions and low level flight ceilings in existing MOA's. In addition we had a target zone proposed south of the East Fork of the Owyhee. I bring this historical perspective because the current proposal is basically the same and it really upsets me that I have to continue to fight an agency over the same issue and proposals year after year. The Air Force has the budget and dollars to pay professionals to plan, lobby and create additional proposals year after year while people like me who enjoy the country can't afford to continue to spend time fighting our own government.

In summary, I vehemently oppose the expanded training area as proposed in the draft EIS. I feel the Air Force is misleading the public as to the true nature of their proposal. Please consider my comments and decide that no recommendation be allowed for expanded training.

Thank you.

Jeff Swanstrum

Jeff Swanstrum

001198 6 Sept 1997

GE-1 TO
U.S. Air Force and Bureau of Land Management:

As a citizen of Idaho and user of public land in the Owyhee Mountains I am dead set against the proposed bombing range in the Owyhees. I visit the Owyhees to hike, bike and camp. That land and its biological resources - animals and plants - need protection not degradation from noise, fire and waste material from the airforce. I love the Owyhee area and want it preserved.

Let the airforce go to Utah + Nevada ranges. Preserve, and improve the management of the Owyhees for wildness and healthy watersheds. Decrease training flights that are already going on.

Emphatically yours,
Kathleen Whitacre
916½ N. 12TH ST.
BOISE, ID 83702

001199

SIERRA CLUB
MIDDLE SNAKE GROUP
P. O. Box 552 • Boise, Idaho 83701

Sheila Widnall
Secretary, US Air Force
US Air Force / Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise ID 83701-0329

GE-2 Dear Ms Widnall,

On behalf of the Sierra Club, we would like to comment on the "Enhanced Training in Idaho" draft environmental impact statement. We support only the No Action Alternative outlined in the DEIS and strongly oppose any of the other alternatives offered in your proposal.

We wish to incorporate by reference the comments submitted by the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition, which specify in detail the many objections our members and allies have against this expanded bombing range and supersonic wargames battlefield being developed in Idaho. In addition to those comments, our group feels it is necessary to stress some of our fundamental objections to this unnecessary and unwarranted incursion upon wildlife and recreation.

The Sierra Club, as a national conservation organization, consists of approximately 600,000 members. National and local Club members have led numerous outings into the area effected by this bombing range proposal. Our members hike, hunt, camp, fish, and raft all over the portions of southwest Idaho and associated areas crossing into Nevada and Oregon that will be effected by your proposal. These are our public lands that you wish to destroy.

PN-1 PN-18 This bombing range expansion is not needed, with ample existing training available nearby at the Utah Test and Training Center and Nellis AF Base in Nevada. This proposal is just a convenience for pilots, saving 15 minutes flight time each way. You argue the action saves fuel, yet plan daily refueling exercises over Idaho as part of the proposal, clearly negating the claim of saving fuel. This is a waste of taxpayer money. General Peck has previously stated, "We are the most combat ready unit anywhere in the world right now." This is only an enhancement, a wish list, a land grab, not a matter of necessity for matters of national defense. Even the findings of an auditor's report issued by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense in 1995 concluded the range is not necessary for these same reasons. Mountain Home Air Force Base will not close without the bombing range, a myth exploited during the last attempt for this

PN-14

expansion. No need has ever been justified, although a national needs assessment has been called for by Senator Harry Reid of Nevada.

This expansion is not just about the actual dummy bomb drop site, which is 12,000 acres, enough of an impact in itself to call for opposing the proposal. It's bad enough to drop those incendiary devices on the dry, fire-prone desert. But the supersonic wargames battlefield expansion also involves large increases in the amount of aluminum chaff and flares dropped, up to 50% in some areas, significantly increasing pollution and the chances of fire, fires that could destroy critical wildlife habitat, grazing opportunities for public lands permittees and recreational opportunities. The battlefield expansion involves 30 emitter sites and several no drop zones scattered across the desert floor, subjecting the area to fragmentation of habitat and most likely increased military operations development on those sites at a later date. Most importantly, it involves over three million acres of flight space, with low level and supersonic flights and deafening sonic booms increasing over our public lands in Idaho, Oregon and Nevada. In short, the entire area will be turned into a huge supersonic wargames battlefield for your convenience and to the detriment of everyone else.

The noise impacts alone will be devastating. Air Force studies that attempt to minimize noise impacts through misleading information and erroneously drawn conclusions have been proven to be insufficient. The department's own Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategies Plan concludes that no current studies accurately gage the effects of the noise from the sonic booms and noise levels on people, recreation and wildlife. The noise studies cited in the DEIS are shown to be inadequate, an apples-and-oranges comparison of urban air noise with other noises like trains, compared to jet noise in a rural, quiet area. Further, the baseline data for the pre-existing level of noise is inaccurate. It should use data from before 1992, when the composite wing was brought in. Instead, you improperly ignore cumulative impacts from the composite wing. This was largely the basis for the lawsuit that stopped the Air Force's last attempt at the expanded bombing range.

NO-11

Wildlife and their habitat will be seriously and irrevocably harmed by the increased noise, developments, roads and enclosures created by the proposal. These Canyonlands are home to California Big Horn sheep, whose numbers have dramatically decreased recently from previous military operations. Studies cited by the Air Force on noise and flight effects to sheep are outdated and inadequate.

BI-30

No studies for sage grouse have been made or suggested, while sage grouse populations have declined as much as 93% in some areas. Biological surveys on deer, antelope and other big game are not even scheduled until this winter, after the fact to say the least, since the final EIS is scheduled for release prior to studies being completed. The diverse ecosystem of the Owyhee, Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyonlands and the associated uplands are home and habitat for a diversity of other species as well, including golden eagles, falcons, chukar, deer and elk. They will all be negatively impacted by the supersonic wargames battlefield.

BI-20

BI-12

Chaff emitted from the increased number of planes exacerbates a growing illegal pollution problem on these public lands and is potentially a serious health risk for humans and wildlife. The billions of aluminum coated fibers can effect water quality and air quality by ingestion or inhalation. We demand an independent scientific study be conducted on chaff's effects to humans and wildlife before any additional chaff is dropped. The dummy bombs contain Titanium Tetrachloride, a toxic chemical whose effects are not well enough known and need further study as well.

LU-16

HZ-2

Wilderness values will be diminished severely by noise, also causing aesthetic, visual and physical pollution. The proposal calls for an extension of the existing military operating area to include the Jack's Creek Wilderness Study Area. This WSA is a primary target area by Sierra Club and other conservationists and sportsmen for permanent land protection status. The integrity of that WSA would be destroyed by the sonic booms and low level flights planned for the area. Recreational values for hikers, hunters and solitude seekers in Jack's Creek WSA would also be taken away by this proposed battlefield expansion. Remember, these are our public lands. We should not have to go elsewhere to recreate, the Air Force should go to existing nearby areas to train.

LU-6

This is most likely only the beginning of the Air Force's development of these lands and use of the airspace above. The illegal expansion of the Grasmere Electronic Emitter site, legalized only retroactively by the BLM, is just one example of the Air Force's long term intentions. The Grasmere site is now an industrial scar on the desert landscape. The Air Force plans to bring in other branches of military service and foreign military operations as well to train over the fragile Canyonlands. Those agencies will not be held accountable by even the same loose regulations the Air Force has said they will act under.

In conclusion, these three million acres, most of which are our public lands, are a treasure to our Idaho quality of life. They contain an abundant diversity of wildlife and vegetation. They are home to the centuries old culture and modern day people of the Shoeshone-Paiute tribes. They are a major recreation spot to Boiseans and others from around the region. The bottom line is: Idaho is too great to bomb! We as a society need to help protect Idaho's deserts, for our families and for our futures! Therefore, we demand that you implement the no action alternative in this DEIS and permanently abandon any further similarly destructive attempts to expand this supersonic wargames battlefield and bombing range over Idaho's desert canyonlands.

Sincerely,

Roger A Singer

Roger A Singer
Conservation Organizer

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

September 8, 1997

U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-2 Dear USAF,

I am writing to express concern over your proposal to expand the USAF Bombing Range in the Owyhee Canyonlands. Your argument that expansion would give pilots a more realistic training experience seems frivolous when you consider the potentially devastating effects on fish and wildlife, public health, and quality of life of surrounding neighbors.

The area contains approximately one quarter of the California Bighorn Sheep population in the United States. When the USAF first began supersonic flights and flare dropping in 1993, the Owyhee Canyonlands bighorn sheep population dropped by a staggering 30 percent. The Owyhee Canyonlands is also home to golden eagles, peregrine falcons, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, cougar, sage grouse and many species of fish.

You reportedly plan to drop aluminum chaff and bombs containing Titanium Tetrachloride. A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study indicates exposure to this chemical negatively impacts human health. Yet you have chosen to minimize or overlook such evidence. It is extremely careless to introduce foreign materials into an environment without seriously considering possible ramifications. This has been proven many times in the past.

HZ-2

Furthermore, the Owyhee is a rugged, spectacularly beautiful place. People come to enjoy the peace that the scenery and wildlife provides. The noise produced by air flight and sonic booms destroys this calm for both visitors and residents.

Brigadier General Ken Peck told Times-News newspaper at Twin Falls that "we are the most combat capable unit anywhere in the world." If this is so, then why do you need to expand the Bombing Range? You are more than efficient without expansion. I urge you to withdraw your proposal.

PN-1

Sincerely,

Robert T. Perschel

Robert T. Perschel
Regional Director

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
45 BROMFIELD STREET, SUITE 1101, BOSTON, MA 02108
TEL. (617) 350-8866 FAX (617) 426-3213

recycled paper

GE-1 NO!
to the proposed bombing range

Phyllis J Uptain

314 12th Ave N
Bell Idaho
83316

IDAHO OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES ASSOCIATION

September 8, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-2 Re: Enhanced Training in Idaho Environmental Impact Statement

The Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA) is a non-profit business trade organization representing the Idaho industry including the float boat outfitters on the Jarbidge/Bruneau and Owyhee River systems and most, but not all land based outfitters (hunting, jeep tours, etc.), associated with the area to be impacted by the ETI proposal. The high desert plateaus and associated river systems of the canyonlands of southwest Idaho provide an unique resource providing diverse recreation experiences that characterize the Idaho outfitting and guiding industry.

The key to successful outfitting businesses is quality customer service and repeat customers. Float businesses associated with the Owyhee Canyonlands are able to offer their client base alternatives to the staples of Idaho river floating—the Salmon, Snake and Clearwater river systems recreation experiences.

SO-4 The section of the DEIS dealing with recreation economy is severely deficient in attempts to calculate (negative) economic impacts due to proposed enhanced training. We believe it is safe to say that a segment of the outfitted public will decline to participate in Owyhee County outdoor experiences and instead choose guided recreation vacations elsewhere should the enhanced training range with its additional supersonic noise be implemented.

The IOGA would like to compliment the Air Force on the "enhanced" approach to involving the public and being more interested in both the biological and sociological aspects related to the most recent (ETI) proposal. Air Force persons have reached out to the IOGA staff to ascertain concerns, answer questions and discuss the ETI proposal. We appreciate this.

The concerns of the outfitting industry with the ETI proposal remain much the same as they were with the Idaho Training Range proposal of the early 1990s: Supersonic noise, effects of either loss of access or enhanced access, chaff usage and effects on humans and wildlife, potential for fire, effects on wildlife, particularly the California bighorn sheep population.

PN-15 Some IOGA members also question the overall need for the ETI, especially when a portion of the MHAFB composite wing training is conducted presently at the Utah Test and Training Range and at other facilities in Nevada. The ETI proposal also comes at a time when the Air Force has committed to an overall national assessment of training needs. Why not wait and consider the results of the assessment results as it relates to ETI? Testimony by Air Force persons to the Idaho legislature has indicated that pilots at MHAFB are among the best trained in the world. Also, with the growing frequency of deployment of the

P.O. Box 95, Boise, Idaho 83701 (208) 342-1438 FAX (208) 336-7830

366th Wing to foreign monitoring assignments (Iraq, etc.), one wonders how much time there really will be available on an annual basis for training back home. And, will the use of ETI be limited to the 366th Wing or will development of the proposal lead to future use by other units of the military, thereby increasing

PN-9 impacts on the resources including guided recreationists? The DEIS does not adequately address need from a national perspective nor spell out the cost benefits of the current proposal.

The IOGA comments and concerns related to these concerns listed below lead us to the conclusion that Alternative A, the No Action alternative would be clearly preferable to all others.

However, should the ETI move forward, IOGA has specific recommendations for mitigation. These recommendations appear throughout our comments.

Our concerns with the ETI DEIS include:

An increase in aircraft overflights and associated noise in the new airspace and around selected range alternatives, particularly as it relates to the primary river systems and bighorn sheep lambing areas.

River outfitters on the Upper Owyhee River (East Fork) and on the Jarbidge/Bruneau Rivers have had a long history of negative experiences due to the noise and disturbance associated with low flying military aircraft over these canyonlands. Although the Air Force has pointed out that aircraft noise has been an inherent feature of any person's experience in this area over the past forty years, the outfitting community can only express that loud jet noise is disruptive and that is adversely affects what many guided guests perceive to be a wilderness experience. Outfitters recognize that aircraft encounters and jet noise have been disruptive and a fact of life on the lower reaches of the Bruneau river as jets approach the target areas on the existing Saylor Creek Range. Essentially, this activity at Saylor Creek preceded the advent of guided float trips in this corner of Idaho. Therefore, the status quo would be preferable to enhanced military training.

Alternative B (Clover Butte) and Alternative D (Juniper Butte) would concentrate more aircraft over the Jarbidge/Bruneau confluence near Indian Hot Springs (the site of the put-in for the Bruneau River trip) and the Jarbidge River itself. The proposed 640 acre No Drop Zone located to the west of the lower Bruneau River near the rim will add more aircraft to this area and make this outstanding section of the lower Bruneau River trip less attractive.

DP-31 Regarding the Upper Owyhee River, we recommend that an airspace envelope (extending the AGL upward to 10,000 feet) similar to the one that now has been established just to the east over the entire Duck Valley Indian Reservation be extended to include the Upper Owyhee Canyonlands, particularly in the region of the Battle Creek-East Fork of the Owyhee River confluence. Springtime outfitted trips on this stretch of river commonly include nature hikes and viewing of wildlife. The frequent mock air battles in this region has been a complaint of outfitted guests and outfitters. Barring the extension of airspace envelope westward from the Reservation, then we recommend that a threat emitter be installed adjacent to

DP-31 the existing pipeline station that is at the end of the improved road access that is nearby. Then military aircraft would avoid this sensitive area of the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Another mitigation factor we recommend would be a communication network whereby outfitters as well as non-outfitted recreationists could communicate trip dates with the Air Force in advance with a goal of reducing negative training impacts. At a minimum, the Air Force should consider establishment of call-in system whereby guided or non-guided recreationists could ascertain the level of supersonic flights over the canyonlands. The Air Force should keep in mind, however, that guided float trips do not necessarily correspond with popular weekend dates of the non-outfitted float public. In fact, float outfitters tend to avoid busy weekend dates during the April through mid-June period.

The river float seasons on the Upper Owyhee and Jarbidge/Bruneau river systems are primarily centered on the April through mid-June period with Owyhee trips beginning earlier in this period than Jarbidge/Bruneau trips. Coincidentally, the float recreation season essentially overlaps the lambing season for the California bighorn sheep that inhabit the canyonlands.

- The recent sharp decline of the Owyhee River California sheep population is of serious concern along with the continued viability of the Jacks Creek herd.

BI-30 As pointed out in the DEIS, causes of bighorn sheep decline can be attributed to numerous factors such as low ewe/lamb ratios, all age die off, drought, significant relocation activity. Could it be that subsonic and supersonic flights over the Owyhee Canyonlands is also a contributor? The IOGA suggests the ETI DEIS is premature related to the research underway related to this matter. Thorough research of the bighorn sheep populations with agreed upon methodology with results is needed prior to implementation of any enhanced training.

IOGA is aware of discussions between the Air Force and the Idaho Fish and Game Department, the Bureau of Land Management and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) related to lambing season mitigation. We support an airspace envelope of 10,000 AGL be enforced over the Canyonlands during critical lamb rearing period of spring and early summer. It should be noted that hunt outfitters have donated thousands of dollars of hunt trips since 1978 to FNAWS for the purpose of enhancing bighorn sheep populations in Idaho and the nation.

- We are concerned that the risk of wildfire might increase from more intensive use of the area by the Air Force.

A continued loss of sagebrush habitat has already seriously effected a once healthy sage grouse population in this area. Unless the recently adopted Idaho Department of Fish and Game Department plan for restoring sage grouse habitat and populations is successful, we can foresee the listing of sage grouse as an endangered species in the near future. The Idaho outfitting industry experience with other recent endangered species listings has been a negative one (loss of access, reduced opportunity and increased

operating expenses) despite proactive industry voluntary mitigation efforts. An ESA listing for sage grouse could have serious implications for the recreating public through loss of access to river facilities, hunting opportunities for big game, hiking and sightseeing.

- Enhanced road access to ETI facilities could lead to unacceptable levels of recreation use.

Some IOGA members foresee a huge growth of recreational activity in the Owyhee Canyonlands, particularly on the Jarbidge/Bruneau River. Part and parcel to the current recreation experience in the southwest corner of the state is the difficult travel and access inherent with the local geography. This lack of developed access is what many regard as a positive attribute associated with the spectacular Canyonlands of Twin Falls and Owyhee County.

- The affects of chaff on humans and wildlife is debatable.

Unlike the minimal habitation of existing training ranges in Utah and Nevada, the southwest corner of Idaho is inhabited full time by ranchers and seasonally by the growing recreation population of Idahoans who live near the resource and those who travel outside the state to experience the Owyhee Uplands and Canyonlands. The Nevada BLM has indicated that more research is needed to fully determine the effects of chaff on humans and wildlife.

IOGA appreciates the opportunity to comment. Again, we appreciate the enhanced effort by Air Force personnel to discuss the ETI and be available as a resource during this debate.

Sincerely,

Grant Simonds

Grant Simonds
Executive Director

cc. IOGA Government Affairs Committee
Various Outfitters

001203

P.O. Box 219 Owyhee, Nevada 89832-0219 (702) 757-3161

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 9, 1997

From: Chairman Paiva, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, PO Box 219, Owyhee, NV 89832

Subject: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)- Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) Proposal

GE-2 To: US Air Force/Bureau of Land Management, PO Box 329, Boise, ID, 83701-0329

Capt. Melissa Miller, 366 Gunfighter Ave. Ste. 152, Mountain Home AFB, ID

A review of the DEIS has been conducted and of Alternatives A, B, C, and D, Alternative A (No-Action), appears to have fewer negative impacts on the 12 environmental resources analyzed in the study. For this reason, Alternative A is the preferred alternative by the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes highly value the preservation of all environmental resources.

CU-12 With regard to cultural resources, the effects of the alternatives on traditional Shoshone-Paiute cultural activities is currently under ethnographic study. This study should be completed in the coming year. The Tribes reserve the right and intend to comment further on the DEIS upon completion of this study.

PN-1 The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes feel that the existing Saylor Creek Range and the remote ranges are sufficient in space to provide the needed training areas. These areas have already been exposed to adverse impacts and should continue to be used for their designated purposes. If the Saylor Creek Range does not provide for realistic training opportunities, surely it can be modified to meet the requirements for realistic training.

Although the Tribes understand the hardship imposed upon military personnel when they must be deployed to train at remote ranges, military personnel must remember that deployment is a way of life for the military. Military personnel must also remember that they signed an oath when they volunteered to serve in the military. Upon signing this oath, each member swore to "obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me". When military personnel are deployed they are ordered to do so by their Commanding Officer. If military personnel do not want to deploy then they should resign from the military.

001203

The Tribes also understand that training at remote ranges costs money. We know it would be more efficient to train closer to home, but we are sure that your Commander in Chief, President Clinton, provides you, the Air Force, with enough money to pay for any needed training missions.

CU-14 In conclusion, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes still consider the southern portion of Idaho to be their homeland and do not recognize the 1985 U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding the Treaty of Ruby Valley (1863). As far as the Tribes are concerned, that decision was not very efficient. Our aboriginal title to Southern Idaho was never extinguished because the Bruneau and Boise treaties were never ratified in Congress, nor was it extinguished by the Executive Order of 1877 establishing the Duck Valley Reservation.

If you have questions regarding the Tribes' position, please feel free to contact either myself or Terry Gibson at 757-3211.

James Paiva
Chairman, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley

cc: Vice-Chairman, Council Members

John R Swanson
3400 Edmund Blvd
Minneapolis, MN 55406-2942

001204

5 September 1997.

US Air Force / Bureau of Land Mgmt.
P.O. 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329.

GE-1 Dear Sirs:

Please accept my following comments concerning the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I oppose this project, as it will destroy soil, water, wildlife, fish, plant, recreation, visual, and Wilderness resources of certain National significance. With noise pollution and air pollution to Decimate a significant portion of Idaho.

May I suggest the following:

Re-establish the Owyhee National Park of 14,000,000 Acres and,
re-designate the Owyhee National Park Wilderness of 12,600,000 Acres

Let us save Idaho!

Sincerely.
John R. Swanson.

001205

September 8, 1997

USAF/BLM
P.O. BOX 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-2 The USAF wants to turn Southwestern Idaho into a supersonic battlefield. You tell us that the Bombing Range would impact only a mere 12,000 acres. In fact more than three million acres of southwest Idaho, southeast Oregon and northern Nevada would be included in the system of electronic combat and bombing ranges.

The Owyhee Canyonlands, in the heart of your proposed military training range, is an abundant, biodiverse region of rolling plateaus cut by dramatic canyons. The area contains candidate wild and scenic rivers, more that 15 Wilderness Study Areas, one quarter of the California Bighorn Sheep population in the United States, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, cougar, sage grouse and many other species of wildlife.

NO-11 The Air Force's own Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Strategies Plan states that there are currently no studies that truly determine the effects of noise levels, sonic booms, supersonic operations and subsonic operations on humans, animals, or structures. Yet, even without the availability of this fundamental information, you claim that you have fully evaluated all effects your proposal on the Owyhee Canyonlands. This simply cannot be true!

DP-7 The base levels you use for comparison in the NOISE sections of the DEIS are levels established since the addition of the Composite Wing 1992. In order to comply with NEPA, an analysis of cumulative effects is required. Therefore, the noise analysis in your DEIS should have been based on pre-1992 use levels. Your attempt to incrementally impact this area without a truly cumulative analysis is entirely unacceptable.

HZ-2 Another key fact (of many) that you have failed to include in your Impact Statement has to do with toxic chemicals, specifically Titanium Tetrachloride, associated with the dummy bombs that will be dropped within the 12,000 acre drop site. You have continually downplayed and minimized the effect of these bombs, as well as potential health risks associated with chaff. A study conducted by the US Department of Health and Human Services regarding the health effects of Titanium Tetrachloride contains specific evidence to the contrary.

PR-23 An additional issue of concern that has been glossed over by the Air Force, is that no matter how many promises you make regarding airspace, environmental concerns, noise, etc., there are no assurances that those promises will apply to other branches of the military or foreign flyers that will be using your bombing range. In fact, you have implied that you will not take responsibility for other branches of the military or foreign armed forces invited to practice war games at your new and improved training range.

PN-1 Finally, by the your own admission, this plan is not needed to save Mountain Home Air Force Base. It's not needed. It's not wanted. It's simply not good for the land, the wildlife or the people of Idaho. I oppose all alternatives referred to in the DEIS and I request an extension of the comment period so that others might have adequate opportunity to express their concerns, or in the alternative, I request that you withdraw your proposal entirely!

Respectfully submitted

Robert Sanders

Address:
1743 Carry PL
Crofton MD 21114

4 September 1997

001206

U.S.Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO 329
Boise, Idaho 83701

GE-1 Dear Recipient,

re: EIS for Enhanced Training of Pilots in Idaho

Recommend: NO ACTION

This concerns the proposal to use the Snake Rover Canyonlands for bombing practice.

? Who are we planning to bomb?

? Why are we planning to bomb something?
because the land seems barren and desolate?
because it will bring federal funding to Idaho?
because nothing will be harmed?

As a native Owyhee County Idahoan, may I relate a few relative items about the Air Force and Owyhee County?
Mountain Home Airbase was developed for WWII & dynamiting was extensive. Permanently skewed was one of the artesian belts near Grand View. Those wells are allied with the subterranean systems connecting Yellowstone and the Cascade Range (Scientific American et al).
Do we really know enough to mess with Mother Nature?
The pronghorn antelope were strafed into near extinction by the pilots practicing with no lessening of the activity after repeated complaints. Was this slaughtering just another buffalo in our history?
A missile silo was built between Grand View and Castle Creek. The missiles were removed, replaced with radioactive materials. There has been no monitoring of ground water near this site. IS there contamination? For how many years?

The westward movement and settlers found the sage and other local flora were undigestible by cows and horses. Hay, grain, grasses displaced much of the native plants. There are a few pockets with rare plants where certain butterflies migrate each year--the only habitat they frequent. Those delicate pockets are occurring less often now. These species are hard pressed to survive (see Breedlove, CA Academy of Sciences, SF). Shall we again play the Godfather when we don't know what we are doing?

Why does the U.S. Air Force decide it can desecrate, denigrate, deliberately destroy the area, disregard and disrespect the opinions of the General Accounting Office, the Inspector General of the Dept of Defense, Elko County Commissioners, and the LOWLY VOTERS of the area, conservationists, hunters and fisherpeople, Native Americans, river rafters?

Why not listen to our delightful democratic society?

Very truly yours,

Leila Hinton Andresen

Leila Hinton Andresen
18308 Pepper St, Castro Valley, CA 94546
510-582-8902

001207

Mallory Walker
3414 Lowell Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016-5023

Home Telephone: 202/244-8094
Home Fax: 202/244-8578
Office Telephone: 301/215-5500
Office Fax: 301/215-5558

September 8, 1997

United States Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83701

GE-2 To Whom It May Concern:

I have just been made aware of the comment period for the United States Air Force's proposal to create (expand) the bombing range in Southwest Idaho.

PN-1 Although I am not fully conversant with all of the issues at stake, I am concerned that the impact statement is woefully inadequate and that there is not a clear need for this specific site demonstrated by the United States Air Force. Further, I am concerned that entities beyond the United Sates Air Force will not be bound by the same restrictions that the Air Force has

PR-23 agreed to thus far. It is imperative that other branches of the military service and foreign governments abide by the same rules as the Air Force for the use of this property.

I would appreciate seeing an extended period of time to comment on the proposal and for the United States Air Force to more adequately address issues raised in the environmental impact statement.

Sincerely,

Mallory Walker (MWS)

(Dictated but not read)
Mallory Walker

cc: Ms. Sally Wells

September 3, 1997 001208 from the desk of...

GE-1 PERSONAL STATEMENT FAVORING U.S. AIR FORCE TRAINING RANGE

I am totally convinced our flight crews should have all the best training facilities, weapons and aircraft tactics possible for surely to believe there will not be another "Saddam Hussein" in the world in the future is pure ignorance. Prior to our Pearl Harbor disaster I personally saw how poorly trained and equipped the U.S. Army was in the late 30's and I hope we never find ourselves so ill prepared again. We need to give our armed forces every tool they need including this new and expanded training range.

Thank you.

William S. Hill, Jr.

William S. Hill Jr.
2721 Cathwin Dr.
Boise, Id.

001211

Wilderness River Outfitters
and Trail Expeditions, Inc.

August 29, 1997

United States Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P O Box 329
Boise Id 83701

GE-1 Dear Air Force/ BLM,

Please find enclosed some comments regarding Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I am a river outfitter licenced by the State of Idaho and permitted by the Bureau of Land Management to guide river trips on the Owyhee River and Jarbidge/Bruneau Rivers. I have been guiding these trips since 1972.

The Owyhee and Jarbidge/Bruneau Rivers offer a unique recreation experience for river travelers. The main negative aspect of these trips is the continuous Jet over flights, particular the low level flights and supersonic flights. The idea that ETI would increase the number of these flights is not compatible with any quality recreational experience. Furthermore the idea of night maneuvers and use of planes and lights will surely degrade the experience.

These flights and the associated noise also seem to affect the California Sheep. A group we were guiding on the Owyhee, were watching a ewe birthing a lamb, just below Deep Creek, about half way through the birth there was a low level jet over flight. The ewe became nervous and got up and moved several times, where before the flight she had been more calm and laid in the same place since the birthing had started. Anyway, I think these flights and noise are irritating move than just people.

Other issues would be increased road building and access would have a negative influence on the landscape, and ruin the remote character of the area.

If I had to pick one of the alternatives from the draft it would have to be alternative A - the "no action" alternative.

I also think the Jets have some major shortcomings in the following areas:

1. Noise impact on canyon users.
2. Noise impact on wildlife.
3. Pollution from proposed alternatives.
4. Accumulative impacts
5. Complying with NEPA Standards

Some suggestions I have for the training range:

1. Locate the training range air space over Mountain Home, so the people enjoying the economic benefit of Mountain Home Air Force Base can also enjoy the noise.
2. Minimum altitude for jet flights over the canyon lands area be 30,000 feet.
3. A " No fly" time period for over canyon flights of April 1 - June 30.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Joe Tonsmeire

P.O. Box 72 • Lemhi, Idaho 83465
Phone/Fax (208) 756-3959
1-800-252-6581

River Trips • Backpacking • Biking • Climbing • Combination Trips • Backcountry Skiing

VERBAL COMMENTS

Department of the Air Force **Original**
Enhanced Training in Idaho
Environmental Impact Analysis Process

IN RE: Public Hearings on Draft EIS)
For Proposed ETI.)
)

BEFORE
COLONEL PAT SWEENEY
Hearing Officer

June 3-6, 1997 • 6:30 p.m.

Reported by
Jodi C. Williams
-and-
Colleen R. Short

THE COURT REPORTERS
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APPEARANCES

For the United States Air Force	UNITED STATES AIR FORCE by COLONEL BILLEY F. RICHEY Director of Staff 366 WG/DS 366 Gunfighter Avenue, Suite 331 Mountain Home AFB, Idaho 83648-5299
For the Bureau of Land Management	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT by JONATHON S. FOSTER Ecosystem Management Specialist Idaho State Office 1387 South Vinnell Way Boise, Idaho 83709
For Governor Phil Batt	OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR by DAVID JETT Special Assistant, Military Affairs 390 East 2nd North Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

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Murphy Hot Springs
Rogerson, Idaho 83302

BOISE, IDAHO

Tuesday, June 3, 1997, 6:30 p.m.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Good evening. We'd like to get started now. So any of you who are attending the public hearing, if you would come on forward please and take a seat. Thank you.

I am Colonel Pat Sweeney, and I'll be the presiding officer at the public hearing this evening. This is the public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Enhanced Training in Idaho, or ETI, as it's abbreviated.

This hearing is being held in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and the regulations which are published by the Council on Environmental Quality. The purpose for tonight's hearing is to receive the public comments, that is, your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement commonly referred to as EIS.

Before moving forward with an overview briefing, I'd like to explain my role in this hearing, this proceeding this evening. I am a full-time Air Force military judge. I am currently assigned to Travis Air Force Base, California as

the chief circuit military judge. My usual duties are to serve as a presiding judge over Air Force criminal cases throughout the western third of the United States. I am not assigned to Mountain Home Air Force Base or air combat command, and I've had no involvement in the development of the draft EIS, and I'm not here to act as a legal advisor to the Air Force representatives or to speak about the ETI proposal.

I can tell you that at this time, so you understand it, my role as the presiding officer or the hearing officer is simply to ensure that we have a fair, orderly, and impartial hearing and that all who desire to be heard have an opportunity to speak. So I will be serving as an impartial moderator of this hearing.

The hearing will be conducted in two parts. First, Colonel Billy Richey on my right, who serves as the director of staff at the 366th Wing in Mountain Home Air Force Base, will make a presentation on the proposed action and the alternatives, an overview of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as well as a summary of the potential environmental consequences of the

proposal.

The second part of this hearing, after we take a break, will be your opportunity to provide the Air Force and the Bureau of Land Management with information and to make statements for the record. The input from you will give the decision-makers within the program the benefit of your knowledge of the local area and your concerns about this environmental analysis.

Throughout this hearing, I ask that you keep in mind that this public hearing is not a debate, nor is it a popularity vote on the Draft EIS, nor is it primarily designed as a question and answer session, although legitimate clarifying questions asked as part of your comments may be asked.

This hearing is primarily about the adequacy of the environmental analysis and the environmental impacts associated with the proposals being studied by the Air Force and the cooperating agencies. Concerns about nonenvironmental issues shouldn't be raised at this hearing. They will not add anything to the record and will simply take away time from others' opportunities to provide the Air Force analysis of their environmental

concerns.

Now, when you came in tonight, you should have been given an attendance card and asked to indicate on that card whether you desire to speak tonight. If you did not fill out a card for some reason or did not indicate that you wanted to speak and you now do want to speak and be heard so that your comments will be recorded by our court reporter, please raise your hand at this time and we'll make sure that we get a card to you so that you'll have that opportunity.

At this time, I'd like to put up the address. Should you choose to submit any comments in writing, this would be the appropriate place. What I mean be that is if you want to comment on the Draft EIS but you don't choose to speak tonight, or if you do choose to speak tonight but you want to make additional comments, you may elect to provide written comments tonight or by mail or input your comments into the computers that are out in the lobby for your use. And we'll give you a copy of your comments if you choose to do that.

The written comments will be accepted through the mail until the 6th of August 1997 at the address that is shown here on the slide. All

5

comments made, either this evening or at the subsequent hearings this week or next week or provided in writing, will be given equal consideration.

Before we move forward with the Air Force briefing, I'd like to introduce the cooperating agency representatives who are attending the hearing tonight. First, Mr. Jon Foster of the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho state office; and Mr. Dave Jett, the governor's assistant for military affairs.

At this time, Colonel Billy Richey, the wing director of staff at Mountain Home Air Force Base, will give a presentation.

COLONEL RICHEY: Good evening. I am Billy Richey, director of staff for the 366th Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base. We are here tonight to receive your input on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Air Force's proposal on Enhanced Training in Idaho.

I have been involved in aircrew training for 27 years and directly involved in Enhanced Training in Idaho since 1995. I am very proud of the proposal. It represents more than two years of continuous dialogue between the Air Force and the

6

community of Idaho.

Our objective was to enhance the frequency and realism of training for aircrews at Mountain Home Air Force Base, and we also wanted to design this proposal to balance the Air Force's operational requirements with the environmental factors and traditional uses of the land. With these things in mind, we created a proposal to modify and slightly expand our current airspace and create a new range with a minimum amount of land.

The proposal includes a 12,000 acre tactical training range. Within this 12,000 range site, there would be small 25-pound nonexplosive training ordinance which would be dropped on only the center 300 acres. Aircrews would also practice on five smaller no-drop sites. One of these sites would be 640 acres. The other four sites would be a small five acres.

Now, to add realism to our training, the proposal plans 30 emitter sites, one acre and smaller. These emitter sites simulate enemy threats on our aircraft radar, again contributing to realism. Only a few of these sites would be used in a given day.

We have identified three potential sites

7

all in Owyhee County, and they all satisfy our objectives. Alternative B, which is Clover Butte, the brown square, is located just to the west of the Three Creek-Clover Creek Road. Alternative C, which is the Grasmere site, Alternative C is located just to the west of Highway 51. And Alternative D, Juniper Butte, which was selected after scoping and as a result of scoping, is also located along Three Creek-Clover Creek Road, and it's to the east of the road. All of these areas meet our operational objectives and provide the designed realism and flexibility.

Now, a key to increasing the quality of our training locally is making the most of the space that we fly in. Now, by adding a small amount of airspace just to the east of Duck Valley Reservation and another area just to the west of Saylor Creek Range, we can greatly enhance our capabilities. This will allow us to train more realistically, and, at the same time, this change allows us to disperse flight activity making it easier to avoid conflicts between training operations and seasonal use of the canyonlands and cultured events.

Now, before a decision can be made on

8

Enhanced Training in Idaho, there are two laws that must be followed. You have the Federal Land Policy Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Federal Land Policy Management Act governs the land withdrawal process. When more than 5,000 acres are withdrawn for defense purposes, it must first be approved by Congress. The Bureau of Land Management has the responsibility for making recommendations to Congress on this application.

Now, these are the steps that the Bureau of Land Management follows in developing this recommendation. As you can see, this could lead to congressional action in 1998.

As shown, most of the National Environmental Policy Act steps are identical or occur simultaneously with those of the Federal Land Policy Management Act. Both use the same Environmental Impact Statement. The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies, in this case, the Air Force and the Bureau of Land Management, to consider potential environmental impacts when making decisions on major actions that may affect the quality of the environmental process. This is a very well-defined process, and

this slide shows how we are fulfilling the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. We anticipate that the secretary of the Air Force will sign a record of decision sometime this fall.

Now, one of the most important features of the National Environmental Policy Act is public involvement. The comments that we received during last summer's scoping sessions and comment periods resulted in several significant changes to our proposal. We identified a new alternative, Juniper Butte. We relocated emitter and no-drop sites to avoid some sensitive areas. And we adjusted the airspace boundary down.

After scoping, the Air Force and Bureau of Land Management proceeded to prepare the Draft EIS, and it was published April the 28th. Let me summarize some of those findings.

For airspace, there would be a 50 percent reduction in the restricted airspace and a slight increase in the overall operating airspace. This would improve our operating capabilities and, at the same time, help to balance the impacts to the environment.

The Air Force has been flying in all this

airspace for the last 50 years. We have studied the proposed airspace expansion and found that the noise levels would remain the same or slightly decreased in all but a couple of areas. As shown on this chart, they would remain the same or slightly decrease in all except for in the area of orange and in the target area selected, which is dubbed in the orange and green dot, depending on which one is selected.

Now, safety and fire season, in particular, are improved by the Air Force proposal to use only cold spot and nonexplosive training ordinance. It would only send out a white puff as it hit the target, and there would be no charge or explosion.

For biological, the greatest potential impact to wildlife and plants with the Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal would come from construction activities and human presence. With any of the three alternatives, direct impact from the ground disturbance could result in a loss of 500 to 700 acres of native plants, and the potential loss for rare plants would occur only at Juniper Butte.

Direct impacts from construction activity

are similar at all three alternatives. However, the potential indirect impacts from human presence within the 12,000 acre target area would be the greatest at Grasmere. The Grasmere site supports the widest variety of wildlife.

For cultural, there was a wide range of results from our cultural and archaeological analysis. We have located 20 sites at the Clover Butte that are eligible for the National Register, 61 sites as Grasmere, and none in the Juniper Butte area. With any of the three alternatives, the Air Force will work with the Idaho State Historic Preservation officer to minimize the impacts to those sites.

Enhanced Training in Idaho has the potential to impact traditional cultural resources. This is due to the human access, visual intrusion, and a possible increase in the noise.

This proposal would have a very minor impact on regional grazing. However, it would have a specific impact to the ranches in the 12,000 acre site that was selected.

During the development of Enhanced Training in Idaho, special recreation areas were avoided. Special use management areas were

avoided. Because of this planning, access to hunters, rafters, and other recreationalists would be minimally impacted.

The publication of the Draft EIS started a 90-day review period that will come to a close August the 6th. During this time, we hope to find out if the Draft EIS adequately addresses the environmental issues and concerns addressed by you. I am confident that the comments that we hear tonight and throughout the comment period will continue to help us to shape the proposal.

After the close of the comment period, we'll use your comments and input to prepare a Final EIS. If the Air Force decides to go forward with the proposal, Congress would be asked to make an approval of the land withdrawal, and, again, this could happen as early as 1998.

Enhanced Training in Idaho will allow us to greatly improve training that we get locally. It will make Mountain Home Air Force Base even a more attractive asset for Idaho. And, more importantly, it will allow our aircrews to be ready for combat and come home alive.

If you have a question about Enhanced Training in Idaho, please visit the display areas.

We have individuals who are ready to answer your questions or discuss in detail our proposal in greater detail.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Colonel Richey, for your presentation.

Shortly, we'll take a brief break. And at that point, we'll proceed to the main portion of this hearing, that is, the portion which allows for public comment on the Draft EIS. But before doing that, I'd like to explain the ground rules for the public comment period.

This is a part of the process that gives you the opportunity to provide the Air Force with information and to make statements for the record. This input ensures that the decision-makers may benefit from your knowledge of the local area and any concerns that you may have on the environmental analysis.

Elected officials will be given an opportunity to speak first, any of those who are here who choose to speak. And then members of the general public will be called upon in a random order from the cards that have been handed in indicating your desire to speak.

If you speak, please speak only after I have recognized you, and address your remarks to me. We'll ask that you use the microphone here to my left, and we ask that you speak clearly into the microphone stating first your name and address and the capacity in which you appear, if you are representing someone other than yourself. We need that because the court reporter is trying to get down an accurate record of what is said here.

Each person will be allowed three minutes to speak, and this time limit applies to public officials or spokespersons and any individual speaking only for themselves.

You do not have to speak for the full three minutes. However, if you do choose to speak for the full three minutes, when you have only 30 seconds remaining, you'll see that there is a system of lights up here on the floor. We'll have a green light that begins when you begin to speak, a yellow light will come on when you have about 30 second left to go, and a red light will come on when your three-minute time has expired.

Out of respect for others who would like to make comments this evening, we ask that you please honor any requests by me that you stop

speaking and perhaps defer any additional comments to the end of the hearing.

If you think you have more comments than you can present in the time alloted, we suggest that you make your most important comments first. And if you don't get a chance to voice all of your comments, you can and should submit them in writing.

If you have a written statement, you may simply hand it in or read it aloud within the time limit or do both. The court reporter has asked if you dc have a written statement that you perhaps leave it with her so that she may be assisted in getting down any names that you may refer to of places or roads or things that may be difficult for her.

Now, this hearing is scheduled to end at 9:30 p.m. If we have time, we may give you an opportunity to expand on your remarks later at the end of the hearing.

Now, you may have noticed that our court reporter will be taking everything down verbatim, that is, word for word. So I ask that as you speak ask, please speak as clearly as possible to assist her, because the transcript that she will be

preparing of these proceedings will become part of the record of the hearing and it will be included in the Final EIS.

Finally, I'd like to remind you to limit your comments to the Draft EIS. That is the purpose of this public comment period.

Also, I would suggest that you avoid repeating what another speaker has just said. There certainly is nothing inappropriate about agreeing with other speakers, but to repeat the same thing just unnecessarily delays others in making their comments.

If you'd like to turn in your written comments at this time, you can give them to the Air Force members who are standing in the back of the auditorium or out in the display area.

At this time, unless there are some questions, we'll take a brief break of approximately ten minutes. Then we'll come back with the public comments. We'll take a break at this time.

(Recess.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: We'd like to get started now, if you would retake your seats.

The first remarks that we'll hear from is

Mr. Don Reynolds, who is with the Elmore County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Reynolds, please, sir.

GE-15 DON REYNOLDS, 008000 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. REYNOLDS: I'm speaking at the request of the other two commissioners, Larry Rhodes and Barry Peterson. They asked me to speak on their behalf in support of the Enhanced Training in Idaho. We favor the efforts of the Air Force to increase their training effectiveness in Idaho. During this period of diminishing funding, it is essential that we support their efforts to be as cost effective as possible in keeping our aviation units well-trained and combat ready.

The present proposal appears to minimize the negative environmental effects of the expanded training that is needed. I would like to point out that the military operating areas essentially are very close to the same and have the same altitudes as they've had for the last many years.

Many of the wildlife groups feel that these high-speed aircraft flying over the

canyonlands have a very detrimental effect particularly upon the sheep. It's during these past many years, while those aircraft pilots are flying the planes in that area, that the desert sheep have really multiplied to the point where many have been exported to other areas. We feel that it's very likely the Juniper Butte site might be the best of the three possibilities.

There are times when decisions must be made that would benefit the national strength of our country. This is one of those times. We believe that very few people would be negatively affected by this proposed expansion of training The national gain is recognized and endorsed by our board of county commissioners.

If I may, I'll speak very briefly as an individual.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Proceed.

MR. REYNOLDS: I would urge that the Air Force establish radar coverage and communication capability that will enhance passage by light aircraft through the military operating areas north/south. .This is a space which makes us, those of us who are aircraft pilots, feel uneasy to fly through unless we have positive control and we are

covered by radar as well.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Reynolds.

Next we'll here from Mr. Fred Prouty, who is the president of Mountain Home City Council.

GE-17 FRED PROUTY, 008001 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. PROUTY: Thank you, Colonel. I appreciate the opportunity, and thank you for pronouncing my name correctly. It's not very often that I get that done.

My name is Fred Prouty. I am a member of the Mountain Home City Council. I also have been a resident here in Mountain Home for the last 31 years. I'm one of these people that was born and raised in this general area in Southwest Idaho and, more specifically, south of Nampa, which is in and close by the Owyhee area where I used to play as I was a young lad.

I think, as a long time member of this community of this area, I have some pretty good perspective of what this whole thing is all about, and I thought maybe I'd just share some of that

with you.

First of all, I want to say for the record that I am very much for what the Air Force is doing here. I think you've taken the time and the energy and done a good job of presenting your case, and I support that. And I think, Colonel, that you're going to find the vast majority of the citizens here in Mountain Home are very supportive of what you folks are trying to do.

By the same token, you're also going to find that we have the same environmental wackos that we had before. They're going to stand up over the next period of days and say all the same things that they've said before, and that is that they're against this, and they're going to come up with some reasons. The latest reason that I've heard now is the noise study that they're objecting to, which I don't know. It sounds like somebody from out of state from Colorado is trying to get some national attention one more time. They seem to like to do that.

But it's been my experience and my perspective that these folks, they are just antimilitary. They're antiprogress. They're antibusiness. They're anti just about anything

unless it just happens to serve their personal purposes out there.

And it's my opinion that what you folks are doing here is correct. It's for the good of the national security. It's good for our local community, Southwest Idaho. And I think you need to just press on with it and do what you need to do.

Thank you very much.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Prouty.

Next we have Mr. Craig Petersen, who is the president of the Chamber of Commerce. I assume that's the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce.

CRAIG PETERSEN, 006002

appeared and gave the following statement:

GE-14 MR. PETERSEN: Thank you, Colonel, for giving me the opportunity to speak.

I've lived in this community a little over three years now, and I've had the great opportunity to be the president of the Chamber of Commerce and, prior to that, president of the Military Affairs Committee in our community. I have been with Colonel Richey for many years now through this process.

I have had the opportunity to go back to Washington D.C. three times and represent our community and visit with the people involved in air combat, air command and combat, and to visit with our legislative people on these issues, and everybody has the same concerns. Everybody has the same. Everybody disagrees to a degree. But my comments are this, sir:

As I had the opportunity to fly an F-16, I had an opportunity to see the respect that these pilots show for the airspace that we have. I had the opportunity to visit with the people that review the environmental impacts, and the concern

has been more than favorable to the Air Force to try and do everything possible to be a good steward of more airspace that will enhance the ability and training of these people that risk their lives every day. And I think that is really what we're talking about here.

We all are concerned about the environment. I happen to live right in the canyon at the end of Saylor Creek. It has not impacted me whatsoever, and they currently fly in that area.

But I am here to tell you that I have personally and representing the Chamber of Commerce of our community, we have addressed this issue prior. My father spent ten years before I did on these issues. And without a doubt, I think the Air Force has done everything and will do everything to be a good steward and make this arrangement favorable for everybody to agree on.

And as a car dealer, I really don't have much more to say. That's unusual, sir.

Thank you very much.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Petersen.

Next we have Mr. Dennis Wetherell, the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce.

DENNIS WETHERELL, 006003

appeared and gave the following statement:

GE-14 MR. WETHERELL: Thank you. My name is Dennis Wetherell. I am the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee for the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce. We have about 150 members in that organization and to a person they are all in favor of this new Enhanced Training in Idaho.

I'm here tonight to support the Air Force proposal for training in Idaho. I read the Department of the Air Force's Enhanced Training in Idaho Community Report dated April 1997 and reviewed the Draft EIS and believe it to be the most comprehensive plan to date.

In the coming months, I'm sure certain other groups, including the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, ranchers, farmers, Native Americans, and environmentalists will come to support the proposal. It is imperative that the Air Force be able to train our troops as realistically as possible. Any one of the three alternative sites will accomplish this goal.

Thank you very much.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

We'll next move on to comments from the general public. First, Mr. Alan Bermensolo, hope I have that correct, Mr. Bermensolo.

MR. BERMENSOLO: Yes, you do.

GE-16 ALAN BERMENSOLO, 008004
appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. BERMENSOLO: Good evening, Colonel. My name is Alan Bermensolo, a resident of Mountain Home. I've lived here for about 39 years.

First of all, I'd like to commend the Air Force for the work they have done and the time they have spent in listening to and addressing the concerns of all the citizens of our great country during the scoping process that began in January of '95. The scoping meetings you held in June and July of last year helped shape the Enhanced Training in Idaho alternatives and even produced an alternative that might not otherwise have been considered. Congratulations for listening and mitigating by avoidance, as well as mitigating by design as you assembled each of the three alternatives.

The testimony I offer is on two issues:

Number one, I'm a multiengine instrument-rated private pilot. I travel often on business to Northern and Southern California. My routes of flight take me to the Owyhee and Paradise MOAs. There is rumor/false information that modifying and/or adding to those MOAs will have a negative impact on general aviation and small aircraft. Those that know the facts realize that a modification of the MOAs has no negative impact upon general aviation.

Personally, I would rather fly through an active MOA utilizing the air traffic control system provided by Salt Lake Center or Mountain Home Approach Control who will provide VFR flight following than through uncontrolled airspace in VFR conditions.

Number two, I am an avid upland bird hunter. I have hunted sage grouse and chukar partridge throughout the Owyhee canyonlands including the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers, Mary's Creek, Jack's Creek, Dickshooter Creek, Yatahoney Creek, Battle Creek, and all forks of the Owyhee River since 1982. I have seen low-flying F-111s, F-4s, F-15s, and F-16s. I have seen chukar, sage grouse, wild horses, antelope, deer, coyotes,

cattle, rattlesnakes, and California bighorn sheep coexisting and getting along just fine with military aircraft on low-level training routes as low as 500 feet AGL.

In September of 1995, while hunting chukar at the confluence of Battle Creek and the Owyhee River, I spotted three California bighorns on the west canyon wall of Battle Creek. Shortly thereafter, a flight of two F-4s crossed overhead between 500 and 1,000 feet AGL. The bighorns didn't move. They didn't even turn their heads. They were not bothered at all by the low-flying aircraft. They startled and scurried up the canyon wall only after I emptied my 12-gauge shotgun on a covey of fast-moving chukar and killed zero.

I contend and believe that hunting pressure, either for big game or for birds, and man's presence in general has a much more detrimental impact on the California bighorn sheep population than do Air Force aircraft low-level flights over the Owyhee canyonlands.

I fully support the Air Force's Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal. Thank you for your time.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you very much,

Mr. Bermensolo.

Next we have Mr. Robert Ebbs.

GE-17 ROBERT EBBS, 008005
appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. EBBS: Thank you, Colonel. My name is Robert Ebbs. I'm a private citizen of Mountain Home. I've lived here for eight years. I'm not a hunter. I'm not a flyer. I'm a businessman sometimes.

I have reviewed the ETI information that the Air Force has so abundantly given us. We have looked over all the information and think that the Air Force has done an outstanding job of presenting their case to provide an enhanced training range in Idaho. They appear to have history on their side in looking at other ranges and other locations where Air Force, Army, and Navy people have taken stewardship of land and made that a better place for the environment, in general.

So I am in favor of the Air Force's continued effort to provide an enhanced training range in Idaho so that the Air Force people that live here can live a safer life when they have to

go to war.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Ebbs.

Next we have Mr. John Bideganeta, if I have that correct.

MR. BIDEGANETA: Dr. B, I suppose.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Sir, would you tell me if I pronounced that correctly?

MR. BIDEGANETA: It's Bideganeta. I'm known as Dr. B.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

GE-113 JOHN F. BIDEGANETA, 005006 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. BIDEGANETA: Colonel, I'm very honored to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Enhanced Training in Idaho.

I am a practicing dentist. I've been practicing in Mountain Home for 26 years. I was born and raised in Mountain Home. My father was a sheep man in Owyhee County. And I'm sure if he were alive today, he would tell you, as I'm going to tell you.

I've been out to those canyons in

Jarbidge and the Owyhee canyons, and I have hunted adamantly. And I've been there when the planes are flying over. I've seen the mountain sheep, as others have. My dog is a greater threat to the sage grouse's hunting rather than the aircraft.

I'd like to say on behalf of myself, my wife, my children, and great grandchildren, two who are about to come at some time, that I'm very honored to have the Air Force in Mountain Home, Idaho.

I think it's very little for Idaho to give just 12,000 acres of three million acres in Owyhee County to train our pilots, who are the very best or who are in commerce constantly during Iraq, flying over Iraq. They are everywhere in the world today. We need to train those pilots. Let's not take away their training because I would be mad if one of my children was a flyer and, because of inadequate training, inadequate facilities, he were to be killed.

And I say, please, let's forget our differences. The Air Force has gone all the way up to address all the problems that have been addressed with the Native Indians, the BLM, the Fish and Game, and they've done a marvelous job.

We're going on our third go-around. It's time we come together and say, okay, we need to do this. Let's make our country safe. And I want to tell you, my heart is with the Enhanced Training in Idaho, and I hope that this will happen in my era.

Thank you very much.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, sir.

Next we have Mr. Ron Swearingen.

GE-110 RON SWEARINGEN, 005007 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. SWEARINGEN: Thank you, Colonel. It's my pleasure to have the opportunity to speak to you concerning the Enhanced Training in Idaho.

My name is Ron Swearingen. I was born and raised right here in Mountain Home and have been a lifelong resident of Idaho, and I'm very proud of it. I've been around the Air Force, needless to say, all my life and have always been an excellent neighbor to our community and the state of Idaho.

I support your efforts to improve, increase, and enhance your training in Idaho. I'm friends with Air Force pilots, active duty and

retired. And I hope that they are always protected by at least the best training available anywhere in the world.

I applaud your efforts in this go-around of enhanced training in the fact that you have gone out and sought the people that could be affected and have shown concerns in the past about training in Idaho. You have asked for their input so that this could be the best possible plan.

I'm sure that the Air Force knows, as well as I do, there is no appeasing some of these people. They want the very freedom that you help protect to stop you from training your very own people. I think that's a bunch of bunk and those people should be singled out for who they are and what they are.

I sincerely hope that in this instance the Air Force will follow through and complete what is the right thing to do and make sure this training range happens here.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Swearingen.

Next we have Mr. Clair Densley.

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GE-11 CLAIR DENSLEY. 008008

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. DENSLEY: My name is Clair Densley. I'd like to speak in favor of the improved range. I've been a resident of Mountain Home since I retired from the Air Force in 1979.

And I want to address my comments primarily to those in opposition. I can understand their concern for the environment or wanting to spend their Saturdays out running and fishing these lands. But I think there are some important issues that we need to address.

Primarily, I think we need to start with the idea that the purpose of the Air Force is to fight wars. We've really fallen short into thinking of them as answering little callings to help people out in Bosnia and straighten out our ethnic difficulties. And these have been very challenging for the Air Force and others who have engaged in that. But basically it gets right down to these men and women have to fight war.

Now, right today we are reacting very much still to that bad experience we had in Vietnam, so much so that we are scared to go

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anywhere with our armed forces without having an assurance that we aren't going to lose any men and women. The positive thing that comes -- well, I think that's a negative idea. Well, I'll get into that in a few seconds, this idea of thinking we can't have any casualties.

The positive thing is that we've developed arrangements through the ranges and smart bombs, very highly technical training mechanisms, training procedures that make for successful operations and do cut down on losses.

Now, finally, I want to address the very real likelihood that we would get into a war sometime in the future. I know many people feel that, oh, we can't possibly after Vietnam and we can't possibly because of nuclear weapons. But stop and think for a minute that there are 25 or so countries, to my knowledge, that either have nuclear weapons -- is that a signal that I've got to stop?

COLONEL SWEENEY: Go ahead and finish your thought, sir.

MR. DENSLEY: Well, anyway, there's a lot of countries that are a threat, and it is growing every day, because when you get right down to it,

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each of our country's honor is at stake. They each desire power. They each have their own self interests. And I'm afraid we have to deal with that, ladies and gentlemen, and give our military the chance to answer any call that our national commanding authority demands of them.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Hensley.

The last person who has asked to speak thus far this evening for public comment -- you still have an opportunity to do that if you'd like to change your mind -- is Mr. Hal Walker. Mr. Walker?

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GE-11 HAL W. WALKER 008009

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. WALKER: Colonel, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to say a few words this evening.

I've lived in Southern Idaho all my life for 67 years, and I just retired after 46 years with the Idaho Power Company. And most of that time I've been involved with the area, a lot of the areas we're talking about. We've touched from Owyhee to Mountain City to Jarbidge, Nevada and all that area. I've been in almost all of it, either on foot or horseback or on snowshoes dragging a sled or a helicopter or whatever. So I'm pretty conversed with that area down there. And I have yet to find a spot that would be harmed by the equipment, as I read the training enhancement, that would bother anything furry or feathery or whatever that might be in that area.

I also have a little more personal interest. I have two Air Force sons-in-law. I have seven grandchildren from those two Air Force sons-in-law. And one of them served during the entire Gulf War, and we had that experience and saw

what good training could do.

And I think that it's more important that we train those young men so they can come back to their wives and children than it is to worry about a few animals or birds or whatever that might cause some confusion or concern with those who are dealing with the environment.

I have visited Elmendorph. I looked over their stewardship of that area there. Fantastic job of taking care of the elk and the wildlife and the fish in Alaska.

I have also have a son-in-law that -- I've lost my thought. It's the missile base just out in California where they send up the missiles.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Vandenburg?

MR. WALKER: Vandenburg, yes.

I was just down in Vandenburg. I've been down there four or five times in the last two or three years. And the biggest threat on the base is not if something happens to you from a missile. It's getting run over by a deer or a wild dog because there are hundreds of them, and they take very good care of that environment down there.

I'm a past president of this Chamber of Commerce on two different occasions. I'm the past

direct governor for Rotary International for this district, and I've spoke within hundreds of people on this during the three long hard times that we've went through this. And it's time to come together and decide that we need that training range. I think we've found the best of all worlds. And anybody who is in opposition now is just in opposition. They really don't have any excuse for that.

And I appreciate the opportunity to speak and hope that we'll get this resolved, the Air Force will stay with us, and let's get this show on the road.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Walker.

Ladies and gentlemen, are there any other of you who would like to make a public comment, either verbally here in front of the others? Or if you'd like to submit it in writing, once again, you can submit it to the address up here on the screen or you can submit comments in writing through the computers out in the display area. Would anyone else like to add public comment at this time?

(No response.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: Apparently not.

The Air Force officials will remain in

the display area for a period of time to answer any questions that you might have about the displays and the various proposals.

I'd like to thank you all for coming this evening and for your participation and your input. Please remember that the public comment period will extend through the 6th of August 1997.

Thank you very much.

(Recess.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: Our next speaker, then, will be will Robert Jones. Mr. Jones, please take the microphone.

And after Mr. Jones, since we had decided that the hearing was going to go until 9:30 and since we don't have any interest currently in additional comments other than Mr. Jones, I think what we'll do is we'll take a break, allow Air Force officials to speak to people one-on-one, and then if someone desires to make additional comments, we'll reopen the hearing perhaps within about 30 minutes or so. If, after 30 minutes, there is no one who would like to speak, perhaps we'll terminate things for the evening at that point. We'll just have to take it step-by-step.

Mr. Jones, please.

GE-1

ROBERT G. JONES, 005010

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. JONES: I'm Robert G. Jones. I'm retired Air Force. I spent 22 1/2 years in the United States Air Force flying airplanes from F-100s to F-16s in the last 8 1/2 years of my career. I basically ended my career at Hill Air Force Base, and I flew there for about 8 1/2 years. I flew on Saylor Creek Range and flew on the ranges up here on several occasions with joint training and everything that was set up and everything through the two bases.

The training at Hill Air Force Base far exceeds what is capable of being achieved on these ranges as they are set up and operated today. I flew on both ranges on several occasions, as I said.

I guess my claim to fame is I led the winning Gunsmoke team in 1987 and flew out of Hill Air Force Base, which is a worldwide weapons competition in the United States Air Force. It's held every two years at Nellis Air Force Base. And basically they select people from all over the nation and all over the world, for that matter, to

represent the Air Force's best of the best, and then they compete.

Hill Air Force Base has won that competition twice since it was started in modern times since 1981. The reason they won twice when most of the time the guard deserves man is because they've got the experience and they fly together all the time. The reason why Hill won that competition twice, I would venture to guess, is because they have tremendous training facilities to do it.

There are very few restrictions on Hill Air Force Base ranges. Those restrictions, they've got cattle out there. They have chicken ranches. They've got all kinds of things going on down there. And it's a lot of desert, just like it is here, and open range airspace and everything. But we operated down there basically with very few restrictions, very few complaints, and very few problems. And that state gives up about a third of its territory to the training of Air Force fighter pilots.

I flew in Vietnam. I flew in a lot of different locations. I lost a lot of different friends and everything. But I'll tell you this:

The training is the bottom line thing that makes the difference for the fighter pilot, and he's got to get it. If you can't have it in the quantities and altitudes and things that are being proposed here, it can cause you a lot of problems and it can cause you to lose friends because they're not ready to do it, do what they need to do.

As far as comparing the training up here to down there, we used to come up to Saylor Creek and work up here. Generally, I would keep the guys down there because I could get better training, less restrictions, less problems, less bottlenecks, less things to consider as far as supersonic and things like that.

Does that mean I have to quit?

COLONEL SWEENEY: Please finish your thought.

MR. JONES: Huh?

COLONEL SWEENEY: Please finish your thought.

MR. JONES: So basically I guess, in summation, I think enhancing the training range keeps a valuable commodity in our state and our community. It gives us the capability to produce a pilot that can go out and do his job and protect you and I, and I think that's critically

important. And I think the new range proposal gives a little give and take and allows us to do that and allows the people to do that, and I support it 150 percent.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

I didn't mention that if any of those would like to further expand on their remarks, they certainly have an opportunity to do that. Is there anyone who would like to add to their earlier remarks at this time?

(No response.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: If not, we'll go ahead and adjourn the hearing. As I said, we may reopen it if there's some additional interest in making additional comments.

(Proceedings concluded at 8:35 p.m.)

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GRAND VIEW, IDAHO

Wednesday, June 4, 1997, 6:55 p.m.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Our first comments tonight will come from Mr. Charles Couper.

Mr. Couper, I hope I pronounced that correctly.

MR. COUPER: You did. You did.

GE-2 CHARLES COUPER, 008011

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. COUPER: My name is Chuck Couper. I'm a lifelong Idaho resident and have enjoyed hunting and outdoor experiences that are afforded by the Owyhee country. My testimony will be in support of Alternative A, continuing to use the present range and nearby remote ranges.

There are a number of concerns with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the probable impacts, but I will briefly touch on three: Number one, the need for the expansion of the range, specifically airspace; two, expansion of airspace to the north; three, inadequacy of noise studies and probable impact of increased flights

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and noise on wildlife and wilderness visitors.

As to the needs section, addressing this in section 1.3 page 117, it does not clearly state a crucial need exists for the ETI but rather describes those attributes of an ideal or perfect situation for CWT training. It is not clear from those in charge and who have decision-making authority how the wants and wishes relate to 366th being ready and capable to perform.

PN-1

When asked how ready and capable to perform by the Idaho Legislature in February, General Ken Peck, 366th Wing commander, responded, "We are the most combat capable unit anywhere in the world right now."

Any lack of space and training limitations at Saylor Creek apparently is being adequately completed at remote ranges without too great of cost and loss of time.

There seems to be little difference in this current EIS and the two previous EISs. The goal seems to be an electronic battlefield much like the red flag operation in Nevada at Nellis Air Force Base range. Changes from the previous EIS is only in the configuration but nothing being eliminated.

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The second thing is expanding the airspace to the north is of unknown quantity as low-level flights have not or should not have been flown in this area in the past. As admitted in the EIS, the decibel level of sound in the area will be among the highest. This will affect the important bighorn sheep heard, deer, antelope, and sage grouse. This area is one of the most heavily recreated areas in the Owyhees, and the intrusion of overflights poses a real and negative hazard.

AU-1

The third thing and last is as to the studies relating to the sound and impacts of noise. If one would believe that the charts and tables used in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, all is well, and any disturbing noises will pass. But by accepting what is said allows a shifting in costs to the users by accepting the noise. And as an individual, you have no choice. It seems that most U.S. Air Force charts are outdated and technically flawed as they deal with urban sounds and not rural settings and wilderness.

NO-2

In conclusion, I'd say leave Owyhee as it is. Stay with Alternative A, which is the no action alternative.

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Thank you for your time.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Couper. We'll give you some additional time, if you'd like, at the end.

MR. COUPER: No. That's fine. Thank you, sir.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Our next speaker is Mr. Bill Brodersen.

GE-1

BILL BRODERSEN, 008012

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. BRODERSEN: Good evening. My name is Bill Brodersen, and I represent myself and my family. I'm in favor of Alternative C. My address is HC 85 Box 226-B, Grand View, Idaho.

I have been a member of the Grand View and Mountain Home communities for the last 6 1/2 years, and I appreciate the opportunity to present my comments concerning the Air Force proposals for the Enhanced Training in Idaho.

First of all, I'd like to express my view that the Air Force has done a superb -- not just a good job, but a superb job in considering the impacts of each of the current proposals and has

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worked very hard to solicit meaningful and genuine comments from all members of the Owyhee community. They have definitely gone the extra mile to ensure that everyone's interest has been considered and that the final alternative chosen will represent the best decision possible for the good of the nation, the community, and for each individual in Owyhee County.

I expect that the Air Force will receive numerous comments concerning this training range proposal. In reviewing these comments, I ask that the focus of the final decision-makers be on the principles of truth and on a Christian view toward the future of all mankind.

The key to this process is really the key to life, as expressed by our sovereign God. We are all in this world together, and the decisions we make as individuals can and do make a difference on to our entire family. And the end result should be measured in terms of benefit or deficit to the whole and not just to a select few.

Some would say that a new training range would be bad for the enjoyment of our wilderness experience. Others would say that no training range would be bad for the enjoyment of our freedom

experience. Both positions, of course, have merit, and neither is the wrong, in my view.

The challenge is to arrive at a final decision that will minimize adverse impacts while maximizing the benefit to our nation, which includes all of us as individuals. I believe that the proposals that are on the table meet that challenge, and I fully support the Air Force in its pursuit of the Enhanced Training in Idaho.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express these comments.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Brodersen.

Ladies and gentlemen, that completes the list of those who have asked to speak this evening. Are there any of our previous speakers -- Mr. Brodersen and Mr. Couper -- who were frustrated by the three-minute limit and rushed through and were stifled a little bit and would like to expand on their remarks or advise their remarks in any respect at this time?

MR. BRODERSEN: Well, I can stand right here. I don't need a microphone.

I took a special trip down to -- probably some of you might be asking why I would ever do this. But I took a special trip down to Jarbidge

Nevada, a lovely place, and I went right through the desert to get there. And I kept saying to myself, you've got to be crazy to do this. But it's beautiful country, a lot of open land. There is no place that our jets in the United States of America or any other models or any other kind of aircraft are going to do damage to the wildlife or the cattle or the sheep or any of the snakes or the whistle pigs or whatever is down in there. There is no place in that area that the things that the Air Force wants to do in Owyhee County will ever disturb the peace and tranquility of either the animals or mankind.

GE-1 MR. COUPER: Colonel Sweeney, I would like to add. 008013

COLONEL SWEENEY: Please. If you'd like to come up to the microphone, it would be a little bit easier to hear you.

MR. COUPER: I've been involved in studying and analyzing Air Force activity and the Environmental Impact Statement since they first were drawn up going back to, what, 1989 or whatever it might be, and I have really done some heavy studying trying to understand what the objective is.

I want you to understand that I'm not antimilitary or anti-Air Force. I personally have spent time in the military, probably earlier than most people here in this room. I can give you my serial number, if you would like to have it.

But the problem that I have is that in studying the past of Mountain Home Air Force Base and the range which they work with, it was originally designed for the SAC base that they had with bombers in here and this was how it was developed. This was how it was put together as to shape. Then it was shifted over to attack range and attack use as such. And it had its limitations, I'm sure. Not being a pilot, I'm sure that it did have its limitations.

But now we're faced with the highly sophisticated type of aerial combat, and I have no problem with understanding why they would want this. The problems that I see is that, and I've made this comment, is that it is an attempt to try to make a silk person out of a sow's ear, so to speak, as to the shape and the land that lies under the airspace.

I believe that it's called Jarbidge, and I'm familiar with that country down there. I heard

a man last night make a comment that he hunted all these years down in Jarbidge. It isn't that.

I think the biggest problem, and I've contended this all along, is this airspace is just right out there that is going to be used for people going into whatever range would be chosen.

And if this is what the people want in total, then fine. But you're going to give up something. You're going to give up a little bit of peace and solitude that is on Battle Creek, is out on the Little Jack's Creek area, over on Ambo Ridge, Rock Creek, those areas over in there, which when I said there's lots of recreation, there is lots of recreation.

I was told this week by a man that said if you want to try and camp out there and think you're going to have the type of experience that you've had in the past, you better forget about it because it won't be that way.

Now, if you have your druthers, I think the Air Force has done a fine job in trying to find that area which is the best as far as the drop site. The drop site is not the key issue here Airspace is the key issue. And I'm sure that if you were to take it up with any of the people with

the Air Force, that is the key issue.

So it's what you've got to decide on because it's part of the total package If that total package could be altered, as it has temporarily been, move some of the emitter sites from a certain area over to another area and such as that, but that airspace is crucial. And I offer that up as something that really should be a consideration before a final decision is made by the Air Force or by the BLM.

Whatever is going to happen is going to happen, but I offer this up. And I don't know. It may be repeating some of something that will come up many times later on possibly.

I hope what I've said adds something worthwhile as far as a consideration. Thank you again for the time.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you again, Mr. Couper.

At this time, is there anyone else who would like to speak? Perhaps you've changed your mind and would like to say a word or two that will be recorded in the Final EIS?

(No response.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: Okay. If not, that will

basically conclude our public hearing for tonight. But what I'd like to remind you of is that the public comment period will extend through the 6th of August 1997. That is basically 90 days from the publication of the Draft EIS, which was approximately the 2nd of May 1997.

Comments may also be submitted at subsequent hearings. Hopefully, you recognize there are other hearings on this issue that are being conducted tomorrow evening in Twin Falls at the College of Southern Idaho; Friday evening at the same time frame, 6 to 9:30, as are all of these hearings, in Three Creek at the Three Creek Schoolhouse. Then Monday, June 9th, we'll be at the Duck Valley Reservation, the tribal headquarters there. And then on Thursday and Friday of next week, we'll be at Boise in the Boise State University Jordan ballrooms, is where they will be.

So if you desire or someone else you know of desires to speak, they will not have missed the opportunity to make public comment. They still have significant opportunity to make sure that their voices are heard.

This evening Air Force officials are

available and plan to stand by near the display areas for a considerable period of time, if there is anyone interested in asking questions about the display, and they have materials available for you. If anyone does desire to speak, we will reopen this formal part to give you an opportunity. Otherwise, we will remain adjourned.

Anything further, last thoughts?

(No response.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

(Proceedings concluded at 8:30 p.m.)

-oo0oo-

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

Thursday, June 5, 1997, 6:30 p.m.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you. If you could take your seats please, we'd like to get started again. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, before we begin taking your oral comments, I'd like to announce that we do have a couple of dignitaries with us tonight who will not be speaking but thought enough of this process to attend. First, we have State Senator Robbie King. And representing Congressman Mike Crapo, we have Linda Norris.

Our first speaker then will be Mr. Armand Eckert.

GE-2

ARMAND ECKERT, 008014
appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. ECKERT: Thank you. I'd like to thank the Air Force for the opportunity to comment. Second, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the Air Force for putting together the community report, which made reviewing the proposal much easier. And, third, I'd like to thank the Air Force for a much more professional approach to the EIS and to the four alternatives that they offer.

I still have some concerns. One is the noise level, and I'm not sure how you might resolve that. But in your community report, you state that the effects of overflight are not considered sufficient to preclude recommending areas for wilderness study, and I guess I simply disagree with that. Either you are wrong on that point, or I think the BLM is wrong. And what you're advocating is a noisy wilderness with the planes but not the trains and automobiles, and I think it's an either/or situation.

LU-1

It appears that the Air Force, at least in reading the community report, is not ready to admit that the aircraft have noise effects. You

NO-15

quote an EIS for an Oregon wilderness study that states that the influence of these low-level flights on a visitor's perception of solitude is quite temporary but extreme for a short period of time and these flights do not have a significant long-lasting adverse effects on the visitor's opportunity to find solitude.

I think, first, I would venture to guess that you have not served the visitors to substantiate that and, second, that the statement assumes that there was only one overflight, I assume. And as you know, there are many flights during the day, and those noise pollutions are constant. So my perception is the that the flights do have a significant long-lasting effect.

Third, if you've been out there when a huge sonic boom echoes in the canyons for a period of time or when you fall to the ground trying to protect your eardrums, the mental effect is long-lasting. And I just ask why, in the report, doesn't the Air Force just simply admit that the noise effect can be substantial and can have lasting effects?

And also the Air Force seems to be unwilling to admit that noise can cause structural

NO-18

damage. It could have added to its mitigation list that it would be willing to fix structural damage to private and public buildings when they occur. For example, the Castleford School District. For instance, the gymnasium was structurally damaged due to an alleged overflight, yet the Air Force refuses to admit it and then now you're expecting or wanting us to believe the noise effects are minimal.

And further, I have a farm just 15 miles northwest of Buhl, and it's very close to the Twin Falls County and Owyhee County lines. And, personally, I just simply do not want it in my backyard. You can average all the noise levels you want, but it simply comes down to a specific moment when the noise level is the greatest and has the greatest effect.

I have some other things, but I'll simply say that the pollution I'm concerned about is the 27,000 aluminum bundles you throw. I don't think the report adequately address their effect. The emitter sites, you talk about warning signs but they didn't say why the warning signs are necessary. I think the roads, you need to define infrequent use because certain times of the year

SF-1

SF-2

LU-2

there are frequent uses.

And the Air Force, I think, has done a better job in preparing the EIS. I think that I would accept Alternative C, the Grasmere site. If it does not address the issues I just mentioned, I would recommended Alternative A, the no action alternative.

Thank you very much.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Eckert. I don't want you to feel rushed, but we need to try to keep on schedule, and I will give you an opportunity to come back at the end.

MR. ECKERT: I understand. Thanks.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

Our next speaker will be Ms. Laurie Black.

GE-2

LAURIE BLACK, 008015

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. BLACK: My name is Laurie Black, and I reside in Glenns Ferry, Idaho.

In March of 1989, I was the editor of a small weekly newspaper when the original concept of a million-acre, world-class training range was introduced to the public. This plan was announced to about 40 interested persons sitting in a small meeting room in a restaurant in Mountain Home, Idaho. I became a member of the BLM citizens working group, read thousands of pages of printed material, and drove countless miles to attend dozens of meetings.

Members of that citizens working group and the public attending the environmental impact meetings at that time asked for a national assessment of all military controlled airspace and lands within the United States borders. This information was deemed necessary to determine the necessity of increased military presence in Idaho. The information was never attained for our group or for myself, and the proposal at that time was ultimately scrapped.

In 1992 I was employed by the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation as the editor of their tribal monthly newspaper. And at that time, the Idaho legislators were lobbying with the Air Force to gain a new configuration of land and airspace in the southwest corner of this state.

Once again, I read thousands of pages, attended dozens of meetings, and was amongst those who requested a national needs assessment plan in order to see if this proposal was necessary. Once again, the information was never attained and the proposal was ultimately scrapped.

Now, in 1997, I am traveling the miles, reading the pages, and attending the meetings for yet another proposal to increase military lands and control of the airspace surrounding them. I have in my possession literature in the form of the EISs representing nearly $7 million of the taxpayers' money, its literature consisting of the Air Force and legislature's attempt to rationalize their desire for more land and more airspace and more money. At no time in the last eight years in these proposals have I seen a statement of need for either the local or national level military or legislative personnel.

If this current proposal of Enhanced Training in Idaho is to become a reality, thousands of acres of land currently owned by the people of the United States of America will have to formally be withdrawn by approval of the national Congress. So for a third and hopefully final time, I request that the Final Environmental Impact Statement of Enhanced Training in Idaho contain a statement of congressional, national congressional intent to produce or procure a national inventory of all military lands and controlled airspace in the United States to be completed before a final decision is made regarding this proposal.

PN-5

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you very much.

Next we'll hear from Mr. Rod Rees.

GE-1

ROD REES, 008016

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. REES: Thank you, sir. My name is Rod Rees from Glenns Ferry, Idaho. I left my notes at my chair, so I think I'm going to have to ad lib this one, unlike the ones I've done several times in the past.

I'm placed in a position of trying to express something that I think is very hard to express because its boundaries have been squeezed so tightly it's hard to find what it is I'm trying to say. And I think I would express it best by making a distinction between generalities or general issues and specifics.

I spent 20 years in Western Washington before moving to Southern Idaho, so I'm fairy well familiar with the logging problems over there and what became known as the spotted owl controversy. And around here, being from Glenns Ferry and close to Bruneau, Idaho, the same thing shows up in what was called the Bruneau snail.

And I think what I'm trying to get at here as distinctly as I can is that very often those of us that have a more broad perspective of

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things find that we have difficulty promoting a broad perspective when the details are focused on narrowing.

The issue in Western Washington, the logging issue in Western Washington really had nothing to do with the spotted owl. And if the spotted owl were suddenly to recover, logging would return to Western Washington to a great detriment to the environment, I believe.

Likewise, the ranching problems and the water problems in the Bruneau valley have very little to do with the infamous Bruneau snail. If the snail were to recover, there would still be a water problem in Bruneau canyons, and the cattle ranching would still be a problem.

And I think I feel the same way about the proposed training range. And I'm not really too concerned about any of the specifics at this point. What I'm concerned about is that something is happening out there that when I go out and when many of my friends go out, we will be able to feel it in a way that I would not be able to express on the Environmental Impact Statement at this time.

I guess all I could do at this point would be to apologize to you, sir, for not being

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able to very coherently focus my thoughts. I guess I'm simply placed at this point in a position of frustration and concern that this broader perspective that I'm inarticulately trying to proceed here is being pushed aside instead of washed away.

I guess I'll go back to my seat. Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Rees. You will have an opportunity again, if you'd like, to expand or add additional remarks.

MR. REES: Thank you very much.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Next we'll hear from, Ms. Marta Green.

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GE-2 1 MARTA GREEN, 008017

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. GREEN: Thank you. My name is Marta Green, and I reside in Glenns Ferry, Idaho.

I've been to many of these hearings, and I guess this is the first time that I've felt so intimidated. But my sister, thank you, reminded me that this is our land that I'm here defending. I feel like I'm defending it. And this is not the Air Force's land, and that this is a hearing that belongs to me as well as the other people, too, so I'm going to go ahead and say what I was going to say.

The underlined EIS is an assumption and a claim that there is a need for an expanded range. And the first step in addressing any need is to assess whether the need actually exists and, if so, to what extent

The Air Force has failed to take this cruel and most obvious first step Instead, it has simply stated that a national needs assessment is "beyond the scope of this EIS." And it has moved, I think, very stubbornly forward with this whole agenda, and I feel this is costly and irresponsible

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behavior.

In 1989 the Air Force claimed to need 1.5 million acres to ensure national security. In a later proposal, its need was for 25,000 acres. Now years later and still without a needs assessment, its new magic figure is 12,000 acres.

PN-5 The government should first thoroughly review the more than 31 million acres already set aside for military use. Secondly, if this review

PN-1 shows a legitimate need exists to withdraw more public land, then and only then should the Air Force proceed to determine whether Idaho is the proper and necessary place for any expansion.

I came here tonight at my own expense to testify on my own time, and thousands of others have done the same thing year after year. But like a bad penny, the Air Force keeps coming back and continues to spend millions of our tax dollars to push its agenda here in Idaho, even though we have repeatedly given a sounding no to its proposals. This is bullying behavior. And I just fail to understand what it is about the word "no" that the Air Force fails to understand.

Ultimately, this is a battle of values. We Idahoans value the vast undisturbed reaches of

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the Owyhee canyonlands. We cherish the wildlife we've prospered there. And we respect the Shoshone-Paiute who are at home in the Southwest Idaho desert. It would be a sad day indeed to desecrate all that for the Air Force's current pet project, a project that has not been deemed necessary.

The Owyhee desert is the largest roadless area left in the lower 48. This EIS simply does not address the value of leaving this land undisturbed. LU-7

I feel that the EIS is a transparent advertising campaign to mitigate public opinion and minimize the ETI's negative impact in southwest Idaho. And I'm tired of playing this game of having to come here year after year after year. Idaho's economy is healthy and strong. Idaho doesn't need the ETI, and the Air Force is not our future. And it's also time that our elected officials listen to the land and listen to the people and have the courage to turn away from the temporary promise of Air Force money.

Finally, I feel that the proposal for Enhanced Training in Idaho is fiscally, morally, and environmental irresponsible.

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Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you. Our next speaker will be Mr. H.L. Pringle.

H.L. PRINGLE, 008019 GE-1

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. PRINGLE: I'm from Jerome, Idaho. I'd just like to say that I think the Air Force has done a very good job in preparing this Environmental Impact Statement. To my knowledge, there is nothing environmentally that I can see that would offset the very important need to give our pilots the very best training and every advantage that they could possibly have.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Pringle.

Next is Margaret Macdonald Stewart.

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MARGARET MACDONALD STEWART, 008019 GE-2

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. STEWART: My name is Margaret Macdonald Stewart, and I'm a resident of Idaho and have been for 26 years.

Before I begin my comments tonight, I would like to comment on two very glaring actions by the Air Force that I believe completely discourage public comment.

First of all, this is the fourth attempt by the Air Force to expand their bombing range at Mountain Home Air Force Base. In the three previous attempts, there have been public hearings in Twin Falls, and we have been allowed to testify in the afternoon and the evening. This time, we have a three-hour session which has been shortened to about two or a little over two hours, and, to me, that's completely inappropriate. PR-2

When I called the Air Force Base recently to inquire about the reasons behind having public testimony time cut in half, I was told it was to accommodate the greatest number of people in testifying. Half the testimony time giving the greatest number of people the opportunity to

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testify at a public hearing? I don't believe so.

And, second, I'd like to point this out to you and have this included in the evidence. This is an advertisement to encourage people to participate in the public hearings that appeared in the Times News. In the last ten days, there have been two of them. I can't even read this with my bifocals. I can't even read it with a magnifying glass. This does not encourage public participation at all. I think it's a total waste of taxpayer dollars.

And now my comments on the Draft EIS:

Even though there was a request by Congress several years ago for the military to do a national needs assessment on all military lands and air expansion requests, the Air Force still has not done so. I request that a national needs assessment, as several people before me have requested, be done immediately covering all branches of the military as several branches will be using the same areas. PN-5

Number two, I request that the public comment period be extended beyond August 6th. The Draft EIS is a very large document and will take more than two months to read and digest the PR-3

material adequately for many people to make an informed decision.

I might add that many people who have received Draft/Final EISs in the past still today have not received their copy of the draft that we're talking about tonight. I personally had to call the Air Force Base and request a copy and was given no reason why my name had mysteriously disappeared from their computer list of people who have requested Environmental Impact Statements. PR-4

Three, with this new EIS, the Air Force is, once again, not complying with the federal court order to look at the whole picture of the 1992 arrival of the composite wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base and the training needs of those warplanes. With even the slightest bit of intelligence, it is obvious that the arrival of those warplanes and their subsequent training needs are two closely linked actions. DP-4

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, any two actions that are clearly linked must be addressed in one single EIS. Just by changing the name of the proposals' name from the 1993/94 name does not get the Air Force off the hook of having to comply with the federal court order. You

are not above the law.

Four, I request that the EIS states with one single -- who the one single entity that takes full and final responsibility for any potential accidents or damage which may occur on or near the bombing range. For example, fires from dropped flares or bombs accidentally dropped outside designated areas. As you know, there has been a problem with the Castleford School, which someone else has already talked about. The Air Force said it was not their responsibility and it was not caused by them. If this is how they behave, we're all in trouble. PR-13

I have more comments that hopefully I'll be able to talk more later on.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

Next, Mr. Robert Luntey.

ROBERT LUNTEY, 009020 appeared and gave the following statement: GE-2

MR. LUNTEY: Sir, I would like to read a short statement followed by an oral statement, if I wish.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Certainly.

MR. LUNTEY: I appreciate the opportunity to, once again, comment on the Environmental Impact Statement related to expansion of the Air Force mission near Mountain Home, Idaho. I have reviewed the document entitled Enhanced Training in Idaho, Community Report dated April 1997 and base my comments on information provided in that report.

On page 31, there is a chart listing the potential effects of each of the four alternatives: A, B, C, and D, considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. Alternatives B, C, and D have varying negative effects on the environment, which, in my opinion, are not worth risk in an attempt to achieve some improvement in Air Force training which is already considered excellent.

Alternative A lists no adverse effects. Consequently, I strongly support the no action Alternative A which will spare this ecologically

and recreational important area in Idaho from further indignities that would be inflicted by training range expansion.

Last week, my wife and I were in our glassed-in greenhouse when we suffered a really severe sonic boom. The glass rolled and rocked, and we had a lot of noise, and we were afraid that something would break. It did not, and we did not suffer any consequences.

However, I'm thinking about two important geological features that lie west or, excuse me, east of the Saylor Creek training range. One is the balanced rock area which lies west of Castleford. And unfortunately I have not read either of the large volumes of the Environmental Impact Statement, so I don't know whether it has considered the possible impact of sonic booms on the balanced rock. NO-23

Also, there is a Hagerman fossil national monument near Hagerman, and that area suffers slides on occasion which destroys much of the scientific of the fossils. Again, I think if the Environmental Impact Statement doesn't address that question, it should.

Thank you.

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COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you very much, sir.

Next, Mr. Randall Morris.

GE-2 RANDALL E. MORRIS, 008021

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, my name is Randall Morris. I reside in Boise, Idaho. I was a resident of Elmore County for 21 years where I maintained the practice of dentistry for those 21 years and still do.

First off, I'd like to know why we are here. The Air Force has dragged out this entire little nag out of the barn three or four times now, and it still hasn't finished in the money yet.

Under this proposal, the airspace is still going to impact -- airspace users are still going to impact the wildlife on the ground and the other users that will be using this area.

There are still emitter sites scattered all across the Owyhee and Bruneau plateaus. It's essentially the same proposal with the boundaries erased and a few modifications.

PN-1 The Air Force has never demonstrated a need for this proposal, and I would remind the Air

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Force that need is the primary guiding requirement of the Environmental Policy Act. First, you establish the need, and then you study the consequences if you carry out your action.

Had the Air Force followed the law and followed the Environmental Policy Act, they would have done an adequate EIS prior to embarking upon this adventure. They would have known before about the incomparable national resources present in this region. They would have known about the world class whitewater present. They would have known about the national park quality canyons and desert lands. They would have known that the largest California bighorn herd of sheep in the United States resides there. They would have known about the archaeological resources. They would have known about the Native American' sacred sites And they would have known that one of the largest wintering herds of antelope in North America winters in the area.

Instead, in 1989, the Air Force lied to Congress and the realignment base closure committee and said in testimony that it already had a training range established.

Also, published reports indicated

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recently that, during this EIS process, the Air Force has obscured the Freedom of Information Act requests regarding the impacts on bighorn sheep. The Air Force also at one point was prepared to pay seven times fair market value for the private lands in the Big Springs Ranch.

Mr. Chairman, the Air Force has no credibility on this issue. So what has resulted from this eight-year circus? It has divided the community of Mountain Home and the people across south Idaho.

The J.R. Simplot company now owns the Big Springs Ranch. The Shoshone-Paiute tribes have had to reveal the location of sacred sites to every pot hunter in America. The sheep have been subjected to an endless onslaught of investigators. And the taxpayers have had to pay perhaps seven to ten million dollars for an EIS process that might have been avoided had they started the studies before they launched on this proposal.

I, for one, am sick and tired of this waste of my tax dollars, and it's time for the promoters of this scheme to pack up their carpetbags and go back home.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Morris.

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Mr. Gail Ater, if I'm saying that correctly.

MR. ATER: Close. It's Ater.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Ater?

MR. ATER: Yeah. It's an old Jewish clan.

GE-2 GAIL ATER, 008022

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. ATER: This is good again. I mean, I've been doing this since 1989 as well. And I see some friends here, some people I get to see once or twice every two or three years when we do this. And I'm wondering, how many people who are here from the Air Force have been here all seven years? And how many of us in the audience have been here the whole seven years?

See, this is part of the problem, folks. You guys are going home, and we're going to live here. You're going to do a tour of duty in Mountain Home for two stinking years and then you're out of here. And we're going to stay here and live with the consequences of your actions. And I, for one, have no need for an expanded training range over there.

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You know, when people were talking about the needs assessment, I think the last police action or military we engaged in was with the Mideast, and you guys had something like a 25,000 to one kill ratio. If you get any better at this, they're going to call it genocide. I mean, I think you're doing a great job with the resources you have. I feel really well-protected.

And you can probably tell from my comments that, you know, I'm a little politically to the left of Helen Chenoweth, but I'm starting to embrace this woman in the militia, folks. I thought they were crazy when they talk about these black helicopters, you know, hovering around the forests in north Idaho. I thought maybe they were taking too much speed and having hallucinations and Helen kind of bought off on it.

But I'm floating the Owyhee River, I mean, the Bruneau River here three years ago, and we're floating down enjoying the place. And all of a sudden, there's this incredible boom. A jet goes by first and we see it, and then there is this incredible sonic boom that just rocks us.

And so when we get off the river four days later, we call the Air Force and say, hey,

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there's not supposed to be any -- this guy was 50 feet off the deck if he wasn't in the canyon. We called the Air Force and say, hey, one of your guys was flying a jet down the canyon and they're not supposed to fly parallel to the canyon or over it; they're supposed to cross it and get the hell out of there. And the Air Force says, it wasn't one of our guys. Okay. And so they said call the National Guard.

And so we call National Guard, and the National Guard says, hey, we didn't have anybody out there. It wasn't one of our guys.

So now Chenoweth is starting to make sense to me. You see, I think that maybe one of those guys has stolen a God-damn jet and they're it out there, and you guys haven't been able to find them yet. That's starting to scare me a little bit. So if it ain't you and it ain't the National Guard, who is it?

And if you're already violating your
DP-30 policies, what assurance do we have that if you get a new bombing range that you're going to not violate policies then? Absolutely none. If you get a rocket jockey up there and he starts flying where he damn well pleases, then we're the guys who

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suffer the consequences.

There is no need. We do not want it here in Idaho. Y'all are going home. Take your proposal with you.

There has been fear mongering about Mountain Home closing up. And, hell, your own generals are telling us it's not necessary. It will have no impact upon the viability of Mountain Home. I hope the air base has a long and fruitful life out there. The rejection of this proposal will not close that air base.

And, you know, guys, we had 500 people here eight years ago, and we're getting sick and tired of this crap. You know, you weeded us down to about 50. If you do this another eight God-damn years, you'll have four or five of us and you'll just ignore us. But ain't none of you going to know it because you ain't going to be here.

So retire. Do what you need to do. Take the proposal with you. We'll be squatting out there when you come back after you get the damn thing, and we don't want it. No. It's that simple.

So I represent IRU. I'm a taxpayer here in Idaho. I'm also an outfitter and a guide. And

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I don't want it. And I'll be back here again if we have to do this again. Believe it.

So thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Ater.

Mr. R.W. Bartlett?

GE-1 R.W. BARTLETT, 008023

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. BARTLETT: My name is Bob Bartlett, and I live in Gooding, Idaho. I'm an attorney, an outdoorsman, and I guess I'm a member of most of the tree organizations you can join.

I heartily second the statements of the opponents here. My objection probably is my fault, Colonel, in that I did not realize that you were supposed to read the draft before you made your comments. However, a major was kind enough to tell me I could speak even though I haven't read it yet.

The things that concern me, first of all, this chaff. I talked with a major who told me, yes, we'll be dropping chaff from one side of the Bruneau River area to the other.

Well, with my arthritic knees, I haven't been able to get to the Bruneau canyon. I hope I

get them fixed and get there. And if not, an awful lot of people want to get there. We don't want chaff in that river. We certainly don't want jet overflights.

And the emitter stations, I note that they're going to be stuck all over that area. How in the world can you preserve the pristine environment when you've got roads and emitter sites all over the area?

I agree with the other speakers. Again, what is it? 30 million acres you've got to the west? Can't you do this somewhere else which has already been chaffed and polluted?

Again, it's the largest roadless area in the lower 48. It is not needed. We don't want it, and I oppose it, and I thank you for the time.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Bartlett.

Mr. Goller, Brian Goller.

GE-2

BRIAN GOLLER, 009024

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. GOLLER: My name is Brian Goller. I live in Boise, Idaho. And I want to make some comments about the EIS process with a little bit of history on it.

In the spring of 1992, the Greater Owyhee Legal Defense Coalition filed suit against the Air Force challenging the legality of their Air Force in Idaho EIS. GOLD argued that the Air Force had violated the National Environmental Policy Act by separating the evaluation of composite wing training for the evaluation of the wing on Mountain Home Air Force Base.

On May 9, 1995, Federal Judge Edward J. Lodge ruled in GOLD's favor. Judge Lodge wrote

DP-4

that the Air Force EIS was an abusive discretion and otherwise not in accordance with the law, and that's a quote. He ordered that the EIS be returned to the Air Force and the cooperating agency, such as BLM, to "conduct a combined EIS that includes an analysis of both the Idaho training range and the composite wing.

Now, without complying with the court's

order to conduct the combined EIS, the Air Force has put forward yet another proposal for composite force training in Idaho. The Air Force has not complied with the court's order of 1995. The current proposal is not a combined EIS, and we feel that this is illegal. We, the Greater Owyhee Legal Defense Coalition, feel that this is illegal because it attempts to go forward with the establishment of additional new training facilities for the composite wing through a fragmented process without conducting the combined EIS ordered by the court and required by NEPA.

Now, in addition to that, the Owyhee Canyonlands Coalition has serious reservations about several components of the Draft EIS and, in particular, the noise analysis. We feel that it's

NO-1

inadequate and based upon bad science. And this casts further doubt on the legality of the current EIS.

I don't actually think that the Air Force knows how noisy it's going to be. The Draft EIS says that composite force training will just about double but that the noise level is going to go down except in the new airspace including like Jack's Creek canyon.

Now, this just doesn't pass the common sense test. If the Air Force really wants to know how noisy it's going to be, I think what they should do is go down to Nellis or UTTR when they're conducting composite course exercises and monitor the noise and then report that. I think that would give us all a much better idea than the current method of calculating it as they do in the Draft EIS.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

Ms. Margaret Macdonald Stewart speaking on behalf of the Snake River Alliance this time.

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GE-2 MARGARET MACDONALD STEWART, 003025

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. STEWART: My name is Margaret Macdonald Stewart. I'm a 26-year resident of the state of Idaho, and I am speaking on behalf of the Snake River Alliance.

The Snake River Alliance Educational Fund submits the following comments on the Air Force's Enhanced Training in Idaho Environment Impact Statement. What follows is a summary our views. I will condense them.

The Air Force states this latest proposal reflects a new willingness on the part of the Air Force to accommodate the needs of the residents, the users, and the inherent wildlife values present within the Owyhee region. The Air Force might be withdrawing less land, but they are asking for nearly as much airspace as they did in the first proposal, a proposal that nearly everyone agreed was wildly excessive.

The use of airspace by the Air Force is the one thing a training range needs above all other things. The Air Force could ask to withdraw as little as one acre in this EIS and still this

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proposal would be inherently flawed. This issue is not necessarily about how much land the Air Force asks for, as significant as that action is. The issue is the withdrawal of nearly two million square miles of airspace for the exclusive use of the Air Force that will cause irrevocable harm to the land and wildlife that now reside within the unique region.

The Air Force might claim that all they need is a few thousand acres for their operations, but history has shown that this is probably only the beginning of a larger land grab.

The Grasmere site is one example of the Air Force being unable to honor the promises they make. The Grasmere site is leased to the Air Force by the Bureau of Land Management to be as a singular pad that would host a portable radar station. They violated the lease by construction a number of permanent structures including buildings, towers, and diesel generators, all which clearly violated the wilderness values of the area. As in the Grasmere experience, each proposed emitter site has the potential of becoming a launching pad for something much larger.

Number one, the EIS seriously fails to

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accurately describe the actual impacts of noise within the region caused by aircraft operations. Supersonic booms and low-level military flights will cause unique and severe impacts upon the wildlife, cattle, residents, and recreational users of the region. By averaging the total volume of noise, the Air Force completely fails to address the actual impacts of noise. As one alliance member put it, well, just because the average temperature of my oven might be 70 degrees, does that mean I can stick my head in the oven and be all right?

NO-4

Besides averaging the noise volume, the model that predicts annoyances is seriously flawed. The Air Force is using a model that measures annoyance levels upon the experiences of residents in suburbs affected by civilian air traffic.

NO-2

Number three, the EIS uses figures for the baseline that are not accurate if not completely in violation of the law. Brian Goller has already addressed this issue, so I'll go on.

DP-5

The EIS, number four, does not describe how many crews outside Mountain Home Air Force Base will be using the range. The Air Force

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representatives have casually mentioned that this range will, from time to time, be used by outside crews. There is no detailed listing in the EIS about how many more sorties there will be by Air Force crews not from Mountain Home. The Idaho National Guard, who will be managing the electronic range, states in one of their publications in April of '97 that A-10 pilots and C-130 crews will be using the range.

DP-17

I have more. Hopefully, I can speak later. Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, we've been going for some time. I propose that we take a brief break at this point. We have but one additional person who has indicated a desire to speak. And I'll give, as I indicated earlier, those of you who have already spoken an opportunity to advise and expand on your remarks if you'd like to do that.

So why don't we take about five minutes or so, just a brief break, and then we'll come back.

(Recess.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, we'll go ahead and

begin once again. We have three additional individuals who have asked to speak, and we'll continue with the three-minute time limit for those individuals at this point.

The first is Mr. John Caccia, if I have that correct.

GE-2 008026

JOHN CACCIA,

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. CACCIA: My name is John Caccia. I'm a lifelong and resident Idahoan. I missed the opening remarks. I'm not sure what was said by the Air Force.

I received a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement. I haven't read it, to tell you the truth. But my main concern for driving 80 miles or so to come to this hearing was to ask why we are here for the third time. Can you, sir, give me an answer as to why we are repeating this process for the third time?

COLONEL SWEENEY: I'm not the best person to answer that. We have Air Force officials here who have been with this process for a considerable period of time. Let me turn that over to Colonel

Richey and see if you would like to address that, sir, and perhaps explain a little bit of the history of how we got to this version of the EIS.

COLONEL RICHEY: Maybe we could stop the clock for just a second and I'll give you the rest of the three minutes.

I am the director of staff for Mountain Home, as others heard that were here earlier. But the Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal is a proposal designed to provide training to enhance the training that we have out there in the airspace today and provide quality and flexible training for our aircrews. It is our goal to balance.

What we're currently doing an operation with is concerns that were raised during scoping and add improvements to that and, at the same time, provide realistic training for our aircrews. It provides it locally where we do not have to transit to other places, so it is a great enhancement. But at the same time, it balances with what we're currently doing, and it makes improvements with the concerns that were voiced during the last attempt.

MR. CACCIA: Thank you. I appreciate that answer.

And I also am curious. I have a lot of

respect for the Air Force and the sacrifices and the bravery shown by the pilots during the wars. respect the Air Force a lot. I'm not sure that the Air Force is the bad guy. There has been a lot of anger, and I feel a lot of anger, and I have it myself, frustration at this. I'm not sure the Air Force is to blame.

I'm curious. Are there any representatives of the governor or any of our Idaho senators or congress representatives here? Is there any?

COLONEL SWEENEY: Yes, Mr. Caccia. I mentioned earlier before you got here that Mr. Jett is the representative of the governor. Mr. Jett, would you mind standing up? He's the director of military affairs for the governor. And Mr. Foster is with the Bureau of Land Management. I mentioned also that State Senator Robbie King is here this evening.

MR. CACCIA: State senator from the state, yes.

COLONEL SWEENEY: And we had a representative from State Representative Mike Crapo's office. Ms. Norris was here earlier. I don't see her now.

MR. CACCIA: Thank you. I'd like to direct

some comments at our representatives. It seems that they are the ones that should answer why we are here for the third time more than the Air Force, possibly. I think it's coming from the political realms of our state that keep offering the state to the Air Force and then the Air Force then takes the process for the third time.

I want to remind the representatives to take back to who they are representing that there are more concerns and more communities than Mountain Home that are concerned about this. There's a community of archaeologists. There's a community of ecologists. There's a community of recreationalists, a community of voters, a community of the bird watchers, a community of hikers, a community of hunters. There are several communities that outweigh the community of ensuring economic prosperity in Mountain Home. And I'd like them to take that message back to whoever it is that you were representing and try to come to some balance.

I appreciate the Air Force, what it has done trying to minimize the impact on the environment and all these other things that were mentioned. But there still is a glaring lack of

PN-5

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need or any national needs assessment.

And my final comment to the Air Force is that, in the previous ones, I haven't read this one, but in the previous Environmental Impact Statements, they talk about training not only pilots from other states and other Air Force bases but also foreign pilots. And at the way that our government is making the people so apathetic and cynical through the process of involving people and having to come back for the third time, it's making people very cynical. And if this is the way our country is going, we are going to make a lot of enemies very fast, and so training foreign pilots is going to backfire on us sooner that we may realize.

The other thing that's important that my final comment is, if there was one thing that I could say that would express sort of how I feel is that in my mind and I'm sure in the mind of the majority of people in Idaho and probably in the country is that the area that you are proposing to withdraw for training enhancement is too special. It's just this type of area that we have employed the government and the Air Force and the armed services to protect; not to train upon.

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So those are my comments, and I appreciate taking them back to the representatives. And I'd like to see more representatives here, if that could be passed on. Perhaps it would be appropriate that all the state senators, or not the state senators, the national senators and the national congress-people would have representatives here at all the meetings, because they are the ones that are basically responsible for this proposal that keeps coming up. And that's the least they could do would be to sit here and get a democratic feel for the people that are testifying.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

Next we have Mr. Tom Schiermeier

GE-1

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TOM SCHIERMEIER, 005027

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. SCHIERMEIER: To whom it may concern, U.S. Air Force: My name is Tom Schiermeier. I'm a resident of Twin Falls. I'm a current resident of the state of Idaho. I totally oppose the bombing range in the Owyhee counties for the following reasons:

Each year I spend at least one to two months in these regions. And if the proposed bombing range is approved, I will lose my rights to enjoy a great natural resource that Idaho has to offer.

Also, I'm a member of the North American Wild Sheep Foundation. And if the bombing range is approved, the greatest California bighorn herd of the United States will be devastated. Right now, we have a very strong sheep population in Big Jack's and Little Jack's Creek areas.

The third opposition is an economic one. I'm a licensed taxidermist of the state of Idaho and have been for 36 years. Over the past five years, all the animals that have been taken out in these areas have almost been taken -- have been cut

GE-1

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in half. So we have lost a lot of economical growth in our taxidermy business.

And if the bombing range is already in effect, I feel that there is no national emergency to the United States. The Air Force could find other sites or stay within the one they have.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Schiermeier.

Next is Mr. Charlie Lenkner.

CHARLIE LENKNER, 005028

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. LENKNER: Good evening. I had almost gotten out of the habit of coming to these things. You about wore me out. But I rallied for one more time. I promised my wife I'd be nice and I wouldn't talk about the present merits of adultery determined by rank.

I won't attempt to debate the latest Environmental Impact Statement, as we all know how to make studies come out the way we want them to. But I want to go on record again as continuing to be opposed to the expansion of the training and bombing training.

I realize that my position is not in line

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with our state's congressional delegation. But despite the great collective military experience, my own judgment is that we don't need it.

There are plenty of places where such ranges are already functional. This proposed one is just pork barrel frosting on the cake at the expense of the taxpayers and the environment.

I'd like to end on a positive note. I have appreciated the relative absence in the recent past of sonic booms.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Lenkner.

That completes the list of those who have asked to speak. I would ask at this time -- well, thank you. Let's proceed with this next speaker, then.

Ms. Lisa Shultz?

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GE-1 008029

LISA SHULTZ,

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. SHULTZ: My name is Lisa Shultz, and I'm a Boise resident.

And I just have one thing I'd like to say, to quote our former president and general Dwight D. Eisenhower that the problem with defense is, how far can we go to defend from within what we're trying to protect from without?

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Since that completes the list of those who have asked to speak, I would now ask if there are any of those who have previously spoken who would like to revise or expand on their remarks. I think the best way to do this would be, first, if I could get a show of hand of those who spoke before who would like to now speak so I can get a sense of how much time basically to allotment just at the current moment.

What I'll do, then, is leave this as unlimited time. And I'll just ask Ms. Stewart and the other gentleman to just be respectful of others who may change their mind and decide that they'd like to speak and let you speak as long as you'd

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like.

Ms. Stewart, if you would like to go first.

GE-2 008030

MARGARET MACDONALD STEWART,

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. STEWART: Many people have already talked about averaging the noise from jet warplanes. I'd like to expand on that a little bit saying that it seems completely inappropriate and unrealistic, to me, to have an Environmental Impact Statement have any reliability at all when they average the noise of warplanes flying over the canyonlands over a 24-hour time period. It's not accurate. It's not realistic. Jet noise in the wilderness is jet noise as it is heard on the spot. You need to realistically redo your noise analysis eliminating the misleading 24-hour averaging program.

NO-4

So far, the Air Force has exhibited a completely voracious appetite, and enough is never enough. The citizens of Idaho need to have a guarantee that if this bombing range expansion is allowed, this will be forever and ever the last request for expansion.

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And, finally, the Air Force itself has said that they do not need this bombing range expansion. They want it because it would be an enhancement to their training. That seems a mighty flimsy reason to spend hundreds of millions of dollars and effectively destroy one of this country's most exquisite natural treasures, the Owyhee canyonlands.

You have said that the 366th Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base is the most combat ready unit in the world today right now and that existing ranges in nearby Nevada and Utah are adequate to meet the training needs for Mountain Home. Just keep doing what you're doing at the ranges you already use, and I bet that you'll still be the most combat ready unit in the world.

The Air Force has said that Mountain Home is one of the top three bases in the country, so there is no fear that it will ever close. This expansion plan for the bombing range is not insurance against closing. It is pure greed.

I am a patriotic American. I do not want our military eliminated. I do not want to see Mountain Home Air Force Base closed. All I ask is for justifiable and moral and ethical behavior on

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the part of our military in their pursuit of protecting the American people. This does not include lies, deceit, or deception.

Again, I expect answers to all my questions, and I request the no action alternative be pursued.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

And I believe it is Mr. Rees? Is that correct?

MR. REES: I'd just as soon not take up people's time trying to articulate something I've been struggling with.

Thank you very much.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Rees.

Is there anyone else? Mr. Ater, please.

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GE-2

GAIL S. ATER, 008031

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. ATER: Briefly, this occurred at the last hearing. There are some time-sensitive issues. If we go ahead with this proposal against all the evidence presented here and decide to have an expanded range, I would hope the Air Force is sensitive to the idea that not only do the sheep have times that are absolutely critical for the birthing process and we need to have some mitigation there, but the bolters have some time-sensitive areas as well. We only bolt those rivers other there for about a two-month period of time. We've brought this up time and time again, but no one seems to respond to it. If there is no overflights in that two-month period of time, you're going to mitigate some of the harm.

DP-43

And, finally, I think there needs to be an oversight committee if you go ahead with this, and it's going to be composed of civilians as well as military so that we can address some of these issues of violations of your own policy and not be left to you folks to decide whether or not an overflight occurred when we know damn good and well

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it did. I mean, you have a vested interest in the process. It seems like an in-house thing. And I'm opposed to that on principle. Intellectually, it doesn't make any sense.

But if you do ahead with this and if it is successful, I hope we have a civilian face or a civilian-weighted oversight committee to mitigate the harm that will occur.

That's all. Thank you very much.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Ater.

Ms. Lahsha Johnston?

GE-2

LAHSHA JOHNSTON, 008032

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I wanted to make sure that folks who live closer than me and who may not have the opportunity to speak again where it's convenient could speak first.

My name is Lahsha Johnston. I live in Boise, Idaho at this time and spent 18 years in New Plymouth, Idaho.

Tonight, I would like to make one specific comment on the current process, and this

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is in regards to a letter that I have sent in. And this is on behalf of the Wilderness Society, the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Committee for Idaho's High Desert, Middle Snake Group Sierra Club, Idaho Rivers United, Idaho Conservation League, Snake River Alliance, Idaho Wildlife Federation, and some other individuals.

On May 7th of this year, I sent a letter to Ms. Brenda Cook at air combat command headquarters. I also sent a letter to the official address for comments. And I copied the letter to Colonel Pease, Mr. Foster with the Bureau of Land Management, and Captain Melissa Miller at the base.

PR-4

The real issue in my letter was a concern with the process. As of May 7th, the EIS was being sent out to individuals. And our understanding was that in order to receive the EIS, you had to send in a postcard that had been contained on newsletters that had been sent out.

As I was speaking to my constituents and other concerned citizens, we found that these newsletters had not gone out to very many people. They had not gone out to very many people who attended previous EIS proposal hearings. They had

not gone out to people who attended scoping meetings in this proposal.

To this date, I have not received a response to my letter, except a call from Mr. Foster, which I very much appreciated.

My comment is this, that this is the fourth proposal or third, depending on how you count it. Since the company who has contracted to do the EIS is the same as the previous proposal, to me and a lot of other people who make comments, it seems common sense that a postcard or some form of communication could be sent to those who participated previously in this process so that they know another process is going on and they have the opportunity to either request a full Environmental Impact Statement, the Community Report, or send in comments. To me, again, it just seems common sense. I think there was a better letter previously to advertise that this was going on. And it doesn't seem like a lot to ask. I think that attendance at hearings has been low compared to the past because people still don't realize that this is going on.

And so I look forward to a response to my letter and would like some attention to making sure

that the public knows that this is available and how they can participate.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

Colonel Richey, do you desire to comment about the process for getting information out to the public at this time? Is there anything you could add?

COLONEL RICHEY: I'm not sure that there's anything I could add. The process was we had scoping last summer. The people that signed up during the scoping signed up on a mailing list, and there was also a sign-up for EIS for people that were concerned and needed one, and the ones that were on the mailing list that had not signed up for an EIS or the community report were also each given a newsletter and were given the opportunity to mail back in and turn in an application in for that.

We have put the community reports in all of the libraries and repositories throughout the state. We have advertised where that is. We have an Internet channel that has the executive summary and the listing of where repositories are that people can review. So we have made every effort that we can to make it available.

We do have the address that you can mail in if you desire one and would work that.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

Yes?

MR. MORRIS: May I still make a comment, Mr. Chairman?

COLONEL SWEENEY: Yes. You certainly may. Let me ask one other person to come up first who has asked to speak.

Mr. Glenn Shewmaker? Why don't you come up, sir. We'll just wait for him.

GE-1 RANDALL MORRIS, 008033

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. MORRIS: My name is Randall Morris. I spoke previously.

Mr. Chairman, after hearing the comments for the hearing record here in the last few minutes, I would like to state that I made comments on the scoping process in this very institution months ago. I have commented on every stage of this process for eight years. I have still not received my EIS. And frankly, gentlemen, I do not

believe the Air Force.

Thank you very much.

COLONEL SWEENEY: I'd like to apologize to Mr. Morris and Ms. Johnston because that clearly was not the Air Force's intention. We did intend to get those out to everyone who wanted to be here this evening and made sure the notice was as widely disseminated as possible. And I can assure you that that was the Air Force's intention. I apologize for those oversights. We are a big organization. We don't always get the things exactly as we would like to.

Is Mr. Glenn Shewmaker here? Please, Mr. Shewmaker.

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GE-1 GLENN SHEWMAKER, 008004

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. SHEWMAKER: Thank you. I'm Glenn Shewmaker. I reside at 3615 North 3600 East, Kimberly, Idaho.

I haven't had a chance to study in detail the EIS yet, but I would like to make several comments concerning the current training area and the need for more training areas.

Recently, I attended a native plant restoration tour on the Saylor Creek Range, and I have to compliment Major Byrd and his staff for doing a good job of trying to maintain native species in the area and also to prevent fires and weed infestations. I think they're, you know, trying to do the best job they can with what they have.

It's also noticeable. On the range, there were some F-16s and, I think, three or four A-10s that came in, and it takes quite a bit of room to really utilize the training facility. And I think if you're ever on the ground and can see how they have to make their approaches and everything, that the public would be more

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understanding of the need.

I am a whitewater rafter also, and I've floated the Bruneau River, and that is quite an isolated canyon. And the jet noise doesn't bother me. But I think if we have a choice, if we can try to protect those values, that that would be good. That is quite an opportunity for the solitude, so, you know, I think that would be best.

I would also note that while we were on the range, there were antelope right in the middle of the test site with all the vehicles and jets flying over it. I don't think it's going to be a major impact on the wildlife. So I think those concerns can be addressed as well.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you.

Is there anyone else who desires to speak?

(No response.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: If not, that will conclude the formal part of our public hearing. Air Force officials will remain behind for a considerable period of time at the displays to answer any questions one-on-one.

And I remind you that the public comment

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period will extend through the 6th of August. And comments may be submitted at those subsequent hearings or sent to the Air Force/BLM EIS address on the screen.

Let me remind you of the additional hearings that are being held in the series of hearings. Tomorrow evening at Three Creek, the Three Creek Schoolhouse. Then on Monday, June 9th, we'll be at the Duck Valley Reservation at the Human Development Center. On Thursday and on Friday of next week, the 12th and 13th of June, we'll be at Boise State University in Boise in the Jordan Ballrooms B and C.

So I would invite those of you who are interested to please try and attend some of those. But if you have questions that you believe haven't been asked, as I said, Air Force officials will remain behind.

If there is someone who does desire to speak more formally, we will be happy to reopen this. Otherwise, we'll consider this formal portion of the public hearing adjourned.

Thank you for your attendance.

(Recess.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: One more individual has

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asked to speak. If there is anyone here who has second thoughts and would like to speak or revise or expand their remarks, we'll give you an opportunity to do that, too.

Mr. Warren Barry? Mr. Barry, please.

MR. BARRY: Yes, sir.

GE-1 WARREN BARRY, 008005

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. BARRY: Thank you. My name is Warren Barry. I live in Twin Falls. I'm a pilot. I have been a licensed pilot since 1950. And my experience with this proposed area for the training area is somewhat extensive in that I'm also a member of the Idaho Civil Air Patrol and the Department of Aeronautics Aircraft Search Group And it's been my privilege on several occasions to have flown sector searches in the area that is being proposed for a training area.

I'm familiar with the area from the air. I would suggest that it's almost impossible terrain to traverse on the ground since the area is cut with deep canyons with almost perpendicular walls up and down.

I have always felt that if I were to be unfortunate enough to be forced to make an energency landing in that area, it would be an intensely difficult situation to get out of there. So for purposes of hiking and trails and that sort of thing, it's just not practical.

The area itself is well-suited for the purposes of the Air Force for a training area, and I would testify in favor of the Air Force for that purpose, from not only my experience of having flown over that area extensively on sector searches, but also from the standpoint of the little or the small utilization for anything apart from grazing that the area is suitable for.

Now, when it comes to the question of grazing and animals, I have learned from experience on numerous trips into Salt Lake City, if you will bother to look out of the window of any approaching airliner as you come into Salt Lake City, you will notice that immediately east of runway 1-6, which is the main runway in front of the Salt Lake terminal which you will come in and land on if you're on an airliner, as you come in to land on runway 1-6, you will find that grazing right below all of those airliners that come in almost one

every two to three minutes are large herds of cattle. These cattle are unaffected by the aircraft. They've adapted to them. They're not bothered.

Now, they also use that same runway for landing and for takeoff depending on the direction of the wind. But the cattle have become accustomed to the aircraft movement over there, and they continue to graze unaffected by the movement of the aircraft overhead, either taking off or landing.

And I would suggest the same would hold true for any animals that operate in this Owyhee desert, this remote area that they're proposing for their training area. So having said that, I see little reason why our Air Force shouldn't be allowed to expand their training area.

Without becoming political, I am deeply concerned. I'm a veteran of World War II having served in the Marine Corps, the U.S. Marine Corps. And I was in the air division in the South and Central Pacific. And I know that it's important that we have well-trained and proficient pilots well-trained in air maneuvers.

I'm concerned also, given our present administration, that there's a reduction of our

armed forces. And our greatest line of defense that we have protecting our nation this day is a good, strong, well-trained and viable Air Force. That Air Force should be equipped with the latest and the finest equipment, but they should also -- their pilots should receive the best and the finest training that they can ever obtain. And if they need this airspace to train their pilots, they certainly should be entitled to it.

Now, as we reduce our armed forces down and down, if we were to suddenly be confronted with, let's say, two major conflicts at this very moment, I doubt we could field the necessary forces to adequately defense ourself.

Now, that's speculation, but it also comes from practical experience, knowledge in the field, and knowledge of aircraft.

So having said that, I would heartily endorse the Air Force's proposal for this expanded training range. I think they're entitled to it. I think they should have it.

Given the opportunity, I think you'll find that they're excellent citizens. The Mountain Home Air Force Base has been a real asset, not only to the state of Idaho, but it's an important cal

in the defense of our nation, not only in providing a base for equipment, but also a training base to hone the skills of those pilots so that they can adequately meet and overcome any enemy force that would attempt to subdue us.

So, Colonel, I appreciate the opportunity to voice my favor of the Air Force's plan in the area of expanding their training range.

Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Barry.

Is there anyone else present who would like to speak?

(No response.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: If not, we will adjourn this public hearing once again. Thank you.

(Proceedings concluded at 9:30 p.m.)

-oo0oo-

COMMENTS

The following is taken from a handwritten letter by Lucille Haynes Gibson, Post Office Box 2489, Ketchum, Idaho 83340:

GE-1

Attention: Enhanced Training in Idaho. 008036

I know you would like to play with your evermore expensive toys in your own back yard, but you have a perfectly adequate playground just a few blocks down in Nevada.

So try to expand your concept of protection to include peace and quiet for wildlife, native Americans, and an occasional hiker trying to remember how man should live in his environment.

Sincerely,
Lucille Haynes Gibson

COMMENTS

GE-1

David Mead, 2045 Hillcrest Drive, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301: 008037

I live in Twin Falls. I've lived here 40 years. A little background: I have a master's degree from Purdue University in agriculture, master's degree from the College of Natural Resources Range Management at Utah State. My vocation is banking. My advocation is a naval reserve officer.

Three and a half years on active duty during the Korean war. A year of that in Korea on the line. Thirty-one and a half years as a drilling reservist. My rank is a Navy Captain, O-6. I have a great respect and understanding of the military, but the Air Force has not proved that they have a need for this bombing range.

I'm very concerned about the noise level. I realize the Air Force monitors these things, but we have personally experienced cracked windows on sonic booms in wilderness areas. We've experienced sonic booms. And in the Bruneau canyon we've experienced sonic booms. It detracts from

the lifestyle.

We are concerned, and I'm talking my wife and I, in reference to the Indians in Duck Valley and their lifestyle.

We are concerned that every few years the Air Force comes back after the public says no. Reduces the number of acres under their proposals and seems to use the method of wearing everybody out. The lifestyle of Idaho does not need a bombing range.

The ag land on the desert may be poor, but it's still ag land used for grazing.

I'm well aware of how often the military people are transferred. And when one says this year, they're not around in three or four years to be held accountable. And we've experienced that here in Southern Idaho time after time with the Air Force.

Appreciate the Air Force holding public hearings even if we don't agree with you. During rafting time in the Bruneau River, respectfully request that no overflights be executed during the rafting time. I say this, although I'm not a rafter. And if I could get away with it, I'd have no overflights during any time of the summer when I

might be hiking down there. Thank you.

Very respectfully yours.

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THREE CREEK, IDAHO

Friday, June 6, 1997, 6:30 p.m.

GE-2 ROBERT DIGRAZIA, 008038

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. DIGRAZIA: Colonel, I appreciate the opportunity to extend my comments, and they should take about eight or nine minutes.

I would like to thank the United States Air Force for the opportunity to comment tonight on the ETI Draft EIS.

As I stated, my name is Robert DiGrazia. I was born in Elko County, Nevada. I was educated in Wells, Nevada. I served three years in the United States Army, was offered a regular Army commission before ending my time of service with the dental corps in 1977. I am a practicing dentist in Boise, Idaho.

I'm very active in the hunting community in Idaho. I've held numerous leadership positions within the state of Idaho including president of the Idaho Chapter of the Sheep Foundation. I was state finance chairman for the Sportsmen Heritage Defense Fund this last fall which was focussed on

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the bear initiative. And I was honored to be Idaho's first president of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep serving in that capacity in 1993.

I'd like to make it clear that my comments tonight are my personal comments and not the comments of the sheep foundation. Those will be presented in Boise later next week.

I would like the purveyors of this process to realize that under the NEPA Act, that cumulative actions, when viewed with other proposed actions and have cumulative significant impact, should be discussed in the same impact statement. And, further, connected actions that are interdependent parts of a larger action and dependent upon larger actions for justification should be discussed in the same impact statement.

DP-7 With the bed-down that the 366th at Mountain Home and with the Air Force in Idaho EIS, the EA to switch the B-52 to the B-1 and the addition of the ETI process, I feel that these are cumulative actions, interdependent, and should be considered under one comprehensive EIS.

For example, since the transfer of the F-111s to Cannon Air Force Base and the

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establishment of this composite wing, the baseline concerns for noise, recreation, and economics continues being shifted upward. It is a shift which I firmly believe cannot be tolerated by the residents of this area or people who frequent this area.

This high desert steppe ecosystem provides economic sustenance to many. Ranchers, some, as was mentioned in the EIS, have been here for over a hundred years.

In the DEIS, there is mention that some property owners, ranchers specifically, will see the impact of their ability to use public lands. Coupled with the fact that they choose to live in this quiet wilderness environment, the increase of noise, which will increase, in my honest opinion, about 20 percent, will be disruptive and inappropriate.

The property owners of this area should be aware that at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts, homeowners were reimbursed their loss of property values by taking clause in legal clarifications.

The Air Force currently overflies this area. But with approved ETI, the noise is going to

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become unbearable. Your property values are going to decrease, and some ranchers are going to lose their ability to use public lands.

These are real economic losses. But you need to understand that they're also economic gains to the communities of Boise and Mountain Home.

With the land use compatibility present now and the annoyance anticipated with this increased noise, it is important to realize that if this were the case in Boise with the current levels of building codes, acoustic protection in structures or personal protective gear would be required. Ranchers, hunters, and others are simply being asked with this proposal to tolerate this, and this is unfair.

This proposal, with these ramifications, is being presented when the GAO, the government and county agents, both organizations, the Air Force's own inspector general in official reports says that the range is not needed. Further, this range is being pursued even when the base commander at Mountain Home recently, before the Idaho Legislature, stated that the 366th Wing is the most combat ready wing in the world and that the range would only enhance their training.

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In analyzing alternatives, all alternatives are tied to airspace expansion and electronic emitters. Under NEPA, I feel that this does not provide for adequate alternatives. Each and every impact site with Alternatives B, C, and D are tied to no-drop sites, electronic emitters, and are tied to expansion into the Nevada for airspace and expansion other Big and Little Jack's Creek complexes.

Personally being a hunter, I cannot accept the airspace expansion over the Jack's Creek complexes. This is the only bighorn sheep habitat in Owyhee County that's not being currently overflown supersonic at low level.

When the DEIS states, and I quote, "the total number of sheep observed in this herd have declined since 1993 while lamb/ewe ratios have increased from '94," it's misleading. It is important to realize that there has been a dispersal into Big Jack's Creek to Castle Creek. This herd is flourishing, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has instituted new hunting opportunities since 1993 in the Big Jack's Creek area. This herd has done so well. The opportunity to take a trophy ram is present so much so that a

DP-52

BI-4

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hunter recently purchased a bighorn sheep auction permit from the foundation for $31,000 solely to hunt this area.

Also missing in the Environmental Impact Draft concerning the more expansion into Nevada and Idaho is an environmental assessment of all aspects of the economics, habitat, and social implications of the ground underlying these two air expansions. There's no habitat enhancement plan designed for a completely new proposal with unknown results.

These areas are going to experience the total impact of the 366th Wing since inception. There is absolutely no baseline to compare. It is an impact that will be, again, intolerable, inappropriate, and unacceptable. The BLM, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and others need to be in this process that help define these baselines.

Through past history and related EAs and EISs, problems have occurred, as mentioned by Colonel Richey. Mitigatory design and avoidance has been implemented in this EIS specifically to the tribal community at Duck Valley for protection over tribal lands for low-level and supersonic flight.

DP-9

DP-14

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To deconflict these impacts, an airspace expansion over Jack's Creek complexes and into Nevada has been proposed in this draft. I find it unfair to deconflict one party and place confliction on other parties. In my opinion, this is not a good example of mitigatory response.

My testimony is lengthy, and I'll submit the rest of it later by the August 6th deadline. But I am from Nevada, and I'm very, very familiar with the ranching at Dixie Valley, and I've talked to these people over the last few years. And I'm just going to quote some of the comments that I got from Dixie Valley to this community at Three Creek.

In Dixie Valley, what happened, and I'll quote it: "Most of the neighbors are gone now. Their homes, along with the signs of their toil, is extinguished. This valley showed little sign of war but there was one. It lasted five long years, day in and day out. The cost to preserve a way of life, individual freedoms, and a republic came dear to many.

"The Navy brought their supersonic, high threat battlefield to this valley in the summer of 1982. We were all aware that our military needs to

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train to be the best, and with this we don't argue. But we want them to be strong and to be a formidable force for freedom but not at the sacrifice of our own citizens. It is not unpatriotic," and I quote that, "to demand that the military protect our way of life instead of destroying it. Dixie Valley, Nevada turned into a living hell, but don't think it will be the last to be lost. Be on guard, for the remoteness and isolation of this high ecosystem in Southwestern Idaho is very well what the military is debating.

Thank you, Colonel.

COLONEL SWEINEY: Thank you, Mr. DiGrazia.

The next speaker is Ms. Janet O'Crowley.

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JANET O'CROWLEY, 008039

appeared and gave the following statement:

GE-2 MS. CROWLEY: Thank you, Colonel Sweeney and Colonel Richey.

To introduce myself, I live, at the present time, down here in Murphy Hot Springs 13 miles by the road, and we do hear of the Air Force quite frequently down there. I should say they're not unheard of in Murphy Hot Springs.

My name is Janet O'Crowley. I'm a native of Idaho. I'm very partisan of Idaho. I'm also a veteran of what you might call the war against the Air Force's expansion. I believe that I and Randy Morris of Mountain Home were the first two people to take up the cudgels when we heard about the Saylor Creek expansion of one million or ten million acres. It didn't matter. They were going to take the whole southeast corner of Owyhee County and turn it into a super bombing range.

And the plan of action that we acquired from our congressmen but we were not allowed to receive it as civilians but we got it through other means described the action that would be taken down here on the Owyhee desert. It included bulldozers,

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dump trucks, every kind of construction vehicle you can imagine, and the auto dealers in Boise cheered at this. They were going to build roads. They were going to totally obliterate the vegetation on vast acreages in order to avoid the danger of fire. They were going to build dummy structures.

There were going to be three battle fronts. There was going to be the forward front, the medium front, and the near front. I guess I'm not sure which was forward and which was the rear front, but one was to be a mock-up of a civilian residential area. One was to be an industrial area. And the FEMA, I remember, was to be forward edge of the battle area. And the bombers and the fighters were going to come crashing in on this. And they said they needed realistic training, and, therefore, they were going to build these structures out of plywood and other materials and were going to go gung ho and were going to have the best 366th Wing that money can buy.

As a lot of you may remember, Southern Idaho rose up in a waive of protest. Not only were we being told the Air Force is going to do this; they told us how they were going to do it. The only thing is they ran into a real rattlesnake's

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den when they asked the civilians.

At Twin Falls, the hearing had been scheduled for a double classroom, a double amphitheater type classroom. But instead it had to be moved to the main auditorium, and the main one was two-thirds full that night.

And I can't remember. I don't know. Maybe one of the reporters can remember. But there were very people who spoke in favor of that proposal.

The Air Force later came back with another proposal, and it was defeated because of a moratorium that the secretary of defense put on acquisition of more lands. Then the governor entered with fray, and we had the precursor of the enhanced training range.

The proposal here is much more modest in the amount of land that they're asking to take, but what we have to remember is that the Air Force already has, by my rough calculations, more than 50 percent of the airspace in Southern Idaho at their command. And they take off and land. That doesn't take much room, and neither do these emitter sites. But they can fly anywhere within 100 feet of the ground at their choosing.

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They may impose restrictions and say that over Three Creek we're going to stay up at 1500 feet or 3,000, but that is at their say so. The civilians have no control and no input into that.

They asked us a lot about our opinions of this and that, but we said, where is the PR-6 follow-up? If you do not follow these guidelines, where do we get to -- whom do we speak to and how do we get it changed?

I'm sorry. That is not part of the plan. Once we've convinced you people to not protest and we get what we want in the way of a training range, then it's all over as far as civilian participation.

Expansion is the middle name of the Air Force. This is what they want now. What will they want two, three years from now? We have no guarantees. It's always that we have faster planes and they need more space to practice in and it will make you safer if we take up more of this land.

Now, where is the process going to stop? PR-6 Where is the mechanism that the civilian population of Idaho can even participate in this decision-making?

Now, you say that if I send in my

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comments, that they'll be read and they will affect the outcome of the NEPA.

Now, when this first ETI first came up and was revealed to the public, I sent in my comment and said, you have not followed NEPA. This process is illegal. I never heard anything more about that, and the Air Force never said anything more about it.

Now, I've looked at the law that Congress passed, and NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act, provides that any government body, before it embarks on any kind of an expansion, construction, anything that will affect public land, must do an Environmental Impact Statement.

PR-8 Now, what is the Environmental Impact Statement for? It is to determine whether or not to proceed.

Now, I've never heard, in any of the discussions that we've had on all of these EISs, about the not to proceed. I've never heard it. I've never seen a flicker in an Air Force man's eye about not proceeding. In fact, I've been told we're going to get it this time or we'll come back and we'll get it next time.

Specifically, why NEPA was not followed

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in this particular EIS effort is the scoping hearings were not held according to the Air Force's own regulations regarding scoping hearings. PR-9 Scopings were held as town meetings. They called them scopings, and people came and they saw a lot of exhibits.

And whoever was in charge of the program took up half an hour, an hour, two hours talking about things. We were made to go through all kinds of exhibits, but never was the public allowed to sit down where we're sitting today and speak so that everyone could hear and the testimony be recorded at that time so that you could later get a written transcript of those comments.

Mr. DiGrazia has alluded to the fact that the composite wing was brought in in spite of NEPA, in spite of violating the clear intention. And the judge in Boise told the Air Force that this was not legal and that they would have to do an EIS, a new one that would encompass both actions, the DP-4 composite wing and the expansion of Mountain Home. The Air Force did not do that and subsequently, I don't know how, has managed to get the judge to say it's too late now and we'll disregard that judgment.

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Now, past EISs were really weaseling kind of documents. We brought up all kinds of effects. And the ones done by Spectrum on the first Saylor Creek initiative simply said, oh, these things are not significant. Noise is not significant. And they said, we'll measure the noise all year long, and then we'll average it and we'll say that much average of noise is not significant and it isn't going to hurt anything.

It isn't when the jet is not flying that it bothers you. It's when you're out there like those ranchers down in Dixie Valley being knocked clear off their horse. I understand it's happened over in Jordan Valley also.

When that jet comes by you, and you can't hear it coming, but when it's right there and you suddenly get that blast of noise, you can't average that out. That's real, and it makes your heart race.

And you can't say that noise does not affect animals. Maybe they go on grazing or maybe they don't run anymore because they know it's coming and it comes again and again. But you can't say that it doesn't affect them. I'm an animal and it affects me.

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We complained and asked why the past EISs SF-11 have not considered the electromagnetic effect of these emitter stations and also the radar use by the aircraft. That was ignored. We've asked why they didn't consider in their hazardous materials deleterious effect of substances used of the many, many kind of gases that come out of an aircraft AQ-1 when it's taking off or when it's throttled down to come in for a landing.

And how about when they're circling around and around waiting for a chance to land? Or DP-11 how about when they dump fuel so they can come in to land? None of these effects were ever considered. There were so many. And I have file cabinets full, and I don't want to try to do this from memory. But none of the past EISs has ever been an honest document.

Now, if you can change that, I would like to see it. And I'd like to cooperate with an Air Force that would honestly discuss these things and honestly ask people, you know, how can we make it better?

So I will write my comments and send them in. Thank you.

COLONEL SWEENEY: Thank you very much,

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Ms. O'Crowley.

Now, those are the only two people who had asked to speak. Is there anyone else who has reconsidered and would like to speak as far as a form of public comment this evening?

(No response.)

COLONEL SWEENEY: Apparently not.

What we'll do, then, is adjourn this formal part of this public hearing process. And as I believe Colonel Richey mentioned earlier, Air Force officials will remain behind for the purpose of answering questions that you may have one-on-one.

Thank you very much.

(Proceedings concluded at 8:30 p.m.).

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OWYHEE, NEVADA

Monday, June 9, 1997, 6:30 p.m.

COLONEL POPE: If I could have your attention please, this hearing will come back to order at this time, we're going to begin the public comment period.

The elected officials will go first, with the exception of Chairman Paiva who will go last. First speaking is Mr. Terry Gibson.

MR. GIBSON: Thank you, Colonel Pope.

One of the first things that the elders wanted me to request was an interpreter, being that you are on an Indian reservation here.

COLONEL POPE: There is not an official interpreter here. What I have been asked to do is if there is some volunteers who could provide interpretation if it was needed, they could assist to do that. I chatted with you about that. Have you found any volunteers that would like to interpret?

MR. GIBSON: We'll go ahead and discuss that at your next break, I guess.

COLONEL POPE: All right. Do you want to begin your comments now?

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MR. GIBSON: Yeah.

COLONEL POPE: All right. Start the time over.

GE-2 TERRY GIBSON, 008040 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. GIBSON: My name is Terry Gibson. I'm a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Business Council.

The Shoshone-Paiute private government acts as a solid entity in its relationship with the U.S. Federal Government in that the federal government has various responsibilities concerning tribal interests, both on and off the Duck Valley Reservation.

The word "sovereign" does not appear anywhere in your highly-sanitized document which you call the EIS. With that, I want to go ahead and speak a little bit about the process that you guys laid out.

PR-6 I feel that you folks have seriously undermined the process that has been been laid out by Secretary G. Bailey. He wanted all entities to get together and find out if there were any show

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stoppers at any of these sites, and you can guarantee that there are several show stoppers.

The next item of concern I have is a breach of confidentiality within your EIS document. There is a study that pertains to our water rights issue done by Max Pavesic of Boise CU-17 State University. And this document, which is held in confidentiality by the United States government, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, somehow has come out in your EIS document.

And, also, we feel that there has been a breach of confidentiality in this site data CU-7 information dealing with cultural resources because there has been vandalism occurring to those sites that fall within the area of your EIS. And we are pursuing these things through an investigation through the Bureau of Land Management.

There is a migration theory that comes up CU-8 in your document that this tribe does not adhere to. I think that that should be removed from your document.

There has been several photographs of sensitive sites that have come out in your document and come out in your community report, and those

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things concern us.

On the site information, it says here, the satellite base global positioning system has been used, the satellite base system for determining the precise location of something on earth.

CU-9 Now, this system has been used to identify our sacred sites, and it has become published in your documents, and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes feel that there is a breach of confidentiality within that.

CU-10 Another concern of ours is that the McDermott Shoshone-Paiute Tribe is not involved in this document. Okay.

CU-11 We also have a serious concern with unextinguished territorial land claims. That needs to be addressed. And I'm going to reference a letter that has been sent to the Honorable William J. Clinton signed by Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Senator Harry Reid, and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. I'll just highlight the portion here.

It says, "The tribes have notified the Secretary of the Interior that the federal lands proposed to be converted to a bombing range can be legally conveyed to the state of Idaho for use as

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an Air Force bombing range because they are aboriginal lands belonging to the tribes. This issue needs to be resolved before any decision can be made on creating the proposed range."

And I'll state further from the Congressional House Record where it says that the Secretary of the Interior is directed to determine how what has been done to resolve the issue of the aboriginal rights to the land in question. Okay.

Now, you guys are doing studies on land that this involves, and I think you need to take a serious look at that and see who actually owns this land.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker is Mr. Cy Thacker with the Tribal Council. Mr. Thacker?

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GE-1 CY THACKER, 008041

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. THACKER: My name is Cy Thacker. I'm a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Business Council.

My folks have warned me of the people that protect your land, sacred sites, cultural resource. The areas which hearings have been selected are the high areas, which is our sacred sites. And I'm really against the training selection that has been proposed.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker is Mr. Reginald Sope.

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GE-1 REGINALD SOPE, 008042

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. SOPE: Good evening, Colonel Pope and Colonel Richey and my people.

My concerns for this enhanced training range that they're proposing here is pretty much in the delicate areas when it comes to the Grasmere site. And also I have ancestries that roamed through that territory. My grandmother was born specifically in that area. And I do take my family back from time to time, and we honor and sing our songs of our tribes and also family songs, which are honor to the family.

At this time, I feel that I've worked many years, you know, working for the J.R. Simplot of Idaho company, and I've worked frequently in the Saylor Creek bombing range area there. And by doing so, I've seen a lot of the mishaps and stuff of the United States Air Force.

And one thing specific is that the pilots; they aren't always on target with whatever they're trying to practice on. On one occurrence, their targets were set at one angle to where the planes came in and they missed their targets by 12

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miles and they bombed J.R. Simplot's tanks, their stock watering tanks to where it was all covered up. Later on that evening, there was new tanks up with water in there.

Also, they tell us that a lot of these aircrafts, their pieces and stuff won't fall off of them. I've rode that whole dessert from Black Stone Desert clear on to the other areas and also down towards the Battle Creek area where I've seen pieces of aircraft, the little deals that go on. I've seen them.

And, also, when it comes down to their ground level flight deals, a lot of times they seem to be flying a few hundred feet off the ground. I've seen them fly a lot lower than that. I feel that it's a specific threat to my people here.

And one of our main issues is our wildlife, our animals that we depend on out there. We've depended on these animals for our clothing and our food. All of our sources are out there, our whole pharmacy including the herbal medicine, herbal plants and the roots and stuff that our people ate to nourish themselves. It is pretty sad for us to give, you know, all that up just for a playground for the United States Air Force.

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Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your input.

The next speaker is Carrie Dan.

GE-1 CARRIE DAN, 008043

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. DAN: Thank you. Good evening, my friends, family.

I have one comment, first of all, this three minutes. When you give us only three minutes to say something, you're not going to hear anything because that is not enough time.

I've been to a few of these public comment periods, and this is, to me, giving us only three minutes, it just represents what you are trying to do to these valleys over here.

First of all, I am a traditional person. I believe in the always of the Shoshone people. Basically, it's not any different from the ways of the other nation of people which is up higher than they are here.

First of all, I'd like to say and tell you that the number one issue has always been land, land grabbing, whether it's by the United States

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Air Force, the United States Navy. It has been by United States, land grabbing.

I don't know if you understand what land means to the indigenous peoples. Land means life. It is very sacred. The waters that we drink from on these lands, too, are sacred.

And I see each time that people like the military, they come in and they don't care. They don't care about the sacredness of this land to the indigenous peoples. I think the time has come that you people must stop and look at us because we are alive. We have feelings just like everybody else.

We'd like for you people to show us respect, not only respect towards the people, but respect towards life, life of the animals, the birds, the water life, and the plant life. These are the things that pertains to life, too. They have as much right to live as you have. They, too, are the children of this earth. There has been no respect shown to these animals and birds and trees by the human kind in the last 50 years. I think it's important that they do and they should be given the respect.

I also see and I know that United States does not own this land that it's talking about.

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These lands are under the care of the indigenous peoples of this area.

However, due to the dictating ways of the American government, you deny us the right. The BLM deny us the right to take care of the land the way it's supposed to be taken care of.

Our way of life, you want to change our way of life. You even claim that we have United States as our trustee. Are we so damn stupid and dumb that we have to have a trustee that we can't manage our own lands? I think not.

COLONEL POPE: You need to complete your thought. I'll give you additional time, if you have any, at the end of the hearing if you'd like to make a further comment.

MS. DAN: Well, as you know, I've been cut off. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker is Mr. Mike Nannini, if I'm pronouncing that correctly.

MR. NANNINI: Yes, you are. Thank you.

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GE-2 MIKE NANNINI, 008044
appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. NANNINI: Good evening, Colonel Pope and ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Elko County Commissioners, I would like to thank the U.S. Air Force for the opportunity to comment on the Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement. My name is Mike Nannini.

Nevadans are proud of their military heritage. Nevadans provide more useful airspace for military training than any other state. We in Elko County are very concerned about the lack of the analysis of the effects that the expansion of airspace into the northern reaches of this county. Specifically, the social impact analysis toward SO-3 ranchers and the Jarbidge wilderness areas are incomplete and, consequently, inadequate. Wildlife BI-41 impacts to Nevada's mule deer populations are completely missing.

Ranching is a major economic factor in this county. As in Idaho, there are fourth and fifth generation ranchers being affected by the increase in overflights, since they are using

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public lands for grazing in Idaho and Nevada. The DEIS is lacking in analysis of these landowners.

The Nevada's mule deer population in this area provides a major economic stimulus for Elko County in the fall of each year. We would like the United States Air Force to understand that this herd of deer mainly winters in the high desert plains of this proposal area. We need input from the U.S. Forest Service, Humboldt National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife for assurances that this resource is protected. This is not the case for this draft.

Further, private Nevada sporting groups, i.e., Nevada Bighorns Unlimited and Elko Bighorns, have worked diligently with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and Idaho Fish and Game to bring back the California bighorn populations to not only this county but other areas of northern Nevada. Nevada has more unoccupied California bighorn habitat than any other western state. There needs to be a BI-43 migratory plan to improve this situation since the bed down of the composite wing in 1992 and in the discussion with this proposal. The Elko Bighorns Unlimited has literally invested thousands of

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dollars in this effort.

The Jarbidge wilderness area is contiguous to the Nevada airspace expansion. Many ranchers are now diversifying their operations economically by providing wilderness experiences to all Americans. This, again, is providing economic recreational dollars to this county and private landowners. Businesses are being created in SO-4 Jarbidge capitalization on these -- in the Jarbidge capitalizing on these wilderness areas. The DEIS completely lacks analysis of this aspect.

As Nevada Senator Reid stated, this is an Idaho project. If it is truly needed for the substance of Mountain Home Air Force Base, then the United States should mitigate the problems with Idaho citizens. Nevada truly has done its share for the military. With the unanswered problems of Nevada's ranchers, recreational businesses, and citizens, we support the no action alternative.

The tribal community here at Owyhee has suffered immensely since the bed down of the composite wing. Yes, there has been mitigation for noise, but it is not perfect yet. They still suffer sonic boom. They have voiced concerns about sacred grounds in Nevada and Idaho. We encourage

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the United States Air Force to take their needs very seriously in any discussion as it proceeds from here out. Their heritage outlives anyone in this room tonight.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker will be Mr. Ted Howard.

GE-2 TED HOWARD, 008045
appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. HOWARD: Thank you.

Good evening. It's good to see everybody here, also the surrounding community, that has come to support the issues that they have.

First of all, I'd like to read a little excerpt here from the Pipeline on 5/29 of '97. There's a little part in here that says "using existing facilities, the wing has been pronounced the most combat ready wing in the world." So it sounds to me like you're doing really well with what you have.

Also, I got this map from Greg Sacowski, and it shows already what the military holds as far as airspace all over the United States and also the

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proposed airspace that they're seeking now. And if they get everything they're needing, then they will have that much airspace. So it's not like, in my opinion, the Air Force is making it sound like they don't have any place to practice.

And as some of the speakers said before us, you need to think about others in our land, the United States, and not only human life, but animal life and all the other part of creation that is just as much a part of this world as we are. And I just wanted to point that out.

And, also, in some of the BLM studies, in last five years, the sage brush has declined 70 percent. And I'm sure that in the last five years when they took that count, when they started the count, that it was probably a declined number already to begin with.

SF-3 And the chaff, it doesn't say anywhere in your EIS that this chaff is not biodegradable. Once it falls, it's there forever.

And, also, in some of these documents that I was reading, that it's very harmful when cattle are grazing and deer and different things

SF-10 are eating. When they breathe, they breathe it in.

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Going on to the more cultural side of things, many tribal members believe that the proposed Air Force activities in Idaho and Nevada would adversely affect religious ceremonies and other religious qualities of the region. Solitude and privacy are extremely important during the conduct of ceremonies, as well as the physical integrity of sacred sites, and would be threatened by increased overflights, ground traffic, and construction facilities and infrastructure.

President Clinton's executive order of May 24, 1996 regarding Indian sacred sites orders federal agencies to accommodate access and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian reservation practitioners to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites and to maintain confidentiality of sacred sites where appropriate. The Air Force proposal may threaten access to and use of sacred sites in or near the affected areas and would certainly adversely affect the physical integrity of these sites.

Although the Air Force has offered to schedule its flights around ground traffic and ground traffic to avoid conflict with ceremonies,

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this would be only a partial solution because it does not address the permanent construction of facilities and infrastructure.

Religious practitioners believe that any need to provide notification of the timing and/or location of their ceremonies violates their privacy and religious freedom. Religious activities are often spontaneous making advance notification impossible.

Religious qualities other than ceremonial activities would be affected -- would still be affected. The Air Force proposal would also threaten the physical integrity of these sites in several ways: by potential physical destruction resulting from the construction of physical facilities and infrastructure; by potential pollution or destruction from site operations and military maneuvers; by destructing the visual and auditory solitude which are vital to the physical integrity of sites within the nearby proposed areas, even smaller facilities such as emitter sites would constitute visual auditory intrusions; and by creating greater access to the sites through the construction of roads thus increasing the possibility of vandalism or other disruptive

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activities due to the increased public access to this relatively undisturbed region.

COLONEL POPE: You need to wrap up. You're well past your time. You may submit your written statement as part of your oral statement.

Also, if you want those maps to be part of the record, you'll have to present them to us. Obviously, the record won't reflect that you were just holding up pieces of paper. So if you'd like to offer those, you may.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker will be Mr. Larry Monroe.

GE-1

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LARRY MONROE, 008046

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. MONROE: Well, Judge, my name is Larry Monroe. I own the old Hanson place up on Trail Creek. I can't remember all the rules that you told us, and I hope I don't get in a lot of trouble. But three minutes isn't very long unless a fellow is getting drug and hanging by their neck, but I can't hold my stomach in that long.

My principle concern is noise. I've been in touch with the Air Force for several years about low flying jets over my place. It's very disruptive. It scares me. I don't like it.

My favorite uncle used to have a saying. When things would get ancy or irritable, why he would say, all I really want is a little dirt farm down in the end of the desert, a couple cows and some chickens and sit on the back porch and even listen to the cotton wood trees, and I guess that's sort of what I'd like to have.

Colonel Richey was very open before the meeting, and he answered some of my questions about the location of the military training routes. A year ago, he sent me a letter and said he declared

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my place a noise sensitive area. I appreciate that.

However, he said that the vertical limitation over my place was 1500 feet. Well, your swell old document, which you ought to give to people with sleep disorders, incidentally. It puts you to sleep. Anyway, the document tells in there about how loud things are. 1500 feet isn't very high. I intend to work further the Colonel Richey to see if we can't get that raised up a little bit.

Other than that, that's about it, Judge. I sure hope I didn't violate any of your rules.

Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you very much.

All right. The next speaker is Miss Amber Gibson.

GE-1

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AMBER GIBSON, 008047

appeared and gave the following statement:

MISS GIBSON: My name is Amber Gibson. I'm from Owyhee, Nevada. I am a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe.

I enjoy living in Owyhee. It is peaceful and quiet. It is a beautiful place. I like going to the desert and praying, looking at the sacred sites. It is beautiful. It has a lot of wildlife. And if the jets start flying over us, it is going to be destroyed, so I think we could do without the jets.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you.

The next speaker is Miss Amanda Gibson.

GE-1

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AMANDA GIBSON, 008048

appeared and gave the following statement:

MISS GIBSON: My name is Amanda Gibson. I live in Owyhee, Nevada. I am a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe.

I don't like the sonic booms. They are very ugly. They make me jump, and they hurt my ears. It makes the school shake. It is ugly. It is not supposed to be here. I don't like it when they come while I am praying. They shouldn't be flying over us at our sacred sites at the Owyhee desert. I also don't like the way they scare my animals. I want them to leave.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Miss Camara Carpenter.

GE-1

DAMARA CARPENTER, 008049

appeared and gave the following statement:

MISS CARPENTER: My name is Damara Carpenter. I'm from Owyhee, Nevada. I'm a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe.

I don't like the noise of the sonic booms, the way they shake the windows or how they scare the little ones and wake them up from their naps. A sacred site should stay sacred and not be disturbed. It may not mean a lot to you, but it means a lot to us.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you.

The next speaker is Eleanor Little Prior.

GE-1

ELEANOR LITTLE PRIOR, 008050

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. PRIOR: My name is Eleanor Little Prior, and I'm a resident of Owyhee, Nevada. I reside in the Idaho portion of the Duck Valley Reservation.

I asked a lot of questions out in the hallway about some of the issues. One particular proposed training range from the Air Force is the Grasmere area, which is about 20 miles north of where we live. That's not very far.

Our hospital is located here in Owyhee, Nevada. We have life flights going through that area. As your location shows us, it's right over Highway 51 just through Grasmere. Our life flights go through there. There may be some agreement that I don't know about, but I still don't think that proposed area would be suitable. I don't believe that would be in our best interest.

Plus, as a matter of fact, I know of burial grounds just west of Grasmere and west of Highway 51 in Juniper, the proposed C Grasmere area. I believe, too, that gaming would be severely affected. I just feel that we've gone through this same kind of thing in the Battle Creek

area, and there was a lot of opposition to that.

Going into the next proposed site for Clover Butte, which approximately would be about 30 miles towards Grasmere to the right of Grasmere. I still feel for the people living in that area. I just really don't envy them if this should materialize.

There also are burial grounds along the Bruneau canyon, which is under your Clover Butte proposed area. I just feel I'm fighting a battle all over again.

Proposal D, the Juniper Butte area, that's just right adjacent to the Clover Butte, and that's still about 30 to 40 miles from where I live at. And I do know that there's people living in that area just on the other side of Bruneau canyon.

When we were fighting the issues and making our wishes known not to have the training range in the Battle Creek area, at that time, you had low flights over our house. And we just spent -- most of our windows were busted and cracked in our house. And to this day, I feel that the Air Force still should have been responsible for that. It cost us over $2,000 to replace our

windows.

I feel the Air Force has as sufficient training ranges as they do now. Saylor Creek is an area that they're training at now. There's a training range in Utah. There's one in Oregon and one in south Nevada that are 30- or 40-minute flights from Mountain Home Air Base.

And I just don't know. With moneys running short and budget cuts, the moneys cut in defense, air base closures, I just don't know why the government would have sufficient money. I just feel that training ranges are sufficient as it is now.

I'm in no way against the Air Force training. I feel it's vital to our nation. And my only other comment would be that I just feel that I'm opposed to all three proposed training sites. Thank you for listening.

COLONEL POPE: Okay. Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker will be Arnold Thomas.

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GE-1 ARNOLD THOMAS, 008051

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. THOMAS: I think you need to make some accommodation for the little green and blue lights.

My name is Arnold Thomas, and I am a member of the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, and I currently reside in Salt Lake City, Utah.

First of all, Native American individuals have been a part of all wars that the United States government has gone through: Vietnam, the Civil War, World War I, World War II. They haven't hesitated one bit to go and fight for their country. I think it's due to partly the United States government. They are giving us the chance right now to listen to our point of view and try to give us an obligation to, you know -- and we object to the training proposal that you have proposed out there in Grasmere.

As the youth have stated, they're against it. The youth are important to our culture. It's part of our tribe, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe.

And, you know, like was stated earlier, there are cultural sites out there. Those sites

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are sacred. They have, you know, some of the Paiute people that were buried out there, and those are our ancestors. We'd like to go out there and worship in our own way.

Maybe it's not to the understanding of other individuals who practice other -- come from other religious groups or who are members of other communities or have no affiliation with Native Americans. But to us Indian people, to the elders, the elders of this community, they want to keep those kids what those sites are out there for. And if we can't teach our youth, what more do we have in our culture? And that's all we've got.

And, like I said, we've got some acreage that we want to propose. But as far as I'm concerned, the government, United States government has not totally been faithful to our people. African Americans in 1940s were lied to. There was a study done on this about venereal diseases and they were lied to. Many African Americans died because of that study. Now, some continue on, you know, lying to us in that fashion.

And I'm totally against this because, you know, I feel like our culture is important to us no matter what religious group you belong to. Our

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culture is important. That's who we are. That's where we come from. Our people are buried out there, and those cultural sites are very, very important to us. I can't state that enough.

And, you know, I read a comment in a magazine. The best site other than the Grand Canyon in the 48 lower states is the Owyhee desert, and I would like to keep it that way. I'm against this proposal, all three sites.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker is Ms. Grace Bukowski.

GE-2 GRACE BUKOWSKI, 008052

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. BUKOWSKI: Hi, everyone. Good evening. My name is Grace Bukowski. I work for the Rural Alliance for Military Accountability. And I'm here tonight -- I'm honored to be here tonight on your reservation and to comment.

I'd first like to say that I'm really sort of sad to be here. This is the fourth time that I've had to come to Idaho and Duck Valley to testify on this proposal, and that makes me sad.

But on the other hand, I'd like to thank

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the Air Force. I think they have enriched my life, all of you.

The first thing I want to say is that you need to be aware that the United States Air Force currently overflies 25 percent of the Native American lands in this country, their figure. That doesn't include the Navy. That doesn't include the Marines. That doesn't include the Army.

What does this tell us? It tells us that they do not respect your sovereignty. They have no right to violate your land or your airspace.

I want to talk a little bit tonight about two issues that you need to be concerned about. The first one is in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, you'll find a comment that there's no SF-1 health impacts associated with the use of chaff.

This is a sample of chaff. I invite anyone in this room to look at it and see how it's broken down. You can tell that this would be blowing around in the wind. It breaks into small particles. It can become lodged in your lungs, not only in your lungs, but the lungs of the birds and the animals. If it becomes caught in your lungs, it's like an insecticide, and we all know what that does. You have potential health risks associated

with that.

Now, the Air Force's documents of these health risks, most recently in the Environmental Impact Statement on the airspace expansion in Alaska. Yet we come to Idaho, and there's no impacts. What's the story? I don't buy it, and neither should you.

In Nevada, this has been a big issue. They have already dropped ten trillion fibers of this on Nevada. Okay?

Right now, they're proposing. What they're doing right now, they estimate that each cartridge of this has between 500,000 and 3 million fibers in it. So right now with them dropping 27,000 cartridges of this a year, you're getting between 13.5 billion and 81 billion fibers of this dropped on our land.

And that's not all. They want to increase it by 50 percent. So we're talking anywhere between 27 billion and 160 billion fibers of this dropped onto our land. It's not okay.

They have never done a human health risk study on chaff. It doesn't exist. But since we don't have a study, therefore, there's no health risk. I don't buy it, and neither should you.

The second thing I'd like to talk about is we heard tonight that they're going to drop an ordinance on this ranch. And you don't have to worry about this because it's not a live bomb. Okay? I've got ordinances that have this little so-called little puff. That's going to come out. We heard them say it.

Well, what's that puff? Anybody here know? It's titanium tetrachloride. Oh, lovely stuff. You'd want to inhale it. Trust me. I'm being sarcastic, folks. This is nasty, nasty stuff.

I have a report here done by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. This is dangerous stuff. It can potentially kill you. You don't want to inhale it. It's dangerous. And I have copies of the executive summary back there. HZ-2

But, anyway, what this means to all of you is that if the Air Force gets its bombing range, you have to say good-bye to that land. It's going to be poison. It's going to die.

And after 13 years of working on this issue, I want to say to you people on this reservation, we love you. Stay away from it. It's

dangerous. And I'm saying that from my heart. They will kill the land. And it will be gone forever because they don't know how to clean it up. They just don't know how to clean it up.

COLONEL POPE: Okay. Are you finished with your comments?

MS. BUKOWSKI: I have one more statement.

COLONEL POPE: You're well past your time, but I'll give you additional time at the end of the hearing.

MS. BUKOWSKI: The only thing I want to say to the United States Air Force is that until you change your policy on releasing draft environmental assessments to the public, we cannot trust anything you say, because they can tell you that they're going to do one thing one day. They'll do an in-house environmental assessment. You won't have the opportunity to participate in that decision-making process. It will change, and it's done, and you're out of it.

COLONEL POPE: Okay, ma'am. Thank you.

MS. BUKOWSKI: Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Once again, any items that you want to be made part of the record you have to submit. For the record, you were holding up a

plastic bag containing something and also some documents.

MS. BUKOWSKI: I will be submitting them.

COLONEL POPE: That's up to you.

All right. The next speaker is LaDawna Rose.

LADAWNA ROSE, 0030053 GE-1

appeared and gave the following statement:

MISS ROSE: My name is LaDawna Rose. I'm a Shoshone-Paiute from Owyhee, Nevada.

I get very scared of all the jets flying around. When my great grandmother was dying, bless her soul, she only ate native foods. She said the white man foods didn't taste good. She ate very little. So whatever she wanted to eat, my family would make it for her. And now it makes me feel sad to think of how you, the people, don't think it's very important if you scare our animals off or affect their coming into this world.

My great grandmother also used herbs and ate berries to make her feel better. My family and I would go out and pick what she needed to make tea, smudge, or just to have in case she or any

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other family members needed them. These herbs and roots are also found in the Owyhee desert.

It makes me sad to think someday we will be cut off from going to the Owyhee desert by locked gates and the beautiful animals and birds scared off by the wild jets. I would hate to have a bombing range close by.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker is Mr. Ralph E. Scissons.

GE-1 008054

RALPH E. SCISSONS,

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. SCISSONS: I was hoping that your arrangement of the speakers wouldn't put me behind one of the youth because it's hard to follow them. They're right on in their presentation.

Good evening, Colonel Pope. My name is Ralph Scissons. I'm here as the chairman of the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Health Board. And there has been a variety of issues already addressed, and we could go back and look at them all again, but I want to focus on two.

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One is the impact that this expansion may have on our hospital. The other is, as a taxpayer, I think we've visited this issue long enough. Yes, I'm a taxpayer, in spite of what the stereotyped image is about Native Americans not paying taxes. I want let you know that when President Reagan was governor of California, I paid more taxes in one of those particular years than he did. So I am a taxpayer. I'm glad to be one.

I support the Air Force's training. I am not opposed to training. I think that, as Ted Howard said, that in the Pipeline, there is a reference that the composite wing is the most well-prepared unit in the military system. And I think that is true. There is evidence of that.

As a matter of fact, many scholars have studied this very well. And there is no evidence in any of your documents testifying to need necessity except to say enhancement. Now, those are two different words. enhancement and necessity. They're a long ways apart.

What I'm concerned about, though, is what Eleanor talked about, and that is you know how isolated we are here. All of you have to come in here this evening, so you know that we are at least

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a hundred miles from Mountain Home and approximately 150 from Boise.

Many of our emergency evacuations are by helicopter. We even are trying to propose a contract for fixed-wing evacuation, which would be much more reasonable than helicopter. So that airspace is very vital to us. And emergencies don't occur when you're not practicing. They occur 24 hours a day.

The other issue, as I said, that I wanted to focus on, is I believe that the government has spent enough on this unnecessary expansion of the bombing range. As a taxpayer, I am opposed to it. I favor Alternative A.

Thank you very much and good evening.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker is Renee Dufault.

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GE-1 008055

RENEE DUFAULT,

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. DUFAULT: My name is Renee Dufault, and I'm a commissioned officer being hailed by the Environmental Protection Agency to serve as the director of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Environment Protection Program.

Colonel Richey covered Alternatives B, C, and D, but he neglected to mention the fourth alternative, Alternative A. Alternative A is the no action alternative. Under this alternative, the Air Force would not be allowed to build the enhancement training range.

Alternative A is the only alternative the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes will accept at this point. The Shoshone-Paiute are active in the preservation of all environmental resources. Under Alternative A, the no action alternative, there will be no impacts on human health or the environment.

Many tribal members feel that the existing Saylor Creek range and the remote ranges are sufficient space to provide the needed training areas. These areas have already been exposed to adverse effects and should continue to be used for

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their designated purposes. If the Saylor Creek range does not provide for realistic training opportunities, surely it can be modified to meet the requirements for training.

Many of us here have seen the hardship of those of our military personnel when they must be deployed to train at remote ranges. Many of us here ourselves have served in the military. Some of us are Vietnam veterans. Military personnel must remember that deployment is a way of life of the military.

Military personnel must also remember that they signed an oath when they volunteered to serve in the military. Upon signing this oath, each member swore to obey the orders of the president of the United States and the orders of their commanding officers. When military personnel are deployed, they are ordered to do so by their commanding officer. If the military personnel do not want to deploy, then maybe they should not be in the military.

The tribes understand training in remote ranges costs money. We know it would be more efficient to train as they come, but we are sure that your commander in chief, President Clinton,

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provides you, the Air Force, with enough money to pay for any needed training missions.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker is Lahsha Johnston. I hope I'm pronouncing your name correctly.

MS. JOHNSTON: You actually said it right.

GE-2 LAHSHA JOHNSTON, 005056

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. JOHNSTON: Good evening. My name is Lahsha Johnston. I'm here representing The Wilderness Society from Boise, Idaho.

I have a few comments specific to the Environmental Impact Statement, and then I would like to make some other comments.

One of the things that I found in going through the Environmental Impact Statement is that, currently, the use of airspace for supersonic flight by the Air Force, as described in the 1992 Air Force and Idaho Environmental Impact Statement, has not been approved by the FAA. And this issue DP-74 is not clearly addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

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Basically, it says that we are going to expect that the FAA is going to approve the use of the airspace. And if it hasn't been approved yet and it has to do with making sure that this range proposal -- you know, it's a connected action to this range proposal, then all of the effects of having supersonic flight must be analyzed in this DP-5 Environmental Impact Statement. It's a cumulative effect. And under NEPA, it must be looked at together.

Also, the purpose and need section of the Environmental Impact Statement refers to the Air Force's Rapid Response Air Expeditionary Wing, and PN-16 it seems to imply to be separate from the 366th Wing. And I would like a little more information, not now. But at some point, I would like that as to how it relates to the 366th Wing and its training.

Also, something I have noticed in the Environmental Impact Statement is that when it refers to cultural resources, it talks about sites. It talks about buildings, historical districts. There is no mention of things which are CU-13 not tangible in terms of values, which culture is value, things that are not physical but things that

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have importance to cultures. And this needs to be looked at in detail in the Environmental Impact Statement.

And, also, all of the alternatives assume that the FAA is going to approve proposed airspace DP-12 modifications to increase the ceiling to 18,000 feet above ground level. It has not been approved at this point. Even Alternative A does not address this issue. And I would like to see some other details on that.

Now, I would like to talk about specifically what I have seen as far as the emitter sites in Idaho. I'm sure all of you are familiar with the Grasmere emitter site that is just south of the Grasmere station. That site is under a BLM lease. It's called a right-of-way. And that site is exactly the same type of situation as all 30 sites in this proposal.

That is under BLM management. And within the last five years, since that site was approved, the Air Force doubled the size of the site without prior notification or approval from the BLM or the public. If these 30 emitter sites are scattered across the Owyhee desert, within five to ten years, they will double, if not quadruple, in size. The

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Air Force will invest millions of dollars on these sites and then withdraw the land from public use. Your access will be cut off, and this has been done in Nevada. It's not something they don't know about.

So I would encourage you all to take a look at Grasmere and see and remember that when they approve these, especially under a right-of-way agreement as the new Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal, you will be shut out of this process, and the Bureau of Land Management will not step in to let the public know.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The next speaker is Ms. Edith Manning.

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GE-1 EDITH MANNING, 008057

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. MANNING: My name is Edith Manning. I'm a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, and I reside in Duck Valley Reservation on the Idaho side. I am also one of the planners for the tribe.

One of the areas that needs to be looked into a lot more is the effect that it's going to have on our economic development. Many years ago, we had salmon come up from the Pacific Ocean, and it was a mainstay of our people in this area. And look what happened in the name of progress. All the dams from the Columbia, Snake, and the Owyhee cut off the fisheries.

We are just beginning to make way for the developed fisheries that's in tune with our lifestyle here. We're doing economic development that protects our wildlife, that protects our current fisheries. We're going to build a new lake.

You're proposing to expand in the Wild Horse area. That is also part of our economic development. We have camping sessions up there.

We have people come in from all over

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California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah to fish in our areas. They've been coming here for 30 years.

When you increased this, we finally got you to stop a lot of the sonic booms. It's not only our culture which is most important, but it's our future life here that this EIS needs to look at.

This gentleman here hit the nail on the head when he said we like to sit out. We like our peace and quiet. This peace and quiet means bringing economic development to us, and we'd like to keep it that way.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The last scheduled speaker at this time is Chairman Paiva.

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GE-1 JAMES A. PAIVA, 008059

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. PAIVA: I want to focus on a couple things. Senator Harry Reid, a Democrat from Nevada, said he opposes the military's enhanced training range plan because it uses 126 acres in Nevada airspace east of Duck Valley and Duck Valley. And he feels that the Pendleton Naval Air Station and Nellis Air Force Base has contributed more than its share for the good of the nation.

Now, I want to hit on one other thing, that this tribe, in the last 50 years, has been fighting for our ground, our aquifer. We've been fighting for our mother rights, and now we're fighting for our airspace. And it's been in the last 50 years. And I'm a taxpayer, too.

And at this point, I think the tribe will support Alternative No. A, and I want to thank you.

COLONEL POPE: I've just been handed two additional cards, so we have two more speakers. Ms. Lena Black?

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GE-1 LENA BLACK, 005059

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. BLACK: Hello, my people. I want to ask you something. When do the government fulfill its promise to the Indian people? They never fulfill their word and what their promise is to the people. The promise still stands, because I live in Idaho. I'm a resident of Idaho. And I don't want that bombing range to be going on closer to where our reservation is.

The government should know what it's doing. It never promises the Indian people to the peace white and friendship and where are they? What happened? They should think about that.

The sacred ground, they know. That's why we call it a sacred ground. It used to be an old boundary, but they're not old boundary. The government should know and talk for the people and do the right way to the Indian people, not doing themselves. They're supposed to listen to the Indian people.

The creators are one. They put everything on this mother earth for the Indian people to survive with. I don't want to see

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something happen like this without the promise to this day.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

The last speaker is Mr. Joe Prior.

GE-1 JOE PRIOR, 005060

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. PRIOR: Good evening, folks. I'll introduce myself first. My name is Joe Prior. I'm a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe on the reservation.

And I've been through the proposal, and we would reject the Battle Creek area. We've been through that before. We fought our battles down at the courthouse. And I oppose that Grasmere proposal. We oppose that.

But it's good to see you guys out there. But one thing I wanted to remind you is that this is Indian country. And years ago, when the Army came to this reservation, the War Department looked after the Indians, but that's never been done. So now they've put us out here and then they want us to go there, and now we want back our land, our

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sacred land, our hunting grounds. But we'll fight all the way, like we did before. And, you know, that's kind of back horse words, but that's the way I feel about the whole thing.

I don't like what the Air Force does. It flies over our place. Broke all my windows out. They're so damn cheap they won't even buy me new windows to replace the windows. They said tough luck. And I hope someday the good Lord will punish that Air Force.

That's all I've got to say, partner, except we're never going to give up. Just like Terry said, this is our land, and we're going to keep it our land, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe. So you guys remember that. We have to look back at the higher people to help us out. Okay?

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, those are all the people identified through the card system that would like to make a comment tonight. Is there anyone else who has not identified themselves that would like to make a comment at this public hearing?

(No response.)

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COLONEL POPE: Okay. I don't see any takers.

All right. I've discussed this with the court reporter. She needs a break. Is there any speaker who would like to make an additional comment? I'd like to take a break before we do that. Mr. Gibson has his hand up. Would anybody else like to? Okay. We have two. And anyone else? Are these people who spoke before? Okay. If you can give me your name so I can know how much time we have left. All right.

Let's take about a ten-minute recess. Okay.

(Recess.)

COLONEL POPE: Ladies and gentlemen, if you would retake your seats. I've been advised of the names of two people who have not spoken before, so I'm going to call them first. They'll have the normal three minutes and some time to wrap up their final comments.

So if Marjorie Puella is in the room?

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GE-2

MARJORIE PUELLA, 008061

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. PUELLA: My name is Marjorie Hall Puella. I am a Shoshone. I don't really live here anymore, but still I feel that I need to say something.

I live in Papago, Arizona, which is 70 miles west of Tucson, Arizona where Davis Motham Air Force Base is located. And we've had this very similar problem on the reservation where I live where people were complaining about all the noise and destruction and scaring of the animals and making cracks in the building walls, which are not very easy to redo.

I remember one teacher who heard the planes flying over the school buildings. She told her students to duck under the table, I mean, under their desks, and they did. And, unfortunately, she was standing by the window and it shattered the window and cut her on the leg. And that's documented with the Air Force because they had to pay her medical expenses.

The other thing that I was very curious about is I read here in the papers how at Davis Motham they've been worried for the past several

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years that they were on the closure list for the military. And my question is, how come Mountain Home Air Force Base wants to expand when the military is downsizing everything else? That, you know, has been plaguing my mind since I have been sitting here in the audience.

PN-1

And I am concerned, like the rest of the people that spoke earlier, that the -- and I have just been reading a lot of Nevada and Idaho history about all of the injustices that have been done to the Indian people, and I guess maybe you just got my Indian up today.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

I have received an additional card of a person who has not spoken before. The next speaker is Mr. Robert Bear.

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GE-1

ROBERT BEAR, 008062

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. BEAR: My name is Robert Bear. I'm the national resources director for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe. And it really makes me happy to see this many people involved, especially our elders and our youth.

I pretty much agree with my brethren on this area of all the proposed areas, especially the sensitive areas around Crasmere. I simply remember what my grand folks used to tell me. And I've listened to what my elders said. And the youth, they're really involved right now. And it makes me happy to know that.

As you know, you've heard from all aspects from our tribe; our youth, our elders, our concerns from our tribal council chairman and our tribal chairman and as others came here to speak tonight. And it's going to really affect, not only our way of life, but our future for our youth.

Pretty much once this land is taken over, from what I see, it never can be taken back as we're having some problems with the mines, as you all know. As soon as you hear the mine, you know

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what's going to happen to the ground and pretty much the life around it. And that's one of my main concerns here.

This is only a Draft EIS, and I'm really worried about what is going to be in the final. And as for me as the natural resources director, I oppose all the areas for this bombing range.

And that's all I have to say tonight.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you, Robert Bear.

Apparently, we're getting additional comments, but the next speaker is Mr. Johnson Jackson.

GE-1

JOHNSON JACKSON, 008063

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. JACKSON: Hello. I'm the pastor at the Assembly of God Church here on the reservation.

In looking through this whole process that started several years back, one of the things I feel that is very unfair to our Indian people here is that there is a land grab that is going on. And this is has taken place in times past where it was just taken because of greed and because of the financial gain that people would get

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from it. And it was always at the expense of our Indian people. And I feel that it shouldn't happen. We have been stepped on long enough.

And there are many times that people in the media, the Idaho Statesman as well as the various television and radio stations, have used this process to treat our Indian people as though they are the enemy. And as Arnold stated earlier, we have people who served in war that actually gave their lives in service for this country. And I feel that it is unfair that, because of all the negative that is happening here against your proposal, that they should treat us in that manner when we have done what we can in serving our country.

And so I feel that it would be beneficial for the Air Force, regardless of the support of the proposal or the support or the opposition of these proposals, that you should be able to make a statement that regardless of the opposition, that the Indian people here are not your enemies and they shouldn't be treated as such by the media. I feel that they have taken full advantage of treating our people in this way in the negative responses that they have given about our people

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here.

And I've got one more comment, and this kind of brings out the radical part of me that you guys have never seen. And I just say this jokingly, but in times past, the Air Force has stated that there are no low-level flights over the reservation, and I have seen them. I have seen them where they have been as low as the roof of this building over me, over my home.

And I would just like to make the comment or this question. Would it be okay if our people and the surrounding ranchers when you are stating that they are limited in how low they can fly, can we mark them when they fly low to prove to you that they are violating their direct orders?

And I'm just saying that. I would never do it myself. But I want you to know that they do fly low.

And it does hurt the people. It hurts the children. When we first got here six years ago, my children ran into the house because of the sonic booms. And I remember the windows, the doors shaking, literally shaking as a result of that. And I directly oppose any of the ranges that will go out here because of that and because of the

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lives that the Air Force and the state of Idaho have pulled from our people.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments.

I have one remaining new speaker, and that's Ms. Debbie Gibson.

GE-1 DEBBIE GIBSON, 008064 appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. GIBSON: Hi. My name is Debbie Gibson, and I live here on Duck Valley.

I have three children that are tribal members, and we all practice the traditional ways. And it's real tough for these kids growing up nowadays, and we really depend on our traditional ways to try to keep them on this good road.

And when they're trying to pray and the jets come over, it cuts you off from praying. And it's real sad because these kids need that.

And the sonic booms, man, they're something else. We've moved into a new house now, but before, we used to live in a trailer. And when them booms would come, it would throw people off the couches. I mean, it threw somebody off the couch, and he was pretty dang mad about it. He

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almost got shot out of the air that time.

Anyhow, you guys, you've got to think about the youth. I mean, in town, you know, you have all these problems with the kids and the drugs and alcohol. And we're trying real hard here to keep our kids from doing that, and we depend on these ways for that. And when we depend on these ways, we can't have the jets interfering with us, or the booms interfering with us like that.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you.

All right. I have four people who have indicated they would like to finish up their comments. This hearing has to end at a reasonable hour. If you take too long or talk too long, the person waiting to speak, it would make it difficult for them. So I'm going to ask you if you would limit your comments to five more minutes.

I'm also going to remind you that you should be commenting on the Environmental Impact Statement. If you go off on other tangents, you're actually making it harder for the people reviewing your comments to find the ones that relate specifically to the proposal, so you would do yourself a good service if you would do that.

So the first speaker to begin again would be Terry Gibson. If you would give him a one-minute warning after four minutes.

GE-1 TERRY GIBSON, 008065 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. GIBSON: Thank you, Colonel, for hearing us again.

I want to speak a little bit to our people out here, as a leader of this tribe. Something that came about a couple of months ago is that the United States Air Force, through Senator Kempthorne's office, has transferred authority or is attempting to transfer authority of this bombing range over to the National Guard.

I think the Air Force needs to know that the National Guard is the predecessor of the Idaho volunteers. The Idaho volunteers are the people that came and hunted other people down and caused all of these burial sites out in the Owyhee desert. They came down and they hunted our people down, and they force-marched them from Fort Simcoe, Washington in the dead of winter. There was around 800 people that went. And they took them across

the Columbia River where, in the middle of the Columbia River, they shot a lot of them with bullets full of holes.

Our people were held as prisoners of war for five years. Upon their release, they were released back to go to their homeland in the Boise/Bruneau valleys. When they got back to their homeland, the immigrants had taken up all of their land.

The Boise and Bruneau valley, which is referenced in your EIS, has a great bearing upon what we're talking about here. The federal government does not own this land that is in question here. Those treaties seeded that land to the federal government.

However, the United States Congress did not ratify those treaties, but there is no mechanism or no legal transfer of these lands to the federal government. They are still owned by the Shoshone-Paiute people.

This is what I forgot to give in my testimony because this is going to become a legal issue in this whole process. And there's three senators that are on the board that are willing to take this issue up, because I know in the EIS, you

state that you guys are not responsible for any treaties or anything like that. But the BLM and the Department of Interior is responsible for this, and we will push for you people to show us that you have title to these lands.

Our people depend on these areas. What these folks and my people are saying about sonic booms, you have not come down and replaced windows that have been broken. You have not repaired walls that have been cracked. You have not helped any rancher out that has been bucked off of his horse because of these low overflights. You people totally disrespect us.

And I say we are part of this process. And as a leader of this tribe, I have dedicated myself to be part of this process until you folks deviate away from that process that the secretary has laid out for us. You folks chose to ignore his orders.

Also, Senator Kempthorne told us that if we were part of this process, that we would have jobs at this training range. We would have contracts to build fences. We would have contracts to build facilities. Now we see it's all going to the National Guard, so this tribe is no longer

involved in it.

I want to quote to you words of our chief who is still living today, Chief Eagle Tail of the Paiute and Shoshone people. His words are, "We are a peaceful people. But if you push us, if you push us into a forum, we will fight." And that's where we stand today.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you.

GE-2 Ted Howard may speak again. The same rules, five minutes, so somebody else will get a chance also.

TED HOWARD, 008066 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. HOWARD: Thank you.

I'd like to touch a little bit on an issue that was touched on by the lady that spoke about the downsizing of the military.

The military has downsized quite a lot, but they have not relinquished any airspace. So, therefore, I feel that they have more than enough airspace to play in.

And another thing I wanted to touch on is

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our veterans here. We have a lot of veterans among us. Robert that spoke is a Desert Storm veteran. Some of our other brothers that were here have probably gone home. But we have veterans from every world war and every conflict that the United States has ever been involved in.

And what I'm speaking at is I spoke a little bit about this on my tour in South Carolina and Virginia. But there was a comment that was made here one time that a little bit of noise is a small price to pay for your freedom. And I think the Native American people have paid quite a lot for this freedom. And we have our brothers here, our people that have fought in these conflicts that have gave their lives for their freedom.

And one of the things that we spoke about when we was in Fort Langley, Langley, Virginia, is I spoke on this a little bit. I said, you people say the ultimate price to give for your country is one's life. We have our people, not only from this reservation, but from throughout the Indian communities throughout the country. We have served the country, and we have paid with our lives, and out here in this land in question in Idaho and Nevada, we have our ancestors that also paid the

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ultimate price for their freedom.

And that's why this land is very important to us, what happens out there, as Terry touched on the unratified treaties on the Idaho side. But there is one, the Ruby Doughty treaty on the Nevada side, that I believe there's still a lot of negotiations to be gone through as far as the land status in Nevada. CU-14

So no matter which way you turn, Indian lands are involved and Native Americans are always involved in that. And I just wanted to share those things.

And also I want to speak a little bit about the airspace. The airspace, to us, is very important because we are also a community, as Mr. Scissons spoke. He's still sitting there.

We're looking a little bit at air ambulance service, and right now we have life flight work out of Saint Al's. And if this bombing range becomes a reality, we cannot risk having the airspace north of us or maybe even over the top of us being restricted; because once the airspace is restricted, that means we cannot fly in that airspace without prior permission from the controlling agency, which in this case is Mountain

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Home Air Force Base. And as a community, it is very important that we have our freedom to be able to move in whichever way we need to move at any time.

And I think with a little respect to the people, again, that you people have enough airspace to play in. And I think it's very important that we be able to -- as a sovereign nation, we need to be able to move around, too.

But those are the things I wanted to talk about. And in respect to our veterans here, as I was saying earlier, you know, a lot of our people -- Ed was one of them. He was a Special Forces helicopter pilot that died on the Cambodian border. Another one of our brothers that died over there was Larry Parker. He was on his second or third tour over there. But these are the kind of people that we have. And someone else was a well-decorated veteran. He was here earlier. And we have a lot of decorated veterans that served in Vietnam and other wars. I myself served in the Central Highlands in 1968 to '69 with the Fourth Infantry Division.

And I ask you people to consider those things and respect the Native American people in

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that way because, as Terry said, we still continue to fight today. We are still warriors today, but only we fight in paper nowadays.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you.

All right. Ms. Carrie Dan will speak again.

CARRIE DAN, 008067 GE-1

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. DAN: Hi. Well, I was talking about the traditional way of life of the western Shoshone and the Paiute people. They're not very different. And the respect that we have for all life that lives on this earth. We call this earth our mother. And sacredness of the water that's on it. Also, the sacredness of the air. This is very important to us, because if there is no air or movement of the air -- we call it the winds -- there would also be no life. Let us take the sun in tune with one's life. So we have four important things: the sun, the air, the water, and the earth.

I see, as I come from Nevada, we have a

military takeover of the state of Nevada. We have Nellis Air Force base down south. We have a Navy base. And now it's being spoken of the Mountain Home Air Force Base of Idaho wants to use X amount of the lands here in Nevada.

When you use these lands, what you're doing is practicing destruction, practicing destruction and destroying not only an Indian life but all life.

The state of Nevada seems to do a lot of nuclear testing above and below ground. Above ground, they contaminate the air. Below ground, they contaminate our earth and our water. And today we are going to have also the nuclear waste, and this is what you guys are practicing for, how to drop nuclear bombs.

I want to address the environment of the nuclear industry, which I'm sure that you people are also involved with. Like if you drop a nuclear bomb whether it's on Idaho lands. You used to have Russia as your number one enemy. Whether it was North Korea or China or the Arabs today, it doesn't make any difference.

This type of warfare that you're talking about is to destroy life, life as we know it on the

earth. Because, as you know, the contamination from nuclear bombs causes problems worldwide through the air contamination. Because if you drop that nuclear bomb on us today, immediately the people close by will expire. Those a little further out will get sicker. The further out you go, they will get more sicker but slower.

And to practice in the destruction of life, I can't understand that. And I'm sure that this is what you're testing for is how to hit your enemy, so-called enemy. In this case, the enemy would be life, not only affecting human kind, but to all life as we know it. I cannot see the practice to destroy life no matter who they are, whether they're Arabs or they're Koreans or they're Russians, whoever they are.

The practice the military is conducting is to destroy life, not on a small scale, but on large scale. You want to contaminate the land. You will contaminate the waters. You will kill life. And this is how I see the military. I think this is wrong.

I see a lot of people say I am a Christian. I believe in Christianity. Did Christ say to go out and kill your neighbor? Did Christ

say to go out and destroy the earth? I do believe he said, if someone turns the other cheek, turn around. If we ever have to decide something very powerful. And what they know today probably, they call it a sick game. That's what they get.

Sure, we have squirmages. Everybody has squirmages. I have them. But we don't go out there to kill each other. We go out there to practice skill which is more apt or more capable of winning games.

I hear a lot of these people talk about closing the different Air Force bases or the different kind of military bases. Sure, they close the ones closest to the big cities. They bring them all out here so that you guys can ask for more land, because you think we are few people out here so you sacrifice our lives. I offer this.

COLONEL POPE: You need to complete your thought. You're two minutes past five.

MS. DAN: I think that everybody should have a good life. And to have sonic booms destroy your ways is wrong. And I don't think that you people in the United States Air Force should have this land that you're asking her.

Thank you. And I don't think it's your

land to have, anyway.

COLONEL POPE: The last speaker to speak again is Ms. Grace Bukowski.

GE-2 GRACE BUKOWSKI, 005068

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. BUKOWSKI: Hi, again. I have a question regarding the Environmental Impact Statement.

Throughout the Draft Environmental impact Statement, the criteria used for this bombing range also notes a criteria for composite wing training of a conventional range meaning a range where live bombs are dropped. My question to the United PN-4 States Air Force is, when is this going to come forward and how long is it going to be before we're going to see this proposal in Idaho as well? Because the criteria is obviously written into this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I stated in 1989 that I did not feel that this was justified because there had never been a national needs assessment done. It still hasn't been done. They still can't justify the expansion. And I would urge the Department of Defense to get it together. We need a national

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needs assessment with some independent oversight including the Department of Interior and the FAA and all branches of the military. We're not going to accept a national needs assessment from the Air Force alone.

I'd also like to put on the record that it's time that we have a program-managed Environmental Impact Statement or activities in Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. The reason I say this is Eric hit the nail on the head. Oh, yes.

Base closure realignment is nothing more than a scam on the American people when it comes to natural resources. Okay? You look at what's happened at other base closure and realignment. Oh, yeah, they closed down bases in the city and they're moving everything to the west. Why? Because there's fewer of us, so we're the expendable population.

There is an expansion in every one of these states. Utah, the Air Force wants to double the size of the Lusind Mowah (phonetic), and we all know what that is. In Nevada, they want to double everything. I mean, everything they've got they want to double. Idaho, you know about it.

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Colorado, the Colorado Airspace Commission. New Mexico is a nightmare. I don't even want to go into that. They want new airspace. They want to send missiles across the state. They want to be Germans with a bombing range.

So there's a big picture out there which no one is looking at the impacts on the western United States.

I also want to comment that when I read this Environment Impact Statement Draft -- do any of you remember Mad magazine? Alfred E. Newman used to say, what? Me worry? He kept popping in my head. And the reason he kept popping in my head is that 13 years reading Environmental Impact Statements for a living -- and I admit I'm a bit touched to be able to do this -- this is the most sanitized document I've ever seen. They say, oh, yeah, we're going to do this, but don't worry about it. It's not going to have any impact.

The Environmental Impact Statement is severely lacking particularly on noise. And the reason I say that is, as you all know, you've seen three proposals before this. None of those proposals have flown. The courts ruled they're illegal. It hasn't happened. The Idaho training

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range, the Saylor Creek. I forget all the names.

Yet in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement, you're not going to find any analysis of cumulative noise impacts. And when I say that, you don't have any analysis of the sonic booms. They say, oh, we did that back then. But the court ruled that that was illegal and that they hadn't done that adequately.

And you find no analysis of military training routes. Well, the military routes are the routes which the jets come over you at real low altitudes. Okay? So they're the routes, other than the sonic booms, that have the most impact to noise.

The other problem with the noise analysis, of course, is they average it over 24 hours a month, a year. I'm sure that when this sonic boom comes, you go, oh, well, I'll average that over the next 24 hours. It didn't hurt my ears. Don't you think that is what happens? I know I don't.

The other thing I want to make you aware of that worries me quite a bit is what is happening in Nevada, and I see I have a very similar situation. In the mid-1980s, the Naval Air Station

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put approximately 30 emitter sites on public lands in Nevada. Through right-of-ways to the BLM, we now have 69 sites, okay, and they want to build another 35.

Well, because they put all these sites on public lands in Nevada, they now say, well, there is a human health risk. There's a health risk from electromagnetic radiation as well as the overflights. And, therefore, we now want to withdraw 92,000 acres.

I'm just telling you this is what's happened to us. So I want to make you aware that if they get this, it probably isn't going to be the end of the show. It just hasn't worked that way.

I would again urge the United States Air Force, in a positive manner, to change their policy on environmental assessments. The public deserves the right to see these in draft form. They have a right to comment on your activities which affect our lives.

Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: All right. Thank you for your input.

Is there any person here who has not spoken at all and has not had a chance to make

input tonight at the public hearing?

(No response.)

COLONEL POPE: I do not see any takers.

All right. I would remind you that you certainly may send in written comments, and they will get the same consideration as comments that were presented tonight, and you have until 6 August 1997 to do that.

If there is nothing further, thank you for your attendance. This hearing is adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at 9:50 p.m.)

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BOISE, IDAHO

Thursday, June 12, 1997, 6:30 p.m.

COLONEL POPE: We'll deal with the public officials first. The first speaker will be State Senator Robbi King.

GE-1 ROBBI KING, 008069

appeared and made the following statement:

ROBBI KING: Thank you Colonel. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the United States Air Force for allowing me to testify this evening.

I am Idaho State Senator Robbi King. I represent Legislative District 20, which includes all of Owyhee County and the largest portion of Elmore County. These two counties will be directly impacted by the decision that will result from these scoping hearings.

As we all well know, the United States Department of Defense is in the process of reducing our military forces, with this downsizing, it becomes increasingly clear that flight crew training capabilities must be economically advantageous and of superior training quality. The

Air Force has indicated that there is a need for an enhanced training range in Idaho, and I support their decision. I believe that we should rely on the judgment of the people who will be called upon to protect Idaho and this nation in times of conflict.

Clearly, available airspace in the Saylor Creek range has certain restrictions that potentially reduce opportunities for realistic training. The limitations placed on air crew training in the Saylor Creek range create an accustomed standard of approach which obviously reduces the opportunity for realistic training. It has been suggested in these public hearings by individuals opposing the expansion that the continued training in Utah and Nevada would be the choice they would recommend. It is my opinion, after reviewing the EIS, that this recommendation is neither advantageous for combat readiness nor financially feasible to the defense of this nation. The 366th Wing will have to take the leftover training opportunities at a much greater cost. The deployment of additional personal to support training in the remote location will utilize valuable training time at a much higher cost than

training at home.

I believe also that the environmental concerns expressed in the previous scoping hearings have been addressed in this proposal. The Air Force has downsized its original proposal to the current 12,000 acres. This proposal would allow training of aircrew on a variation of smaller targets utilizing non-explosive ordinances. The live ordinance proposal was a point of contention by opponents in the past.

The issue of wildlife depredation has also been a point of contention by opponents of this proposal. I have testified at these scopings previously as a member of the House of Representatives. At that time the Idaho Legislature made a commitment to the citizens of this state that included two full-time wildlife biologists with the Department of Fish and Game to monitor and manage the impact area, thus giving state wildlife officials greater influence and management tools.

It's interesting to me and also a matter of public record that the department has indicated that the wildlife impact previously implied was not an accurate consideration. The current status of

potentially impacted wildlife does not support the concerns previously represented by the former director of the Department of Fish and Game.

In closing I would like to express that I would be remiss in my duties as an elected official of Elmore and Owyhee counties if I did not express the concerns that have been forwarded to me. The Owyhee County Commissioners have indicated that there is a major concern for operation and maintenance of additional roads necessary for this proposal.

The state legislature has mandated that local government not increase expenditures by more than 3 percent. However, I'm confident that these concerns will be addressed by the Air Force. The communication with the county is currently progressing and I believe that the resolution is forthcoming. I'm also concerned with the ranchers who will be directly impacted by both alternatives C and D. I am sure we can monitor the ongoing negotiations to ensure that their needs are a priority. Thank you, sir.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments. Personal comments shouldn't be made at this hearing. It doesn't help anyone. The next speaker

is Mr. Cy Thacker a member of the tribal council.

GE-1 CY THACKER: 008070

Appeared and made the following statements:

MR. THACKER: I would like to thank the Air Force for inviting me here to speak to this forum. And my name is Cy Thacker, I'm with the Shoshonee-Paiute tribe of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

Recently, the president signed to protect our Native American sacred sites. Most recently our healer, the medicine man, was able to go into the hospital and go in and perform his religious ritual to the sick. You know our religious sacred has been violated all these years, and finally has been realized that we have -- they had been violating our religious rights. And therefore our medicine man healers are able to go into the hospitals and perform the ritual to our people.

Our people are one of the most sacred religious people that ever lived in this continent. Now, this area that the Air Force wants has many sacred sites. I have been and walked in this area and I have seen it. Cultural resources is not only

rocks. Petroglyphs. They are plants, roots, birds and animals. Most recently here we have went into combat with -- the Air Force went into Desert Storm and according to the report they done a very, very good job in this battle. Why would the Air Force want more if we really have a good Air Force training facilities around the country. Therefore, I'm against this bombing range area. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. If you applaud, it will take 15 seconds to recognize the next speaker and that's just going to make this hearing longer. I would appreciate your interest in the next speaker rather than slow things down. The next speaker is Mr. Terri Gibson, also of the tribal council.

GE-2 TERRI GIBSON, 008071

appeared and made the following statement:

MR. GIBSON: Thank you, Colonel. Colonel Richie. It's a pleasure to be here in front of you folks again today. My name is Terri Gibson; I am a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe's business counsel and I want to comment on the Draft EIS that you folks have produced.

This is a copy of the cultural resources technical report which is confidential and I finally received this report, my tribe received this report on Monday, the day of our hearing and that saddens me that that would be kept from us. It saddens me even further when I go through this report and it's only an archaeologist's point of view of what he thinks is out there and what he determines by stones and bones. Not by coming and talking to our people, not by telling us we went out to them sites with this individual, but there is nothing in here that reflects what we were talking about in that. This report attempts to tell the tribes how we came to what we call Biobosoga, the place of the big roots. It attempts to tell us through a migration theory how we came to seehokee (Shoshone) where my great-grandmother was born. Seehokee (Shoshone) is now called Boise.

It leans toward identifying historical resources as traditional cattle and sheepmen. It says our things that the tribes are interested in are prehistoric. Prehistoric to who? We don't have a prehistory, you folks have a prehistory. We want to use the area to go and do the things that we practice at. The thing that we use to worship the

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mother earth, the water, the plants, the animals, which to us is all a cultural resource. None of this is identified in this highly sanitized document that you folks, through your hired guns, FAIC, decided to produce for us.

The Air Force tells us that if we want to use these area to go in and pray, they will come and unlock the gates for us so that we can go and worship at our sacred sites. The United States Air Force is telling us that this is freedom of religion. Enhanced training. Now, that's the key word, "enhanced," and as my brother spoke earlier you have the best military in the world, you have sites to use. This is just an enhancement. Why is it at our expense and our religious and cultural well-being?

I want you to know that we support the military. We have always supported Mountain Home Air Force Base. We have always supported -- we have more individuals, Indian people, who have gone to war in the country. We, as the tribe, of the Shoshone-Paiute nation support the no-action Alternative. Thank you.

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COLONEL POPE: Next speaker is Mr. Ray Stark from the Boise Area Chamber of Commerce.

GE-1 RAY STARK, 008072

appeared and made the following statement:

MR. STARK: Colonel, my name is Ray Stark with the Boise Area Chamber Of Commerce, 300 North Sixth Street, in Boise 83702.

Colonel, the Chamber is the advocate for Boise-area business and works for economic prosperity in the entire region. We support Mountain Home Air Force Base execs as a key component to the economic diversity that we enjoy in Southwest Idaho. The Chamber has worked with Idaho's congressional delegation during the last three base realignment and closure commission processes. We believe Mountain Home Air Force Base is an asset not only to the U.S. Department of Defense but to the state of Idaho. Even though changing political events in the world has led to reprioritize military spending, training pilots, testing aircraft, and maintain combat readiness will continue to be a function of the U.S. Air Force. And obviously the Air Force base is an

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important asset to the state of Idaho.

But interestingly enough in our work with the with Brat Commissions we didn't have to point out the economic benefits of Air Force base to the military, we just have to talk about the incredible abundant flying weather. The new facilities at the Air Force base, the location which is in a large rural county in Southwest Idaho which does not encroach on population centers and of course a runway that is 13,000 feet in length that is able to accommodate any aircraft in the Air Force inventory.

The Air Force needs additional training area to be quote "a total package" for the U.S. Department of Defense. Over the years chamber delegations have visited the existing Saylor Creek range and we have observed firsthand the minimal environmental impact on that training range that has been in use for many years. Now certainly the Air Force has always encouraged people to visit that existing range because you really have to see it to believe it and to observe firsthand the minimal environmental impact in the existing range for you then to envision in the future what additional training area would be impacted. So you

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need to see the existing range first. Enhanced training opportunities are needed to enable flyers to train against threat arrays which replicate modern day, realistic targets. The existing Saylor Creek range has limitations on the training function of the Air Force. The enhanced training opportunities will allow simultaneous training for additional aircraft. The proposed sites for enhanced training meet the criteria for the military: such as flexibility, located under the Department of Defense-controlled airspace; near the existing military airfield, which is important; flat or rolling terrain; and certainly minimal impact on civilian aviation and located in a sparsely populated area.

Colonel, in closing I just want to repeat that the Boise Area Chamber of Commerce supports enhanced training area in Idaho to serve the needs of the U.S. Air Force in the Idaho Air National Guard.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you for your comments. If I mispronounce your name, I'm sorry, but I am reading your handwritten cards.

Mr. Fred Christenson representing the Idaho Wildlife Federation.

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GE-2 FRED CHRISTENSON, 008073

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. CHRISTENSON: Thank you, Colonel. My name is Fred Christenson and I'm representing the Idaho Wildlife Federation. I live in Caldwell, Idaho. The Federation appreciates the opportunity to speak to this issue and to speak to what is my favorite hunting area in Southwest Idaho. I'm an avid upland bird hunter. Obviously the Federation does not oppose a strong national defense, we think the Mountain Home Air Force base does a great job just the way it is. We believe PN-1 that the proposed expansion is not necessary, nor has the need been demonstrated. In addition no mitigation has been proposed for any losses to ranchers, to the hunters of Idaho. We believe that the expanded range has demonstrated the decline in the bighorn sheep. We see a decline in birds and we don't think it's all results of the weather. The plan contains no way to mitigate these losses either to ranchers, if they occur, or to the

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sportsmen of Idaho. And we believe that that is a fault. The Idaho Wildlife Federation stands adamantly opposed to the expansion of the Jacks Creek. If the mountain sheep continue to decline, we believe Jacks Creek could be the gene pool to restore sheep in other areas. The alternative that we would like to see is not even proposed. We would like to see the ceilings raised above 100 feet in the arbitrary 500 feet level. We believe this is critical in all highly used recreational areas and critical wildlife area. We do not believe declining wildlife populations in the area are due to other weather or other conditions or that science is lacking. I guess a professor from U. of California said it best; when it comes to science he said gravity is still just a theory, too, would you like to test it by putting your neck beneath the guillotine? So I guess for us the best of the alternatives is the no-action vote. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you very much. The next speaker is Mr. Ray Frechette. Did I pronounce that correctly?

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GE-2 RAY FRECHETTE, 008074

appeared and made the following statement:

MR. FRACHETTE: Thank you, Colonel. My name is Ray Frechette. I'm from Boise, and I'm here as an interested and concerned citizen.

I think at this hearing tonight we should be talking about how do we reduce and consolidate the impact of the military in the west. We're talking about reduction of bases all over the country and here we're expanding things. And I think an awful lot of it revolves around economics, and we just heard from the Boise Chamber of Commerce. And I'd like to ask some questions that I haven't seen answered.

DP-27 Would this training range still be used if the Mountain Home Air Force base was closed and DP-6 how much of the training is from out-of-the-state aircraft and crews? But particularly, I'm concerned with mission creep in this space. That today we are working and proposing using it, the dummy bombs, but it's a very easy step to go into

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increasing impact over the years. And this has tremendous impact on these areas that we all like to use for recreation, and I saw an article in the paper the other week that talked about cost of cleanup from old military sites and we're looking at a range in the east where there's thousands of acres impacted and there's hundreds and hundreds of these places around the country. But to cleanup 300 acres so that people can walk and not be exposed to bombs, it's costing $1.3 million. That's the type of impact that I'm worried about from an economic standpoint. I know people from Mountain Home ought to have continued good economy down there, but I don't think that's what they want to leave for their kids. Fifty years from now they'll be employed cleaning up some of these areas. Things fall off aircraft; I've seen parts of planes in the Bruneau area where they're not supposed to be dropping. And as Fred Christenson said, I don't see anything in this proposal to give mitigation. Whatever we're doing to get back we should be looking at closing some other areas, if not in this state in surrounding areas to lessen impact. Thank You.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is

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Elizabeth Caughlin.

GE-1 ELIZABETH CAUGHLIN, 008075

appeared and made the following statement:

MISS CAUGHLIN: Thank you, Colonel. My name is Elizabeth Caughlin. I live in Boise, and I'm speaking as a concerned citizen. My family has enjoyed hiking, biking, and boating in the Owyhee canyon country for the past three years since we first moved to Idaho. And our first experience with the Owyhee country occurred in the Bruneau-Jarbidge area. The feeling the land gives you is, for me, a defining moment for what it is to be an American. The open skies, rolling clouds, rugged, rocky canyons, inspire the same feeling to me that must have inspired the first people in this country. The first pioneers, the first settlers, ranchers, and all of those who now come in contact with it. These are feelings of freedom, of limitless possibilities, of open space in the crowded world, of hope. My dream is that my son, too, will be able to go to this special land, the Owyhee canyon country, as an adult and truly

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understand why we, as Americans, are strong, diverse, and forward-looking people. My dream is that we, as a nation, will have the strength of character as our forefathers and we'll recognize the importance of setting aside this land as an important ingredient of America. The enhanced training proposal which includes low-altitude flights, sonic booms, and simulated area warfare over the Owyhee country is entirely inconsistent with this dream. I ask you, please, to use other available training grounds and leave this pristine land for future Americans to enjoy. Of the alternatives I definitely approve of alternative A which implies no change to the current use. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Next speaker will be Mr. Roger Singer from the Sierra Club.

GE-1 ROGER SINGER, 008076

appeared and made the following statement:

ROGER SINGER: Thank you, Colonel. My name is Roger Singer. I live in Boise, and I represent the local Northern Rockies Chapter of the Sierra Club. The 4,000 members of our club chapter are opposed

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to the Air Force's needless bombing range proposal. So are a lot of other people. How do we feel about this latest attempt to increase the size of the supersonic battlefield over the Owyhee, Bruneau, and Jarbidge canyons? In a nutshell, we're tired of the whole thing. We're tired of the Air Force putting on a series of misinformation and incorrect data to try and convince us of the need for this range and its supposed lack of environmental impacts. We didn't buy it the last three times you tried to sell this package and we're not buying it this time. We're tired of hearing the Air Force say they need this expanded range when they don't. They have stated that they are combat ready now. The existing ranges in Idaho, Nevada, and Utah are plenty. This is just a matter of convenience. The Air Force's convenience cannot take priority over wildlife, over the people living in the Duck Valley Reservation, over the river rafters, hikers, bikers, hunters, and seekers of solitude and wilderness. Should we have to leave Idaho to find these opportunities once they have been taken away from us just to save a little flying time? Just to save a little fuel? No. When it comes down to who should travel a little

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further, pilots in training or Idahoans enjoying the natural beauty of this state, it's obvious to me. Air Force, go somewhere else. We're tired of watching bighorn sheep and sage grouse populations dwindle. We're tired of looking at the incorrect data in Air Force documents about noise impacts on humans and on wildlife. Noise levels will be much worse than they state. Averaging noise levels out over a day or week or month or whatever is not acceptable. It's like turning on the oven to 600 degrees for one minute. However, over a whole day the average temperature may average only two or three degrees. But I dare you to stick your head in that oven that one minute it's at 600 degrees. Well, there's sheep, there's grouse, anyone else out there are, metaphorically speaking, getting their head stuck in the oven again and again. We may be tired, but we're not giving up. For a fourth and final time we are saying no bombing range. The Air Force says that they've answered the concerns of Native Americans, ranchers, and sportsmen, and now only wilderness advocates are opposed. That's just not true. Right here I've got 500 signed postcards from local folks that are saying the bombing range proposal is wrong. It's

wrong to turn Idaho's spectacular canyons into a military bombing range with low-level and supersonic battle flights. These are mainstream people, our neighbors from our community who have signed this postcard. The number of people here tonight shows the large and diverse opposition to this proposal. Face it, the average Idahoan is unconvinced by the Air Force's sales job. Bottom line. The majority of the people around here do not want to see this bombing range. They do not want to see Idaho's quality of life sacrificed for a little convenience. We do not want more planes, more flares, more chaff, and more noise in Idaho. What we do want is our heritage, our rivers, our wildlife, and our solitude. Let's protect Idaho's canyon lands for our families and for our future. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Miss Lasha Johnston.

GE-1 LASHA JOHNSTON, 008077 appeared and gave the following statement:

LASHA JOHNSTON: Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. I am speaking on behalf of

the Owyhee Canyon Lands Coalition, which is a broad coalition which has been following the Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal since its inception in the early Eighties. I want to talk about something very specific tonight. There's a lot of things I could say and there's a lot of history to this proposal. But at the hearing in Duck Valley I had the opportunity to speak and I asked kind of a rhetorical question, and I've done some research and I have some very strong concerns.

In the purpose and need section of the Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal, page 1-16, there are four bullets, four key objectives to why the Air Force would like to build enhanced training in Idaho. The second one is to support the unique rapid response Air Expeditionary wing. It's listed separately than the 366th Wing. So I did a little research to try to figure out what that meant. I found this article in the most recent June of 1997 Air Force magazine. This article describes the Air Force's new mission to establish Air Force -- Air Expeditionary wings. It is a strategy of global engagement, and the typical air expeditionary Air Force wing draws 30 to 40 aircraft from three or four different wings across the country. The

aircraft include a variety of tankers, bombers and fighter jets similar to a composite wing but larger in size. Mountain Home is being looked at as the new home for these air expeditionary forces. In quoting from this article, "General Ronald Fogleman, Air Chief of Staff told Congress in February that the composite wing idea has been scrapped for the Air Force in general. It was too expensive for several bases to maintain a full range of support gear for each of the handfuls of different aircraft types they operated. Only Mountain Home's 366th will be maintained as a composite wing to serve as the core of developing an air expeditionary force concept." It is also connected to the Air Force Battle lab, which has recently been moved to Mountain Home. The air expeditionary forces do not just use aircraft for the Air Force. They must, to quote from the article again, "integrate with other components and suggests that these wings need not be made up only of U.S. Air Force planes, but Marine Corps or Navy aircraft might be added by a regional commander in chief if he felt an AEF required assets not available through the Air Force."

My point is this. This training range is

not being designed for the 366th wing. This is a loophole that you are creating in the Environmental Impact Statement so that you can create one of the next things that you are looking at doing over the skies of Idaho. Colonel P. stated last week you're note building another bombing range, no you're not. You're not looking at all the ground impacts that you are going to inflict. But you're certainly trying to build the premier supersonic battlefield in the skies of Idaho, and if you get this range you're going to slip in more planes from different branches of the military and it's going to be a battle zone. I am opposed to this, the Owyhee Canyon Lands Coalition supports the no-action alternative. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: I'll remind you again that every time we have to wait for your applause it's that much longer until the next speaker is going to get up. There's no decision maker here. I'll just point out there is no decision maker here. We'll see. The next speaker is Nick Johnson.

GE-2 NICK JOHNSTON 008078 appeared and made the following statement:

NICK JOHNSTON: Thank you. I'm here on behalf of the Greater Owyhee Legal Defense Fund. The

acronym is GOLD.

Duty. Honor. Country. These are the values the Air Force has sworn to uphold. Mirroring a moral crisis that is gripping the service throughout its ranks, the Air Force's ETI draft environmental impact statement seeks to pervert each of these values in pursuit of an enhanced training capability the Air Force has long stated it does not need. The Air Force has abdictated its duty to comply with federal and environmental law; it fails to honor the pledges it has made to seek consensual resolution of the resource management impacts of its proposals; and it seeks to detroy the character and fabric of the Owyhee country that make the area so special.

GOLD is a coalition of citizen sporting and conservation groups concerned about the past and future impact of military training activities on the public lands and resources of Owyhee County and surrounding areas. GOLD was the lead plaintiff in the litigation that established the legal insufficiency of the 1992 Air Force EIS. That litigation also forced the Air Force to acknowledge that it does not need additional tactical training resources in Southwestern Idaho, a position the

military studiously seeks to downplay in the present EIS proceedings. That lawsuit always forced the Air Force to abandon its poorly conceived configuration for the Idaho Training Range. Unfortunately, the Air Force has learned little from its past experience. It continues to seek a course of action that is inconsistent with federal environmental law and that fails to disclose or evaluate the full scope of environmental impacts of its proposed actions. PR-12

Indeed, even cursory review of the Air Force's latest EIS shows that its talk of "de-conflicting issues" in "win-win solutions" is just so much poppycock. To borrow a phrase from the liturgy of the days of awe, the ETI EIS is an alphabet of woe. From alternatives to cumulative impacts to recreation to noise to wildlife analysis, the Air Force continues to evade its National Environmental Policy Act obligations of full public disclosure and informed decision making. Indeed, the Air Force prefers a more contorted path of deception and denial. It pursues its wish for a bigger sandbox -- expanded training -- while denying its obligation to fully and fairly disclose the potential adverse

consequences of its actions.

To the Air Force we have to say: This place is not your place. Leave it as it is. The song of the canyon wren, the darting of the redband trout, the clambering of bighorn sheep, these are enough to fill the canyon lands and plateaus with life and peace. The land does not need the intolerable screaming of overflight, of multiaircraft supersonic exercises, bombing runs, and simulated warfare. Not the law, but the land sets the limit. And this land of Owyhee country, when properly evaluated, tells us this is no place for the Air Force's planned expansion. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Bob Kiernan.

BOB KIERNAN, 038079 GE-1

appeared and made the following statements:

BOB KEIRNAN: The name is Bob Kiernan. I reside in Nampa. I've lived in Idaho 30 years. I was born and raised in the Northeast and I bring that up because I've been bombarded by noise pollution in much of my life. That's the reason why I live in Idaho now. I'd like to preface my original statement by thanking the council president of Mountain Home for addressing me as an

environmental wacko. The reason why I'm thanking him is because he is showing ignorance and greed. I have spent nine years in the United States Army in a Nike Hercules Air Defense Unit defending this nation against communism during the Cold War. I also spent 20 years with the Nampa Fire Department and retired as a fire marshall. So if anybody wants to call me wacko, that is part of what I was protecting while I was in the military service.

My statement about the EIS and proposal is I have read many pages of the EIS and have tried to come up with testimony against many different portions dealing with facts and figures that are sometimes overwhelming. I will give you credit for trying another approach on this bombing run. It almost worked until I set the tome aside and got down to the real basics. The Owyhees are too special to disturb any more than is being done now. I do not want you to take away my special church, my special sanctuary, my special connection with earth mother, my only peace and quiet from being bombarded by noise pollution.

There is no place in the Owyhee that I can list as extra special. There is several areas that may be more enhanced vistas than others, but

when I leave the city and drive to a destination I'll stop along the way and see bird habitat and witness a nice Idaho Mountain Bluebird or green-tailed tody or bunting, many other birds. I'll stop at a ranch reservoir and view ducks of many different kinds. The reason this wildlife is there is because of the peace and tranquility that is out there. These birds love the Owyhees for that reason. Just because Idaho has lots of wide-open spaces doesn't mean that you can invade this space. Worldwide we are slowly destroying too many precious areas. Man cannot survive mentally without these areas. An example of some of the worldwide problems is in Korea. The red-crowned and white-napped cranes require large areas that are silent and open country with clean water. By accident the DMZ and the CCZ in Korea has become a sanctuary for these birds. But now because of economic boom, like a sonic boom, Korea is expanding their industry and wants to enroach upon the buffer zone --

COLONEL POPE: You need to wrap up your comments.

BOB KIERNAN: -- thus destroying it.

In closing, my question to the military

is, who are we training to defend? Is it a nation in Europe, or in the desert because of its oil richness? Let us train their people to fight their wars which will train our pilots and do it in their backyard with their money. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Mr. Fred Wilson. All right. I'll set his card aside. Next speaker is Mr. Russell Ueughins. Am I pronouncing that correctly?

GE-1 RUSSELL UEUGHINS, 005080

appeared and made the following statement:

RUSSELL UEUGHINS: Thank you for the opportunity to present my comments on the Enhanced Training Range in Idaho. My name is Russell Ueughins. I'm a resident of Boise. And I frequently recreate on land encompassed by the training proposal. My primary recreation is hunting, fishing, and hiking and just traveling throughout that country. And for more than 20 years I have followed and actively participated in land used in wildlife issues on the public lands.

The primary focus of my comments are the potential impacts on the recreational and

biological resources located within the areas of the proposal. Equal in importance and consideration is the cultural and sociological values of the land.

First, I would like to address the cultural and sociological considerations based on a uniqueness of this area impacted by military overflight areas, MOAs. As an urban resident I look forward to enjoying the remoteness of the Owyhee country. Living in an urban area I thoroughly enjoy the solitude offered by the primitive nature of the canyon lands and adjacent plateaus. The presence of military aircraft would take that away because the solitude would be gone

The Owyhee country is all that we have remaining and now you propose to dispossess us of what remains. I think you people don't understand the connection between the recreational and spiritual experience enjoyed out in country like this. As one who hunts and travels in the area of the Big Jacks and Little Jacks Creek, your proposal would destroy the remote nature of the area, one of the very few I have left. This remaining area of primitive public lands needs to remain intact and without the intrusion of noise by military aircraft

and the disturbance of physical structures on the ground.

Owyhee County is also blessed with a biological diversity. Aircraft overflies, places the biological resources in jeopardy. Specifically, sage grouse and California bighorn sheep. As a member of the Idaho state's grouse task force, I am concerned about the future of sage grouse; even without the activities proposed by the enhanced training, the birds will face an uphill battle to survive.

My comments tonight represent only a representative sample of my concerns regarding the Enhanced Training in idaho. I will submit detailed comments within the right time. Selecting alternative A, the no-action Alternative, will be in the best interest of recreation and biological resources found in this corner of Idaho. This concludes my comments for this evening.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Mr. Marvin Gardner.

GE-1 MARVIN GARDNER, 005081

appeared and made the following statement:

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MARVIN GARDNER: Colonel, Colonel Richie. I'm a little unprepared tonight. I did not know this was for the EIS statements only and I am partially unprepared because I attended the second scoping session in this building last year and as a result of the things I -- I went there with an open mind to find out what all the details were. And as a result of the information I gained, I asked two different officers several times for some specific information, which I was told I would get and I never got. They had my address because sometime during the year I had gotten mailings from Mountain Home Air Force base, but they never sent me the information I requested specifically and the second officer wrote it down on a piece of paper with a name and address so I can't talk too well on some stuff I would have had.

I'd like to address -- point out that when you're flying at several thousands of feet high and you look down, 10,000 acres is virtually nothing, that's true. And time passes very quickly. But when you're down on the ground on foot it's a hell of a lot of space. So the perspective of the Air Force people above is totally different from us people down on the ground

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paying the bills. And also I'm sort of on all your sides, but the Colonel said please, don't clap or applaud or say "yeah." Show a little courtesy and respect to everybody else.

The last thing I am saying is because I am unprepared is that as a person who had a physical science major in college, and who spent 21 months at Mountain Home Air Force Base as a weapon observer, that's when they were digging it out of the sagebrush and sand dunes, I can state that atmospheric conditions do strange things with audio signals. Sometimes they can diffuse them and muffle them. Other times they can focus and concentrate, that will almost amplify them. So you can have a guy go out as a sound meter, a DD meter, and measure the effect of the planes and they'll read one thing, but if atmospheric conditions are just right it will be totally different. And lastly, I did learn a year ago and in -- some people have addressed this too, the sole purpose of the wing at Mountain Home is not to defend the United States, I think the term used a year ago was rapid deployment force; its total purpose, I was told by several pilots and other people who were here a year ago, that its sole purpose is to

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rapidly get over to foreign nations and defend them. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Mr. Roger Williams.

GE-2 ROGER WILLIAMS, 008382 appeared and made the following statement:

ROGER WILLIAMS: I'm Roger Williams. I'm from Meridian and I'm speaking only for myself. I have a particular interest in only two resources impacted by this proposal. Bighorn sheep and the Idaho Centennial Trail. As big-game supervisor for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game I was directly responsible for introducing California bighorns into the Owyhee canyon lands. In 1963 in the east fork of Owyhee, and in 1967 in Little Jacks Creek. As a member of the lasting legacy committee of the centennial commission, I was directly involved in establishing the Centennial Trail for Idaho's Statehood celebration in 1990. This length of Idaho State Trail was designed to feature Idaho's outstanding scenic areas. It parallels the Jarbidge and Bruneau River canyons

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and is implemented by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

As for bighorns, the east fork Owyhee population has already suffered from increased overflights, and the alternatives of the proposal range would extend this harassment to Jacks Creek and increase stress on other populations. Although BI-4 the DEIS treatment of potential impact is superficial, or absent, if not legally inadequate, it appears that virtually every bighorn heard under this million acre battlefield would be subjected to additional harassment.

RV-4 The DEIS seems equally deficient regarding the centennial trail. I could find nothing more than one line on the map. But users would undoubtedly find levels and frequency of aircraft noise sufficient to severely diminish the quality of their experience.

Official comments should be forthcoming from two executive branch state agencies who are responsible for these resources. Fish and Game and Parks and Recreation. However, considering the attitude of our chief executive and congressional delegation, staunch antifed except for projects like this, the agency's official comments can be

expected to be more conciliatory than forthright. Nonetheless, impacts from the ETI on wildlife and recreation will be adverse, widespread, severe, and unmitigatible, and unnecessary.

The Department of Defense oral report and high-level Air Force staff comments have indicated that existing facilities here and in other states provide adequate training and the project is not needed, nor the expenditure justified. At least they got the name right. It is enhancement, not necessity. Based on probable impacts and lack of need the only logical choice appears to be no-action alternative A. Spare the resources and save the money. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Mr. Terri Henrickson.

GE-1 TERRI HENRICKSON, 008083 appeared and made the following statement:

TERRI HENRICKSON: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm a Canyon County seed farmer. I'm a native Idahoan. I'm very concerned about the future of recreation and wildlife in the canyon lands. I'm here speaking

because I'm concerned about poor state leadership in planning Idaho's future. My daughter recently said to me, and I quote, "Every good and beautiful thing you have enjoyed in your lifetime will be detroyed or developed in my life for the sake of jobs or the economy."

I thought about what she said and I realized why some of our kids have stopped caring about their future and the future of this amazing state. Twenty years ago I didn't know the Owyhee canyon lands even existed nor did I care about the future. My recreational needs were met by traveling north, but urban sprawl and recreational crowding started taking place, and I discovered the Owyhee canyon lands at my back door. They were accessible year around and being a great place to sleep under the stars late spring and early summer. Like no other areas of Idaho, the canyon lands offer easy access to observe wild bighorn sheep and what a sight they are. But times are changing. The solitude I experienced a few years ago is no longer there. The frequent roar of fighter jets can only impact fragile bighorn populations in a negative way. And the numbers are showing it. Wild bighorn sheep are not range cattle. This 12

thousand acre proposal seems to be appeasing politicians and the press, but wait a minute. When we throw in 30 emitter sites, ladies and gentlemen it becomes a big one million acre land grab.

I have four important questions we need to ask ourselves. Do we allow temporary politicians to put a permanent end to thousands of years of tranquility in the Owyhee canyon lands? Do we want the military to manage and control public land from Gowen Field to the Nevada border? Is this location the only place left in Idaho for such a range? Are supersonic aircraft incapable of using existing ranges in Utah and Nevada as well as, of course, Saylor Creek?

I want to close by saying there will always be military needs for something, but we have an obligation to pass some of Idaho's beautiful assets to other generations. And all of these proposals fail miserably to do just that.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Our next speaker is Mr. David Welch.

GE-1 DAVID WELCH 008084 appeared and made the following statement:

DAVID WELCH: My name is David Welch and I am from Boise. I will not say thank you for the opportunity. This is my right under the Constitution. I have many concerns about this range. The topmost is the cultural concern, which is not addressed. I have looked through part of the EIS, I don't see any changes in it. It's the same document. You may have changed some of the wording, but the intent is still the same. And we have spent 505 years of war with these people, it's time for it to stop. It's time for the overflights to stop. I spend time in that desert. In general, I've been overflown at 50 feet, and it happens. Not the ceilings that you all talk about, you deny it. And it's not fun. It's happened twice since we went through this the last time. And I don't understand.

I had two uncles who served in the Second World War. I want you to understand where I'm coming from. They were in different areas of the Army, but each one of them was among the first people into the concentration camps, into the death camps. I heard their stories. I understand. I had over a hundred friends killed in Vietnam. I understand. I want these pilots to be safe. To me

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when you're talking about this type of military operation, one of the most -- when they fly out into an actual engagement they're not going to be flying 30 miles. They're going to be flying hundreds of miles. There and back again. The most critical part of that is the refueling. I'm a tax payer, I'm willing to pay for the training time. I'm willing to pay for the fuel. I'm willing to pay for the per diem that you have to pay in Utah when they stop down there or in Nevada or wherever it is. I don't want any more people to die. But this is not the place to do it.

This canyon lands should be turned into a national park. That is what belongs there. You go out there with Mr. Gibson. You go out there with Corbin Harney. You go out there with anybody and you spend a week. Understand what it is to pray in their way. This land is our mother. We came from her, we are nothing but her. If we destroy her we're destroying ourselves. If we destroy our solitude, we destroy our sanity. That is what this proposal does.

An option, Mountain Home supports it, have your jets supersonic right over Mountain Home into Saylor Creek. They love the noise. Have

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them come over Grand View there. See how J.R. likes it. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Mr. Jack Fisher.

GE-1 JACK FISHER, 008085

appeared and made the following statement:

JACK FISHER: My name is Jack Fisher. I'm the chief master sergeant, U.S. Air Force-retired. And the last 26 years I spent right out here at Gowen Field. I would like to comment about the opening statement that you went through all the of the timelines that you were going to try to cover. And I noticed that the last one, I would say this was already programmed for the withdrawal of the lands from the public use and I just wonder if in fact that we're all here in vain, or that if this input in fact really will have any impact on that.

One of my comments that I would like to make concerns the areas that are talked about. They talk about what are the ceiling elevation that the aircraft fly at, but also I find out that the minimums can be clear down to a hundred feet. And

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I don't see that spelled out very much in here because I don't think that they want the majority of the people to realize that they can fly down to one hundred feet. And in fact they do.

I know in my time with the Idaho Air National Guard out here, I seen a number of sight in flight camera pictures that were taken looking up at the canyon walls and so guess where the aircraft was. And these weren't all within the Saylor Creek range. And I realize that these are only small indications of what the total picture can be, but I think that the total impact of having more aircraft fly more hours at these low-level flights can only be bad for all the wildlife that is in the Owyhee canyon land. Not only the bighorn sheep that we talk about, we talk about the antelope and the incidental mule deer which is hardly even indicated in here. I think these are all things that have great importance to the people here in Idaho, many who are natives, such as myself. And many of those who have moved here for the reasons that we are here to talk about. And I feel that to increase those flights and to make more lands low-level accessible, such as the Little Jacks Creek and the Big Jacks Creek area, is total

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reprehensible. I don't see any possible reason that anybody should condone this adding more land to that situation. So thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Robert Boester.

GE-2 ROBERT BOESTER, 008086

appeared and made the following statement:

ROBERT BOESTER: Colonel, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Bob Boester. I live in Boise, Idaho. I'm a concerned citizen. This is the third time I've had to spend time on this fighting the Air Force on the bombing range and I'm getting tired of it. If you tell a child you don't want them to do something once or twice he gets the message. The Air Force, no way.

I would like to make three points. The Air Force has repeatedly stated that it doesn't really need the training range, they would like to have it, it would be an enhancement. But I say

PN-1 with fewer planes in the area at the present time as opposed to five years ago, why do we need more training space? Second point I would like to make, the Air Force and its supporters say that it needs

realistic training. My question is where in the real world will you find a war or a conflict where the target areas are only thirty miles away from your home base? If the Air Force wants realistic training, there's several training ranges in Nevada and Utah that you will find much more realistic training because they would, since they're farther away, they would require the crews to refuel in air. This would happen also in a real war and therefore it should be included in realistic training. Wouldn't you agree?

The saying goes they are lies, damn lies and statistics. The Air Force draft EIS has elevated the lying statistics category to a fine art. Its so-called study of noise tolerance is based on a 20-year-old flawed study that has lumped aircraft noise with urban noise. They're totally unrelated. I have suggested in my earlier written comments that the Air Force conduct actual interviews with actual users of the wilderness areas to find out what they thought about the noise overhead. It has obviously chosen to ignore the suggestion.

In conclusion I would like to say this: Our country and our state, our populations are

NO-2

growing rapidly. We need wild places like these Idaho canyon lands to get away from the noise and the tension of modern life. If the Air Force cannot understand it should not destroy the solitude of this area, then I say: Air Force, why don't you take your planes and go somewhere where you're more welcome. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Herb Meyr.

GE-2 HERB MEYR, 008087

appeared and made the following statement:

HERB MEYR: I'm Herb Myre from Mountain Home, Idaho, and I'm speaking this evening for the Foundation of North American Wild Sheep headquartered in Cody, Wyoming. I'm also a retired Air Force fighter pilot who flew out of Mountain Home Air Force Base seven years. The Foundation are concerned not only with bighorn sheep, but with other wildlife and also hunting opportunities. We feel, and after talking to other biologists, that the draft EIS is poorly done and deceptive, and you can't determine the environmental effects on any wildlife. In fact some studies haven't even been completed, and it

BI-12

says that we're going to do those in the winter of '97. So it looks like the EIS isn't even ready.

The area below the Northern -- that's being expanded in the Owyhee over Jacks Creek area, there's no environmental evaluation of this area below this expanded airspace. We're going to be flying supersonic and we're going to be flying low-level through that area and it's never been done before. You can't rely on the 1992 Air Force in Idaho EIS to evaluate this Jacks Creek area because it's outside of the area. So you have a big flaw there.

BI-19

Also one of the tables, 3.8-16 in fact, bighorn sheep population is an error and deceiving. Some of the studies that were done or population things were based on just ewe-lamb ratio counts. And not on total populations and only looked at a segment of say, Little Jacks. And so to use that as saying the Big Jacks Creek population is declining is wrong.

BI-4

Also the baseline for this EIS should be 1992 because everything is related from the creation of supersonic air space, deposit wing, the chaff and flares, any creation of the supersonic battlefield. So your EIS should be a comprehensive

DP-4

one, and I believe this one was ordered by a federal judge. There is no mitigation proposal for bighorn sheep especially during lambing season. We recommend a decibel level not to exceed 95 decibels during this time, and no supersonic flights over these sensitive areas during lambing season. This would also apply to sage are in mating season and while nesting. A lot of the no-drop sites and emitter sites violate not only the Idaho Sage Grouse recovery plan, but recovery plans in other states. This should be done, this mitigation, even if we choose the no-action alternative.

DP-42

BI-18

Looking at other environmental statements from other military projects we find that the noise data is flawed and and the noise for private aircraft is 10 to 12 decibels lower than it should be for a fighter in motion it creates more noise. For an M-16 it's at 98 decibels at a thousand feet, it should be a 111. This makes the draft EIS completely worthless when you base it on false data.

NO-5

Also the UTTR is underutilized if you call down there and talk to the people and it will be managed by aircamp at command. Lastly we recommend BLM not consider this document for an

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environmental analysis, and the only option is to choose option A. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Robert McEnaney.

GE-2 ROBERT McENANEY, 008088
appeared and gave the following statement:

ROBERT McENANEY: My name is Robert McEnaney. I'm from Boise, Idaho. The Air Force is using outdated and inherently flawed methods in the EIS to measure the noise impacts that the Air Force operations will have. The methods are not legally defensible. NO-1

This is not my opinion, but the opinion of the Air Force. In two recent Air Force documents, the U.S. Air Force '96/97 Environmental Safety and Operational Health Strategic Plan and the October '96 Air Force report, Requirements Analysis for Noise, the Air Force identified a number of areas where their current noise models were not in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act. The following is a sample from their reports, the Air Force states quote: "A new method NO-11

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is needed to gather defensible operational data for use in determining noise levels for aircraft beddowns." And they further state: "The current system is inaccurate in that it does not take into account all aircraft flying. In fact the accuracy of the data is totally dependent upon human interpretation and therefore, extremely vulnerable to human error." Another need identified by the Air Force is a quantitative dosage response-relationship for predicting the effects of noises required.

And they further state: "Much of the special use airspace utilized by the Air Force is away from populated areas, as a result the outdoor recreation is subjected to the aircraft overflight and noise exposure." Today, no quantitative dosage-response relationship has been developed for predicting annoyance in these circumstances. No useful quantitative information of any kind exists. The Air Force further identifies another need. "Methods are needed to assess the annoyance of sporadic exposure to sonic booms and the combined annoyance of noise exposure of subsonic and supersonic operations." And they state: NO-11

"The dosage-response relationship on

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which the Air Force currently relies for predicting the annoyance of exposure to sonic booms was produced in 1981. On the basis of modest amounts of information about repetitive and expected noise exposures in residential communities. The applicability of this relationship to many settings of practical interest to the Air Force has never been demonstrated. These issues must be resolved to increase confidence in the Air Force's method for assessing impacts of sporadic sonic booms over largely dispersed populations."

"Additionally, the Air Force predicts the annoyance due to noise exposure from subsonic operations and that due to supersonic operations separately. An accurate combined annoyance prediction for both types of operations is not currently available." End of these quotes. NO-11

I find it is heartening to see that the Air Force recognizes that their current methods are seriously in error. I find it distressing though that none of these concerns are represented in the current dEIS. The Air Force claims in this dEIS that they are in compliance with the law when it comes to noise impact, but their own documents state that the model they are using in this dEIS

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has no applicability.

The Air Force knows exactly what's going on. They internally recognized that their methods are indefensible. In fact one of the persons responsible for this EIS, Brenda Cook, is the agency person of contact for these documents. People who wrote this EIS are trying to hoodwink the people of Idaho. I support the no-action alternative. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Mr. Lee Mercer.

GE-1 LEE MERCER 008089
appeared and made the following statement:

LEE MERCER: My name is Lee Mercer. I live in Boise, Idaho and I represent all the unspoken desert rats who love the Owyhees. And I beg you not to go forward with this project, and for the sake of the solitude of places like Jacks Creek and the island, Arch Canyon and some of the beautiful craters up in the Flathead Desert and especially the beautiful place called Indian Hot Springs, where I saw two bighorn rams fight over a herd of ewes on October the 10th, 1995. And I've written a poem that I'd like to read now. We walk on sacred

ground, we feel the rhythms of this land, the light reflecting the morning light. Bright green and orange on a brown rock wall. The cottonwood leaves play a tune like Shagal in timeless harmony with lizards, snake, lion, pronghorn and Juniper and grass. The spirits of the ancient ones are upon us. Listen, listen. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Chris Wylie.

GE-1 CHRIS WYLIE, 038090

appeared and made the following statement:

CHRIS WYLIE: Hi. My name is Chris Wylie. I live in Boise, Idaho. I represent myself. Thanks for setting up this forum, I appreciate the time you're taking. I'm wondering if this is what we really want to do. We talk about wise use. There's use of resources, there's use of our land. You know, I wonder why the Air Force wants to do this. I've read several newspaper articles saying that they don't -- that the Air Force folks, themselves, are saying they don't need this. There's other areas that are -- that speed of training are easily reached that allow wildlife

ordinance. There's, you know, even though there's stuff going on in the salt flats those are already impacted areas and there is not as much diversity as there is in the Owyhees. So if you don't need it, if there's other areas, I'm kind of wondering if it's fear. I really don't see a red scare so much anymore. So maybe it's a land grab. There's all these people, we're filling up the country, there's only certain areas left; maybe you better lock on to those before anybody else needs them or anybody else takes them or there is more environmental contentiousness to save what little we've got left. And I'm kind of wondering maybe that's the motivation here because, you know, we're -- how much land did we have a hundred years ago for some peace and quiet? And we've just got a fraction of that left. Where are we going to be a hundred years from now? They talk about the seventh generation and we're not leaving much for anybody else.

Finally we talk about jobs, you know, it seems like everyone is really saying that we've got to either have environment or we got to have jobs, that's rhetoric. I don't believe that. There's lots of studies out that are showing that

businesses follow qualified people. Look at Boise, Idaho we got lots of business going on right here. Why? Because it's a great place to live. So if you destroy your quality of life, you destroy the people that want to go there. You destroy the economy. Also, why does Boise have lower wages? Because everyone wants to live here. If it's someplace where people don't want to live, you have to pay a high salary to get folks to live there. I think that Boise and Owyhee counties would both suffer in the long-term by handing over this beautiful resource to war games. I support the no-action alternative.

(Recess.)

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Mr. Martin Stephan.

GE-1 MARTIN STEPHAN, 038091

appeared and made the following statement:

MR. STEPHAN: My name is Martin Stephan, Boise, Idaho and I represent the Northern Rockies Preservation Project. We're a local grassroots group in Boise. I'd like to start out by commenting on what I saw in the other room on the

three billboards that showed the different alternatives, if you call them that. I think under NEPA, National Environmental Policy Act, one of the specific goals of NEPA is to provide alternatives for the public to look at and obviously those two alternatives, from the questions I asked some of the nation's finest over there to explain it to me, are identical. They just moved the puzzle pieces around a little bit.

So what we have is is two alternatives. We have the no-action Plan and we have those three different ones and they're, excuse me, seem to be very similar. So I don't think it actually qualifies in that regard for NEPA and I think that's a big concern for the public and they need to make these decisions.

Second of all, the military, I guess, in the history has shown itself very good at killing and also very good at polluting. It is the world's biggest polluter, and I don't see why anyone in their right mind would want to turn this amazing area, the Owyhee canyon lands, over to a group that has shown total irresponsibility in taking care of the land. And the cultural, the ecological integrity of this area is unbelievable. I think it

would be just madness to go ahead with your plans to develop this area. The no-action alternative is the only alternative that's worth looking at.

And to finish I will just say that we here tonight, speaking to everyone here, we have to stay organized on this issue. If you're not on a mailing list of some sort or phone list, I would get on one quick. Cause these guys will ram this down our throat, and if we don't pull together and do this they're going to get it, they're going to take it over and we'll lose this land. Just as we're losing these other great lands and it's sickening to watch. It's like a disease, it's just cancer that's crawling across the land and it's got to be stopped and it's got to be stopped here tonight. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Miss Patricia Hall.

GE-1 PATRICIA HALL, 008092

appeared and made the following statement:

MISS HALL: My name is Patricia Hall. I reside in Boise, Idaho. I've been a resident of Idaho for over 30 years and I consider this my

home.

The Air Force's desire to expand Mountain Home Training Range is not an issue of safety, it is not an issue of preparedness, nor is it crucial to our defense efforts as the supporters want us to believe. It is not a patriotic issue and for politicians and supporters to try to make it so and confuse the people of Idaho indicates their ulterior and questionable motives. Yes, Idaho's exist welfare does depend heavily on the base, but the need for expansion simply does not economist. Mountain Home Air force Base is not now threatened by closure. Enough is enough.

Supporters of the proposed expanded training range choose not to remind Idahoans and tax payers that the Air Force already controls 90% of the airspace over Nevada for its training purposes. They choose not to remind us that decimated bombing ranges already exist in Nevada for target practice, as well as airspace and bombing ranges in Utah. The Air Force chooses not to remind us that its trainees travel as far as Florida on their maneuvers, thus making the expense of travel to nearby existing areas a non-issue.

The desecration of land and airspace in

beautiful, pristine Southwest Idaho for the enhancement of the Mountain Home Air Force base is ridiculous. This land and airspace are much too valuable in too many ways to scar, pollute, and destroy. Many of us Idahoans believe that the wildlife the flora, the sacred ground of the indigenous people are a national treasure to be protected for posterity. Here in the lower states very little of this kind of land is left.

The Air Force's impact statement for the area is inaccurate, devious and garbled to confuse the public. The amount of money we tax payers have provided for these expansion requests is a fleecing of America. So far we have spent over six million dollars and the plan is to spend millions more. It is time to put an end to this kind of wasteful activity. Let your politicians know that you, as a voting citizen, want these requests stopped. Thank you. I vote for the no-action to reject the enhanced training proposal.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Dale Hall.

GE-2 DALE HALL, 008093

appeared and made the following statement:

MR. HALL: My name is Dale Hall. I'm a resident of Boise. I'm speaking for myself, my three adult children and their spouses and four grandchildren.

The proposal certainly doesn't enhance the Owyhee canyon lands. Just the opposite. This pristine wild land and wildlife would be boomed and bombed out of existence.

The Air Force officials have said there was no pressing need for expanding the training range. Ninety percent of Nevada airspace is already controlled by the Air Force, according to National Public Radio. The Utah ranges are also available for training. Even parts of Florida are used for training by the Mountain Home Air Force Base Composite Wing. Enough is enough.

The Air Force is after a 12,000-acre range with 35 other sites spread over one million acres of Owyhee County and this is in addition to the existing 9,075 square miles of airspace, 5.8 million acres. Enough is enough.

PN-1 No pressing need for the enhancement has been demonstrated. Therefore, the environmental impact statement should be rejected out of hand. Failing to reject, then alternative A should be

selected. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Jim Burnham.

GE-1 JIM BURNHAM, 008094

appeared and made the following statement:

MR. BURNHAM: My name's Jim Burnham. I'm out of Kuna. I'm not a nimby. If you want to come over and bomb and do anything you want around my place with your training range I listen to it all the time. It doesn't bother me a lick. It's out in the desert where I don't want to hear that kind of stuff. If you wanted some substantive comments from me tonight you probably should have held the public hearing at the end of the comment period after we've had more of an an opportunity to read the dEIS. So I will have to submit those in writing.

I am so sick and tired of this crap. I've been fighting this proposal since 1989 and like a reoccurring nightmare it just won't go away, but like the Energizer Bunny, I'm not going

anywhere, either. I say "this proposal" because it's all really the same old song. The only purposes it could possibly serve are three: Put money in some people's pockets; provide training for national defense; and ruin the national and historical environment of Owyhee County. As to the money generated, it is hardly worth it. Too few will benefit at too great an expense. As to the national defense, this is a red herring. The Air Force does not need the range and they have admitted as much. National defense will not suffer one whit and not one single American fighting man or woman will ever be wounded or killed due to a failure of this proposal to go forward. Further, not one less enemy will be killed, nor will one less target be struck if this proposal fails, which it will.

As to the environment I cannot, for the life of me, understand why the Department of Defense or individual members of Air Force would want to destroy the very thing that they have sworn to protect. By this I mean America is not merely people. If it were then Europe would be just as American as we are, if not more. America is more than people. America is the wild lands that built

all of the personality characteristics and traits as we as Americans talk so highly of. The genesis of America is the land and in wild lands in particular. We are rapidly running out of that which makes us what we were or at least what we used to be. All the freedom that we think we have are only on paper if we do not have a place to be free in. Or as Aldo Leapold said, "Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map." Paper freedoms are just that. No one can argue that those who are long in city pent are just as free as we out west in the silence of open spaces.

They have the constitutional freedoms like we do, but so what? They are not free from each other. Even if we out west aren't really free from each other, it's places like Owyhee County that at least provide us with that illusion. Why must the Air Force and the Department of Defense work so hard to destroy this aspect of America? Before you know it Australia will be the next America. And we will be just another tame civilization living shoulder to shoulder like Europe. You in the United States Air Force are destroying the very thing you have sworn to uphold

with your lives. People who oppose the range have been accused of being un-American; most of the accusers are the people who stand to benefit financially, even though they try to talk like patriots. However, patriotism, it has been said, is the last refuge of a scoundral. I think it is they, as destroyers of America, who are un-American. I don't say this as a patriot, I just speak as personal experience. In fact every Australian I ever met, both in Australia and here, was more American than most of the Americans I know. We are aging, we are urbanizing, we are roading and building and destroying to the point that America's on her last legs.

In closing, I would just like to say that because this is the same old proposal I am incorporating by reference all of my former legal opinions and personal opinions on behalf of the Shoshone-Paiute tribe and myself on every document that you people have ever generated that has anything to do with enhanced training in Idaho. That's the ITR and ETI. Everything clear back to 1989. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Tommy Sope.

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TOMMY SOPE, 008095

GE-1

appeared and made the following statement:

MR. SOPE: That's right. It's soap. Not the washing kind, though. I'm Tom Sope, Jr. and resident of Duck Valley in the area you guys are talking about. I've been through there. I think it's just nonsense. This is supposed to be a peace country here, Idaho, state of Idaho. Not supposed to be a war zone or determined to be a battlefield. And we are also losing all our food which you guys are scaring away. And we don't eat deer meat anymore because of you white people, our ancestors told us, white people get here and we're going to lose everything. And we don't want that to happen because we got grandchildren and I've been here a lifetime and I want to continue to enjoy the life with the livelihood of the game that we have.

And we don't like to make any enemies. In other words, we like to keep it in peace because that's what we pray for our Indian people healer,

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pray for our service boys who are fighting for our country. But what country are we fighting for? That's my question. But I want to keep it in peace so I just want to have it like that and I don't want no Air Force running over us where you can't even ride our horses, it's too spooky for us. That's all I have to say I just want to keep it as good place for us. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Tom Sarriugarte.

TOM SARRIUGARTE, 008096

GE-1

appeared and made the following statement:

MR. SARRIUGARTE: Colonel. I'm Tom Sarriugarte and I'm from Boise, Idaho. An I'm here as a concerned citizen.

For the many years I have lived in Idaho I have used its beauty an solitude to refresh, recharge, and renew myself. The strategies that I've used are similar to the ones the ancient people of this area use for thousands of years and the animals use today. I camp in the high desert lands in the spring and I move towards the mountains as the weather warms an back to the

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desert again in the fall and winter. As life's challenges becomes more and more complex as my day-to-day life and all of its demands have speeded up, I've looked more towards these renewals as essential. Fun and relaxing, nourishing and nurturing and essential. Essential to do my work, essential to meet my commitments, essential to fulfill my responsibilities, essential to keep myself healthy and vital.

Over the years it has become harder an harder to find these places to get away, places off the beaten path, places where I can escape from the city and its fast-paced life, places where the natural rhythms of life slow me down and heal me. As Idaho has grown these places are continually disappeared at a faster an faster rate.

One of the last of these remaining places, the Owyhee canyon lands, is being threatened now. It's one of the most pristine in Idaho and if you look beyond Idaho, one of the most remote and pristine places in the United States. It's a place of vastness an solitude. A place of amazing animals, plant and mineral diversity, a place of immense an ever changing beauty, and most important to me, a place of quiet.

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This area is a wonderful resource for the people of Idaho an the many visitors that come to see it. Many different kinds of recreation usage take place in these lands, but the bottom line for each type of usage must be to protect and preserve the lands and the people and the animals and plants that inhabit it. The Air Force does not need another training area; they already have the facilities close to Mountain Home that could meet their needs in training and guarantee that their people are expertly and safely trained. There's no need to destroy the Owyhee canyon lands.

For the health and vitality of myself, my children, my children's children, for the whole of Idaho, the United States, and ultimately the world the Owyhee canyon lands is depending on us to protect it as one of the few pristine natural resources we have left. Once destroyed it can not be brought back to life. I support the no-action alternative A.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Robert Weber.

ROBERT WEBER, 008097

GE-1

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. WEBER: Thank you. I represent myself, Robert Weber. I live here in Boise and have for 27 years. And own my corporation, which is Advanced Concepts International that does business in about 20 countries around the world and some of that business is in Owyhee County. I spent all of today down there visiting with the people there and I had a prepared deal which I decided to not do.

My family came West the same year that Custer met his match, 112 years ago. Settled just north of Yellowstone Park and my father still lives in the same house that he was born in 83 years ago. We're ground-based people. I spent 34 years in forest fire work. Out of the last 25 out here at the National Center as a general headquarters commander and went all over the nation, all over North America in charge of all kinds of incidents. But I want you to know there's only one Owyhee County that is completely unique in the world. Period. That's it, that's the end of the really preserved U.S. and world.

And it's unbelievable to me that that range encompasses their land. That is wrong. Not okay. And if anyone who makes the final decision

would go with some of us on horseback out on the ground, get down on your knees like I have, you wouldn't even consider it. I also want you to know that I'm an ex-special forces person. I totally support that air base. They make me completely proud every minute of every day and I thank you and I support a range. I believe you do need that, but please don't put it there.

I'll spend all the energy that I've got supporting your range, but put it someplace else I'll take every nickel of my corporation to beat it down if that's where you want it. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. James Olson.

JAMES OLSON, 008098

GE-1 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. OLSON: After spending over 32 years of my life working for the United States Air Force, it's sad to me to stand before you people this evening to speak out in opposition of the leaders in the series of Air Force training range proposals.

After reading the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, it becomes obvious that many

impacts won't actually be known until after a decision has been made regarding proposals. For example, big game surveys of wintering antelope and mule deer, it won't be done until sometime this coming winter. The EIS says that no one even knows where one herd of about 6,000 antelope went to.

Interagency agreements regarding road maintenance for the 77-80 miles of new or improved roads will also be done later. Plus the financial burden for road maintenance on Owyhee County tax payers is unknown. Weed control, including related costs and who's to pay, isn't even mentioned. Inadvertent release of practice bombs, not mentioned. Hazard control measures associated with the planned use of lasers won't be looked at until later. An integrated resource management plan, like almost everything else, will be done later.

To me there is an irony in that the proposal will allow littering the countryside with debris from an estimated 25,000 flares an about 49,000 chaff bundles per year. Each of which contain up to 3 million aluminum-coated fibers, and yet a person throwing litter out the window of a car can be fined hundreds of dollars.

In this era of conservatism and fiscal

belt tightening, it seems strange the Air Force is spending millions of dollars promoting new weapons delivery and electronic warfare range that the inspector general of the Department of Defense has stated it is not needed. There is an obvious disconnect of the Department of Defense an the Air Force.

When you find out about similar range expansions, efforts that are going on around the country, it seems that the entire issue of military training ranges is out of control. The draft EIS even mentions the Navy is trying to withdraw 189,000 acres of public land in northcentral Nevada.

The proposal reminded me of an article I recently read about, some rather misleading information Air Force General Ralston gave some congressmen about about the projected numbers of enemy aircraft. It seems the General included those of our allies as well as those that came off U.S. production lines. Republican Representative Curt Weldon from Pennsylvania was quoted as saying, "There has been a lack of candor in the whole process." I believe that same lack of candor is prevalent with regard to the latest Air Force

training range proposal.

I suspect that even the ardent range supporter would agree that averaging noise out over a 24-hour period to try and convince you it's quiet is deceptive. Just think, how you would respond to your kids if they tried to use such a tactic to convince you their radio music wasn't too loud?

There are many shortcomings regarding the proposal that I would like to tell you about, but the three minute gag order placed on range opponents does not allow me to go into any details. Should you be interested, please see me later. I'll be more than happy to chat with you later.

In closing, I can only say I sincerely hope this latest Air Force proposal does not become a reality. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Brian Goller.

GE-1 BRIAN GOLLER, 008099 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. GOLLER: My name is Brian Goller. I live here in Boise, Idaho. I'm a member of the Idaho Conservation League, board of directors and I'm

speaking for the board of directors this evening.

The Air Force is having some trouble with its credibility, and one area where the credibility is strained is the question of need. It is no secret by now that what the Air Force wants is much more than a 12,000-acre dummy bombing range. What they have in mind is a full-fledged, high-thread, supersonic battlefield. Including bomb targets, no-drop targets, a million-acre electronic range, release of chaff and incendiary flares an sonic booms. All these factors come into play at once during composite force exercises of attack and defend, pursue and evade in the millions of acres of military airspace over southwest Idaho, eastern Oregon, and northern Nevada.

Air Force wants to recreate Desert Storm in the Owyhee canyon lands, but they have repeatedly stated on the record that they do not need additional training facilities in Idaho. The Air Force contends that the range represents "enhancement, not necessity, and that the training needs of the composite wing are being fully met with the facilities currently available to it." When commander General Peck has by now famously stated that "we are the most combat

capable unit anywhere in the world right now." And that's with current training opportunities.

The Inspector General of the Department of Defense issued an audit report in 1995 that concluded that additional Air Force training in Idaho was not necessary. It stated that the training needs of the composite wing can be met with existing ranges, an that the creation of a range in Idaho would duplicate existing training resources. It pointed out that the Air Force had not established the training requirements for the composite wing, nor had they proved why existing training ranges cannot continue to provide composite force training. The report also stated that the cost/benefit analysis used to justify the Idaho training range was not valid.

When the Air Force brought the composite wing to Mountain Home, they stated publicly that existing facilities could provide the wing with the training they needed, and they have. The Air Force is currently downsizing with fewer pilots an aircraft to train than in the past. Existing ranges are underutilized. The Secretary of Defense has never said why this proposed range is necessary for national defense.

The Air Force says that they need this range expansion in Idaho for realism, but they are able to obtain realistic training now. They say that they don't want to have to refuel every time they go out. The Inspector General's audit report pointed out that the logistics of time and fuel management including the rotation of aerial refueling opportunities are important skills that must be included in the wing's training.

The ETI, draft EIS, tells us that the wing practices refueling every day in Idaho air spacing and will continue to do so even if they adopt alternative A, the no-action alternative. The Air Force says that they need the new range for fuel economy and to save wear and tear on the air frames but the wing will not fly fewer hours with the new range. The composite wing is not a static entity; it is dynamically on the move all the time, and the wing's airplanes are flying virtually nonstop. The other area of --

COLONEL POPE: You need to wrap up your comments

MR. GOLLER: Okay. I was going to make some comments about the draft EIS; I would like to make one very short comment regarding some of the

information that was put up here earlier in the briefing that Colonel Richie did. He had a slide that was up on the screen there for a while and it listed resources not affected by this proposal, and included in those resources not affected by this proposal were recreation and visual resources, socioeconomic resources, and land use and transportation resource. Now, I disagree with that and I think that's totally inappropriate.

In closing, I would like to just say that the Air Force has established a history of attempting to conceal the impacts of their proposals through the use of poor science, the failure to disclose impacts, and failure to evaluate the cumulative impacts of related actions. The purpose and spirit of NEPA is full disclosure and I don't think we should let the Air Force get away with anything less.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Wayne Schwabrow.

GE-1 WAYNE SCHWABROW 008100

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. SCHWABROW: My name is Wayne Schwarbrow

from Meridian, Idaho. I'm speaking for myself. You know the Air Force tried this -- have been trying it for years and years to get the bombing range out in the Owyhees. Number one: I have an IQ of about 45, but I'm smart enough to say that the Air Force is wrong. Saylor Creek, you take Saylor Creek, the Air Force is planting sagebrush out there trying to get it back to cheat grass. I farmed and ranched for most of my life, and I'm going to tell you right now that's sparse ground; everybody in here will be dead and your kids will be dead before you get one sagebrush brush out there. I can guarantee it. And that's what we're all here for.

We're not against the Air Force. We're just wanting to protect what's ours. The Owyhees are ours, all of us. We love it out there. It's part of their heritage and now it's part of our heritage. We're not against the Air Force, but give the people of Idaho and Nevada, both of us are in here together, a chance to say go out there and enjoy our lives. That's all we ask. We don't want a jet to fly 200 feet above us. They don't want that when they're out there in the Owyhees. Their ancestors are buried out there.

I've been out there and you can go out there and you can see Indian paintings all over the Owyhees, and they'll agree with that. They've been there for thousands of years. It's not a question -- the question is if the Air Force -- if we go to war, in other words what you're saying is if we don't get the Owyhees, we've lost the battle. Pure and simple, we've lost it. If you don't get it, there's no way in hell we are ever going to win the war and it's wrong. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Steve Jakubowics.

GE-2 STEVE JAKUBOWICS, 008101

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. JAKUBOWICS: My name is Steve Jackubowics. I reside in Boise, Idaho. It's hard to believe that I'm here again. Since 1989 this is the third public hearing, and it gets a little tiring after a while. But I have four major points, I'll submit more detailed comments another time regarding the ETI, DIS.

DP-4 The first point is that the current EIS is inadequate because it does not conform with

Judge Lodge's ruling that a combined AFEIS be prepared that includes an analysis of the ITR and also moving the composite wing to Mountain Home Air Force Base. And so as far as I'm concerned we're just going round and round and round. You keep changing the proposal but it's the same thing and at the same time. You haven't even complied with a federal judge's order.

PN-1 The second point is questioning the purpose and need for the action since there really is no need for the ITR. The training needs of the composite wing obviously can be met with existing ranges and resources because you've been proposing for eight years now some kind of training range in the Owyhee canyon lands country, and for the last eight years you've been training. You know, I guess it seems everything is fine. You're training. Every day people go out. I've been buzzed out there. I've almost got blasted off a cliff in the east fork of the Owyhee one time because you claim you don't fly low level, but I almost got knocked off a cliff by one of your jets once. And that's not exactly a nice feeling when you're out there for solitude.

The third point is I question the

adequacy of the EIS considering that it seems the Air Force, or at least the preparers of the EIS have not been basically giving a full disclosure of the information. One thing that came up, it was even in the papers, was the bighorn sheep information. Seems that when an adverse impact or the scientific data reveals that there might be an adverse impact on the resources out there, that that information was being with held from the EIS. I remind you that NEPA and the EIS are supposed to be a full disclosure of all the information. Not just what the Air Force or SAIC decides to be the impacts the public can be notified about.

BI-70

And I guess my last point is I'm getting tired of this and the Owyhee Canyon lands, the Bruneau, the Jarbidge-Owyhee country is dear to my heart and it's some of the most wild, spectacular country in the United States. And just take your training range somewhere else. I support the no-action alternative. Alternative A. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Mr. Craig Gehrke.

CRAIG GEHRKE, 00S102

GE-2

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. GEHRKE: My name is Craig Gehrke and I'm the regional director of the Idaho office of the Wilderness Society. The Wilderness Society will submit more detailed comments on the ETI before the comment period closes. Tonight we would just like to talk about the question of need.

U.S. Air Force has never established a need for any additional military facilities in southwest Idaho. To the contrary, the Air Force continually states that the use of existing ranges is adequate to the U.S. training needs for Mountain Home Air Force Base. Two separate government reports examining the need for a new military range found that such a range was redundant with existing Air Force assets, failed to be justified under a cost/benefit analysis, was unneeded for training and would duplicate facilities already available at the nearby Utah Test and Training Range.

PN-1

PN-14

In 1983 the Assistant Secretary of

Defense stated that the existing Saylor Creek training range near Mountain Home can support the day-to-day training performed by composite wings. He explained that large-scale exercises would use existing large ranges like Utah Test and Training or Nellis Range. He added that the large-scale training at distant ranges provided an opportunity to incorporate tanker support to the mission training and add realism to that type of training.

In 1995 Air Force officials were quoted as saying that all training requirements for pilots at Mountain Home were being met by Saylor Creek and the Utah, Nellis, and Fallon ranges. If you take the Utah testing training range, Nellis, and Fallon and combine them together, Mountain Home and the military have 38,000 square miles of airspace and over four million acres of land dedicated to military use. Enough is enough.

The audit report quoted that the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, stating that the composite wing has met its training needs using existing Saylor Creek range, existing airspace and existing tactical ranges in Utah and Nevada. The Deputy Chiefs of Staff stated that with these existing assets, the pilots of

Mountain Home had trained adequately and become combat ready. The Wilderness Society is not going to support any additional military activities in the Owyhee canyon lands. The canyon lands are a place of solitude, a place of wild lands, a place of wild rivers and a place of silence. They are not a place of war.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker would be Miss Katie Fite.

KATIE FITE, 00S103

GE-1

appeared and gave the following statement:

MISS FITE: I'm Katie Fite. I live in Boise, Idaho. And I'm speaking as a concerned citizen and recreational user of public lands in Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada. Three million acres which will be directly impacted by this proposal.

I have spent a lot of hours on the ground in these areas and already Air Force training activity is already at an unreasonable and totally annoying level. The Air Force has never demonstrated a need for this bombing range proposal. Instead it's a giant land grab. The ETI proposal to turn the Owyhee canyon lands into a

supersonic hell complete with dangerous high-tech weaponry. What kind of weaponry? Well, we have lasers. If humans or animals look at lasers they can become blind. We have thread emitters. And basically thread emitters fry human cells and body tissues and those 30-plus emitter sites peppered all over the Bruneau/Jarbidge country, they will indeed cause great harm to all who come very close to them.

But it's not only that. I don't know how many people here are familiar with the Grasmere radar facility. I'm just going to use this as an example to show what each one of these 30 emitter sites or anything the Air Force gets in this country will turn into. In the mid-eighties the Air Force applied to the Bureau of Land Management for categorical exclusion to park a mobile emitter on top of a hill near Grasmere. Well, it went from that, with no public review, to what is out there now. Many, many buildings, a high tower, supersophisticated radar, and thread emitters. And in the meantime, the Air Force has never consulted with the BLM before making any changes out there even though the terms of their agreement said they have to. They have acted, they have done, and they

have taken and then they have gotten approval and a few nasty letters after they have done these things.

They spill thousands of gallons of diesel fuel out there; it disappeared into a crack in the basalt. During the impromptu visit to the site last fall with some other folks, we were met at the gate by an Air Force sergeant or some person -- some Air Force personnel who was out there and he was chatting with us and he proudly mentioned that yeah, we have British and Canadian Air Force -- whatever they are called -- military planes flying over right now using the facility.

So, you know, does Canada not have enough airspace that they can't train their own pilots there? Why do we in Idaho have to give our airspace and our solitude and wilderness areas to foreign pilots to train in? Another thing associated with this radar facility is the lighting. One of the things those of us who go to the Owyhee canyon lands really cherish is the solitude and wildness of the area. I can be camped in Upper-Sheep Creek, across the Nevada border, and look north and I can see the lights of Grasmere on the hill at night. This is what we can expect all

over that country if the Air Force gets this expanded training in Idaho.

I support the no-action alternative and I look forward to the day when the Air Force comes in front of us with a proposal to take training back to the levels of the mid-eighties or before. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Mr. John McCarthy.

GE-1 JOHN McCARTHY 00S104

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. McCARTHY: Good evening. I'm John McCarthy of Boise. I'm the conservation director of the Idaho Conservation League, ICL and I speak for the group, which is the largest state conservation group in Idaho. ICL opposes the so-called training range, the ETI. ICL opposed both the earlier versions of the bombing range/training range. The members of ICL think the Air Force should stop trying to take over our public land for unneeded and intrusive training, at the expense of the land's true worth.

Conservationists do not think supersonic

war games and the Owyhee canyon lands are a good mix. The Owyhees are well suited for solitude, wilderness, wildness, wild creatures, recreation things like contemplation. None of these attributes are compatible with the military overflights you propose. The wildlife will be destroyed with proposed overflights, the chaff drops, the expanded equipment stations, the lights, the roads.

How can you measure or value these qualities of wildness, wilderness, solitude, recreation, wildlife, freedom? I'm not sure how to measure these irreplaceable values, but I am sure you, the Air Force, have not measured what will be lost in your Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the ETI. The DEIS doesn't tell us what we will lose. And what we get -- an aerial battleground -- is not needed, but acknowledgment of the Air Force.

People have lived in the Owyhees for thousands of years. Some of us will continue to live here. You all in the Air Force who are working on this version of the never-ending Air Force scheme to take over our land, you all will be gone in one or two or three years. We want to stay here. We want our land to not be besieged by

bombers, and fighter jets and flares, and chaff and ground crews and radar towers and power stations and truck convoys and all the rest.

We hope to still be here in 10 years, 20 years, even more. We know we will be better off without a bombing range. Our land and our communities will benefit from our wild Owyhee Canyon lands. Our people will be driven out by a bombing range. It is time to give it up and get off our land. Don't make us citizens continue to spend our time fighting with our government to protect our own land. All of us could and should be spending our time doing something far more productive and useful than fighting over this proposed training range. Give it up and be heroes.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Roger Turcotte.

GE-1 ROGER TURCOTTE, 008105 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. TURCOTTE: I don't really have any prepared statement. I'm just a -- my is Roger Turcotte. I'm a citizen of Boise and just wanted to say a few words having had some

experience. I'm obviously a minority here, but I spent the last three years, or retired a year ago after 20 years in the Air Force and I flew fighters for 19 of those 20 years. Not only in Idaho, but in Alaska, Korea, Philippines around the world, really, Nevada, Florida all the places that were mentioned. And I guess I feel like I'm in a different world. I never realized that I destroyed so much peace, quite, sheep, countryside, you name it. It certainly is a different perspective.

But I would like to say something about the airspace having flown in it for three years, and it is valuable airspace, and it does provide great training. If you look at the airspace, though, at least from my perspective someone who's flown there, and you look at the utilization of it. When you look at where Saylor Creek is, it sits up there in a corner. If you take this room, it's the corner up there where the screen is and in the middle of the airspace is the Duck Valley Indian Reservation which everyone avoids and rightfully so.

And the Air Force has not always been, in the past, good stewards of that and have become a lot more sensitive to that, at least since I've

been there. We put the fear of God into people when I was there if you flew into the airspace. Because it's just like everything, you ruin it for everyone else and the people that live here and understand the sensitivity of it and the importance of it respect that. And not everyone does and that's true no matter what you're in, but you put the fear of God in people and if they do violate they go in to see the general, and they get grounded they get sent home.

But the one thing that people brought up, we have different people come in here, the Marines, the Navy, or the Canadians or the Brits, or whatever. The Air Force trains with all of those people as part of we're all one team, you know, to defend a nation, and the different services they provide adversaries and we get mutual training out of it when they do that. It's not an uncommon thing wherever you're at.

And the airspace whether you're here -- everyone always says do it somewhere else, I don't want it in my backyard. And if you go to Nevada and you talk to the folks down there where the Nellis ranges are, you'll get the same thing. And there were more restrictions and circles and when

you fly there, you know, it's bad from that perspective. And the same thing if you go to Utah, Utah Testing/Training Range. Why do we want to fly close right here, 30 miles away from the range? Well, if you spend all that fuel, it's like, if you lived in Twin Falls and you had to drive every day, and you only have eight hours to work with, it takes you two hours to get there, you only get four hours of work, and it takes you two hours to come home and you spend a lot of time in dead-time, you know, on the road. And you're not getting a good return on your investment on the fuel that the tax payers are paying for and the time instead of training guys when you're out there.

When I flew in Alaska it was a long ways to the training range and we spent a lot of time, you know, driving back and forth. And we do use Utah Testing/Training Range in Utah. And we also use the Nellis ranges, or the Air Force does now, and they have over the past few years. It's -- there is a lot of good training and I think one of the things from my perspective was, we inherited the airspace at a different time in technology to a certain extent, and some of it is to just realign some of the bottle necks with the way the airspace

is. And if you do, for example, put the north end portion on there, you will actually spread out some of the flights and density just because of the way people are funneled together in the range itself.

COLONEL POPE: Okay you need to stop. Thank you. D. Mike Barton.

GE-1 D. MICHAEL BARTON, 008106 appeared and made the following statement:

MR. BARTON: My name is Mike Barton. I reside in Boise, Idaho. I've been using the Owyhee County and the areas in question for the bombing range for over 30 years, and have been a member of the hunting and conservation groups or a variety of those in the state of Idaho.

My primary concern is we have not still or have not still been addressed properly as no other option, other than alternative A, is able to do. Sage grouse habitat loss potential for fires in various aspects of the range, adding additional roads for emitter sites surely have an effect on this, as well as many other aspects of the range. Loss of bighorn sheep habitat. You don't have to

go any further than what the Statesman said today and I'm not sure anybody brought that up today. And I quote, "Sheep are most sensitive during lambing seasons, which begins in late winter and runs through July. But the Air Force doesn't want to rule out flights during lambing season."

My other concerns are loss of solitude. Again, sonic booms continue to occur even over the Duck Valley Indian Reservation as we speak. That's basically something that has not been stop even as now. Air Force's poor ability to adhere to what they have said in the two particular previous statements are obvious examples of that. Loss of wild and scenic areas are obviously a concern. Chaff affects hunting dogs and people. I'm a veterinarian by trade. These chemicals that the chaff give off are no fun in the nose or anywhere else in the respiratory tract.

Adding additional roads to this area are obviously a concern. There is obviously no, additional need for this range, and obviously a lot of people are moving into this state. About 30,000 a year. I am highly in support of alternative A, the no-action, and see no other alternative. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker will be Dianne Jones.

GE-1 DIANNE JONES, 008107 appeared and gave the following statement:

MISS JONES: My name is Dianne Jones and I live here in Boise. When I think about this bombing range I think about an experience that I had a number of years ago that sticks in my mind. I was on top of Steen's mountain over in eastern Oregon lying on my stomach looking over the edge of the mountain at the desert below, when all of the sudden I felt a presence over my head, not very far I must say, and as the jet shot up into the blue above the desert I heard the roar. It was an experience destroyed for me. Now that's only happened once. I don't live out there like the mountain sheep and the other wildlife. I do believe that that experience of the flights that are taking place now which you're proposing to increase for this extended bombing range/extended training range amount to pollution.

The idea, I take it, is that this extended training range is needed somehow to protect our international defense, to protect our country. But yet at the same time we're polluting what we say that we're protecting with this extended training range and it makes absolutely no sense and so I support alternative A. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Michael Jones.

GE-1 MICHAEL JONES, 008108 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. JONES: My name is Michael Jones. I live in Boise. I was born in Caldwell, and like a lot of other people in this part of the country, when I was young I had no particular regard for the desert and the Owyhee country. And I had a physics teacher in high school from Homedale and he talked about how beautiful it feels to ride out in the desert, and I remember me saying, "What? The desert is not beautiful. Mountains are beautiful, the trees are beautiful, but not sagebrush."

But that planted a seed in my mind. And I came to actually love the Owyhee country. And

it's something, being out in that country, it's something you can't appreciate when you're in a jet flying over it. And it truly is unique and you truly should leave it alone to the extent that it's already left alone. And I can think of some other things to say, but I'll spare those things.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. And Kara Pettit.

GE-1 KARA PETTIT, 008109
appeared and made the following statement:

MISS PETTIT: I'm from Boise. I support the no-action alternative. As Mr. Olson, I believe his name was, so eloquently pointed out before, I, also when I was reading the EIS, came up with a lot of empty answers. It seems very incomplete based on invalid and unsupported assumptions. Particularly, in the area of wildlife and recreation I find it very difficult to believe that there will be no affect on recreation, no affect on air quality, and no affect on socioeconomic impact.

Even considering the inadequacy in the EIS there's still significant negative impacts that

are pointed out. There is sensitive species in each alternative except in the no-action alternative. There are wetlands in two of the alternatives, Grasmere and Clover Butte. There are the 22 wilderness study areas. Jarbidge Wilderness area I did not see very much on what the effect would be on that area. And it seems to me that it comes down to just a balancing of the need for the training area versus the impacts. And the EIS points very solidly to me that the need is greatly outweighed by the negative impacts that have been identified to date. And again, as I said before and what Mr. Olson more specifically pointed out, that we still don't know quite a few of the impacts and most of the impacts or the no-impacts that are identified are based on assumptions that really have no basis. So I again support the no-action alternative. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Mr. Russ Thurow.

GE-1 RUSS THUROW, 008110
appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. THUROW: I'm Russ Thurow. I'm a resident of Ada County. I'll be submitting more specific

comments on the EIS at a later time. I want to take this opportunity to comment on a couple of items though.

The first one is the potential affects of this proposal on resources. I've had the pleasure of hiking and floating drainages of the Owyhee, Bruneau, Jacks Creek, Wickahoney Creek areas and I've enjoyed the unique diversity of wildlife in those areas, and I'd like to make a couple of specific comments on bighorn sheep.

People may not realize that bighorn sheep, historically, are one of the most widely distributed big game species in the state of Idaho. Human activities have summarily fragmented those populations and reduced the distribution of them. The Owyhees and the Bruneau and Jarbidge country represent some of the best remaining areas for bighorn sheep and there is a lot of remaining opportunities to reintroduce bighorn sheep and they really represent the unique opportunity in that respect.

I would also like to comment on the solitude of the area. I've only gotten a taste of that country, and my family and I certainly want to spend a lot more time exploring other areas. And

the use proposed in this expansion is totally incompatible with both those wildlife values and those recreation and solitude values. And I'd like to point out, I guess, to the retired Air Force pilot a few minutes ago if he doesn't understand the concern about his overflights, perhaps he needs to get down on the ground and experience some of those resources to see why we are so concerned about some of those things.

Finally, as it has been pointed out, the Air Force has really been inconsistent on the purpose of need for this proposal the evidence suggests that existing ranges are more than adequate. Existing ranges in Idaho and existing ranges in Utah and Nevada. So looking at the potential effects and the fact that there's no clear need, the no-action alternative is really the only one that makes sense. It's my understanding that this is the fourth proposal in about eight years. My wife and I have attended several different hearings. We've written letters, we've testified, and again, as a retired Air Force person said a few minutes ago wherever you go it's the same. You go to Nevada and you hear the same thing. You go to Utah you hear the same thing.

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Well, I would ask that the Air Force listen to this public testimony and get the message. There are greater values to these lands than these proposals understand. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. This card was handed to me late and it's Jack Streeter.

GE-1 JACK STREETER, 008111 appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. STREETER: Well, my folks come out here with Kit Carson and we traded with the Indians for a long time and I know that fellow with the mustache, he used to work with one of the congressmen, yeah.

Well, anyway. You always talk about the Air Force. Well, I just got back from Washington, D.C. and the conversation around the latrines in the pentagon was, do you suppose it all started in Korea or Bosnia. Why?

Well, Bosnia releases some guy that we walk around with in the daytime as a protection for the operation that's over there. He walks around in the nighttime and shoots other people. Now, all

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it takes to start a war is for some American to see some guy shoot another American and he's going to shoot an American. And that's just the way the world is and I think you would agree too. Koreans, we either got to feed them, fight them, or we got to get them to join South Korea.

Now, you talk about the Air Force all the time. You talk about a guy in the infantry and he's getting the hell shot out of him and he asks for air support, he thinks those guys are damn nice. Been there. Done that. Three wars.

Now, when I see a map and it says U.S. on it it means all of us and all the bureaucracies that we've got, some of which I hate, and all of the people with some of their screwy ideas, but it means we all get to use that land. And the Air Force is a multiple-use concept for the rockhounds, the deer hunters, everything. I've been out there all over that damn thing and I've mined in Nevada. I've farmed and ranched in Idaho. And I spent 25 years in the service starting out in the Army.

The United States Department of Defense, the United States Air Force, and other government agencies involved in determining the most beneficial, the most reasonable way to equip and

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maintain a composite wing with an electronic training range has been decided that that should be Mountain Home Air Force Base as the headquarters. The home of the most advanced composite training wing in the world at this time. That's a fact. This wing is tasked to immediately respond to outbreaks throughout the world that adversely affect this country.

First of all, you got to have a country and then you got to have some sort of a military to save it. You ought to remember that. That Air Force's study plan reworked the requirements and have come up three proposals, one of which will meet their needs adequately, protect our way of life, and have the least expense and maintenance. And to get their commitment to a training range that embodies the mulitple-use concept where hunters, fishermen, rockhounds, cattlemen, sightseers, and so forth can use the same area for both profit and scenery of all kinds and to protect the area for our posterity. This is all in the concept that the Air Force has studied. They've given you three of them to pick from.

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COLONEL POPE: You need to wrap up your comments.

MR. STREETER: An individual or a group or an organization that would stand up, protest, and try to tell the rest of the American people that we don't need a strong defense either has the intelligence of a the Bruneau snail or they don't appreciate the lifestyle that our military has preserved for us since the Revolutionary War. And it's still needed. If we had not had the military in World War II, willing to sacrifice everything, we wouldn't have a free country today. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: Mr. Streeter is the last person I've had. Anyone in the room who's already identified themselves to be a speaker that I have not called?

All right. Is there anyone who has not identified themselves who would like to make a statement tonight? And would someone like a second chance? Is there anyone who went past the allotted time period and wanted to go for a few more minutes? And so if there is someone who would like to make additional comments please identify yourself.

GE-1 DAVID WELCH, 008112

appeared again and made the following statements:

MR. WELCH: I'm David Welch from Boise. I don't understand what part of "NO" the Air Force doesn't understand. At this point, after all these years of harassing, I'm starting to feel like women that I have talked to, and I know who have been told by the men who rape them, your mouth said, "no" but your eyes said, "yes". That's one comment.

The other comment is that I felt that we

were assured that there would be no personal attacks on anyone. I didn't appreciate the one man's remarks toward the representatives, toward the State Senator King from Elmore County and I didn't appreciate Mr. Streeter's comments. We love this country. What are we doing? We are fighting for this country. We have shed enough blood. I don't want any of these men or women to die. I want them to be not only adequately and superiorly trained, but I want them to be safe.

Every hearing that I have attended I have heard the same thing, that we are not patriotic, that we don't give a damn about this country and about our military. And I'm ready for it to stop. If you want to talk about sovereign nations, let's quit flying over Duck Valley which is a sovereign nation. Whether this state likes it or not, you've overtaken the canyon lands. Windows are broken, cows won't give milk, chickens quit laying eggs, children are scared of those men, and for no reason. It's simply because some of them fly over it like they do.

Let's talk about that issue and not call names. Let's talk about the issues, not polarize things and let's try and figure this out because

once names come up so does anger. Once anger comes up, then comes war. And my God, isn't that what the Air Force is trying to do, just to preserve the peace, not make war? Especially our canyon lands.

COLONEL POPE: This hearing is adjourned.

(This hearing adjourned at 10:10 p.m.)

ooOoo

COMMENTS 008113

GE-1 Joanie Fauci, 2944 Hillway Drive, Boise, Idaho 83702

I'd like to talk tonight, just representing myself. And I really don't think the Air Force should expand their training range in Idaho because I think a more realistic approach would be to travel the longer distances and have to refuel in the air. They might as well just go to existing training ranges that exist.

There's been enough military closures already. There should be plenty of air space out there ready for them to use. I don't see why we need to keep giving them more of the air space.

I'm particularly concerned about air space that is proposed to be expanded, like over the Big Jack and Little Jack Creek and then down near the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. I don't want them flying there. It's the only canyon area left out in Owyhee Canyon that they're not allowed to fly in.

It's very critical to bighorn sheep. I'm concerned about the sheep, but I also just don't

want them having access to every single canyon that there is. I do a lot of hiking out there and we do a lot hunting. We'd like the area to be quiet and have some solitude. That's why we travel so far in the desert to get away from all the noise and congestion of people.

So I don't think they should increase the air space. I also don't think they should increase the amount of airplanes flying in that whole area.

The whole war potential worldwide has decreased dramatically for U.S. involvement. I don't see why we need to increase our military operations which would include more airplanes practicing. We should be decreasing all of that, so I don't see any reason for them to be increasing the air flights.

One last thing I have to comment on is the aluminum shaft that they drop. I really don't think that is a good idea for them to be dropping that in the desert. It's certainly bound to get into the food chains. It's very polluting. It does not degrade, and I do not think that they have the right to pollute the public lands with their aluminum.

Thank you.

COMMENTS 008114

GE-1 Gerald Walters, 2019 South Indiana, Caldwell, Idaho 83605

I am here to state my opposition against the enhanced training range for many, many reasons.

I personally believe after looking at the EIS that the data is flawed on noise, and on its concern with the wildlife in that area. I support Alternative A, the no-action plan.

COMMENTS 008115

GE-1 D. Michael Barton, Jr., 6810 Diamond Street, Boise, Idaho 83709.

My comments are that I have been a user of the Owyhee County and the areas in question for the bombing range for over 30 years. My primary concerns, which have not still been addressed properly as no other option other than Action A is able to do the same are:

First of all, sage grouse habitat loss, the potential for fires with various aspects of the range. Adding additional roads for emitter sites surely will have an effect on this area as well as many other aspects on bombing range.

Loss of bighorn sheep habitat and the accompanying aspects of that, I'd like to site the Idaho Statesman, Thursday June 12, 1997 issue. In an indication of the Air Force's ability to continue on with what they're saying is true. I quote, "Sheep are most sensitive during the lambing season, which begins in the late winter and runs to July."

Skipping one line, "But the Air Force

doesn't want to rule out flights during the lambing season." This is clearly an absolute indication of the Air Force's lack of commitment in the past and in the future to this particular issue.

My third issue is the loss of solitude. Again, in this same article with the Statesman "Sonic booms have been noted to have continued to occur over the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, even as we speak now."

Fourthly, the Air Force's poor ability to adhere to what they have said. Those particular incidences are examples given, and the last two points are clear examples. Loss of wildlife and scenic areas and those that could possibly be designated as well in scenic river systems.

Finally, shafts affect hunting dogs and people as it is aluminized silica. That does definitely affect the respiratory system. I am a veterinarian by trade and have been quite concerned about that particular aspect of this particular situation and the continuation of an acceleration of this issue.

I do not feel there's any need for additional range as the areas that are available are close enough as they are in both Utah and

Nevada and certainly simulate real wartime situations. I clearly support Alternative A, no-action.

Thank you very much.

BOISE, IDAHO

Friday, June 13, 1997, 6:30 p.m.

COLONEL POPE: We will begin the comment period. The first is State Representative Ruby Stone.

GE-1 008116

RUBY STONE,

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. STONE: Thank you Colonel, ladies and gentlemen. First, my name is Representative Ruby Stone and I'm District 17 here in Boise.

First of all, I would like to thank our military people for serving your country and protecting all of us. Because of those who preceded you, we still have the opportunity to speak for or against subjects as we are discussing here.

We all want to protect our wildlife in our state. Likewise, we want to protect the lives of those and help those people who are protecting us now, the pilots and the airmen of our Air Force and our military, by providing them adequate and proper training areas for them to get that training

which is so critical in case of a national conflict or an emergency.

With all of the advanced and changing technologies that are happening every day, as you're all aware, there would not be time enough for these people to receive the proper training that the people of, like my late husband was, in the second World War. They had time to get extra training. But this will be so fast and it could be right on our soil right here in the USA, which has not happened in the past.

And because of this advanced technology, that will not give us time for that. And this technology was brought about by our astronauts and our space program. That added to that to a great deal and they had to have proper training in order for us to take advantage of all those technologies.

It is imperative that our pilots and crewmen be as well prepared for any possible conflict as is possible. Your very life, yes, our lives could depend on that. Let's not kid ourselves into thinking that no one would dare attack us; people in many countries do not like the USA. Some day all of us may be very happy that these airmen have this adequate training in order

to be able to protect us.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is serious business. Any day we could have another flare-up as we saw in the Gulf War in the early '90s. Mountain Home Air Force Base and Gowen Field National Guard people were the first to seek combat in the Gulf.

As I said, we all value our wildlife, but we must value the lives of our airmen who have and are stepping up to the plate to protect this great nation and, yes, those of us who are able to testify here tonight.

Many people feel the same as I do about this, but for various reasons they are not able to come down and testify. For myself, I just got back in town on Tuesday. I did not know this. I'm not as well prepared as I would like to be because I've had many duties that I've had to perform since I got home. But let's be prepared. Let's help our airmen be prepared to defend us and our great nation should that be necessary, God forbid. Should that happen, there is a great possibility that none of us would be left to enjoy Idaho, the USA, or the wildlife that we have here in this state. Thank you very much.

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COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is State Representative Jim Jones.

GE-1 JIM JONES, 008117

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. JONES: Colonel, ladies and gentlemen, I'm Jim Jones, State Representative from Elmore in Owyhee County, that's District 20B.

All of my life I've supported education. I've traveled in all 50 states in America. I've traveled in over 20 nations. I spent 20 years in the military, and I supported education every place it was -- every opportunity I had.

I drove by the bus training program at Boise State and I saw all the buses in the yard here in Nampa the other day. I drove by recently, pole climbing, where they taught people to put lines in the power lines.

As I say, I've traveled 20 nations, I've traveled in all the states in the union. And I don't know of a better training program or school yard that we have here in Elmore, Owyhee County for this training range. It's isolated, couldn't be any better place to have a training program. And

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it's right near the base. We don't have to have buses to take people to the training program. We don't have to drive 400 or 500 miles.

And I just think this is the place to have a training program. It will save us lots of money, lots of time, and we can get a product out of this training program.

I certainly support this training program in Elmore-Owyhee Counties. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next elected official is Miss Anne Hausrath on the Boise council. She's speaking as a citizen for her and her family.

GE-1 ANNE HAUSRATH, 008118

appeared and gave the following statement:

MRS. HAUSRATH: Good evening, Colonel. Thank you. My name is Anne Hausrath. I live at 1820 North 7th Street in Boise. I'm a Boise city council member, but I'm speaking tonight as a private citizen on behalf of me, my husband, and our three children.

As a city council member I listen to a lot of people's vision for the future. A common

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element for everyone is the value of the natural environment for native Idahoans and for the people who choose to come here, the people who choose to relocate their businesses here.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak here tonight, and I hope that the Air Force really will listen. You've heard it before. I, and hundreds of Idahoans, have told you our vision for the Owyhees and it does not include a bombing range.

Your own studies show that we don't need the proposed bombing range. It is a bad idea. It would be bad for wildlife, bad for recreation, bad for tourism, and bad for the long-range economy of our state. Most importantly, it would be bad for our collective souls. Please understand that no still means no.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker will be Mr. Jeff Abrahams. Mr. Abrahams? We'll set his card aside. The next speaker will be Mr. David Taylor. Mr. David Taylor? Once again, setting the card aside. Next speaker, Wendy Wilson.

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GE-2 WENDY WILSON, 008119

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. WILSON: Thank you, Colonel. My name is Wendy Wilson; I'm the executive director of Idaho Rivers United, and I'm testifying for that organization today.

Idaho Rivers United is a citizens' group that works to protect wild rivers and healthy water-sheds, and I believe I represent most of the 1600 members of our organization when I say that we oppose all of the alternatives in the draft EIS, including the no-action alternative.

DP-5 The no-action alternative is based on legally deficient baseline level of related activities. We've been involved in this for a number of years and this is not the first time we've had to testify on this. We're getting a little tired of this game, and we still believe that turning the Owyhee canyon lands into a super-sonic battlefield is both short-sighted and wrong.

There's a few other issues that have come up over the years, and I think that the primary problem we now have is that the timing of the

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project is no longer appropriate to this scope. I guess it's been eight years now. When the first proposal came up the request was for three million acres of land. Although the the actual target areas have been reduced in size, still the scope of the project is the same. And the farther we get away from that eight years ago time period, the less the need is clear from the military.

We still haven't had a pragmatic EIS from the military on the need for the project. The demographics have changed, competition for use of the land has changed and increased. Hundreds of thousands more people now live in Idaho and the societal values of solitude, quiet, and wildland have increased.

I'm a river runner, and when I look at this EIS I see a lot of impacts and all of the alternatives have not been adequately reviewed. I would liken the Owyhee canyon lands to Glenn Canyon, which is now behind a dam, which has been called the place no one knew. Both of these places have wild rivers, wild animals, and ecosystem that few people have had a chance to appreciate. So let me tell you about a few of the things that I've appreciated there before it's too late.

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RV-7

One of the things that EIS hasn't evaluated adequately is the solitude of a wild river experience. On the Owyhee a person can drift downstream for 20 days and encounter one road along the way. There is not very many places in the world you can do that. Some of them are in Siberia and they are polluted.

This solitude of the wild river experience will change under this proposal. There are impacts to wildlands that has not been

LU-5

adequately addressed. I don't believe that the EIS adequately addresses the impacts of hauling gravel into the high desert to try to improve roads for year-round access for 30 emitter sites. The opportunity to see wildlife has not been adequately addressed. Right now you can sit along the river bank and if you sing to yourself the sheep will come down, look over the edge, and listen to you. Don't tell me that they aren't affected by the noise of the overhead activity.

The opportunity to appreciate the cultural resources will largely be lost also with the increased number of people that would have access to the area.

In summary, the best future for the

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Owyhee canyon lands is bad roads, lousy weather, silence, and rattlesnakes. And the Air Force luckily can't do very much about the weather and the rattlesnakes, but the roads and noise will change this country forever. And we ask that the EIS be withdrawn and reconsidered. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker would be Miss Evelyn Marcinelli. Evelyn Marcinelli? Setting her card aside also. Next speaker would be Mr. Jamie James. Jamie James? Fred Wilson, Mr. Fred Wilson? Julie Morgan, Julie Morgan? All right. Mr. John Barringer?

GE-2

JOHN BARRINGER, 008120

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. BARRINGER: Colonel Pope, thanks for having us. My name is John Barringer. I guess you have my address. I'm just going to focus on one issue tonight.

In 1992 the BLM recommended to the Air Force two alternative training sites that adjoined the existing Saylor Creek Range to the east and south and include SCS1 of 154,000 acres and the SCS2 of 135,000 acres. Both sites are mostly

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federally owned and are generally flat, lower elevation ranges composed mostly of cheat grass and reseeded wheat grass. They contain none of the outstanding features that would be disturbed, disrupted, or destroyed in the proposed canyon lands areas.

PN-1

If a need for an expanded range is ever demonstrated, and it has not been, these sites would be much more appropriate. However, these areas were practically ignored both in the 1993 EIS and also in the current proposal. In essence,

PR-5

maintaining that they fail to meet the defined criteria mainly because of air space restrictions to the east. Yet, a military training route, MTR, was approved that would come from the southeast right through the rejected eastern air space and through the BLM sites into the existing Saylor Creek Range from the east. A contradiction that was violently criticized in comments by the Department of the Interior.

The use of one or both of the two federal BLM sites or a combination of the two in conjunction with Saylor Creek would work. And the Air Force knows it and should admit it instead of being hell-bent on trashing one of the country's

greatest treasures, the unique Owyhee high desert canyon lands ecosystem.

And lest you think I don't care about our military personnel, I added this note: I volunteered for three years of service in the Army during World War II, and I think I fully understand the need for the very best training and training facilities. However, I am convinced the Air Force simply does not need the expanded range it is seeking. I will add additional comments later. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker, Mr. Bryant S. Lyndaker.

GE-1 BRYANT S. LYNDAKER, 008121

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. LYNDAKER: I'm Bryant Lyndaker from Mountain Home. I'm speaking here as a concerned citizen.

I consider myself a conservationist, I'm truly concerned about wildlife and having enough clean air and enough clean water. However, I'm here in full support of ETI. I'm also a retired military officer and I'm pretty proud of the fact

that I served my country as a United States Marine Corp pilot.

I also don't want our government to create a situation that would be permanently detrimental to our environment or to the wildlife. I know that humans and wildlife are extremely adaptable. My own experience with wildlife on or near air bases and target areas suggest that wildlife flourish in those places. I do not feel the wildlife in Idaho would be any different. If training ranges were so harmful, as there are many throughout the country, I would suspect that we would hear a lot more about it.

The proposed plan is much different then the original plan. It takes steps to reduce the threat to wildlife. But like us, the animals will ignore the flights after awhile. I believe the helicopter flights that count the animals are much more threatening to them than jet flights because they chase them for an extended period of time. A jet flying just 420 miles an hour travels 7 miles per minute or about one mile every 8 seconds. The jet and the noise will be gone almost before the animal can react.

Another example of wildlife adapting was

evident last fall while I was in Elmore County near a logging operation; a helicopter logging operation. One particular herd of elk that I was looking at of about 12 animals was less than a quarter of a mile from direct overflights of the actual logging operation. They were unaffected. There were more affected by me.

I have a fairly good understanding of the training requirements needed to maintain a pilot's proficiency for success in a combat situation. I also firmly believe that the world is not a safer place as others might lead you to believe. Because of our current role and the potential for other more volatile roles, our aircrew and other members of our military must be trained to be 100 percent effective, or nearly so, when they arrive in a hostile environment.

If any of you play golf, softball, bridge, or whitewater raft, you know that if you haven't done some things in a while you're rusty. You need to go out and practice or get back in shape to perform at optimum levels. While most of those things are not life threatening, military operations are. And if everyone isn't in shape or proficient, people can get killed. Our people. My

experience as a safety officer -- that's good. I'll have more comments later.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Miss Marjorie Hayes.

GE-1 MARJORIE G. HAYES, 008122

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. HAYES: Colonel, audience. I am continuing -- and this is my fourth time to oppose. We are -- and I'm representing Idaho Consumer Affairs Incorporated, who are a nationally known outfit and this disposition is really enforced by them and they are concerned about it.

We continue to be unalterably opposed to the Air Force plan to expand their bombing range in an area that is so critical to the well-being of our people and our animals, both domestic and wild.

The Indian tribes that dwell there and its noise impact range, the wild sheep that has been transplanted from Canada that flourish there, the world-famous Paragon salt recovery area, the Owyhee river whose water is an integral part and need for the recovery of our wild salmon. And our

national emblem, the eagle who fish in the streams that will be harassed there.

If the U.S. Air Force had been a sworn enemy of the people of this State of Idaho, they could not have hurt us more with this wild plan. For tourism is the very heart of the economic well-being of our state. For it is the third largest revenue producer in our state. Where will we go for funding for our schools, for programs for our elderly, our social programs for the handicapped, and on and on, if you're going to play war games in the middle of our uniqueness?

Shame on you. The information we are receiving from C-Span is showing that you are continuing to gear up for war when you should be downsizing for peace. Our fine Secretary of State Madaleine Albright recently made this inference: "I had two brothers in the Air Force during World War II. One of them lost his life. I was proud of our Air Force then, I am deeply ashamed of you now as you continue to pursue your plans without considering the well-being of your own people."

This unique area should be protected under wilderness classification and kept forever from harm's way. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Miss Mary Ellen Nourse.

GE-1 MARY ELLEN NOURSE, 008123

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. NOURSE: Thank you, sir. My name is Mary Ellen Nourse. I'm an affiliate professor with one of our universities here in Idaho. But this evening I'm representing just myself and my husband, who would be here tonight, but he is on annual training with the Idaho National Guard.

I'd like to make four points this evening briefly. First of all, consider the positive effect of the Mountain Home Air Force on our economy. It's written about in this morning's Statesman. 4000 jobs generated due to the Mountain Home Air Force Base. And I forget the exact number of dollars generated.

Point number two, I'd like to draw an analogy between Mountain Home Air Force Base and KI Sawyer Air Force Base in Gwinn, Michigan. Until about two years ago KI Sawyer was a very large SAC Air Force Base with a bombardment wing located in the middle of Michigan's upper peninsula, which if

you think Idaho has remote areas, live in the upper peninsula for awhile.

Now, that base had to close. To my knowledge the moose are still in abundance in that area. Deer are still in abundance, birds are still in abundance, the wildlife is still there. To my knowledge there has been no environmental impact study done that shows any sort of negative effect. If so, if you know of one, please let me know. I'd like to be informed. But, think of the negative impact on the economy of upper Michigan when that base had to close. The fifth largest community in Michigan closed. Northern Michigan University lost about an eighth of its student body when that base closed. I can't tell you the dollars that were lost to the economy when that base closed.

We cannot take a chance on Mountain Home Air Force Base being considered for closure. And President Clinton has announced that there may be more closures. So please keep that in mind.

Now, another question, a third point, military readiness that's alluded to this evening. Consider these quotations from Representative Floyd Spence, who I believe is from South Carolina. He quotes: "Through June 3 of 1994, 100

percent of F-15 E-crews needed waivers from training essential to maintaining mission ready status."

They had to have waivers. They weren't rated. Here's another one from the same person: "The first battalion, 67th armor, from the second armor division, had to conduct its platoon training dismounted by parking its tanks and soldiers walking the range pretending to be in tanks." They had to do that. Now, ladies and gentlemen, that's a travesty. That's embarrassing. Would any of you go to have surgery performed on a doctor who, for example, received his medical training through use of simulators or over the internet with virtual reality? We wouldn't dream of that, yet we may have to expect our military to use similators and consider themselves trained.

Ladies and gentlemen, one fourth point, none of us have ever actually been under attack that I know of here in the United States. Cuban missile crisis, some us may remember that. All I can say is, praise God our military was ready for that. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker will be

Miss Pamela Allister.

GE-1 PAMELA ALLISTER, 008124

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. ALLISTER: Good evening and thank you, Colonel. My name is Pamela Allister, and I live and work in Boise, Idaho. I am both a member of the Snake River Alliance Education Funding and its executive director. The Snake River Alliance presented its official testimony in Twin Falls last week.

In 1950 U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson said, "It is not the function of our government to keep the citizen from falling in error. It is the function of the citizen to keep the government from falling in error."

As a private citizen tonight, I wish to comment on the Draft EIS for the enhanced training and Idaho proposal. The Draft EIS is a document that has required time after money. While government officials and scientists might quibble about samples, data, analysis and recommendations, I believe there is an overarching error within the Draft EIS.

Physicist Carl Sagan told a short story, "In a postwar meeting with President Harry S. Truman, J. Robert Oppenheimer, the scientific director of the Manhattan nuclear weapons project, mournfully commented the scientists have bloody hands. That they had known sin. Afterwards Truman instructed his aides that he never wished to see Oppenheimer again."

As this story implies, sometimes scientists are castigated for doing evil. And sometimes rewarded about the evils used for which science may be a part. Science and scientists have, I believe, have an ethical responsibility to not only see that findings are not misused, but also to take responsibility for not being influenced to use science to forward an agenda of any agency, organization or individual.

The Draft EIS is a pseudoscientific document which is fundamentally impaired because it poses the wrong hypothetical question. To paraphrase, the Draft EIS researches the question, can the Air Force have a bombing range in the Owyhee canyon lands that will not cause too much damage? Rather than the question, what would a bombing range do to the environment of this region

and is it worth it?

The Draft EIS research is biased and predisposes findings for the approval of the enhanced training in Idaho. It is the particular task of scientists who alert the public to possible dangers. For scientists to fail to research and to avoid or minimize a disclosure to the public of these dangers specifically emanating from weapons science or the use of weapon science is unjust.

Again, in the words of Carl Sagan, "Clearly the warnings need to be judicious, but not more flamboyant than the danger requires, but if we must make errors, given the stakes, we should error on the side of safety." Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Jenny Bush-Clark.

GE-1 JENNY BUSH-CLARK, 008125

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. BUSH-CLARK: Good evening. My name is Jenny Bush-Clark. I live in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. I am a clinical psychotherapist in a small, small hospital, Silverton, Idaho. I'm speaking tonight

as a private citizen.

I have several concerns about the draft environmental statement for the Air Force proposal for a bombing range in the Owyhee canyon lands area.

I want to specifically address my own experiences with training. I'm a nationally ranked distance runner; marathon runner. I'm a former tri-athlete. I've experienced vigorous, concentrated, intense training over a number of years. I have to be well prepared for my events. That takes time, effort, commitment, and sacrifice that is all needed to train effectively. In order for me to excel, I must go beyond effort. I can appreciate what the Air Force can perceive it needs to do to have the right stuff.

As an athlete, however, I have learned that going full throttle all the time is defeating and counterproductive. In order to be and do my best, I must taper prior to a race. Tapering is process. It's a process of performing less and pacing of giving my body, my mind an opportunity to integrate, to evaluate and to set realistic goals.

Depending on who my opposition is, in other words, in order for me to be the best, in

order for me to win, I actually need to do less prior to a race.

On June 1st the Seattle Times story by David Wood headlined "Pilots flee Air Force in droves." He wrote from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia that "Many Air Force pilots today are tired, frustrated and angry. And that they have little trust in the integrity of Air Force, their political ears. They complained of being lied to."

This year the Air Force expects to lose 414 pilots. More than half of its experienced aviators. That means less-experienced pilots are overloaded with work. This is not good news for the Air Force or for us.

I suggest that with the Cold War crisis behind us and the many needs for our scarce resources, whether they be time or money, that we have our national defense look at some tapering. Given the current status of the Air Force and the fact that the Air Force's top pilots are quitting in droves, I'm wondering if this is the best time for enhancement. Do we need to do a Draft EIS report on the status of the Air Force too? Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Next speaker is Mr. Bill.

Bill Clark? Next speaker is Mr. Bill Weida.

GE-2 BILL WEIDA, 008126

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. WEIDA: My name is Bill Weida. I'm a professor of economics at the Colorado College. I was born and raised in Idaho. I'm a resident of McCall.

I would like to address the following deficiencies in the EIS in the economic and sound analysis section. Each of which would lead to a violation, or has already led to a violation, of NEPA.

PN-1 First of all, the EIS fails to provide an adequate rationale for the proposed action. The Air Force is well aware that a number of senior officials have said that the range is not

PN-9 necessary. The EIS provides no cost benefit analysis as requested by the IG. And it still does

PN-2 not evaluate the training at the Utah training range. Not including acceptable alternatives is a violation of NEPA.

There's a failure to test against a true no-action alternative. The EIS is based on the

arrival of the 366th that is currently under litigation. The true no-action alternative proceeded that the courts have held that failure to

DP-5 test against the right no-action alternative is a violation of NEPA. And in addition, the Air Force got itself confused on this and used economic data from 1992, which is four years prior to the arrival of the 366th, thereby invalidating the entire social economic section of the EIS because it does not coincide with the no-action alternative.

Number three, failure to adequately consider the economic impacts from the proposed activities. In particular the noise generated by

SO-5 the cycle-composed activity has been shown by studies to generate a .5 to 2 percent decrease in property values in the area where overflights occur. This has been validated by a court case in Massachusetts.

Secondly, there is good evidence in the EIS as provided by the Air Force in their numbers and this EIS and the one that preceded it for the

SO-6 previous alternative that there has been a decrease by 30 percent in recreation revenues for the last two years since the arrival of 366th in Owyhee county that is not accounted for in the EIS.

Failure to account for nongratifying data in the EIS is also a violation of NEPA. Failure to adequately consider cumulative impacts, the EIS

DP-7 bases its stuff on one aircraft. Cumulative impacts are necessary to be considered an appropriate EIS.

As late as the 29th of May of this year, the courts have held that failure to consider cumulative impacts is a violation of NEPA. Failure to properly account for aircraft noise, the EIS

NO-5 uses figures for MTR's instead of MOA's.

The Air Force is encouraged to look at its own documents used recently in the Pennsylvania National Guard EIS. The figures for more expansions are much higher than the ones used in MTR's. Failure to use proper data is a violation of NEPA.

There are a number of well-known studies

PR-11 that have counter views of those presented in the EIS. Five were presented to the Air Force by registered mail a year ago. None of those were included in this EIS. Failure to include studies of this nature is a violation of the NEPA.

NO-11 And finally, the 1996-97 ESOH handbook states clearly that the Air Force itself is aware

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that the sound studies are deficient and indefensible. It has, at the end of that handbook, 15 studies listed which show that to be the case. Not a single one of those is listed in the EIS, which is also a violation of NEPA. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Lisa Shultz.

GE-2 LISA SHULTZ, 00S127

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. SHULTZ: Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony this evening. My name is Lisa Shultz, and I'm a resident of Boise, Idaho.

First of all, I would like to commend the members of the Mountain Home Air Force Base and particularly the 366th Wing, in your accomplishment of being referred to by your base commander as the most combat-ready wing in the world. That's a huge accomplishment.

With that in mind, however, one has to wonder why it is you seem to think you need this so-called enhancement. Especially when the GAO and the Air Force Inspector General, in an official report, stated that this range is not needed.

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Why do you think that people have taken their time to pour over voluminous documents regarding this bombing range proposal in order to try and understand what it is you propose to do and what the impacts will be? Do you think it's because we have nothing better to do?

In one of the other hearings a proponent of the ETI referred to us as wacky environmentalists. I won't waste time responding to that except to say, because I would like it to be on the record, that many of the people who have testified in opposition are examples of the ideal model American citizen simply by virtue of the fact that they have taken their time to review and respond.

I say this because I hope that you will take into consideration that there would probably be many more people here tonight, but the timing of your releases at the beginning of the summer has had a huge effect on the turnout of the hearings since many of the people who would like to be here and can't are absent. Not because they don't care, but because they're out enjoying precisely what it is you're trying to destroy.

Many outfitters, guides, anglers,

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recreatonists, and others, some of whom rely on Owyhee canyon lands for their livelihood, simply could not be here tonight. Those of us who are here in opposition tonight are here because we care deeply about the Owyhee canyon lands. We care that it is an Idaho treasure and we care that you, who are visitors here, are going to have your way with it and then go on your next tour of duty and we will be left with nothing but photographs and memories.

You make promises in an effort to appease us. You've manipulated, distorted and excluded data on noise, cumulative effects on wildlife and toxic chemicals associated with your so-called dummy bombs. This all in an effort to pacify the general public and our elected officials.

While these tactics may work on our politicians, they have no effect on those of us who really care. You've not complied with the National Environmental Protection Act and you have failed to conduct cumulative studies used with the proposed DP-7 actions that should have been discussed in this impact statement.

Is the Air Force immune from compliance to the letter of law? Or are you just careless? I

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would respectfully request that you take time to pause and reflect on just what it is you're trying to do here. And that through such a process you will see the futility.

Many of us are tired. You have effectively managed to wear us down. The numbers of this hearing have dwindled, but not for lack of caring. Rather because you have continued to push and pry and prod apparently because you have yet to learn the meaning of the word no. Like a child who whines until he gets his way, you seem entirely unwilling to give up. Beware, however, there are also those of us who will not give up. I hope that you will listen and heed the many concerns that have been raised regarding the deficiencies of the EIS and this entire process, which I personally feel is a farce. I say this because one has to wonder how much consideration you give the public testimony and written comments.

When the comment period ends on August 6th and you plan to release your final EIS in September, or thereabouts, in the spirit of full participation I sincerely hope that you will respond reasonably to the requests that have been made regarding the extension of the comment

period. Please give us an additional, at least, 30 days for comments to be sent in.

One last thing, you will see that your proponents are flying blind, as you are. And in the end you will crash and so will this proposal. And it won't be due to a lack of training. Rather it will be due to a lack of honesty and integrity. I support no-action.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Paul Poorman.

GE-2 PAUL POORMAN, 008128

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. POORMAN: Hello. My name is Paul Poorman, and I'm a resident of Meridian, Idaho. I'm speaking as a private citizen.

The latest bombing range proposal environmental impact statement reflects years of work and millions of dollars in expense. Yet corrects few, if any, of the problems in previous statements. Fundamental problem is still present. Mainly that the justification for the range hinges on special training needs for the composite wing.

If the composite wing was not based in

Idaho, then there would be no need for the new range. Since the two activities are linked, the environmental impact statement must show the cumulative activities impacts for both activities. Instead, the Air Force has conveniently chosen to use the last few years as a baseline for environmental impact, artificially diminishing the additional impact of the new activities.

DP-7

In fact, the increased presence of military aircraft has already degraded the solitude and wildlife habitat of the Owyhees. The military needs to decrease, not increase.

Now, let us discuss noise. The EIS averages the noise of the jets produced over a 24-hour period and uses that method to claim that a jet is quieter then an indoor room. That's like saying a hot oven won't burn you since it's only used one hour a day.

The potential for disruption of recreationists and wildlife is grossly underestimated with this method and the true environmental defects are masked. The Air Force should report the expected number of sonic booms and the maximum daily sound levels. The existing noise up on the Owyhee canyon lands is too high.

Now, in numerous hiking, boating, and biking trips that I've taken over the last few years, the silence has been shattered by aimless military jets going around in circles. The disruptions have lasted anywhere from an hour to all day. We have seen B52s flying below me from the top of Three Fingers Rock in eastern Oregon. Military use is already too high.

Use of the 1992 through 1996 baseline for aircraft noise conveniently ignores the drastic increase in aircraft noise after the composite. Comparing the new noise levels with pre-1992 levels would show how much true impact the military overflights are having. The noise annoyance study used by the Air Force to estimate the effect on people of military aircraft are completely irrelevant. The EIS should use studies of the effects of aircraft overflights on people in a wilderness setting since that is what they are doing.

DP-5

RV-8

If complete studies on that type of noise are not available, then only the portions of the available studies that use aircraft noise in the wilderness areas should be used.

In addition, the EIS should include the

effects of loud aircraft on the sensitive hearing and survival of the bighorn sheep and other wildlife. Using the Bruneau, Jarbidge for the target area is a mistake.

BI-2

In summary, the Air Force should provide a real justification for this new bombing range. The EIS should compare real alternatives. Noise and environmental impact assessment should use a pre-1992 baseline. And lastly, the Air Force should stop lying about statistics to try to say that the afterburns from a military jet and the resulting sonic booms are quieter than an air conditioner.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Miss Kay Hummel.

GE-2 KAY HUMMEL, 008129

appeared and gave the followint statement:

MS. HUMMEL: Good evening, my name is Kay Hummel. I'm a resident of Boise. I am speaking for myself and my young children.

I have many fundmental doubts about the enhanced training Draft EIS, but I'm going to focus mainly on archeological-cultural resources.

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First off, my comprehension of this draft has been greatly hampered by the failure to supply background reports at this time. I have read everything in the two volumes that deals with cultural resources. However, there is no way for the public to agree or disagree with the documentation of site eligibility for the national register because of the missing background reports. Thus, this process is flawed and does not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act or with the National Historic Preservation Act.

How this EIS interprets the National Historic Preservation Act is indeed troubling to the extent that I can understand it. The apparent focus only on sites that meet national register criteria may be illegal. It is immaterial whether sites have national register eligibility at this time. On all cultural sites you must determine their significance.

The sampling done on the three alternative drop zones is also problematic. The Air Force did not sample outside the footprints of B, C, and D. Yet it is well-known that in actual missions there will be a definite percentage of your missions that will have drops outside these

CU-3 CU-4 CU-5

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footprints. This particularly concerns me in the Juniper Butte and Clover Butte alternatives because of their proximity to the east fork of the Bruneau and the Jarbidge river canyons.

The likelihood of more intense cultural and historic use increases near steep canyons and water sources. Everyone knows this and is admitted in the draft. Although these alternatives are mostly on flat and rocky terrains, the overshooting that can routinely occur must be evaluated. It has not been done, and for this reason the EIS is deficient.

I am also very knowledgeable of the Grasmere alternative. This area is extremely rich in cultural and archeological sites. The sampling of the area is a statistical projection that there will be 403 total cultural resources in the entire range. This is very dense and probably cannot be mitigated and it will require a huge archeological excavation; many of them.

On a personal note, my family and I have spent many days enjoying the intensely wild areas near Grasmere, Yatahoney, and in the Jarbidge river itself. We find incredible solitude, wildlife, and have always encountered prehistoric sites and

CU-5

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evidence of Native Americans.

Our last trip was virtually a walk through yards and yards of petroglyphs that will be in or near the Grasmere drop zone. It is intolerable to think that this museum of cultural richness, the rare plants and special riparian zones there will be torn up for emitters, roads, propane generators and unattended overshooting. I would like to add that on our recent trip my eight-year-old son counted 30 kinds of blooming plants. Think of that. A youngster can admire and distinguish many species even if he can't name them all. That kind of resource does not need an unnecessary range when there are established areas not far away in Utah and Nevada.

I'll sum up. This should not be a tragic choice of protecting resources that are breathtakingly historic, beautiful, and wild versus giving the Air Force a more convenient training range that simply saves on jet fuel.

For me, the only reality is that we are a nation of laws. The Department of Defense cannot ignore cumulative text, NEPA, or the National Historic Preservation Acts. It must comply fully with these statutes. The BLM and the Air Force

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cannot gloss over the most demanding parts of them. When we fail to up hold our laws fully, then truly our freedom and safety is threatened. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Laird Lucas, I think it is.

LAIRD LUCAS, 00S130

GE-2

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. LUCAS: Thank you. My name is Laird Lucas. I live here in Boise. I'd like to comment personally as someone who hikes and kayaks in the Owyhee and Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers, that I'm totally opposed to having more military use of those areas. And I'll submit written comments on this.

I would also like to testify as the director of the Idaho Office of Land and Water from the Rockies. We're a nonprofit legal organization. We represent conservation groups like Idaho Conservation League, the Idaho Rivers United, the Wilderness Society, Idaho Wildlife Federation, and many others. And I'd like the record to reflect that -- two things -- two

comments tonight. (1) I think we need more time to submit comments. I am an environmental lawyer. I haven't had time to fully digest this EIS. I hope to have more time to submit written comments and intend to do that. But I can't imagine how an average person would have enough time to do that. So from that perspective, please, let's have more comment periods. (2) I'd like the record to reflect that there are a number of other legal inadequacies in this EIS. Beyond those other people I've mentioned, as far as I can tell, I'm just going to touch on it briefly. One of them is the requirement under the Endangered Species Act that the Air Force consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service over threatened or endangered species. And these would include bald eagle and peregrine falcon and the impacts of both overflights, supersonic flights, so forth and so on there. BI-26

As far as I can tell that has not been done. Perhaps I'm wrong on that. We've had no indication that there's been a formal consultation. Secondly, it looks like the BLM is the sponsoring agency of this EIS, at least according to the Air Force's version.

If so, there's a variety of legal duties that apply to BLM. Under FLPMA, the Federal Land Policy Management Act, BLM is required to protect a variety of sensitive species including threatened and endangered species as well as species designated by BLM. These would include things like spotted frog, a variety of other aquatic species, redband trout.

There have not been, as far as I can tell, any satisfaction by BLM of those duties as well. BLM would be violating FLPMA if it proceeds on the basis of this EIS without analyzing those impacts. (3) We have the question of wilderness studies in areas and BLM's duty to protect those.

Under FLPMA, again, there are a number of wilderness study areas impacted by the proposal. Again, there's not an adequate aalysis of that at all in this document. LU-8 (4) Wild and scenic rivers. There are a number of designated or proposed or eligible wild and scenic rivers which have not been analyzed effectively in this BLM as a duty to protect those. (5) Is the Clean Water Act. The characterization of service water quality in the EIS is completely erroneous and inaccurate. WR-2

Further, the Clean Water Act requires

that a permit be obtained from EPA before the discharge of pollutants. And the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed the dropping of ordinance into surface waters constitutes a discharge of a pollutant. That's the Heinberger vs. Romero Barsella case. That hasn't been complied with. WR-2 Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Dr. John Harms.

JOHN HARMS, M.D., 008131 GE-1

appeared and gave the following statement:

DR. HARMS: Welcome to Idaho, Colonel. As a native of the desert, I find the threat of a loss of the Bruneau desert and the Owyhees an infringement on my culture.

The desert has always been there for me. As it is a part of my culture, it is a part of me. When our indigenous people are threatened, not only by the loss of their culture, but find it an infringement on religion as well, there can only be increased frustration and sadness.

We have already despoiled a people's heritage by driving their ancestors from the Warm

Springs mesa to Duck Valley at rifle point. This further encroachment by warthogs is wrong.

There is a military reservation in Idaho that is not being fully used. The old naval gunnery range still has undeveloped areas. Should our bombardiers need more space, they should ask the INEEL to share. The INEEL should have no worries from the pinpoint precision bombing.

It is more difficult to allay the fears. They already give way to two-dimensional encroachment. It has taken some effort to reestablish sheep. Who is to monitor the bombers? The Air Force seemingly lacks honor. They claim a need, which the Congress does not recognize.

These hearings are in an end run. If there were a demonstrative need for national security, the Congress would be conducting these hearings and legislative. Can we trust our elected authorities? They have all expressed their venal need for gain from this robbery of the people. Does anyone listen to the people?

There are already segments who have been pushed over the edge. Most of us are all good citizens. We shall not repay evil with evil. You have the bombs, we pay our taxes. But this theft

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of our heritage hurts. A particular stick in the craw is the practice of government agencies' expenditure of funds to sway the civil population.

I counted over 20 uniforms. It was very impressive. Twenty uniforms of fly people was also very oppressive. How can the Air Force, in honor, devote this much personnel to a project, which if the citizenry are organized or wealthy enough, to seek redress in the court might make someone's heads roll.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. The next speaker is Amy Haak.

GE-2 AMY HAAK, 008132

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. HAAK: My name Amy Haak, and I live in Boise, Idaho. I'm testifying tonight on behalf of the 300 members of the Idaho Whitewater Association, an organization that represents nonmotorized river recreationists across the state.

The number of river runners in the state has increased over the past ten years due to both general population increases in Idaho as well as a higher percentage of people who are discovering

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Idaho's incredible river systems. This has made it increasingly difficult for private boaters to get launch dates for the controlled wilderness rivers such as the Salmon and the Selway.

As a result, many more boaters are turning to the Owyhee and Jarbidge, Bruneau river systems for extended trips. I've personally found these desert canyon rivers to be far more wild in character than any of the higher-profiled permitted runs, and they are virtually in our backyard.

Over 350 miles of rivers in the Owyhee canyon lands have been found eligible for designation as wild and scenic rivers. The Air Force is finding that the ETI will do nothing to diminish the outstanding resource values of these rivers is erroneous.

While the canyon walls may not change, the scenic quality, opportunities for viewing wildlife, and over all recreational experience will be greatly diminished. Numerous overflights, sonic bombs, chaffing flares are incompatible with the wilderness found in these canyons.

We have had increasing complaints from private boaters and outfitters that the noise level and number of overflights is currently

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unacceptable. It is difficult to evaluate the exact impact of the ETI proposal since there is so little information in the DEIS on the Air Force's actual activities in the sky. However, any increase in activities is too much. DP-6

There have also been increased complaints regarding the amount of chaff being found in the canyons. The Navy has determined that although chaff is highly dispersed when deployed, environmental factors lead to its concentration over time. Chaff ends up in the bottom of the canyons and will most certainly stay there to be continuously resuspended as the particles become smaller. SF-3

As the citizens are being told to practice low-impact carry-in carry-out camping techniques, it is ironic that the Air Force shows such a total disregard for the environment by littering the very areas we as recreational users are going to great lengths to maintain as pristine environments. LU-16

In addition to the overall environmental degradation caused by the presence of chaff, there are also health concerns which have not been adequately addressed in the DEIS. In a series of

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memos last fall between the Nevada division of the environmental protection and Carson City district BLM, the issue of chaff as a public health hazard was discussed. The division stated two primary concerns on how chaff affects the environment.

The first concern regards the potential for inhalable particulates which occur from the mechanical breakdown and resuspension of fibers. The division's second concern deals with the physical deposition of solid waste on public and private lands. SF-1

The ETI, DEIS needs a more adequate evaluation of the impacts of current levels of chaff on wildlife and humans. SF-10

Finally, I'd just like to state that the recreational boaters of Idaho oppose any increase in military activities over these truly unique, spectacular canyons. People who float these rivers often encounter inclement weather, rattlesnakes, rough roads, portages and difficult rapids. Yet the use increases every year because the opportunities for solitude and experiencing a true wilderness are becoming harder to find.

Organizations such as IWA and IRU work to educate river users on the values associated with

the whole river environment and the importance of protecting the land that the river runs through.

I would ask the Air Force to lead the citizens by example. Show some respect for the land in its resources and abandon once and for all your plans to bomb the canyon lands.

COLONEL POPE: We have several more cards. I'm going to take a ten-minute recess and then we'll come back.

(Recess.)

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Mr. Paul Shaffer.

GE-1 PAUL SHAFFER, 008133

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. SHAFFER: My name is Paul Shaffer. I live in Boise. I'd like to speak against the proposed range. There have been lots of good comments tonight, detailed comments. I feel like one of the public there Lucas mentioned who didn't really have time to go through the details of it. And part of that is the timing, part of it is just being busy with other things. I just wanted to take a few minutes to come down and speak.

I have submitted written comments as well. I'd like to agree with several of the speakers who have gone before. Particularly Wendy Wilson of Idaho Rivers United, Amy Haak of the Whitewater Boaters, and Lucas. But I'd like to add a point that is rarely mentioned. At least rarely mentioned publicly, and I'd like to have the record show there's lots of talk about the need for preparing for war. I think we also have to talk about whether war itself is justified. I was a registered conscientious objector during the Vietnam War. And I still don't believe it's the solution, war, is the solution to worldly troubles that we face, much less justifies the impacts proposed in this plan to one of our country's most beautiful deserts. That's all my comments. Thanks for the opportunity.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Mr. Norm Anderson.

GE-2 NORM ANDERSON, 008134

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you. I'm Norm Anderson. I live here in Boise. I'm a concerned citizen,

sportsman. On a recent horseback ride into Little Jacks Creek we saw 22 adult bighorn sheep and eight lambs. In three days we had no low-level airplanes, no loud aircraft noise, and no sonic booms. A peaceful solitude.

What would it be like if Little Jacks and Big Jacks were included in an expanded bombing range? Would the sheep still be there? Or would they be run off by aircraft noise and sonic booms? Would they breed and successfully raise their lambs? I don't think so. And the Air Force EIS doesn't have valid studies to prove their aircraft noise wouldn't hurt the sheep population. BI-9

The Air Force EIS starts with high base level noise, then uses noise levels of smaller aircraft averaged over a 24-hour period. How does that realistically represent the noise impact in a wilderness-like area? They use the best of their studies and still have noise levels harmful to humans. It would be like living at the end of Gowen Field runway. The Air Force wants to include Big and Little Jacks Creek to spread the noise over a larger area. Less impact on the present area, they say.

I say no to supersonic flights below

30,000 feet. Flares and chaff limited to present Saylor Creek Range. As to enhanced training, do it at established sites in Utah and Nevada. No additional bombing range in Idaho. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Robert Weber. I'll set his card aside and call his name again later. Next speaker is Miss Suzanne Lewis.

GE-1 SUZANNE LEWIS, 008135

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. LEWIS: Thank you for allowing the citizens of Idaho to speak. My name is Suzanne Lewis. I'm a fifth generation Idahoan and I've appeared at many of these meetings. I am a holistic therapist and what I came tonight to talk about is the spiritual, emotional aspects.

In times gone by I've spoken about how indigenous people come to decisions. They know that if something this big is going to occur, they call upon the wise men and the elders. They sit down and they take into consideration the children, the water, the people, the weak ones, the forelady ones. And repeatedly I've seen that the government

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has not listened. I'd like to know if there's any studies done about the neurological and the psychological damages that have already occurred.

I've had the good fortune of walking with medicine people and they talk about the chaff and bronchial disorders. The talk about the waters and the health of their people, and they're not being heard.

Recently, I had the good fortune of working with an Air Force man, a pilot. And he has cancer. And as I worked with him, he could not show emotions. And finally he said the only time he felt spiritual connection is when he saw a giant plane go over the sky. Then he felt the rush of aliveness. In this man's dying process, he's been told not to feel, not to be conscious of aliveness of everything. Now he's mending, but he has had to get back to his feelings. He's had to show emotions. He's had to care for people. I've worked with Vietnam veterans and they were told, don't feel, just load armaments. And it doesn't work, it doesn't work.

The indigenous people teach us that we're all related and stop right now. Who has walked with Corbin Harvey? Who has walked with the

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medicine people? Who has seen where the health of the people are right now? More is incomprehensible. Stop it.

COLONEL POPE: Next speaker is Steve Hopkins.

GE-2 STEVE HOPKINS, 008136

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. HOPKINS: My name is Steve Hopkins and I'm a resident of Boise, Idaho. I have been for 26 years. I count myself as a native. My family moved here when I was three. So, therefore, I count myself as an Idaho native.

There are many deficiencies in your current EIS that I'd like to comment on. I'd also like to offer some constructive criticism because it's part of my nature. I've been a teacher for almost my entire adult life in one form or another whether it be sailing, teaching psychology, experimental design and statistics. And I'd like to comment on some specific deficiencies you have in the EIS.

Normally in situations like this I come a little bit more formally prepared, but I was out hiking today in the Jacks Creek area above Jacks

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Creek reservoir and the plateau above the reservoir. And I'd like to, first of all, offer some advice for the Air Force personnel that might potentially use this area as a training range. And that is that I'm well aware of the level of disassociation that you people have. You're taught not to care. You're taught not to care about the impact that you inflict. And the only way that you're going to see the damage that you cause in sensitive areas like this is to actually get down on the ground and hike those canyons and traverse those plateaus and look at the wildflowers and take part in the silence. And then you will truly understand the destruction that could potentially cause.

As to the deficiencies in the environmental impact statements, having been an NO-2 instructor of experimental designs and statistics at the college level, your sound curves, Shultz curve, is the most glaring of the inadequacies. It wouldn't pass a simple entry-level statistics and experimental designs course. I know that you are well aware that there are studies out there that assess the impact of aircraft in the wilderness area. Especially one conducted by the United

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States Department of Agriculture that would have been far more fitting to look at in the EIS.

Instead you look at a sound curve that is only applicable in urban areas. And anybody who has spent time in the wilderness area, or perhaps you have not, will tell you what is of impact, what's significant noise and what causes harm and disturbances is far different in an urban area versus a wilderness territory area.

The United States Department of Agriculture study basically found that the types of flights that you are looking to conduct are ten times more distressing in a wilderness area then they are in an urban area. And that's what makes your Shultz sound curve, which was designed for an urban area, totally inadequate.

I will leave you some constructive criticism. And that is, that if you were truly concerned about securing the security of this nation and stopping war around the world, that you do something to stop the export of arms around the world. Of the fifty conflicts that raged in military fashion in the last decade, the United States supplied weaponry for forty-five of those conflicts.

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Three-fifths of all the arms that are exported to countries who have dictators around the world. Currently the United States is looking to go export F-16s to Indonesia so they can continue to wage genocide on these people.

If you were truly concerned about peace around the world, you will stop exporting weaponry around the world. I also recommend that you stop lying to the American people, that you stop lying when it comes to telling people that you didn't crack school buildings when there are no other Air Force could possibly have been responsible for it other than you. That you use realistic studies in the environmental impact statement. I realize that you are fledglings when it comes to environment impact statements, but you must conduct it legally. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you; the next speaker is Veil Wadley.

GE-1 VERL WADLEY, 00S137

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. WADLEY: My name is Verl Wadley. I'm a resident of Boise. I'm speaking on behalf of

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myself. I'm a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Air Force. I retired from Mountain Home Air Force Base a few years ago. I'm full of many stories. I've flown an F-111 around the local flying area, and I am definitely in favor of the proposed expansion of the air space and the range expansion.

And I see that there are critical needs and I feel like it's important to speak out on behalf of that. I had the opportunity to fly in the Gulf War. We spent five months in training and preparing for that conflict. I'm glad we had the time to do that. We flew many, many soirees where we planned various scenarios and then revert the plans.

I think that future conflicts may not have the opportunity and the luxury of that kind of a time frame before they go to conflict. And that's why training locally is critical in the peacetime environment.

Our composite force flew there in the Gulf was truly effectively, and I think that the leaders of the nation were sound in trying to use the composite wing as a peacetime prepared force and new style as opposed to the normal wings that

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exist currently and in the past.

Some other things that I would comment on besides the need for the training range is the fact that the Air Force conducts itself professionally, and I would wholeheartedly state that the professionalism and the abiding by the rules that are established are a primary concern, not only of the pilots and the aircrews, but also of the Air Force in general and the base officials also that reside there.

The other things that concern me deeply is the fact that the required training that these people that are in this wing are needing, is not available in the small range that they have now. It's a figuratively postage stamp range and there are so many things that are good about the base, so many different plusses, that it has. And the only deterrent that's a major thing is the small training range. It has one way in and way out. And there's just no effective training.

So I feel that it's important that they get an opportunity to have some diverse scenarios and to practice realistic training to help them improve their preparedness. I think the Air Force has done a good job in maintaining the range that

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it does have. I've visited and been out there and seen the conditions inside and around the range are actually better than the ones that are in shrine. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Claire Manning.

GE-1 CLAIRE MANNING, 00S138

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. MANNING: (Speaking in Shoshone.) What I said to you in Shoshone is, how are you all tonight? I'm speaking in the great basin language which is over a thousand years old. My name is Okindozi (phonetic-Shoshone), which is the yellow flowers on the mountain. I was born in May when the yellow flowers were in bloom. And that's what I'm named now.

First of all, tonight I would just like to say that I am so tired of having to come to these bombing range hearings, several years ago and now here we are again, the same thing. You still want air space.

My great-grandmother Suzie Shoshone Owyhee, Owyhee, which means, gold knife. She's

buried up in that area. That's my great-grandmother. Those lands are very sacred to me and to my children and her great-grandchildren, and they will be to their great-grandchildren.

Out there in the desert, that is our church. That is where we pray. That is where we breathe the air, drink the water, and eat the food. I cannot see that chaffing, all of that, the silicones and the small, fine aluminum strips that are so fine that you can't see them. I still cannot accept the fact that you say that they are okay and that they are not hazardous to our lungs and to our health. I have found some studies when I went to a couple of the libraries where it does cause cancer. It goes into the lungs. Because chaffing cannot digest in animals. And when the wind blows, and it blows our way towards the Duck Valley Indian reservation, we will breathe it. I still can't accept that it's safe.

Someone at home told me when you talk -- or excuse me -- my husband mentioned why don't you have them, if it's that safe, take some of that chaffing and put it in a plastic bag and huff it, breathe it. Prove to us that it is safe. I don't think anyone would do that in the Air Force.

I don't feel our people are expendable. We may be a few, but I don't think we're expendable. Our children in the schools, they have a right to breathe and live just like anyone else. I would not go into anyone's church to disturb them while they were praying. I hope that the Air Force would do the same for us because our church is the land.

One of my cousins who lives on another Indian reservation -- or aunt -- said that when the low flights went over her school, schoolteacher, the windows broke. And as they broke the children ducked underneath the desks and the glass went right into her leg. We've had overflights, supersonic booms, and we've had many glass shattered in houses on the Duck Valley Reservation.

COLONEL POPE: You need to wrap your comments up.

MS. MANNING: Okay. I will. Three minutes is not enough.

COLONEL POPE: I'll let you come back up once everyone's had a chance to speak. Other people need a chance to speak, too.

MS. MANNING: Okay. Thank you. My father was

in World War II in the marines. And my husband was a Vietnam veteran in the Air Force. And we do support military training, but we do believe that you can train in Nevada right now. The lands that are ruined already, they are ruined in Utah. I would like to suggest that you keep continuing using those and it won't make any more difference, 50 more minutes' flying time to get there. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: The next speaker is Janet Ward.

GE-1 008139

JANET WARD,

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. WARD: I'm Janet Ward, I live in Boise, Idaho, and I want to thank you for the coffee and the opportunity to speak.

It's ironic, it's Friday the 13th. I have a certain sense of gloom and a certain sense of deja vu. You are very persistent. I feel as if I've been involved in this discussion for the last ten or fifteen years.

I am 57. I hope I live long enough to see the issue put to rest once and for all. You and I obviously have very different views. I love

the desert very much for its wilderness values, especially Jacks Creek, the Jarbidge, the Bruneau, and the Owyhee canyon lands. These are beautiful areas. They are awe inspiring, they're worthy of preservation. What I see as worthy of preservation is rare and precious.

I feel the Air Force sees this as wasteland, useless, and appropriate for bombing training. These differences, we are speaking of the Owyhee canyon lands, which is okay. Except, if I am to exceed my valued areas to the Air Force for a bombing range, you have to present me with compelling reasons why. And I do not feel that you have done so in the past, and you have not done so now.

My concerns are the bighorns and the birds of prey and wilderness and the effects of noise on these three things. Now, today there was an air show, and I felt like it was directly over my house. Every time I went out, I thought "Wow" the impact of the noise. I was very impressed.

Last Wednesday I was hiking in the Bennett hills, and I was strafed by a noise from one low-flying fighter. And the impact of that noise, I could feel it in my breastbone.

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Now, I feel you need to study adequately the effects of noise on the birds of prey and the bighorns. And to do so, you have to comply with the Endangered Species Act. Please consider the effects of solitude, effects of the noise of solitude. Solitude is extremely important. It is one of the three criteria for the Wilderness Act.

A wilderness area, (1) must be adequate in size, (2) have negligible impacts of man, and (3) provide solitude. All the wilderness study areas are to be held intact. Their wilderness values intact until Congress takes action.

Your expanding the bombing range would have debilitarious on the solitude of the wilderness study areas. I feel you violate the intent of the Wilderness Act when you do so. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Brad Stein. Mr. Brad Stein? I'll set his card aside. Robin Blaisdell.

GE-1 ROBIN BLAISDELL, 00S140

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. BLAISDELL: Good evening. Thank you for

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your time. My name is Robin Blaisdell. I was raised in Idaho. I'm a resident of Boise. I am on the board of directors for the Snake River Alliance. However, the thoughts expressed this evening are my own.

The fact that this new proposal is referred to as an enhancement of training rather than a necessity, should warrant concern to all of us who value the beauty and solitude of Idaho's wilderness lands.

If a 1995 Department of Defense auditors report concluded that additional training needs were not necessary, then why are we having these hearings this evening? In these times of frantic industrial and electronic age of ours, we find diminishing areas that afford us the beauty of our lands, the serenity that so often gives replenishment to the needs of our souls.

I would like to propose that we accept responsibility for our environment, that we place the highest value on this region. In stepography it's life force. I propose that this area be governed by nature, not legislature.

In closing, I would like to cite a reading from the U.N. Environmental Sabbath

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Program. "We who have lost our sense and our senses, our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are. We who frantically force and press all things without rest for body or spirit. Hurting our earth and injuring ourselves. We call a halt. We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the earth to rest. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us. That is the ground of every unique expression of life. The source of fascination that calls all things to communion. We declare a Sabbath, a space of quiet for simply being and letting be. For recovering the great, forgotten truths. For learning how to live again." Thank you for your time.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Micheal Mancuso.

GE-1 MICHEAL MANCUSO, 00S141

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. MANCUSO: Good evening. My name is Micheal Mancuso, and I live here in Boise, Idaho. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

I grew up in a family of seven people living in a small apartment so early on I learned

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how to share. Everything from bathrooms to clothes. In our society sharing is something we all have to live with. There are probably some exceptions with rich people out there, I suppose.

It seems to me that the U.S. Air Force at Mountain Home should not be exempt from the concept and responsibilities of sharing. The Air Force already has the Selway Creek range and a vast area of air space for military training. There are also several other training ranges in Utah and Nevada.

The proposed enhanced training range is not needed. I've heard no compelling -- I've read no compelling reasons for enhanced training range. Several no comments from some of the high-ranking Air Force officials commenting how adequately trained it is at that base. The proposed training range is more for convenience than for need. There are other options.

The Owyhee landscape, including all of the areas proposed to the new range have a diverse array of values. Personally, the Owyhees are one of my favorite places I've ever been to. I'm lucky enough to spend a fair bit of time down there.

The Air Force must be willing to be innovative with what they have just like most of us

have to be. They must be willing to share. The Air Force must be willing to continue their training in existing resources and training facilities in Idaho and adjacent states.

The Air Force realizes there are many other values in the Owyhees besides military training. Their own studies show that. I ask the Air Force to be willing to share the Owyhees and drop the requests for the training range. The Air Force can help its mission of retaining the peace by starting in the Owyhees. No more bombing range.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Hartley Streeter.

GE-1 HARTLEY STREETER, 008142

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. STREETER: I would like to thank you for the time tonight. I appreciate everyone's comments. I was raised in Mountain Home and live here now in Boise. Like many people here, I've gone out in the Jacks Creek area. And the gentleman here just mentioned sharing.

The Idahoans have millions and millions of acres taken as wilderness. The Air Force is

only asking for 12,000. Earlier today there was a gentleman who said he enjoyed going to Jacks Creek and he saw all the bighorn sheep and that. What you have to realize is that the Air Force has been flying in that area for many years. And the fact that all those bighorn sheep are still there proves that the Air Force has been a good steward of that area. And all they're asking for is a little more use of that area. Just a little more use of that area.

No one has proven what the Air Force has been doing has caused any negative impacts in that area. An overflight every now and then is not too much to ask for for the continued presence of Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.

Now, many people have said, "Well, it's not on the closure list." But, you know, there are more closure lists coming up all the time. And if Mountain Home had that training range, it would be more likely it would not be added to that list because that is an asset for that base staying there.

Then there's the question of flying down to Utah or Nevada. Only 15 minutes away. But do you know how expensive 15 minutes in an Air Force

jet is? That's about $10,000. So it is more cost effective to have the range here in Idaho.

And then a lady mentioned chaff coming out and huffing it. Now, we know that auto pollution is bad, but it gets dispersed. And they've done things to make auto pollution less dangerous. So I'm not suggesting that anybody huff the end of a tailpipe, but this small amount of chaff that these planes put out is dispersed over thousands and thousands of square feet and many square miles. So it's not like huffing it. It would never be like huffing it. Very small particles, mostly aluminum like aluminum foil.

I encourage the Air Force, though, to be very careful with what it does. Choose the ETI that has the least amount of impacts and let's have the environmentalists actually share for once instead of taking more millions and millions and millions of acres out. And let's have the great economic benefits of Mountain Home Air Force Base remain.

And also remember that the entire Idaho congressional delegation supports the training range. The majority of the Idaho State Legislature supports the expansion of the training range.

Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Mr. Jack Streeter.

GE-1 JACK STREETER, 008143

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. STREETER: My name is Jack Streeter. I was born in Elko, Nevada. I lived in Idaho for a number of years. Member of the United States Army and the Air Force. All that kind of stuff.

Here's what I want to talk about, pilots. Boy, they're expensive. Most of them go to college before they're effective in their business. They've got be around five years now or take the ones that come up through the ranks. They get effective a little sooner.

But, anyway, it's a tremendous expense for the government. And the aircraft they fly costs well over a million dollars. The training invested in those five years is another million dollars.

Now, I want them trained so that they could bomb six Bruneau snails at 500 yards and kill every darn one of them. Now, that's the kind of

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precise bombing we need to support the ground troops and to support what we want to keep. And that's those men alive. And I think it's important that they have the best training in the world.

Now, one of the things that's been mentioned about, why do we need this? Well, one of the reasons we need this, there are other bases that are building down. Some of them are going to be closed. The military is getting less and less money. It's got to do more and more with less.

So I think we ought to -- got to consider that. There's another thing that we've got to consider. You know, if the land in question was administered the way that the Constitution of the United States envisioned it, it would have already been state land. Then we wouldn't have to fool around with Washington, D.C., and the bureaucracy that is getting so overbearing that it's absolutely disgusting.

Now, the Air Force has got to cleanup its mess where ever it makes it because the environmental impact studies require that. And I think they will do that. The other thing they have to do, when you're confronting a group of county commissioners, and in my business I do that as a

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broker, they're the most dollars and cents-conscious guys you ever ran into. And if somebody's going to use the ground in their county, they'll say, "Are we going to get enough money out of this or are we going to get a profit here so we can build another road or maybe build another school or something?"

They want anybody that's using that ground to pay. And that the final analysis, I think the Air Force will come to the conclusion, that when they're there, they have to pay, too. And I think they would be willing to do that because they have everyplace else that I've run into them in 27 bases in 25 years in the service, and I thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Mr. Nick Johnston.

GE-2 NICK JOHNSTON, 008144

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you. Tonight I am representing myself and committee for Idaho's high desert as conservation chair.

The area encompassing southwestern Nevada

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and southeastern Oregon is truly unique for many reasons. Several of which the current EIS and all previous EIS's have failed to address. If you, which includes noise, economics, and federal NEPA compliance, whether you call it ITR or ATI, these proposals are entirely inadequate. As with the last EIS proven to be flawed in federal court, this one awaits the same fate.

I've spent most of today hiking around Jacks Creek with Mr. Hopkins. We witnessed a living desert watershed. There are snow fields still melting on the north sides of the high tables. I would suggest you all in this room to visit what at one time was an area just as pristine Yorager (phonetic) training range, an area encompassing Simpco road. This is a product of what can happen when you burn all the native high desert vegetation. You end up with fields of tumble mustard and cheat grass.

This is entirely unproductive land at this time and probably will never be productive. I see no guarantee in the EIS that the use of SAM's, which, I guess, will be part of this new proposal, and are also notorious for creating wildfires, flares, chaff, enemy bombs, or just the industrial

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type of the use of the Air Force guns. Nowhere do you guarantee this is what we will not be left with. Tumble mustard and cheat grass.

The real issue, however, is the issue of need. The Air Force has stated that it does not need this range. In 1995 the Inspector General's report says that the Air Force does not need this range. Somehow in the marketing boards to push this thing through, we are now weighing lives against need.

This, not surprisingly, is part of the erroneous unpublished campaign to go along with an equally erroneous published EIS. The real issue is PN-1 the need and compliance with the law. Neither of which has been shown or achieved.

A few other points I would like to address, June 7th, talking about that animal bridge, between 2:00 and 2:45 I heard eleven sonic booms. Between 2:45 and 3:40 there were approximately five more.

Through my contacts at Fish and Game, I was informed that the Air Force for the past two weeks has been conducting some kind of training over Jacks Creek. The Air Force at this time is not authorized to use Jacks Creek and must call in

the FAA daily to get authorization to use it.

So as far as the Air Force using that area since the beginning of time, that's just not true. But anyway, thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Mr. Frederick Ward.

GE-1 FREDERICK WARD, 008145

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. WARD: My name is Frederick Ward, and I live in Boise. I would prefer that the Air Force abandon Mountain Home Air Force Base including the -- and take over the Mountain Home facility and the Boise airport to expand to the south where the airport is currently located.

Compositely we'd halt the Air Force base in New Mexico where a large area of land is already under government control and is part of (inaudible) and the White Sands missile range. It forklifts this alterior range to the south.

Access to this fast track already requires security clearance Haloman's (phonetic) recognized as a training facility. In fact, we currently lease it to Germany to train their

pilots. I don't see the need to spend tax dollars to develop a training range in Idaho or elsewhere when a suitable facility already exists. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Polly Peterson.

GE-1 POLLY A. PETERSON, 008146

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. PETERSON: Hello. I'm Dr. Polly Peterson, a psychotherapist here in Boise. I'm a native Idahoan. I'm also a shaman of practice. And in doing that work, I'm learning the ancient healing ways of the native peoples. Knowing the healing energy of plants and herbs and spirit and nature. I've recently published a book on this subject which is meeting with very positive reviews.

Two weeks ago I was 40 miles from Grand View in the exquisite high mountain desert that is the subject of this debate. There were ancient Junipers, thousands of wildflowers, eagles, it was a magnificent time. We were doing sacred shamanic training.

Suddenly, in the middle of this sacred

work, a sonic boom exploded. I can't begin to tell you what a shattering experience it was. It just was devastating. I'm not going to talk about the specifics with the technicality. What I'm worried about is the emotional condition of humans and animals and of plants.

I can only imagine the impact on the wildlife just with one experience. I was devastated. I can't imagine as Claire Manning previously testified. It was just devastating.

I urge the Air Force, and I do honor the work that you're doing. I also had a husband in Vietnam, so I'm certainly in support of a strong military, but I do believe there are other places that are less sacred nature that would be very suitable for the Air Force's needs. So I strongly urge that you use the existing land. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker is Peter Nielson.

GE-1 PETER NIELSON, 008147

appeared and gave the followng statement:

MR. NIELSON: Thank you very much. I appreciate being here. I reside in Mountain Home

about a mile and a half from the Air Force gate. I have a farm that's right off the end of the runway on the northwest end. If you extend the runway it will dissect the east half of my farm on the diagonal. Drive straight through, the Air Force has a right of way through my farm, 40 feet that goes right through there.

Now, the purpose of my being here is to tell you folks that I've been living there since 1970 and farming that ground out there since 1970 all along the west side of the Air Force. I can testify to you this, when a B-52 comes off of there with all eight engines screaming, the only thing that's watching the airplane is me. My cattle, if they're laying down chewing their cud, continue to do so. If they're grazing, they don't even raise their heads.

In the wintertime out there, there are many cattlemen that come from further north in Idaho and winter their cattle on the desert around the Mountain Home Air Force Base. I have yet to see a stampede from any of the noise, sonic booms, or other things. They just don't pay attention.

Now, let's talk about the wild animals a little bit. The Air Force has a sewage lagoon

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that's just on the other side of the runway from the runways out there. And you know what I'm talking about out there. And on my farm or in my home, I can look out my window and see these things. I can watch the airplanes taxi in and out and take off and land on the northwest end runway.

In the wintertime the geese fly out on those farms and land there and if you want to talk to some people about how to hunt geese, they set up their blinds out there and they're hunting geese constantly out there. I have yet to see a flock of geese or a flock of ducks or any of the other wild game out there fly away in fright and terror when the airplanes come and go. They just don't do it.

And in fact, if you watch them closely, and I have, the coyotes, too. And I've never killed a coyote on my place because they're one of the best rodent getters to get. I love to have them out there. They don't bother the cattle. They bother the sheep, but they don't bother cattle. And if you watch them closely, they will know a plane's coming before you do, but they don't run in terror. They just keep on doing what they're doing.

I've been fishing in the Little Winter

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Canyon and Mantic (phonetic) dam. That's about 200 feet there. In the days when the F-4 used to fly over that and the ducks were landing on the river in the fall when the river was running low. And when those F-4s would come over there, yes, they made a lot of noise. But the ducks didn't leave. And I didn't, either.

I'm here to testify to you folks that I've lived this and been there since 1970. I know where I'm speaking of. The animals don't mind, I don't mind. Frankly, the animals out there on that range where we're talking about, will be safer with the Air Force flying over that than they will if they're not because the security there from poachers will be increased and you'll find you'll probably have more animals out there than you know what to do with. Thank you very much for the time and if there's time at the tail end I would like to speak more to this subject. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Next speaker will be Edwina Allen.

GE-2 EDWINA ALLEN, 00814S

appeared and gave the following statement:

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MS. ALLEN: My name is Edwina Allen. I live at 2114 Ridgecrest Drive in Boise. This is the fourth proposal that the Air Force has had to expand its bombing range in Idaho. And for the fourth time I stand before you to oppose your proposal to destroy the Idaho I know and love.

I'll be here as many times as it takes to defeat this bad idea forever. Looking at maps of military airspace already in effect in the western United States makes it clear that the Air Force does not need an expanded battle zone in Idaho. No

PN-1 need has been demonstrated.

The Owyhee country is a treasure to the Idaho high desert. The desert records sheep, antelope, sage grouse. Some of the richest archeological sites in Idaho are found here. Demonstrating to people that use this area for millennia.

It's unconscionable to lock the public out of areas that have been home for people for so long. I'm concerned about aircraft noise and its effect on animals and other sensitive receptors, namely, people including those who make their home in the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

I request that you demonstrate over Boise

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the various noise levels you expect to generate so those of us not intimate with the supersonic activity can better appreciate your conclusions. I'm also concerned about what our bighorn sheep living in confined canyons will do when they experience supersonic activity. It seems to me that the night flight will be particularly distressing to wild animals. How could you possibly mitigate such effects?

Regardless of what flight patterns proposed, once the range is in operation lower altitude flights can be authorized without an additional EIS.

I'm concerned about the chaff and flares that you drop. It will certainly affect night fires and destroy vegetation. Much of the region has not been adequately inventoried by botanists. If the bombing range is placed here we'll never know what secrets you once held. What will be the effect on water when materials are dropped or dissolved in the region's waterways?

Military rangers throughout the West are notorious for toxic waste sites. I'm concerned about the emitter sites being placed on the land. In winter when this high elevation land is covered

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with snow, we'll be servicing the sites by helicopters. What panic will this cause among wildlife in the winter range.

The economic future of Idaho will be adversely effected if this range is implemented. Manufacturing is rapidly becoming Idaho's number one industry. Companies locate here because of the quality life, not scnic bombs and restricted land.

World War III is an economic war and we better get on with winning it. The solitude I experience hiking the Owyhee canyon lands is precious to me. A friend recently visiting in Idaho was so struck by the grandeur in Owyhee country that he enthusiastically proclaimed it to be of national park quality.

Indeed, will be much more appropriate for a government to be studying this pristine high desert area as an inclusion of our natural park system than for a bombing range impacting billions of acres.

This area is part of our heritage which if it remains as it is now and available for all to visit as opposed to setting your training in Idaho's spectacular high desert. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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COLONEL POPE: Next speaker is Steven Warrick.

GE-1 STEVEN H. WARRICK, 008149

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. WARRICK: I'm Steve Warrick, W-a-r-r-i-c-k. I'm used to spelling the last name for the record. I'm the Elmore prosecuting attorney. I live at 195 North Second West, Mountain Home. I'm going to have to speak off the cuff on this one because I was getting ready to go to the prosecutors course in Houston, Texas and leaving tomorrow.

Anyway, I think that when you look at this, what you've got to do is say there are two big questions. Two questions that you have to look at in terms of this training range. Number one, do we need a training range?

Now, a lot of people who come in just plain shake their heads no like that woman back there, they just plain don't like it. A lot of people don't like the military. As far as they're concerned it's icky or whatever adjective they want to use. It's something that philosophically

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bothers them.

I don't happen to like dentists. I mean, dentistry, I don't dislike dentists personally, but it's something that's necessary. Like it or not you go to the dentist or you wind up looking like the West Virginia jack-o'-lantern.

What you have to do is you have to have to say if we're going to have the country that we have, enjoy the freedoms that we have, we need the military. I served three and a half years in the United States Army on active duty. Two years in the reserves. I was a Captain in the JAG Corp and I'm proud of that.

I think that if we don't have, you know, you take a look and say what the situation is in the world today. We've got several hot spots. I disagree strongly with scaling back on the military. One of the things that you have to think of is that when you have people going into combat, you know, people get upset about money that's spent on aircraft and on weapons systems and training and this sort of thing. What we're talking about is human life. We're talking about the lives of the people that are in the military in this country. And if we don't allow them adequate training we are

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going to pay with their lives. Or rather they're going to pay with their lives.

When you go into combat you better know what you're doing. You better know it better than the guys you're going up against. Or you may be six feet under. Okay? So I think when we look at the world's situation today, what we are is we're like one coup away from a new Soviet Union, a new fascist regime in Russia, a new, you know, regime in Germany. And any number of other countries. So we're faced with a dangerous world today. We're in a less stable world today then we were when the Soviet Union was still intact.

The other question is, so we need it. The other question, is there a better place to put it? And I would say no. We're right here near the base where there is a composite wing and this is a good place to put it. And like Pete Nielson, I've driven past all kinds of animals. I've purposely honked my horn at antelope. I don't see those things responding at all.

So I think what the thing is, number one, we need the range. Number 2, the proposed areas is the best place to put it. Thank you very much.

COLONEL POPE: I will call the names of those

cards I called earlier. Is Mr. Bill Clark here? You may speak now. Sorry I missed you before.

GE-1 BILL CLARK, 008150

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. CLARK: I'm Bill Clark. I live here in Boise. I'm representing myself. Let's see. Well, one thought I've had I guess on the economic benefit is that as a legislature recognizes that every dollar of economic prosperity pumped into Mountain Home is $1.50 we took out of somewhere else. So I think we need to keep that in mind.

But it also goes in hand with you have to really want this thing and know what you're getting into.

That said, I think a major barrier to this is then directly the draft. The major barrier to training and a major solution to that barrier I think is overlooked in the draft. It was glossed over. And that barrier is a slab of secluded air space that parallels Idaho 51 and splits the MOA right in two. It prevents most of the military maneuvers below 18,000 feet. Thus, the military traffic in the west tends to stay in the west and

the traffic in the east tends to stay east. And is concentrated in those areas.

The EIS proposes to annex the airspace under the existing MOA and allow the traffic to fly freely throughout the area and reduce the overall density of aircraft. The flaw with this reasoning is that the Air Force uses this air space anyway. Before each mission the aircrews ask crews of Salt Lake center to clear the area and there is instant MOA.

So if the traffic is already dispersed, then the EIS cannot take benefit for this. If the traffic is already dispersed, the EIS cannot take credit for this benefit. Furthermore, it seems to me that any kind of temporary airspace is supposed to be temporary. It's not a substitute for formal approval, which in this case appears to be incremental expansion. It should be regulated NEPA. Let's see, in any event, I think the final EIS should recognize that much of the proposed airspace expansion is already in use. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Is Mr. Robert Weber with us?

GE-1 ROBERT WEBER, 008151

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. WEBER: Thank you again. I was here last night and said a few words. My name is Robert Weber, Bob Weber. And I own an international corporation called Events Concepts International, which is based here. Part of which is in Owyhee County. And we have about 30 projects going in 20 countries, but I've got the hummer, that thing, the hummer dealership. And quite a few other things. But my background is as a fireman. I've worked 34 years in forest fire work. The last 22 I was here at the national fire center. I was a general headquarters commander, so I get all over the country. That was a wonderful job. I loved every day of it for 34 years. And I was on your base actually quite a few times over that time. And it is my belief that you are the best in the world. And it's also important for me that you stay that way. But I had a really tough day. I talked to myself for four hours this morning by myself trying to figure this thing out. And I'm not sure I have it figured yet.

But I went over -- I'm connected with the

county commissioners down in Owyhee county, so I went over their comprehensive plan and then I went over the upper Columbia big great basin plan and the draft, Owyhee resources management plan and then a book on the Snake River and its people and your plan. And I spent the afternoon -- I went through all the congressional delegation through the governer's office, the Fish and Game and out of the Atlanta to find out what their positions were. And the bottom line is I find no one, and I'm including myself, that everyone that I talked to supports you and they want to make you the best in the world, whatever that takes.

Short of infringing on our personal souls. And I think the issues kind of boil down to this: There's no possible way that you're going to get support infringing on that Duck Valley Reservation. That's not going to happen. That's a sovereign nation. It needs to be viewed as that and somehow you've got to stay out of it. The noise in the Owyhees is just simply not going to be acceptable. On a range somewhere, but not in the Owyhees. It's just too pristine and it needs to stay that way.

The chaff is a whole other issue not

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acceptable to me personally. But it boils down to two things. You're infringing on our basic souls and you're infringing on an issue of virtuality for me personally and for my children.

But I want to commit one thing, I'm committed to finding an area so that you can do your job. And there are some other alternatives that are acceptable that are close. The one gentleman mentioned INEL. That's the kind of thinking that I think we ought to look at.

And my corporation's here to support you. You let me know what to do, and I'm happy to work with you and BLM. Let's find a good area. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Another person I called, Brad Stein. That completes the list of people that I've identified. Is there anyone else that would like to speak that have not spoken? Anyone we missed or did not fill out card? Anyone else that would like to speak again? Mr. Nielson.

GE-1 PETER NIELSON, 008152

appeared and gave the following statement:

MR. NIELSON: Thank you very much. You know,

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it's hard to stand here and say that some folks that have spoken here are not sincere. The last gentleman and the Indian lady that represents -- says she's Shoshone. But the thing that I'm going to try to impress upon you too is our sincerity.

I had four uncles that served in the second World War. One was captured on Christmas Eve. He was a paratrooper held by the Germans in a prisoner of war camp. His life was wrecked for a long, long time. He has since corrected that. And the other two uncles never, ever recovered from their experience in the southeast Pacific.

George Washington said this, Thomas Jefferson said it. A strong defense is the best deterrent of war. It's the best way to have peace is to be strong. Now, those guys 200 years ago recognized that somehow we're in a position to today where we're really more unstable now than it was then from attack. And we need strong forces. We need people that are trained very, very well to be able to pinpoint where that bomb's going to explode instead of landing on our own troops.

I appreciate the solitude that's out there. I'm a naturalist myself. I was raised, I've been on the farm, and I'm not pulling your leg

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when I say animals around those farms and the geese and the ducks. They haven't paid attention. They really, really haven't paid attention. I know it because I've lived it, experienced it. I've seen it for 20 -- well, since 1970 I've experienced that out there. I know whereof I'm speaking. It's not a fairy tale. I have lived it, and I really question if a lot of the people who have testified to this and say animals are going to be bothered and all the other things, if they really experienced it.

I don't know. I can't see why they saw something different than I've seen all those years out there. I love those military people. I've had many, many experiences with them. They've been cooperative with me when I run cattle on the farm. We've had to talk about things sometimes. Not because the cattle was disturbed, but because I might be infringing on their right-of-way and shouldn't be here or shouldn't be there. See what I'm saying?

It has nothing do with the noise or anything like that. They've been very, very cooperative. I want those boys to be trained well. I want them -- it might be my boys some

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day. I'm a little old to go, but my grandsons and my other kids I want trained very, very well. And I want peace and I'm convinced that peace comes through strong defense. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Please reidentify yourself.

GE-1 LISA SHULTZ, 008153

appeared and gave the following statement:

MS. SHULTZ: I just have two questions and a note of appreciation and a note that I want to share.

One question has to do with, I was wondering why actual copies of the EIS weren't made available at the public hearings rather than just the community report, which I think is although may be more palatable to most people, it is fluff. And I thought that it might be something for future reference that the DEIS-EIS itself, the thick ones, should have been made available to people here tonight. They are here tonight? I'm sorry. That's an oversight on my part. So they are here.

Which brings me to a note of appreciation for the Air Force. You all have done a very good

job, and I appreciate your patience, your politeness, and I just want to leave one other request. That is that if at all possible the comment period be extended for people to be able to fully digest the documents. We've had a lot of concerns raised about the thickness and the volume and the fact that a lot of the resources that were used as cited materials in the report are yet to be available, which I believe is a requirement of NEPA.

Also that the reference materials be made available. And if they are available, again, I apologize for speaking out of turn. But from what I understand the documents that the report itself were used to base a lot of conclusions on have not been available.

Lastly, I do want to repeat a quote that I shared in Twin Falls. Dwight D. Eisenhower, former president, said, "That the problem with defense is how far can we go without destroying from within what we're trying to defend from without." And I'll leave you with that. Thank you.

COLONEL POPE: Thank you. Anyone else who would like to make additional comments? I'll

remind you that at this point in time you have until August 6, 1997 to provide additional requests and comments that's obviously on the record for an extension of that period. If there is nothing further, this hearing is adjourned.

(Public Hearing concluded at 9:30 p.m.)

GE-1

COMMENTS 008154

Verl Wadley, 675 Queens Guard Way, Boise, Idaho 83709

I've lived in Boise for about four or five years. I lived seven years in Mountain Home before that. I retired from the Air Force after 20 years from Mountain Home. I'm retired a Lieutenant Colonel. I was a pilot in the Air Force and flew the F-111. And I wanted to make a statement in favor of the training range.

I feel that the base and the wing desperately need the training range, and that it would be a good thing for them to have that. And I believe that it is vital for the success of the wing in their ability to perform the mission that they're assigned.

I had the opportunity to serve in the gulf war. We trained in Saudia Arabia for five months before the conflict started. And I think a large measure of our success was due to the benefit of that training because we were able to work together as a group and as a composite force and

train and practice and try different scenarios and see which ones worked and which ones didn't work.

As a result of that extensive training and practice before the conflict started, we felt very prepared as the conflict began and the results indicate success of that preparation. Because of the success of the gulf war, the Air Force saw fit through General McPeak and other leaders to decide that a composite wing would be a good thing to try out. And Mountain Home was selected for one of those composite wings.

The composite attack proved extremely successful in the gulf war and this wing at the base has everything that it needs to achieve that same level of success. I feel that their training is vital in peacetime so that they're prepared to do the role that they may be called upon to do. And I feel that probably they will not have the ability as we did in the gulf to have four or five months to prepare and train before the conflict starts.

As a result they need this range expansion for increased training and the ability to vary their scenarios and enhance their training to the point that it will improve their preparedness

and make them at the level they need to be. Currently, the training range exists as it has for many years and it is essentially the equivalent of a postage stamp compared to the size that it needs to be. And I believe that the Air Force desperately needs an increased size or they wouldn't continue to ask for it especially in light of the overwhelming public nonsupport of the issue.

Another benefit that I see from this range expansion is the ability, instead of having one way in and one way out with the little range that exists now, to have a variety of scenarios possible. This will make a great enhancement in the training.

I also feel that the issue of the noise and the level of the noise is not at all a concern as we flew many missions in that general area and in the air space around Mountain Home. We never saw in a low-level training any animals that were frightened or scared or running away because of the noise. And I think that the noise, although it will exist, is not a considerable factor and not a deterrent in any of the environment.

I also feel that the Air Force has an outstanding record of maintaining the range and the

environment and keeping the surrounding countryside at a level equal to our or better than when they started.

This is attested to with the fact that the current range, as small as it is, is still highly environmentally sound and that numerous visits to the range by various groups and officials have indicated that, in fact, the environment and the wildlife and everything around the range is more stable and better than it is in the surrounding conditions and existing conditions outside of the range. So to me that shows that the Air Force especially has a good track record of maintaining the environment and protecting it and taking care of the range in an adequate manner.

I think that the price of freedom does not always come easy, and maybe some jet noise is the price that this will cost, but I think that it's well worth it. We have always heard that bumper slogan that jet noise is the sound of freedom. And maybe with this issue it's the price of freedom.

But it's well worth it, in my mind, to have wing adequately prepared to the point that they need to be. And if the noise or the increased

use of the ground and air space requires that, I think it's a small price to pay to maintain this wing which will be the first to see combat in a level of readiness that they need to be so they accomplish the mission that they are called on to do.

Again, I'm extremely much in favor of the proposal to increase the air space and the training range as the Air Force has indicated in the environmental study.

Thank you.

AGENCY COMMENTS

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

JUN 12 1997

Reply To
Attn Of: ECO-088

Captain Melissa Miller, Chief
366th Wing Public Affairs
US Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

Re: Enhanced Training in Idaho
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

GE-1 Dear Captain Miler:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the Enhanced Training In Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for review in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA Region 10 has used a screening tool to conduct a limited review of the draft EIS evaluating the No-Action alternative as well as the three range development alternatives to enhance training for the Air Force in southwest Idaho. Based upon the screen, we do not foresee having any environmental objections to the proposed project. Therefore, we will not be conducting a detailed review of the draft EIS.

If you have any questions, please contact me in Seattle at 206/553-1984.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Parkin

Richard B. Parkin, Manager
Geographic Implementation Unit

Printed on Recycled Paper

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Idaho State University
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P.O. Box 329
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To Whom It May Concern

I am the Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Idaho Museum of Natural History (IMNH), legislatively designated as the State Museum of Natural History, and have spent much of my life since 1958 working with paleontological resources.

I thank you for sending a copy of your draft EIS on "Enhanced Training in Idaho" to our institution. Unfortunately, the document is seriously flawed in its consideration (or lack of consideration) of paleontologic resources. It just so happens that I and a co-author, Allen Tedrow, are preparing a manuscript on the Miocene fossil deposits of southern Idaho, including important localities in and near ROI Two. This paper is scheduled to be published in September, 1998 in a comprehensive volume on the vertebrate paleontology of Idaho (I am also the chief editor of the volume).

Two different types of impacts need to be considered in the evaluation of overall impact of a project on paleontological resources. First, and usually foremost, is the direct impact which
ER-1 occurs when ground disturbing activities (such as munitions impact, road and building
ER-2 construction, and even powerline construction) damage or destroy fossils. Indirect impact is less commonly considered. It results from the increased amateur or commercial collecting which often follows when access to a fossiliferous area is improved or additional people are present and is quite similar to the indirect impact upon archaeological resources. Not only is collecting fossil vertebrates without a permit illegal on federal lands, many fossils are physically destroyed by untrained collectors and the research value of most other fossils is destroyed when they are separated from their context without documentation. This project has the potential to create substantial impacts, both direct and indirect, on significant paleontological resources.

ER-3 The EIS does not indicate which preparer or contributor was responsible for which section. Nevertheless, neither the list of "Preparers and Contributors" (Section 9.0) nor the list of "Persons and Agencies Contracted" (Section 8.0) nor the "Consultation" (section 10.0) includes a qualified paleontologist. Current BLM policy requires that a qualified paleontologist conduct paleontologic surveys where there is a potential risk to fossils.

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ER-4 Is there such a risk? The EIS states (section 3.5.4.2) that there are no paleontologic resources in or near the sites designated as Alternatives A, B, and C. To my knowledge, there has been no effort by a professional paleontologist to search this area for fossil resources; thus, the statement is unproven and, as shown below, probably incorrect. Even though we have not worked in the area, the IMNH records several paleontologic localities within the area, one adjacent to Alternative C. The IMNH serves as the primary repository for vertebrate fossils from the State of Idaho; however, we have no record of having been contacted for a records search for fossil localities in this area. Other institutions which may have collections from the general area include the United States Geological Survey (Denver), the University of California at Berkeley, the Smithsonian Institution, the Natural History Museum of Los
ER-4 Angeles County, and the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology. Were any of these contacted?

Most of the geologists working in this area have been primarily interested in the volcanic rocks and have paid little or no attention to the sediments (often fossiliferous) which commonly occur between volcanic deposits. The writer of the paleontologic sections appears to have relied on the map (figure 3.5-1) showing the surface in the southern and eastern portions of the area to consist of "undifferentiated basalts", large parts of which on other maps (e.g. fig. 3 of Bonnichsen, 1982: Malde et al., 1963) are assigned to the "Banbury Basalt". I have worked in the "Banbury Basalt" in the northeast portion of and to the west of ROI Two. In these areas, the "Banbury Basalt" often includes more sedimentary interbeds than it does basalt. These sedimentary interbeds are shown and/or briefly described by Malde et al. (1963) in their reconnaissance map of the area, Ekren, et al. (1981) in their map of the area adjacent to the west, and Jenks et al. in their maps to the north of the area.

These same sedimentary interbeds frequently yield fossil vertebrate remains of Hemphillian (late Miocene) age though no huge concentrations are known so far (again, no one has adequately surveyed the area for fossils). While it may be that alternatives B,C, and D and the other areas mapped as "undifferentiated basalt" which will be disturbed are, in fact, underlain only by unfossiliferous basalt, they should be examined by a paleontologist who will focus on sediments rather than on volcanic rocks. I enclose a confidential list, Search #1, of our two localities (one found by an amateur, the other by BLM archaeologists) which occur in sedimentary interbeds in the area mapped as "undifferentiated basalt" in your figure 3.5-1. Even though I have indicated only the Township and Range (more detailed information exists in our files), this list and the one mentioned below are confidential and should only be seen by those with a definite need to know.

Incidentally, this spring the federal office of the BLM awarded $4,000 for a cooperative effort between the BLM and IMNH for the recovery and study of Miocene paleontologic resources recently discovered at IMNH locality 854, close to several emitter sites.

With a very few exceptions, ground disturbance in areas of exposed basalt or where basalt immediately underlies soil is very unlikely to impact paleontologic resources. However, if sedimentary interbeds or younger lake or stream deposits are exposed or are present under a

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soil, significant paleontologic resources could be impacted by ground disturbing activities. Only detailed mapping of individual sites, road right of ways, etc. can determine the local potential for paleontologic resources.

ER-5 Even more serious, the DEIS also rather summarily dismisses the importance of paleontologic resources of the Idaho Group (section 3.5.4.1), one of the most important fossil bearing units in the world. The world famous fossil site of Hagerman, not far northeast of the area in question, occurs within a slightly younger portion of the Idaho Group. Its paleontologic resources are so important that it is now a National Monument - the only National Park unit with paleontologic research mandated in its enabling legislation. We have hundreds of fossil localities within the Idaho Group and the total for all institutions with paleontologic collections would run into the thousands. Hundreds of fossil vertebrate species have been described from the Idaho Group and hundreds of research papers have been published on Idaho Group fossils. In short, the paleontologic resources of the Idaho Group are world class! Most of the deposits mapped as Idaho Group sediments in figure 3.5-1 are in the Hemphillian (late Miocene) Chalk Hills Formation (see my attached confidential list, Search #2, of more than 100 IMNH fossil localities recorded from the Idaho group in the rectangle formed by Townships 5 through 8 South and Ranges 5 through 10 East, inclusive).

ER-6 The EIS states (section 3.5.4.2 "No-Drop Targets and Electronic Emitter Sites") that fossil localities are less abundant near the edges of the Lake Idaho Basin. This is contrary to my personal observations and IMNH records. The majority of fossil sites and, with the exception of some fossil fish concentrations, practically all major fossil sites occur near the margins of the lake, many in the deposits of tributaries to ancient Lake Idaho. Except for fishes, the fossils from the Chalk Hills Formation have been much less studied than from the overlying Blancan (Pliocene) Glenns Ferry Formation. IMNH students, researchers, and volunteers have surveyed portions of this area and have assembled significant collections of fossil terrestrial vertebrates. I have recently been contacted by a Boise State University student and IMNH volunteer, Mr. Roger Rapp, interested in doing a master's thesis on mammalian fossils of the Chalk Hills Formation in the area.

In section 3.5.4.2 the second paragraph under "No-Drop Targets and Electronic Emitter Sites mentions finding a "handfull of poorly preserved mammal fossils" apparently seen by an unnamed vertebrate paleontologist. I ask the following questions:

ER-3 1. Did the unknown collector follow proper procedures to preserve diagnostic features on the fossils. As noted above, many vertebrate fossils can easily be destroyed by inexperienced collectors. Even experienced invertebrate paleontologists may not have the background to properly collect some fossil vertebrates.

ER-3 2. Did the unknown collector follow the standard procedure of "following the scrap trail" in an attempt to locate in situ specimens. Most important fossil finds are located by following scrap trails.

ER-3 3. Was the unnamed identifier a specialist in fossil mammals or in some other vertebrate group? Unfortunately, this is an age of specialization, even in paleontology. For example, I started identifying fossil vertebrates in 1958 and have been teaching vertebrate paleontology since 1985 but I would not attempt to say whether or not most fossil bird bones were identifiable.

ER-7 4. Did the collector have the appropriate agency permits required to collect fossil vertebrates on federal and/or state lands?

ER-8 5. Did the collector of the mammal material and of the fish locality mentioned in the next paragraph submit required detailed locality information to the appropriate federal and/or state agencies?

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Even though the discussion of paleontology in this EIS is seriously flawed, it would not be too difficult and should not be overly expensive to remedy the problems.

The following preliminary recommendations are based on quite a few years of experience in my field of vertebrate paleontology including consulting on a number of EIS/EIR statements in California and Idaho. However, these recommendations are not definitive. The BLM staff paleontologist responsible for Idaho should be contacted. She is Dr. Laurie J. Bryant, Bureau of Land Management, 1701 East E Street, Casper, WY 82601; tel. (307) 261-7731.

DIRECT IMPACTS.-

1. First and foremost, the Department of the Air Force should retain the services of a qualified consulting vertebrate paleontologist, preferably one familiar with Miocene and Pliocene mammals. Dr. Bryant should be able to supply you with the names of several qualified individuals or I can do so subject to her approval.

2. The Department of the Air Force should enter into a contract with a designated repository for the care and curation of all fossils and supporting documentation which may result from paleontologic work undertaken in association with the EIS and from any resulting mitigation. The IMNH is the state museum of natural history and already cares for large amounts of fossil material from southwestern Idaho. The IMNH is willing to contract for the reposition of fossils and supporting documentation.

3. The consulting paleontologist should conduct a records search of all institutions which have collections relevant to the area covered by the EIS.

4. The consulting paleontologist should consult with geologists who have worked in the area regarding overall geology of the area, then spend adequate field time becoming familiar with

the geology of the area with special attention to sediments of the Idaho Group and sedimentary interbeds between volcanic units.

5. Because the distribution of paleontologic resources (unlike archaeological resources) is closely related to geology, inch-by inch detailed foot survey of all areas is rarely needed. The consulting paleontologist should conduct an adequate foot survey to develop paleontological sensitivity maps which cover all areas of potential ground disturbing activity. For example, large areas of exposed basalt or other units known to be non-fossiliferous would be mapped as having very little or no sensitivity while geologic units known to contain significant paleontologic resources may be mapped as very sensitive.

6. All significant paleontologic resources discovered during this work should be properly documented, collected, prepared, and identified. They and their documentation should be deposited in the designated repository. The BLM may require a separate report for their records.

7. Mitigation measures should be developed for each sensitivity map unit. These may range from none to intensive collection and excavation.

INDIRECT IMPACTS.-

Indirect impacts are much more difficult to calculate and mitigate. The ideal solution would be to collect all significant paleontological resources before the amateurs and commercial collectors find them. However, this is usually not practical and probably would not be practical here. Measures which could be taken include:

1. Maximize collection of exposed resources in the area, especially easily accessible ones. For example, this might consist of encouraging and financially supporting qualified professional paleontologists, students, and paleontological volunteers who are interested in studying fossils from the area and/or in collecting them for preservation in approved repositories. Field support for graduate students is especially desirable and cost effective.

2. Institute educational programs targeting military personnel and public users of the area. These programs should point out the importance of paleontological resources, why there are restrictions on the collection of certain types of fossil material, exactly which fossil collecting activities are legal and which require permits, and what the potential penalties are for violations. Paleontological resource education could easily be combined with related topics, such as the protection of archaeological resources and endangered species. Programs could include talks, a traveling exhibit, brochures, and opportunities to participate in volunteer activities such as the research excavation presently under way at the Hagerman Horse Quarry.

3. Given the shortage of enforcement officers within the BLM, it might be desirable to have military police enforce regulations protecting paleontological and other resources, at least among military personnel.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

William A. Akersten, Ph.D.
Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology

REFERENCES CITED:

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Jenks, M.D., B. Bonnichsen, and M.M. Godchaux. 1993. Geologic maps of the Grand View-Bruneau Area, Owyhee County, Idaho. Idaho Geological Survey, Technical Report 93-2, 21 pp., 19 maps.

Malde, H.E., H.A. Powers, and C.H. Marshall. 1963. Reconnaissance geologic map of west-central Snake River Plain, Idaho. United States Geological Survey, Miscellaneous Geologic Investigations, Map I-373.

cc. Dr. Laurie J. Bryant
Dr. Allen Jackson

Search #1 - T9S through T16S and R2E through 13E

Locality #	Epoch	Township	Range	Map Name
813	Miocene	12S	04E	Little Blue Table
854	Miocene	09S	11E	Notch Butte

Search #2 - T5S through T8S and R5E through 10E

Locality #	Epoch	Township	Range	Map Name
163	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
164	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
166	Pliocene	05S	10E	Glenns Ferry
171		07S	06E	Hot Spring
172	Miocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
173	Pliocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
174	Pliocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
176		07S	06E	Hot Spring
177	Miocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
178		08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
179		08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
199	Pliocene	05S	09E	Bennett Mountain
202	Miocene	07S	05E	Little Valley
205	Miocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
207	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
208	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
209	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
212		05S	08E	Indian Cove
220		06S	10E	Twentymile Butte
221		05S	08E	Indian Cove
224		08S	05E	Hole In Rock
280	Miocene/Pliocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
283	Pliestocene	06S	06E	Crowbar Gulch
321	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
322	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
323	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
324	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
325	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
326	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
327	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
328	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
329	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
330	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
331	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
332	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
333	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
334	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
335	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
336	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
337	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
338	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
339	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
340	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat

Locality #	Epoch	Township	Range	Map Name
341	Miocene	08S	05E	Hole In Rock
342	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
358	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
359	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
360	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
361	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
375	Miocene	08S	05E	Little Valley
376	Miocene	08S	05E	Hole In Rock
401	Miocene	05S	01E	Antelope Spring
443	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
470	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
631	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
646	Miocene	08S	05E	Hole in Rock
647	Miocene	08S	05E	Hole in Rock
648	Miocene	08S	05E	Hole in Rock
649	Miocene	08S	05E	Hole in Rock
653	Pliocene	05S	08E	Reverse, ID
654	Pliocene	05S	08E	Reverse, ID
655	Pliocene	05S	08E	Reverse, ID
656	Pliocene	05S	08E	Reverse, ID
657	Pliocene	05S	08E	Reverse, ID
672	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
673	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
674	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
675	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
676	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
677	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
678	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
679	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
680	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
681	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
682	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
683	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
704	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
705		08S	06E	Crowbar Gulch
706	Miocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
707	Miocene	08S	07E	Crowbar Gulch
710	Miocene	08S	06E	Crowbar Gulch
822		08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
823	Pliocene	08S	05E	Broken Wagon Flat
70026	Pleistocene ?	07S	06E	Sugar Valley
71009		07S	05E	Little Valley
74005	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
76024	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
76026	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
76027	Pliocene	05S	06E	Bruneau Dunes
76028	Pliocene	05S	05E	Bruneau
76029	Pliocene	06S	08E	Hammett
77002	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
77004	Pliocene	06S	07E	Bruneau Dunes

009001

Locality #	Epoch	Township	Range	Map Name
77013	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
78037	Pliocene	05S	07E	Bruneau Dunes
78038	Pliocene	05S	07E	Bruneau Dunes
78039	Pliocene	06S	07E	Bruneau Dunes
78040	Pliocene	06S	07E	Bruneau Dunes
78041	Pliocene	05S	07E	Bruneau Dunes
78042	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
78043	Pliocene	06S	08E	Hammett
78044	Pliocene	06S	08E	Hammett
80003	Pliocene	05S	10E	Pasadena Valley
80004	Pliocene	05S	10E	Pasadena Valley
80006	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
80010	Pliocene	05S	06E	Bruneau
81003	Pliocene	05S	07E	Bruneau Dunes
82002	Pliocene	07S	05E	Sugar Valley
82004	Pliocene	07S	05E	Sugar Valley
83002	Miocene/Pliocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
83032	Miocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
84009	Pliocene	05S	08E	Indian Cove
84011	Pliocene	05S	08E	Hammett
85007	Miocene	08S	05E	Little Valley
85008	Miocene	08S	05E	Little Valley
85014	Pliocene	05S	07E	Bruneau Dunes
85015	Pliocene	05S	07E	Bruneau Dunes
85024	Miocene/Pliocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
85026	Miocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
85027	Miocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley
85028	Miocene	08S	05E	Sugar Valley



Owyhee County Commissioners

COURTHOUSE, POST OFFICE 128
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TELEPHONE (208) 495-2421

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845-2283

CLERK
JIM HUNTLEY JR.

July 14, 1997

United States Air Force/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

and

Col. Billy F. Ritchey
366 WG/DS
366 Gunfighter Avenue
Suite 331
Mountain Home AFB
Mountain Home Idaho 83648-5299

Re: Comments on Enhanced Training in Idaho

GE-1 Gentlemen:

The Owyhee County Land Use Planning Committee has recommended that the Board request an extension of time for submitting comments regarding the proposal to enhance training and the training range in Owyhee County, in Idaho. A subcommittee of the Planning Committee is now analizing the proposal, as well as prior proposals, and will be preparing comments for presentation to the full Committee and then to this Board. Their preparation has been delayed because of the time which has been committed to preparing comments regarding the BLM's Resource Management Plan for the Owyhee Resource Area of Owyhee County.

Because of the time already devoted to preparation of the various proposals, and because we all seemingly want a final plan which is in the best interests of the citizens of Owyhee County, Idaho and the nation, we believe it is reasonable to allow more time for pre-adoption analysis and comment. We therefore, formally, request that the time for

009002

submission of comments be extended for an additional period of sixty days.

Thank you for your concern for the welfare of our citizens.

Very truly yours,

Richard Bass
Richard Bass, Chairman

Harold Tolmie
Harold Tolmie

Chester Sellman
Chester Sellman

009003

July 15, 1997

CITY OF KUNA

P.O. BOX 13 • KUNA, IDAHO 83634
PHONE (208) 922-5546

Ms. Brenda Cook
U.S. Air Force/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

GE-1 Dear Ms Cook:

The city of Kuna would like to go on record supporting the enhanced air to ground training areas in Southwest Idaho. The proposal by the U.S. Air Force is well thought out, located in the right area and will have minimal impacts on both humans and livestock. We consider the wild accusations by some groups regarding impacts on wildlife as being too outrageous to even warrant rebuttal. The enhanced training opportunities offered by the site will be beneficial to both the U.S. Air Force and to the Idaho Air National Guard.

We would further like to complement the U.S. Air Force for the EIS being presented to solicit public comment. We appreciate being given the opportunity to be a part of the decision making process and feel the EIS is both adequate and acceptable.

For the record, the city of Kuna is a city of 3707 citizens located 18 miles south and west of Boise and is relatively close to the proposed training site.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the proposed training range

Sincerely,

W. Greg Nelson, Mayor
City of Kuna

cc: Kuna City Council
Kuna Chamber of Commerce
Boise Area Chamber of Commerce

9004 - 9006
Cooperating Agency Letters

003007

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

To educate through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of Idaho's Cultural Heritage.

Philip E. Batt
Governor of Idaho

Steve Guerber
Director

August 6, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of
Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

RE: Cultural Resources Technical Report, Enhanced Training in Idaho
Environmental Impact Analysis Process

Thank you for requesting our views on the National Register eligibility of sites located within or near the proposed alternatives for the Enhanced Training in Idaho project. The three alternatives include the Grasmere, Clover Butte, and Juniper Butte locations. Overall, we find that the report meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for reconnaissance survey and that the survey strategy employed was appropriate for this level of analysis. Our comments focus on the National Register evaluations of archaeological sites and isolated finds identified within the three alternatives.

1. With one exception, we agree that the isolates are *not eligible* for the National Register of Historic Places. The exception is ETI-107, a cave site, which we feel should be classified as a site and not as an isolate, and is recommended as *eligible* for the National Register.

2. We feel the following sites (including ETI-107 noted above) should be considered *eligible* for the National Register until further investigations are completed. Land ownership and locations in relation to the proposed alternatives are also noted:

CU-22

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003007

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land
Management
August 6, 1997
page 2

National Register-Eligible Sites

ETI-006 (BLM-Clover)	ETI-053 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-162 (BLM-Grasmere)
ETI-012 (State-Clover)	ETI-101 (BLM-Clover)	ETI-163 (BLM-Grasmere)
ETI-022 (State-Grasmere)	ETI-103 (BLM-Clover)	ETI-165 (BLM-Grasmere)
ETI-029 (State-Grasmere)	ETI-105 (BLM-Clover)	ETI-166 (BLM-Grasmere)
ETI-031 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-107 (BLM-Clover)	ETI-172 (BLM-Grasmere)
ETI-032 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-110 (BLM-Clover)	ETI-503 (BLM-outside)
ETI-035 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-113 (BLM-outside)	ETI-504 (BLM-outside)
ETI-038 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-119 (BLM-outside)	ETI-512 (BLM-outside)
ETI-039 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-127 (BLM-outside)	
ETI-040 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-130 (BLM-Grasmere)	
ETI-041 (State-Grasmere)	ETI-134 (BLM-Grasmere)	
ETI-043 (State-Grasmere)	ETI-137 (BLM-Grasmere)	
ETI-046 (State-Grasmere)	ETI-142 (BLM-Grasmere)	
ETI-047 (State-Grasmere)	ETI-144 (BLM-Grasmere)	
	ETI-147 (BLM-Grasmere)	

CU-22

Please note that we have evaluated as eligible a few of the sites recommended as not eligible in the report. Many of these sites are fairly large historic sites that, in our opinion, appear to be eligible. An exception is ETI-104 which appears to be a more recent deposit.

3. We agree that the following sites are *not eligible* for the National Register and will require no further consideration:

Ineligible Sites

ETI-025 (State-Grasmere)	ETI-104 (BLM-Clover)
ETI-033 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-115 (BLM-outside)
ETI-034 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-132 (BLM-outside)
ETI-042 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-169 (BLM-Grasmere)
ETI-048 (BLM-Grasmere)	ETI-184 (BLM-Grasmere)

CU-22

4. We are surprised to find that most of the previously recorded sites were not evaluated, and that the site forms for these sites are not included in Appendix E. We would appreciate receiving copies of the site forms for the previously recorded sites without Smithsonian numbers, as those are not in our inventory.

5. We have a few final observations. In reviewing the Bureau of Land Management's comments on eligibility we found inconsistency in the manner in which rock cairns were

CU-23

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
August 6, 1997
page 3

evaluated. For example, ETI-113 (collapsed cairn) is evaluated by the BLM as eligible yet ETI-138 (one cairn), ETI-139 (collapsed cairn), and ETI-140 (collapsed cairn) are evaluated as not eligible. Further, we found inconsistency in the report with evaluations of historic sites. Finally, the estimated depth of cultural fill was frequently determined based on the presence or absence of cultural material in the ant hills or rodent burrows. These features may be one indicator, but buried cultural deposits may still exist in sites where no cultural material is found in the ants hills or rodents burrows. CU-23

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact either myself or Suzi Neitzel at 208-334-3847.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Yohe II
State Archaeologist and
Interim SHPO

RMY/spn
cc: Dan Hutchison, BLM
Jim Rudolph, SAIC

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:
LOWER SNAKE RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE:
CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION REPORT

ID-I-97-B-63
Page 1 of 2

1. **Project Name and Description of the Proposed Undertaking:** The project is for the BLM to cooperate with the US Air Force in the review of the Grasmere Alternative: Enhanced Training in Idaho.

2. **Statement of Objectives:** The objective was to evaluate historic properties identified by the US Air Force within the undertakings area of potential effects described by the US Air Force.

3. **Organization and Date of Inventory:** Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) with BLM Cultural Resource Permit ID-I-31311: 1996/1997

4. **Determination of Eligible for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:**

ETI 22	ETI 40	ETI 119	ETI 165
ETI 29	ETI 41	ETI 127	ETI 166
ETI 31	ETI 43	ETI 130	ETI 172
ETI 32 10OE3560	ETI 46	ETI 134	ETI 512
ETI 35 10OE3551	ETI 47	ETI 137	
ETI 38	ETI 53	ETI 147	
ETI 39	ETI 113	ETI 163	

5. **Determination of Not Eligible for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:**

ETI 18	ETI 48	ETI 118	ETI 142	ETI 160	ETI 181
ETI 19	ETI 49	ETI 120	ETI 143	ETI 161	ETI 182
ETI 20	ETI 51	ETI 121	ETI 144	ETI 162	ETI 183
ETI 21	ETI 52	ETI 123	ETI 145	ETI 164	ETI 184
ETI 23	ETI 54	ETI 124	ETI 146	ETI 167	ETI 500
ETI 24	ETI 55	ETI 125	ETI 148	ETI 168	ETI 501
ETI 25	ETI 56	ETI 126	ETI 149	ETI 169	ETI 502
ETI 27	ETI 57	ETI 128	ETI 150	ETI 170	ETI 503
ETI 28	ETI 58	ETI 129	ETI 151	ETI 171	ETI 504
ETI 30	ETI 59	ETI 131	ETI 152	ETI 173	ETI 508
ETI 33	ETI 60	ETI 132	ETI 153	ETI 174	ETI 510
ETI 34	ETI 111	ETI 133	ETI 154	ETI 175	ETI 513
ETI 36	ETI 112	ETI 135	ETI 155	ETI 176	ETI 514
ETI 37	ETI 114	ETI 136	ETI 156	ETI 177	ETI 515
ETI 42	ETI 115	ETI 138	ETI 157	ETI 178	ETI 516
ETI 44	ETI 116	ETI 139	ETI 158	ETI 179	
ETI 45	ETI 117	ETI 140	ETI 159	ETI 180	

6. **Determination of Effect:** To be completed by the US Air Force.

RECEIVED
JUL 22 1997
IDAHO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7. **Repository:** The original site records will be stored at the Lower Snake District BLM Office. All significant data included in the reports will be filed with the SHPO at the Idaho State Historical Society.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:
LOWER SNAKE RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE:
CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION REPORT

ID-I-97-B-63
Page 2 of 2

8. **BLM Certification:** I certify that I reviewed the site forms reported here and that the BLM evaluation of the site forms noted above is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Archaeologist: Daniel J. Hutchison — Date: 07/14/97

Area Manager: Signe Sather-Blair — Date: 7/17/97

9. **SHPO Comment:** I have reviewed the site form documentation provided by the US Air Force and reviewed by BLM, and:

_ I concur with the determinations of eligibility.

X I concur with the determinations of eligibility given the stipulations explained below or in the attached letter.

_ I do not concur with the determinations of eligibility as explained below or in the attached letter.

State Historic Preservation Office — Date: 8/5/97

Robert M. Yohe II, SHPO

Office of the Tribal Chairman
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
P.O. Box 219, Owyhee, NV 89832
Telephone: 702/757-3211 Facsimile: 702/757-3212

August 14, 1997
(Let.#97.092)

US Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83701-0329

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley Indian Reservation submit the enclosed comments on to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Documents Concerning the Air Force Proposal for Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI).

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office at 702/757-3211.

Sincerely,

James Paiva
Tribal Chairman

hlh

XC: Business Council Members
T. Howard, Culture Preservation Program Director
Chrono

Enclosure

Enhanced Training In Idaho:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Comments of the
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
of the
Duck Valley Reservation
Idaho/Nevada

August 14, 1997

009008

ENHANCED TRAINING IN IDAHO: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Vols. 1 and 2.

I. General Comments:

A. The overall organization of Shoshone-Paiute concerns is outlined in the Table on ES-12, in pp. 3-4 through 3-6, and pp. 4-1 through 4-2. These sections are the indexed references to the various sections discussing Shoshone-Paiute issues. The latter two sections (pp. 3-4 through 3-5 and 4-1 through 4-2) are prominently placed at the beginning of major sections of the document, and their contents are helpful in locating other passages that discuss Shoshone-Paiute concerns about particular resources. There should be a reference to these two sections in the Table of Contents and in the Table on p. ES-1 in order to make this internal reference system even more useful in locating Tribal references contained in the EIS.

CU-24

009008

B. The current draft of the EIS (4/97) describes the potential spiritual significance of various natural resources to the Shoshone-Paiute in a manner that protects sensitive information, reflecting the confidential status of research on these topics. The importance of solitude, naturalness, and a pristine environment to the practice of Shoshone-Paiute religious beliefs has been addressed in various places, but should be more fully explained for the benefit of readers unfamiliar with the strength of Tribal tradition.

CU-24

II. Executive Summary (pp. ES-1 through ES-12):

A. The section titled "Environmental Consequences" (pp. ES-5 through ES-11) briefly summarizes the anticipated environmental consequences for the 12 resource categories included in the EIS. The descriptions of these resources should mention their potential importance to traditional Shoshone-Paiute religious practice and other culturally distinctive activities as well, since impacts to these resource categories are being discussed. In particular, the sections titled Earth Resources (p. ES-7), Water Resources (p. ES-7), Biological Resources(p.ES-8) should mention the potential value of these resources as Shoshone-Paiute traditional cultural resources (e.g. spiritual and

CU-24

009008

traditional subsistence importance), and that the potential effects of the ETI proposal have only begun to be assessed in the ongoing ethnographic studies. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain the right to comment further based on the results of these ongoing studies which will not be complete for another year.

CU-12

B. The Cultural Resources section (p.ES-9) should emphasize the current and ongoing ethnographic research into Shoshone-Paiute traditional cultural resources and traditional cultural properties that may be affected by ETI alternatives. The main point is that the ETI alternatives may significantly affect these resources, and much Tribal information has yet to be collected and included in the EIS process. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain the right to comment further based on the results of these ongoing studies which will not be complete for another year.

CU-12
CU-24

III. Chapter One:

A. Section 1.4.4 (p. 1-51 through 1-52)

CU-14 CU-24 The beginning of this section (p. 1-51) should mention that the Shoshone-Paiute government acts as a sovereign entity in its relationship with the U.S. Federal government, and that the Federal government has various trust responsibilities concerning Tribal interests both on and off the Duck Valley Reservation. It should also

CU-12 mention the ongoing ethnographic studies, because the results of these studies will help document the legal mandates for Native Americans listed immediately following (1-51 through 1-52), a welcome addition to the 4/97 version of the EIS.

IV. Chapter Two:

CU-12 CU-24 The chart on p.2-88 summarizes potential effects of the ETI on traditional cultural resources. Since the previous page includes sections on archaeological and historic/architectural resources, the section on traditional cultural resources (which elsewhere includes spiritual and subsistence importance to the Tribes) should indicate that the potential effects on these resources is currently under ethnographic study. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain the right to comment

further based on the results of these ongoing studies which will not be complete for another year.

CU-12 It is therefore premature and inaccurate to make statements about the impact of project alternatives on these resources.

V. Chapter Three:

A. The note at the end of p. 3-5 appropriately lists resource categories that have not been commented on by the Tribes. The last sentence should add that it

CU-25 should be expected that the Tribes will wish to comment on these categories as their understanding of ETI increases. The sections listed should still include a section at the end, as do the other sections, on Shoshone-Paiute concerns which states that the Tribes may wish to comment when their understanding of these issues increases.

B. Discussion of the definitions and differing uses and meaning of "cultural resources" are greatly improved in this version of the EIS; the discussion highlights the different uses by tribal members and by cultural resource managers (especially pp.3-4 through 3-6 and 3-187 through 3-189), the latter being mostly archaeologists responsible for management of only archaeological resources. The preliminary nature of

CU-12 ongoing ethnographic research regarding traditional cultural resources and traditional cultural properties needs to be acknowledged in appropriate places. Potential protection of traditional cultural resources and properties under NAGPRA, AIRFA, and E.O. 13007 are mentioned and should be emphasized as legislation

CU-21 CU-24 protecting Tribal cultural resources and cultural properties that may not be National Register eligible. The bottom paragraph of (p. 3-187) should add that only tribal members can determine the importance of traditional cultural resources. Also, where cultural resources are being defined, it should be noted that Tribal members do not make the distinction between "prehistoric" and "historic", but see only one continuing history stemming from their oral tradition.

C. The discussion of treaties (pp. 3-192 through 3-193) has also been improved, but should be more fully

CU-14 addressed, to include reference to the Tribes' unextinguished territorial claims, (no legal documentation for exchange of land title), in southwestern Idaho and adjacent areas.

D. Noise (p.3-22) is thought to negatively affect the spirits whose roles in the environment are active whether or not human ceremonial activities are occurring. Therefore it should be noted that the

CU-24 effects of noise on ceremonies and rituals is only a part of its potentially wider effects on the Shoshone-Paiute spiritual world, which is still under ethnographic study. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain the right to comment further based on the results of these ongoing studies which will not be complete for another year.

E. The section on Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste should add the additional language indicated in 5A above.

F. The first paragraph of section 3.5 on Earth Resources

CU-24 (p.3-44) should mention the potential value of these resources as traditional cultural resources to the Shoshone-Paiute, which is still undergoing ethnographic research, in addition to their scientific, economic, and recreational value. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain the right to comment further based on the results of these ongoing studies which will not be complete for another year.

G. Section 3.6.6(p. 3-71) should add that the effects of the proposed alternatives on Shoshone-Paiute water resources is currently under ethnographic study. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain the right to comment further based on the results of these ongoing studies which will not be complete for another year.

H. The first paragraph of Section 3.10(p.3-213) should mention that the Shoshone-Paiute use the land for traditional cultural practices as well (with brief reference to where this is discussed elsewhere). CU-20 CU-24

I. Section 3.11.3(p. 3-258) should mention (like the section on Noise) that visual intrusions into the pristine environment degrade the solitude and naturalness essential to certain Shoshone-Paiute ceremonial activities. Visual intrusion are thought to have potentially negative effects on the resident spirits, plants and animals of the area that are also important to Shoshone-Paiute traditional culture for similar reasons as well.

VI. Chapter Four:

A. The section on Hazardous Waste Materials and Solid Waste Management (section 4.4) should include the additional language suggested in 5A above.

B. The section on Earth Resources (section 4.5) should include the additional language suggested in 5A above.

C. Section 4.6.6(p. 4-71) states that "there should be no adverse impacts to water resources in terms of Shoshone-Paiute concerns." This should be qualified by stating that this issue is under current study, therefore adverse impacts to Shoshone-Paiute water resources cannot entirely be ruled out. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain the right to comment further based on the results of these ongoing studies which will not be complete for another year. CU-24

D. Section 4.9.1.2(pp. 4-161 through 4-162) should include mention of the ongoing ethnographic studies concerning traditional cultural resources. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain the right to comment further based on the results of these ongoing studies which will not be complete for another year.

E. The page facing p. 4-155 mentions that traditional cultural resources west of highway 51 may be negatively affected by the various range alternatives. This leaves the incorrect impression that similar resources to the east of highway 51 either do not exist or will not be affected. Further ethnographic investigation is expected to reveal traditional cultural resources east of the highway as well and should be so stated in the EIS. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain the right to comment further based on the results of these ongoing studies which will not be complete for another year. CU-24

F. Section 4.10(p. 4-186) notes that land use is interrelated with other resource areas. It should include mention of Shoshone-Paiute uses as well, as in 5F above.

Draft Cultural Resources Technical Report and Community Report:

Enhanced Training in Idaho Invironmental Impact Analysis Process

Comments of the
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
of the
Duck Valley Reservation
Idaho/Nevada

August 14, 1997

"The remainder of the 14 August 1997 comment letter from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes contains confidential information. These pages have not been reproduced in the interest of maintaining confidentiality."

009009

U.S. Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

GE-1 Dear Sir:

The following comments are offered by the Three Creek Road District regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Enhanced Training in Idaho.

We appreciate the effort the Air Force has made in the negotiation of new road construction and road maintenance. This process should be completed and satisfactory to our Road District before proceeding further with the Final Environmental Impact Statement process. Some of our issues of concern are listed below, but not limited to:

1. Amount of maintenance
2. Amount of new construction
3. Bridge construction
4. Gravel source within Department of Defense withdrawal area for Alternatives B and D or around Clover area for Alternative C
5. Funding Schedule
6. Funding Review

Our District is limited in financial and equipment resources. Any final agreements will have to take this into consideration. We would appreciate specific written agreements to be accomplished before the Record of Decision is finalized.

Thank you,

Harlan Mink,
Chairman of the Three Creek Roads District

harlan mink jr

009010



Owyhee County Commissioners

COURTHOUSE, POST OFFICE 128
MURPHY, IDAHO 83650-0128
TELEPHONE (208) 495-2421

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HOMEDALE, IDAHO 83628
337-4844

DISTRICT NO. 3
CHESTER SELLMAN
H.C. 65, BOX 169A
GRANDVIEW, IDAHO 83624
845-2283

CLERK
JIM HUNTLEY JR.

September 8, 1997

United States Air Force
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

Re: Comment regarding the Draft EIS for Enhanced Training in Idaho.

The Board of Owyhee County Commissioners submit the following comments to you regarding the Draft EIS for Enhanced Training in Idaho.

LU-20 1. The content of the Draft EIS refers to the Owyhee County Land Use Plan for the Federal and State Managed Lands, but does not consider the potential conflicts between development of the Enhanced Training Range and the principles set forth in that Plan. The Draft EIS seems to take the position that because the Plan does not raise zoning problems, it need be no further considered. That is not the case, and those working with the BLM on this project know it.

The Owyhee County Land Use Plan is the official participation by the County in land use planning for federally held land as mandated by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act. Said Act, and various other statutes with which you must deal require cooperation and coordination with local governments engaged in the land planning process. If you will check your records you will determine that much earlier in this process the County formally objected to the Secretary of Defense that coordination had not taken place, and that objection is what lead to County involvement in the planning process.

PR-20 We now remind you of that earlier objection, and point out to you that there is a statutory mandate by Congress that your planning as to rangelands be coordinated with the County Plan, and with this Board.

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2. We also remind you that the County Land Use Plan places great emphasis on the constitutional protection of private property. The Plan calls for adequate compensation for every public taking of a private property interest, just as does the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Plan, specifically, points out the property interest which exists in the adjudicated grazing preference held by ranchers who graze livestock in the area contemplated for this training.

SO-11 We strongly urge that you do not attempt to take any part of a rancher's grazing preference right, or even to re-arrange his use of his adjudicated allotment without paying adequate compensation which is agreeable to the rancher. The adequacy of your financial treatment of the ranchers involved is critical to the County because this Board is charged with establishing policy for the best interests of its citizens and is charged, by the County Plan, with defending even individual private property rights. The erosion of any such right as to even one rancher has adverse impact on the entire County.

3. We also urge that you consult with, and coordinate with, the Owyhee County Land Use Planning Committee and the individual recreation user groups represented on that Committee with regard to the impact which the Enhanced Training will have on recreation use. Often, general assumptions as to impact on recreation use are made by reviewing BLM files only, when in fact those assumptions are directly contrary to fact. We urge you to pay special attention to specific comments made to you by those recreation users, and coordinate with them to gain an accurate picture of the true impact.

LU-10 4. The Draft EIS makes the statement that a Management Plan (under BLM auspices, presumably) will have to be developed for the area. Once again we draw your attention to the fact that any such plan which touches any of the management of federal land for the multiple uses provided for by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act must be coordinated with the County, and made consistent with the County Plan.

We have reviewed the comments prepared by, and to be submitted by, the Stockmen's Training Range Review Committee and we endorse those comments and support them as though they were reprinted here in their entirety.

Also attached to this comment is a nine page statement of specific comments which are related to specific pages and specific comments made in the DEIS. These specific comments were made in behalf of the Owyhee County Land Use Planning

Committee which advises the Board. We urge you to contact the Committee and arrange a meeting to discuss these specific comments with them. The Committee has reviewed the DEIS from the standpoint of coordination with County planning directives and principles as contained in the County Land Use Plan. A coordinated meeting with the Committee and with the Stockmen's Training Range Review Committee could assure that the final EIS and the County Plan are coordinated and consistent. That is what we seek, for with such cooridination and consistency will come compliance with federal law. You may contact the Committee by contacting its Secretary, Dr. Chad Gibson, at 208-896-4104 or its Chairman, Tim Lowry, 208-583-2249.

Very truly yours,

Richard Bass, Chairman

Harold Tolmie, Commissioner

Chester W. Sellman, Commissioner

Attest: Jean Hawley
Clerk

September 8, 1997

U.S. Air Force/BLM
PO Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

re: Air Force ETI-DEIS--Comments

Bold is page and language from the ETI-DEIS
Italics are comments.

The Air Force has identified the following issues but has not adequately analyzed or has incorrectly addressed specific issues in the ETI-DEIS. The ETI-DEIS contains conflicting conclusions.

PN-5 **Pg. 1-47, 1.4.1.5 -- Issues beyond the scope of this EIS -- National Needs Assessment** -- *Is this assessment currently being prepared? If so we need to review those findings.*

***Pg. 1-33 "Figure 1.3-3 Saylor Creek Range"** -- Exclusive Use Area(EUA)/Training Ordinance Impact Area (Fenced) is not shown on any other map that includes SCR in the DEIS -- 110,000 in the current SCR withdrawal -- 12,200 EUA acres that are fenced.*

DP-64 ***Pg. 2-3**-- Because SCR is proposed to be used simultaneously with a new tactical range, EUA and Range Boundary need to be identified on every map that includes SCR in give the true picture of SCR and the relationship of the EUA to any of the proposed sites.*

SO-15 ***Pg. 1-32**-- states that SCR is 6 miles south of Snake River, but does not state how many miles from the community of Bruneau. What are the Cumulative Impacts of ETI to Bruneau and the other small communities casually mentioned in the DEIS? Bruneau is approximately 5 miles from SCR restricted air space, approximately 7.5 miles from SCR range boundary, and approximately 11.5 miles from SCR-EUA. Bruneau and communities like Bruneau are mentioned in the draft, but the Cumulative Impacts are not adequately addressed.*

The community of Bruneau, Idaho is not within ROI one, two or three, even though it is located on Highway 51 between MHAFB, SCR, and Alt. B, C, or D. At least 7% of Owyhee County's population (Bruneau Area) is affected by the proposed ETI. See: pg. 3-261. All ground personal pass through Bruneau Planes regularly fly over Bruneau and surrounding area. Bruneau is outside the ROI, so any cumulative impacts to

Bruneau are not analyzed in the ETI-DEIS. This needs to be addressed and analyzed by adding Bruneau and the surrounding impacted area (Grand View, ID) to ROI Two.

DP-47 **Pg. 1-16** *What, specifically is one of the Air Force's four key objectives--* **"Support the unique missions of the Air Force's rapid-response air expeditionary wing"** *and is the* **Pg. 2-94 "Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) BATTLELAB"** *linked to the air expeditionary wing? What are their "unique missions"?*

DP-48 ***Pg. 2-92**-- If the expeditionary wing is different than the 366th Wing then the Cumulative Impacts have not been addressed (40 CFR s1508.7)*

LU-15 **Pg. ES-10 in the "Land Use and Transportation"** *section of the Executive Summary states* **"Proposed road improvements would slightly benefit travel ability without significantly increasing traffic. Access to all areas outside the selected range would be maintained."**
Chapter 2.0 second pg. *states under the* **Operational Considerations "Site on relatively flat terrain with reasonable year-round access"** *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option then Alternative sites B & D do no have reasonable year-round access.*
Pg. 2-4 "For the 12,000-acre range, the system must also provide a high-probability of access throughout most of the year." *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option then Alternative sites B & D do no have reasonable year-round access.*
Pg. 2-42 "The roads to the maintenance facility would not be plowed in winter, unless required under emergency conditions." "Approximately 8 to 12 people would work on site during days when flying occurs." "Although no personnel would live on site,..." *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option then Alternative sites B & D do no have reasonable year-round access.*
Pg. 2-48 "Personnel would commonly be at the range on weekdays." "Personnel would routinely commute in groups to the site on a daily basis..., or as needed." *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option then Alternative sites B & D do no have reasonable year-round access. Under ideal conditions, the round trip, road trip from MHAFB to Alt. B or D and return is 4 hours.*
Pg. 2-52 "Personnel would always be present during emitter operations." *If snow removal is not addressed and is not an option then some emitter site associated with the Alternatives do no have reasonable year-round access.*
Pg. 2-67 (based upon 260 flying days)
Pg. 2-84 "...Clover-Three Creek Road would not require seasonal limitations;" "In all cases, roads would not be used when weather conditions do no permit travel. The Air Force would not routinely

plow or remove snow." "The Air Force intends to develop interagency service agreements with the applicable jurisdiction for annual road maintenance."
Pg. 2-76 "Once constructed, use of the 12,000-acre training range would occur year-round."
*The Clover-Three Creek Road does have seasonal limitations and if the road is upgraded with gravel to accommodate wet weather, the lack of snow removal will limit access in the winter to Alt. B or D and some of the emitter sites. (See pg. 3-237)****

LU-15 **Pg. 2-89 Transportation Activity** *does not address snow removal to have year-round access.*
pg. 2-93 2.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS -- *states that* **"Routine Road Maintenance is ...included in the baseline analysis (Chapter 3)".**
pg. 3-237 through 3-240--ROADS--3.10.4.1-- (Chapter 3)
pg. 3-237***, **"Vehicle volumes are extremely low, and travel can be slow, particularly during wet periods. Due to the lack of snow removal operations, roads remain generally unused during the winter."** *This statement is repeated on* **pg. 3-239, Pg. 3-239--3.10.4.2--Region Of Influence(ROI) One, Alternative B, C, & D.**
Alternative B & D also state that "...of the range lies Clover-Three Creek Road which provides main access to roads leading in to the training range."

LU-15 **Figure 3.10-7** *shows road construction and improvement--That will solve the wet weather problem but does not address snow removal. Access can not be consistently gained to the proposed range site in Alternative B or D in the winter without snow removal. Part of the Clover-Three Creek Road is maintained by the Three Creek Good Roads Highway District--they have placed warning signs on the portions they maintain stating that chains and 4-wheel drive are advised and that they do not plow snow. Snow will also need to be plowed to some of the emitter sites. Any site south of Clover Crossing, because of the rise in elevation, has a high likelihood of snow removal being necessary to gain access to Alternative B or D and any of the emitter sites in that area involved with the proposed ETI.*

LU-17 ***Pg. 3-238, Figure 3.10-7** -- shows the road to emitter sites AC & AJ (Crows Nest Road) as possibly being paved. It is not paved, in fact it only has a small amount of gravel and according to the DEIS will not be improved. Therefore, when conditions are too wet or there is too much snow, emitter sites AC & AJ will not be usable. Also, figure 3.10-7 does not show access road to emitter site AC and shows a possible paved road to emitter site AJ.*

Pg. 2-44, 2-45, Figure 2.3-10 & Chapter 2.0 seventh & ninth pg. --Alternative B & D include approximately 16.5 miles of 208-volt, three phase transmission line to be constructed above ground -- This preferably needs to be constructed underground if either of these alternatives are selected.

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DP-77 Pg. 2-46– *Are the telephone lines going to be installed underground and from where?*

DP-78 Pg. 2-47– *What is a lack spotting charge?*

DP-35 Pg. 2-64 – 2.3.4 Sorties and Sortie-Operations *are not adequately addressed in the ETI- DEIS and is presented in a confusing manner.*

Pg. 2-64 & 2-67 "Enhanced training opportunities in Idaho would increase total 366th Wing sorties from Mountain Home AFB to the local airspace by approximately 7 percent (653 sorties). A corresponding reduction in the use of remote ranges would occur under Alternatives B, C, or D."

Pg. 2-68 "366th Wing sorties to NAFR, FTRC, and UTTR would decrease overall by 46 percent."

"The decrease in remote range sorties would result from increased training opportunities in Idaho."

PN-1 *How does the Air Force justify constructing ETI for a 7 percent increase use of local airspace?*

PN-7 *How can the 366th Wing sorties to remote ranges decrease by 46 percent and the increase to the local airspace only be 7 percent?*

DP-37 Pg. 2-54 "...the Air Force proposes to replace the bridge at Three(*Three is incorrect. Replace "Three" with Clover*) Creek crossing to accommodate heavier equipment use."

Pg. 2-76 "...include construction of a new bridge over Clover Creek adjacent to the current bridge on Clover-Three Creek Road."

DP-79 *The existing bridge is located on private land with a right-of-way and is adjacent to the landowner's irrigation diversion dam in Clover Creek. It is impracticable to locate a new bridge on public land. The new bridge will have to be constructed on private land, a new right-of-way established, and the impacts to the landowner's diversion dam addressed. The landowner has since 1984, in cooperation with the BLM, been involved in a riparian restoration project on Clover Creek. The impact to the private land owner, the irrigation diversion dam and irrigation ditches, and to Clover Creek (surface water) and its adjacent floodplain and riparian areas have not been adequately addressed in the DEIS. See: pg. 4-66 and 4-71.*

Pg. 2-85 WATER RESOURCES "No impact on surface water, ground water, floodplains, or claims to water rights"

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Pg. 2-86 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES "Direct impacts to...1 perennial stream from new and upgraded road construction"

Analysis of Clover Creek, in Alt B & D--Water Resources and Biological Resources contradict each other.

BI-8 Pg. 2-86 *Please explain and identify location of 2.4 miles:* "would include a loss of...2.4 miles of "Waters of the U.S." *Definition of "Waters of the U.S." is on pg. 3-100 and 3-101.*

DP-37 Pg. 2-86 *Alternative D, last paragraph states:* "...and the adjacent canyon of the East Fork Bruneau River". *River is incorrect. East Fork Bruneau Canyon is correct. (e.g. East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek.) Clover Creek runs into the Bruneau River through the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, therefore East Fork Bruneau Canyon and Clover Creek are one in the same.*

RV-14 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT--second pg.– "Interesting results addressed in the resource section include the following: Road improvements do not lead to recreation destinations or other sensitive resources and would not encourage increased access to any area."–*This statement is misleading. Any road improvement to any maintained road in Owyhee County will enhance and therefore increase public access to recreation destinations and sensitive resources in Owyhee County. Construction and improvements of roads to emitter sites can also be used by the public to explore parts of Owyhee County that currently have limited access. See: pg. 2-79, Table 2.3-16 and pg. 3-238, Figure 3.10-7.*

Pg. 2-89, Figure 2.5-1 *states:* "Potential impact on traditional resources from improved access".

Pg. 2-91, Figure 2.5-1 *states:* "Negligible effects on recreation industry". *It remains to be seen what effects the ETI will have on the recreation industry in Owyhee County. Solitude is a major contributor to recreation values in Owyhee County.*

DP-7 Pg. 2-92, 2.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS– "The 124th Wing of the IDANG...increased usage of general aviation airspace and SCR. ...a FONSI was issued in August, 1996. *The A-10s of the 124th Wing of the IDANG have had a significant impact to the SCR and Bruneau Area residents. (e.g. The construction and use of strafing pits on SCR and concurring noise associated with the low AGL flights and actual firing of the weapons on the A-10s at SCR.)*

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NO-16 3.2 NOISE third pg., *Figure* "Reference Points Used in the Baseline Noise Analysis" and pg. 3-19, Figure 3.2-1 *would be more useful if identifiable landmarks were added. (e.g. Roads, Communities and Rivers.)*

SF-4 Pg. 3.23, 3.3.1 Fire Risk... *Air Force personal has stated at numerous meetings, when the BLM has issued an Extreme Fire Danger warning, the proposed tactical training range would not be used. The ETI-DEIS does not analyze this issue as it pertains to the proposed alternatives or take into account the amount of flying days this could deduct. This issue is discussed on pg. 3-27 for the existing SCR.*

DP-37 3.6 WATER RESOURCES, 1st pg. *states:* "A portion of the water for the Bruneau River originates in the Jarbidge and Owyhee Mountains in northern Nevada." *This is a misleading statement. The Bruneau River headwaters are in the Jarbidge Mountains in northern Nevada. This page also states:*

WR-3 "Water resources and canyonlands were avoided during the site selection so that they would not be affected by any project alternative." *Alternative D abuts the East Fork Bruneau Canyon rim (pg. 3-98, Figure 3.8-5, and pg. 3-123) directly affecting the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek. The cumulative impacts of the proposed tactical training range, Alt. D, on the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek has not been adequately analyzed.*

WR-4 Pg. 3-63 and pg. 3-64, 3.6.2.1 ROI Two—Regional Surface Water—Water Availability and Use. *The 3rd paragraph, pg. 3-63, contains so many inaccuracies it needs to be researched and totally rewritten. The 1st full paragraph, pg. 3-64 states:* "The Owyhee River drainage... These watersheds are shown in Figure 3.6-1." *Figure 3.6-1, pg. 3-65 does not show the Owyhee River drainage, shows only a portion of the Bruneau River drainage, and does not identify the streams in the C.J. Strike Reservoir watershed. Section 3.6.2.1 needs to be researched and rewritten.*

Pg. 3-67 *states for Alt. D:* "Currently, there is no perennial stream at the proposed site;..." *Clover Creek, East Fork Bruneau Canyon is adjacent to the Alt. D site.*

Pg. 3-89 *states:* "Sheep Creek provides another dominant, deep narrow canyon north of the confluence of the Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers." *East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek also provides another dominant, deep narrow canyon north of the confluence of the Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers and Sheep Creek. The lower portion of the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek is in a WSA, an ACEC, VRM Class I and*

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also in ROI Two. See: Pg. 3-226, Figure 3.10-4. *This ETI-DEIS continues to ignore the significance of the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek.*

RV-22 Pg. 3-256 *incorrectly identifies the East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek as the* East Fork of the Bruneau River *and fails to mention the lower reaches of the East Fork are in VRM Class I. See:* Figure 3.11-5

LU-11 Pg. 3-215, Figure 3.10-1 and pg. 3-217, Figure 3.10-2 *Need to have roads and communities identified on them.*

DP-37 4.6 WATER RESOURCES 2nd pg. *states:* "During the siting process, major water sources, such as the East Fork of the Bruneau River shown below, were avoided." "*East Fork of the Bruneau River*" *is incorrect. It is called East Fork Bruneau Canyon, Clover Creek and abutting Alt. D to the rim of the East*

WR-3 *Fork is not avoiding impacts to this major water source. Finding training ordinance and chaff outside of the 12,000 acre EUA at SCR is an indication that misfired training ordinance or chaff could end up in Clover Creek if Alt. D is selected for the proposed tactical training range.*

COOPERATING AGENCY INPUT

009004

IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

600 South Walnut • Box 25 • Boise, Idaho 83707-0025 • 208-334-3700

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Governor

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Commissioners:

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Salmon Region
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July 18, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83702-0329

Re: *Enhanced Training in Idaho* Environmental Impact Statement

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission is pleased to forward the enclosed analysis of the ***Enhanced Training in Idaho*** **Environmental Impact Statement** (EIS) for your review. In doing so, the Commission commends the Department for a rigorous, thorough, objective, and scientifically-based assessment of potential impacts to wildlife resources associated with this proposal. These comments have identified some significant areas of concern to the Commission, leading to the conclusion that Alternative A, the 'No Action' alternative, would be clearly preferable to all others. Alternative C, the Grasmere site, is unacceptable to the Commission for reasons identified in the comments; Alternatives D (Juniper Butte) and B (Clover Butte) would likely enable the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) to meet species management plan objectives if accompanied by appropriate measures and mitigations to ensure protection of public resources.

The Commission believes that if Alternative D (Juniper Butte) or B (Clover Butte) is selected, the accompanying Record of Decision must include the following minimal provisions:

1. General Peck's intent (personal communication to Mr. John Burns dated 13 June 1997) that aircraft will avoid critical bighorn sheep lambing areas as defined by the Department and that other adverse wildlife impacts will be mitigated.

2. An enhanced fire-suppression plan will be developed and implemented which includes a rapid-response aerial fire-fighting capability.

3. A range restoration program will be developed for those lands adversely affected by planned or inadvertent range operations, and the Air Force will fund or establish a native plant nursery to provide a source of site-adapted native seed essential to dryland range restoration success.

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4. A monitoring plan for sensitive wildlife populations that may be affected by range operations (including bighorn sheep and sage grouse) will be developed and funded by the Air Force, and the Air Force will continue in partnership on research studies as needed to determine the effects on wildlife of range development/operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Please direct any questions to Mr. Stephen P. Mealey, Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

John Burns, Chairman
Idaho Fish and Game Commission

Fred L. Wood, III, MD, Vice Chairman
Idaho Fish and Game Commission

Nancy A. Hanson
Idaho Fish and Game Commission

Keith E. Carlson
Idaho Fish and Game Commission

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Enclosures

JB:DET:tlv

009004

Report to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission: *Enhanced Training in Idaho* Proposal

Process

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) was passed to "**... encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation ....**" (NEPA Section 2). The Act establishes guidance to the federal government to "**... use all practicable means ... to improve and coordinate Federal plans, functions, programs, and resources to the end that the Nation may--**

(1) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
(2) assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
(3) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences ...." (NEPA Section 101(b).

To fulfill this policy, the Act requires that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared to predict, insofar as possible, the positive and negative results of proposed federal actions.

The State of Idaho and its various agencies, as custodian for a range of public resources and interests, has opportunity and responsibility to review such proposals and to provide analyses and recommendations as appropriate. This information is to be provided to ensure that decision-makers can objectively balance costs and benefits of the proposal when making their determination of whether and how to proceed with implementation of proposals.

The Fish and Game Commission, as representative of the people of Idaho for fish and wildlife resources, is expected to comment on actions which may have significant impacts to those resources, and where possible, identify how proposals may be modified to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts have been minimized and may not be avoided, costs should be identified and reimbursement to the public pursued, typically through some form of mitigation for losses incurred (just as individual landowners may seek reimbursement for lands seized for the construction of a federal highway through their property).

Proposal

Training of the 366th Gunfighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base is currently focused on pilot readiness, supporting the Air Force's only composite rapid-response Air Expeditionary Wing. Pilot training in the use of new aircraft, weaponry and combat strategies could be enhanced by re-configuring targets and expanding airspace. The Air Force has proposed to accomplish their desire for enhanced training in an environmental impact statement currently available for public review, with comments due by August 6, 1997.

This is the fourth in a series of proposals from the Air Force to expand or re-configure training resources associated with Mountain Home Air Force Base since 1989. The IDFG commented on first of these, ***Realignment of Mountain Home Air Force Base and Proposed Extended Range Capability*** Tier One Draft EIS in 1990, and commented on the second, the ***Air Force in Idaho*** proposal, in January 1992. A third proposal, ***Idaho Training Range***, was identified in 1993. Although supportive of expanded Air Force training in concept, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission expressed severe reservations about one portion of the ***Idaho Training Range*** proposal (the so-called 'North Range') in final comments as relayed to the Air Force on February 2, 1994 (a copy of the 1994 Fish and Game Commission position is attached). This proposal was subsequently withdrawn by the Air Force.

The Air Force has worked extensively with Idaho Fish and Game staff to reduce adverse impacts to wildlife associated with the current ***Enhanced Training in Idaho*** proposal. In addition, the Air Force incorporated a new alternative site (Alternative D: Juniper Butte) based on public input.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game Concerns

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has consistently identified three major areas of concern with this and similar range expansion proposals. These concerns fall into three general categories:

1. **Loss or degradation of native wildlife habitats and associated wildlife populations.**
2. **Impacts of noise, threat emitters, and lasers on wildlife species.**
3. **Impacts of training activities on hunting and fishing recreational opportunities.**

A fourth concern, siting and development of targets, is incorporated into Alternative selection.

The Department's foremost concern with any development proposal is the impact that actions might have on fish and wildlife populations, relative to the affected environmental and management objectives. This assessment is based on a risk-analysis approach to the ability of the Department of Fish and Game to meet management objectives.

Wildlife populations can respond to loss of individual animals within a generation; loss of critical living space, however, is usually permanent and irreplaceable. Thus foremost among Department concerns are the impacts on habitat, both through direct action (i.e., removal of vegetation and construction of facilities) and indirect action (i.e., increased risks of wildfire in native plant communities, invasion of undesirable plants, etc.).

The primary area of concern for many sportsmen is direct loss of, or injury to, wildlife-- such things as mortality associated with injury, death during periods of stress associated with disturbance during critical periods of the year, or injury due to training activities (i.e., blinding caused by exposure to lasers, or injury associated with ordinance delivery). While population impacts of those losses can often be compensated in the long-term, they do have immediate impact on individual animals and may adversely impact recreational opportunities.

Finally, any impact affecting fish, wildlife, and outdoor-associated recreational opportunities will have far-reaching effects. Primary effects typically include limiting or degrading recreational opportunity; secondary effects often include economic losses associated with reduced attractiveness of the impacted area to sportsmen, who as a result will visit affected communities less often, reducing their purchases for food, gasoline and lodging, and perhaps (especially if emotionally-invested by a pattern of traditional use to the affected area), reducing or eliminating their participation in hunting and fishing.

The Department has conveyed these concerns to Air Force staff and contractors. These concerns provide the philosophical foundation for comments on the various proposals. The Department, due to its public trust responsibility, is conservative in its approach to development proposals. The Air Force, in turn, has attempted to respond to Department concerns with actions that address concerns while maintaining their ability to meet training requirements. This two-way interaction, which is dependent on communication and cooperation, has resulted in consideration of actions designed to increase Air Force flexibility in scheduling and siting training activities-- a program to reduce potential conflicts, or 'de-confliction.' De-confliction requires both a relatively high level of trust (to ensure that the agency or group receiving the increased flexibility does not simply use it as an opportunity to expand use) and some sort of fail-safe guarantee that will return to *status quo* conditions if de-confliction fails. De-confliction efforts in this proposal focus on use of Military Operating Airspace over portions of Owyhee County. All Alternatives presented in this EIS include proposed expansion of Military Operating Airspace (MOA) northward over lower Big Jack and Little Jack Creeks; Alternative D includes expansion of MOA eastward as well.

Methods of Analysis
A stepwise approach was used to assess potential impacts of this proposal. First, the impact statement was carefully reviewed. Identified impacts to wildlife and recreation were noted, and actions or activities proposed were screened by biologists to determine any potential for adverse impacts to wildlife that were not identified in the impact statement. Second, all potential impacts were "screened" against Air Force commitments, assuming that those commitments would be incorporated in the official Record of Decision, and remaining issues were isolated. Finally, the remaining issues were assessed relative to the ability of the Department of Fish and Game to meet objectives identified in wildlife management plans. This final analysis provides the basis for conclusions.

The Air Force is required to present the best *available* information concerning impacts of the proposal on resources. No additional research is required, although research is often conducted to supplement available information when adverse impacts are suspected but data is unavailable. The Air Force, Bureau of Land Management, and IDFG are currently partners in research designed to assess and monitor Air Force training activities on California bighorn sheep, and results of that work are expected to be incorporated into operational guidelines.

NEPA requires response to concerns identified by the public during the scoping process, if those concerns are directly associated with the proposed action. Based on Air Force review of NEPA requirements, the Air Force concluded that it was not necessary for this EIS to address the impacts of the airspace expansion on ground resources (including increased risks to large areas of relatively undisturbed native vegetation, to wildlife not previously exposed to low-level or supersonic overflight disturbance, and to a wide range of year-around recreational opportunities), or to address impacts associated with supersonic flight within Military Operating Airspace. Based on this determination by the Air Force, IDFG has limited their analyses to those actions clearly identified within the EIS.

Overview of Analyses
In moving target areas and threat emitter sites away from canyonlands associated with the East Fork Owyhee River, the Air Force has responded to many of the concerns of IDFG regarding enhanced training opportunities. Proposed elimination of 'hot spot' flares has further reduced IDFG concerns about potential wildfire hazards associated with training activities. However, IDFG remains concerned about increased risk of wildfire (and associated loss of native wildlife habitat). The ability of the Air Force to quickly respond to wildfire, wherever and whenever it occurs, is critical. Concerns remain regarding increased risks of invasion of native plant communities by noxious weeds and other undesirable plants (which will degrade native wildlife habitat). The ability of the Air Force and Bureau of Land Management to quickly and effectively re-establish site-adapted native plants on disturbed dryland sites can reduce these concerns. There will be direct adverse impacts of some training actions and increased human disturbance on some wildlife populations. Finally, hunting and fishing recreational opportunities in Owyhee County may be adversely affected to some degree.

In short, this project is not entirely benign with regard to wildlife resources. All three Alternatives have been evaluated, and measures having potential to reduce adverse impacts have been identified wherever possible. It is now the responsibility of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to review all analyses, and to advise project decision-makers of their determinations.

NEWS RELEASE

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

CONTACT: Jack Trueblood
FOR RELEASE: Feb. 2, 1994

Commission Position on Proposed USAF Training Range.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission met by conference call February 2 to consider recent public testimony and staff analysis of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed military aircraft training range (Idaho Training Range) in southwestern Idaho's Owyhee County. Copies of the analysis are available on request. The Commission has adopted the following position statement:

A thorough review of the Idaho Training Range Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has identified adverse impacts to wildlife associated with the split range preferred alternative. Significant wildlife losses were not identified on the South range. The DEIS, however, fails to adequately protect the unique biological resources associated with the North range. These resources, as identified by the public and wildlife experts, include bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, a variety of species of special concern; and unique habitats such as wetlands and low sage associated with this high desert ecosystem.

Based on this biological information and testimony, the Commission can no longer support the inclusion of the North training range as part of the preferred alternative.

The Fish and Game Commission believes a training range can be developed that will meet Air Force requirements in areas that contain fewer wildlife resources than those identified in the North range. We are willing to review other training range proposals to determine their potential impact on wildlife.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson that the Commission approve the draft policy statement and that it be attached to the cover letter with the executive summary and detailed comments prepared by the Department and forwarded to the appropriate authorities. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meiers and carried with Commissioners Hansen, Carlson, Meiers, Rose, and Racine voting yes and Commissioner Guth voting no.

Cecil D. Andrus / Governor
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IDAHO FISH & GAME
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Philip E. Batt / Governor
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July 18, 1997

Idaho Fish and Game Commission
600 South Walnut
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Re: ***Enhanced Training in Idaho* Environmental Impact Statement**

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has now completed its review of the *Enhanced Training in Idaho* Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and offers the following comments for the record. The U.S. Air Force and contractors have provided opportunities for IDFG to identify specific concerns as this EIS was under preparation, and these opportunities for input are greatly appreciated.

Description of Proposed Action
Training of the 366th Gunfighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base is currently focused on pilot readiness, supporting the Air Force's only composite rapid-response Air Expeditionary Wing. Pilot training in the use of new aircraft, weaponry, and combat strategies could be enhanced by re-configuring targets and expanding airspace. The Air Force has proposed to accomplish their desire for enhanced training in an environmental impact statement currently available for public review, with comments due by August 6, 1997.

This is the third in a series of proposals from the Air Force to expand or re-configure training resources associated with Mountain Home Air Force Base since 1989. The Air Force has worked with IDFG staff to reduce adverse impacts to wildlife associated with training activities, and has incorporated a new alternative site (Juniper Butte) generated by public comments.

Methods of Analysis
A step-wise approach was used to assess potential impacts of this proposal. First, the impact statement was carefully reviewed. Identified impacts to wildlife and recreation were noted, and actions or activities proposed were screened by IDFG biologists to determine any potential for adverse impacts to wildlife that were not identified in the impact statement. Second, all potential impacts were "screened" against Air Force commitments, assuming that those commitments would be incorporated in the official Record of Decision, and remaining issues were isolated. Finally, the remaining issues were assessed relative to the ability of the IDFG to meet objectives identified in wildlife management plans. This final analysis provides the basis for conclusions.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game Concerns

The IDFG has consistently identified three major areas of concern with this and similar range expansion proposals. These concerns fall into three general categories:

1. **Loss or degradation of native wildlife habitats and associated wildlife populations.**
2. **Impacts of noise, threat emitters, and lasers on wildlife species.**
3. **Impacts of training activities on hunting and fishing recreational opportunities.**

A fourth concern, siting and development of targets, is incorporated into Alternative selection.

The IDFG's foremost concern with any development proposal is the impact that actions might have on fish and wildlife populations, relative to the affected environmental and management objectives. This assessment is based on a risk-analysis approach to the ability of the IDFG to meet management objectives.

Wildlife populations can respond to loss of individual animals within a generation: loss of critical living space, however, is usually permanent and irreplaceable. Thus foremost among IDFG concerns are the impacts on habitat, both through direct action (i.e., removal of vegetation and construction of facilities) and indirect action (i.e., increased risks of wildfire in native plant communities, invasion of undesirable plants, etc.).

The primary area of concern of many sportsmen is direct loss of, or injury to, wildlife--such things as mortality associated with injury, death during periods of stress associated with disturbance during critical periods of the year, or injury due to training activities (i.e., blinding caused by exposure to lasers, or injury associated with ordinance delivery). While population impacts of those losses can often be compensated in the long-term, they do have immediate impact on individual animals and may adversely impact recreational opportunities.

Finally, any impact affecting fish, wildlife, and outdoor-associated recreational opportunities will have far-reaching effects. Primary effects typically include limiting or degrading recreational opportunity; secondary effects often include economic losses associated with reduced attractiveness of the impacted area to sportsmen, who as a result will visit affected communities less often, reducing their purchases for food, gasoline and lodging, and perhaps (especially if emotionally-invested by a pattern of traditional use to the affected area) reducing or eliminating their participation in hunting and fishing.

The IDFG has conveyed these concerns to Air Force staff and contractors. These concerns provide the philosophical foundation for comments on the various proposals. The IDFG, due to its public trust responsibility, is conservative in its approach to development proposals. The Air Force, in turn, has attempted to respond to IDFG concerns with actions that address concerns while maintaining their ability to meet training requirements. This two-way interaction, which is

dependent on communication and cooperation, has resulted in consideration of actions designed to increase Air Force flexibility in scheduling and siting training activities--a program to reduce potential conflicts or 'de-confliction.' De-confliction requires both a relatively high level of trust (to ensure that the agency or group receiving the increased flexibility does not simply use it as an opportunity to expand use) and some sort of fail-safe guarantee that will return to *status quo* conditions if de-confliction fails.

All Alternatives presented in this EIS include proposed expansion of Military Operating Airspace (MOA) northward over lower Big Jack and Little Jack Creeks; Alternative D includes expansion of MOA eastward as well. This EIS fails to consider or disclose the impacts of the airspace expansion on ground resources, including large areas of relatively undisturbed native vegetation, on wildlife not previously exposed to low-level or supersonic overflight disturbance, and fails to consider impacts on a wide range of year-around recreational opportunities.

IDFG commends the Air Force and the Bureau of Land Management for considering the input from past range expansion proposals and identifying sites that avoid the most serious concerns regarding impacts to remote canyonlands, Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and most critical wildlife habitats. Further, IDFG commends the Air Force and Bureau of Land Management for adding Alternative D (Juniper Butte) to this proposal, based on public input.

In moving target areas and threat emitter sites away from canyonlands associated with the East Fork Owyhee River, the Air Force has responded to many of the concerns of IDFG regarding enhanced training opportunities. However, no project which proposes actions which may impact undeveloped wildlife habitat on this scope is entirely benign. Some of the actions proposed will adversely affect wildlife and associated outdoor recreation. IDFG has completed analyses of these proposals and has identified a number of specific issues of concern with regard to potential for modification of wildlife habitats as identified in the *Enhanced Training in Idaho* **Environmental Impact Statement** (EIS):

Loss or degradation of native shrublands and associated wildlife populations

Concerns regarding potential loss or degradation of native shrublands can be grouped into four major areas: activities with potential to start range fires, construction and maintenance of roads and targets, introduction of undesirable invasive plant species, and rehabilitation of disturbed sites. Recent studies in the Interior Columbia River Basin have indicated that much of the Owyhee Uplands area still exhibits a moderate to high degree of ecological integrity, demonstrating their importance nationally to the maintenance of native plant and animal populations.

IDFG commends the Air Force for its decision to eliminate use of "hot spot" spotting charges on all areas of the range (EIS p. 4-35). Elimination of spotting charges or use of "cold spots" only will address one major concern regarding the potential for wildfire associated with target areas.

- *Elimination of "hot spot" devices, in conjunction with shutting down the range entirely during periods of extreme fire danger, will significantly reduce IDFG concerns about wildfire hazards associated with target areas.*

IDFG remains concerned about use of flares. Wildfires started by flares and inert ordinance will be one of the unavoidable impacts of the operation of the ETI. Past wildfires in this area have shown that it is exceptionally difficult to rehabilitate native plant communities. It is also clear that successful rehabilitation efforts will be expensive. The development and implementation of a fire control plan, the establishment of an adequate source of native plant seeds/seedlings for rehabilitation and commitment of adequate resources to do the actual rehabilitation work is critical to minimizing the negative impacts of range operation on fish and wildlife resources.

The ecosystems in Idaho's high desert are not resilient to the impacts of fire. The shallow soils, low precipitation, and aggressive annual weeds make the natural rehabilitation of burned areas very difficult. Burned areas rarely return to their prior status (i.e., diverse native shrubs, forbs, and grasses) without aggressive and costly rehabilitation efforts of land managers. The loss of the diverse native shrub and rangelands will have significant negative effects on wildlife species. It is therefore critical that re-establishment of native plant communities be the goal and result of rehabilitation efforts. Any loss of native vegetation will have a significant impact on all watersheds in the area. There will a destabilization of the watersheds and associated reduction in water quality.

The danger of wildfires caused by flares is not limited to the impact areas. Flares can be used throughout the MOA, and there is significant potential to start fires in areas far removed from the fire fighting crews and equipment near the impact area. Even with a policy prohibiting release of flares below 2,000 feet AGL in general MOA airspace, potential exists for mishaps to result in wildfire generation; and this potential is greatly enhanced within target areas where release of flares would be authorized as low as 700 feet AGL (EIS p. 4-35). When fires start in these rangeland conditions they may be very difficult to stop. There is significant potential for losses of 10,000+ acres of habitat in single fires.

- *Use of flares still comprises a significant fire hazard, making it critical that the Air Force and Bureau of Land Management develop and maintain an active wildfire suppression/control program covering all lands under Military Operating Area (MOA) airspace. We suggest that a wildfire suppression program (identified in the*

EIS on p. 2-47) include, at a minimum, at least one quick-response, fire-suppression helicopter and crew available 24-hours/day.
- *IDFG supports the Air Force decision to shut down the range during periods of extreme fire risk under all Alternatives (EIS p. 4-37).*
- *IDFG is committed to working with Air Force range managers and Bureau of Land Management staff to identify high fire danger criteria and develop guidelines to minimize wildfire risks.*
- *It is critical that the Air Force commit necessary manpower and financial resources to a program of timely rehabilitation of wildfire sites, using native plant species, in areas affected by wildfire.*
- *Low-level use of flares over target areas poses significant wildfire risk to nearby habitats; since areas in the vicinity of Alternative C contain large blocks of undisturbed native vegetation crucial to a variety of wildlife species, this Alternative poses significant hazards to the long-term well-being of these wildlife populations.*

IDFG recommends that construction and maintenance activities associated with roads and targets be focused on areas previously disturbed. Disturbance of native vegetation allows non-native and undesirable invasive species to establish populations, often with negative impacts to native flora and fauna. Routine road maintenance provides 'spoil piles' that are particularly attractive to invasion by undesirable plants, and seeds of undesirable plants are often transported in soil on the tires and undercarriage of vehicles. Alternative B has the least impact on native vegetation, followed by Alternatives D and C (EIS p. 4-83).

- *Road construction and ground disturbance associated with target development and maintenance should be minimized, and limited to the greatest extent possible to areas previously disturbed, to minimize potential adverse impacts to native plant and wildlife populations.*
- *Emitter site development should be minimal, incorporating no permanent structures and only minimal site disturbance.*
- *Habitat fragmentation be minimized, since it can reduce the potential for native species to persist or to re-colonize disturbed sites.*

Maintenance of large blocks of unroaded habitat is essential to provide habitat security for wildlife species. Improved road access results in increased density of human activity, reduces security for wildlife populations, and reduces opportunities for dispersed recreation.

- *Road construction and improvement should be minimized to prevent fragmentation of wildlife security habitat.*

IDFG has consistently stated extreme concern about any actions which enhance the ability for undesirable plant species to proliferate. Undesirable plant species from a wildlife standpoint include noxious weeds and non-native plant species, many of which offer little or no value to native wildlife. Selection of Alternative C places target sites close to stands of relatively undisturbed vegetation in Big Jack Creek, significantly increasing their risk of destruction by wildfire. Increased vehicle traffic from Air Force and civilian vehicles associated with operating widely-dispersed threat emitter sites will lead to increased chances that these vehicles will bring in weed seed in soil on the tires or undercarriage of vehicles. This will increase the difficulty of rehabilitating areas after fires. Despite the need to rehabilitate wildfire and other damaged sites quickly, before undesirable plants can become established, past experience has demonstrated that there is frequently a shortage of sources for site-adapted native plant seed.

- *The Record of Decision should clearly identify, in writing, a commitment from the Air Force to an agressive program of wildfire control and range restoration featuring timely re-establishment of native, site-adapted plant species on all disturbed areas.*
- *Past and present range rehabilitation efforts have suffered from a shortage of seed from site-adapted native plant species. A substantial commitment to developing the capability for dryland range restoration should be identified as part of the rangeland restoration plan.*
- *Site restoration efforts should be coupled with an aggressive program of control, reduction, or elimination of non-native and undesirable plant species.*
- *MOA airspace expansion northward will increase risks of wildfire in largely undisturbed vegetation communities and the associated hazards of wildlife displacement due to loss of habitat.*
- *IDFG endorses the proposed policy of not accessing threat emitter sites during times when the access roads are unstable or when snow plowing would be required.*
- *The Air Force should consider establishing a native plant nursery to provide a readily-available source of seed for rehabilitation efforts.*

IDFG urges the Air Force to minimize potential for on-site maintenance activies to result in disturbance to native wildlife. This is particularly important for those species known to be easily disturbed by human activity, such as California bighorn sheep and Species of Special Concern. Species of Special Concern which may be adversely impacted by development of sites containing undisturbed native vegetation include the sage grouse, sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, loggerhead shrike, green-tailed towhee, and gray flycatcher.

- *Potential for disturbance of native wildlife (bighorn sheep and Species of Special Concern) is greatest under Alternative C.*
- *Risk of wildfire from flares escaping the target area and affecting large blocks of undisturbed native vegetation, and wildlife dependent on that native vegetation, is greatest under Alternative C.*

- *IDFG commends the Air Force for stipulating use of eagle-safe powerline design and "wildlife fence" (EIS p. 2-44).*
- *IDFG endorses the proposed policy of not accessing threat emitter sites during times when the access roads are unstable or when snow plowing would be required.*

Impacts of noise, threat emitters, and lasers on wildlife

The most immediate and obvious impact of this proposal to the casual visitor will be the frequency and volume of sound associated with training activities, especially with aircraft that may travel at supersonic speeds. IDFG is highly critical of analyses which present averaged sound levels, because biological organisms respond to loud sounds primarily as "events" that are better described as "environmental disturbance" than as "background noise." IDFG believes data regarding level of use and volume of noise identified in this document is biased toward minimum, rather than realistically foreseeable, levels. Discussions identify single-noise events and averages, rather than multiple-source events such as might occur in battle-field training scenarios. Further, much noisier aircraft (such as the F-22) are clearly in development for 'rapid response' forces such as the 366th Wing. Impacts of noise on wildlife in areas not previously exposed to training overflights (i.e., proposed northward expansion of MOA airspace) have not been addressed in this EIS, even though it was repeatedly identified during scoping hearings as an issue of critical concern. Effects of non-eye-safe lasers on wildlife have not been disclosed in this EIS.

Idaho's California bighorn sheep resource is extremely valuable to the citizens of Idaho and the nation, and their protection is a paramount concern. California bighorn sheep have proven to be highly susceptible to morbidity and even mortality as a result of repeated exposure to environmental disturbance. These risks are especially critical during the April 15-June 15 lambing period, due to the steep precipices occupied by ewes and their lambs during the time, and the potential for "startle events" to result in injury or loss of non-habituated lambs.

- *IDFG commends and will continue to support studies presently underway to better quantify the impacts of overflight noise on California bighorn sheep.*
- *Over-flight of identified critical California bighorn sheep lambing areas should be avoided during the April 15-June 15 lambing period. Avoidance as used here means actions that create noise at ground level greater than 95 dB, the identified threshold value for wildlife startle effects (EIS p. 4-11, citing Eleventh Air Force 1992). This guideline will result in a greater radius for avoidance of critical lambing habitats for some aircraft than for others (see EIS p. 4-11).*
- *MOA airspace expansion northward will significantly increase over-flight disturbance to bighorn sheep in areas not previously exposed to low altitude military overflight.*
- *All aircraft flight over canyonlands should be at least 500 feet above the associated canyon rims.*

- *Monitoring bighorn sheep populations is essential to evaluate the impacts of range activities, and only by monitoring can actual impacts (or lack of them) be identified. The Air Force should assist in annual monitoring of bighorn sheep populations under MOA airspace.*
- *Alternative C maximizes the potential for adverse human impacts on easily-disturbed wildlife such as bighorn sheep.*

Sage grouse populations are declining throughout Idaho and the western United States, and lands underlying the Military Operating Airspace (MOA) affected by this proposal currently contain some of the strongest sage grouse populations in the western United States. There is a significant, but declining, population of sage grouse in this area of southwestern Idaho. Despite the assertion that because numbers are low effects will be minimal (EIS p. 4-108), the converse may be true: low populations may be placed at significantly greater risk than healthy and stable or growing populations. Declines appear to be associated with recruitment of hatchlings into the population. A continued decline in sage grouse numbers may result in legally-mandated recovery actions that could affect range operations. Limited data indicate that sage grouse may abandon their mating grounds (leks) if disturbed by a loud noise and not return until the following day; if repeated disturbance occurs, leks may be abandoned completely. Nesting females may abandon nests as a result of a single disturbance event (Connelly, personal communication).

- *IDFG urges the Air Force to help support research on hatchling recruitment into sage grouse populations.*
- *Emitter sites should feature minimal construction, and off-site disturbance should be minimized to avoid disturbing sage grouse.*
- *Potential threats to disruption of mating activity as a result of overflight noise (if it proves a common occurrence) may include minimization of overflights during the two hours preceding and following dawn during the March-May mating season.*
- *Alternative D appears to constitute the least risk to sage grouse populations; greater risk is associated with Alternative B, and Alternative C maximizes the potential for adverse human impacts on sage grouse.*

Operation and servicing of threat emitters may result in disturbance and stress to wildlife during critical periods. IDFG endorses the proposed policy of not accessing these sites when roads are unstable or snow plowing is required. Winter access has previously been very limited in these areas and there is potential for significant disturbance by human activity during this high-stress period, particularly on the mule deer and sage grouse wintering in some of these areas.

- *Winter activities such as threat emitter operation and maintenance that may result in wildlife disturbance should be minimized or eliminated.*
- *Alternative C would adversely impact an important wintering range for mule deer.*

Laser target acquisition has potential for damaging the vision of wildlife species. No analysis of potential affects on wildlife, particularly raptors, has been presented in the EIS, although there is some likelihood that raptors will be attracted to target areas by the availability of perches and may be affected.

- *IDFG urges the Air Force to take appropriate measures to ensure that lasers are used only under those conditions that will avoid harm to resident wildlife populations.*

Impacts on hunting and fishing recreation

Owyhee County provides a wide range of vitally important wildlife recreational opportunities for the heavily-populated Treasure Valley and Magic Valley regions. Access to public lands was a key concern in previous range proposals and continues to be a critical issue. There is continuing concern about future restrictions on public access in the general area of the range. It is imperative that access to public lands be maintained. Little Jack and Big Jack Creek drainages are particularly significant, since they provide nearly year-around opportunities for hiking, camping, stream fishing, hunting (chukar, sage grouse, mule deer, and bighorn sheep), and trapping. These potential impacts, identified during scoping, have not been addressed in this EIS. Further, the EIS fails to disclose potential hazards of non-eye-safe lasers on hunters, hikers, and others using areas around targets.

One of the key attributes sportsmen seek while recreating in this part of Owyhee County is the remoteness and solitude. The operation of the range will increase the number of aircraft overflights and associated noise. This will change the recreational experience in Owyhee County. It is possible that continued increases in the use of the range could degrade the outdoor experience to a level intolerable to the public.

Sportsman access must be maintained to provide a maximum for a variety of types of wildlife-associated recreational opportunities. However, improved road access results in increased density of human activity, thereby reducing security for wildlife populations and opportunities for dispersed recreation.

- *Restrictions on public access to Owyhee County back-country should be minimized to ensure the greatest potential range for outdoor recreational opportunities.*
- *Road improvement should be minimized so that opportunities for dispersed recreation are not degraded.*
- *Any potential restrictions on public access for 'safety reasons' should be clearly identified.*

Many recreationists have identified noise related to human activities (such as aircraft training) as a deterrent to enjoyment of outdoor recreation. Virtually all of the hunting units for California bighorn sheep, a once-in-a-lifetime harvest opportunity

for Idaho hunters, lies under MOA airspace, and 'startle events' can adversely affect the hunting experience.

-- *MOA airspace expansion northward will result in increased over-flight disturbance year-around and will increase the number and type of conflicts between the Air Force and to outdoor recreationists year-around.*
- *IDFG commends the Air Force for developing Alternatives that result in reductions in cumulative noise impacts over Wilderness Study Areas (EIS p. 4-190).*
- *Selection of Alternative C would result in adverse sportsman use of Grasmere Reservoir, which is a popular fishing destination stocked with Lahontan cutthroat trout but which is located within a few miles of the proposed target area.*
- *Conflicts with recreationists associated within current MOA airspace can be minimized if the Air Force will avoid scheduling intensive-use training maneuvers (i.e., 'red flag' type exercises) within the August 30-October 9 hunting season for bighorn sheep.*

All construction associated with the range should be designed to ensure minimal visual impacts. In particular, construction away from developed target sites should be minimized to avoid the impression of widespread human impacts, and their associates adverse impacts on recreationists.

-- *All construction should be minimized, and in particular, threat emitter sites should be designed to blend in with surrounding wildlife habitats.*

Concerns Remaining After Air Force Commitments

Brigadier General Peck, in a letter to Commission Chairman Burns dated 13 June 1997 (copy attached), identified some specific actions to which the Air Force would commit to help allay Department of Fish and Game Commission concerns. This letter states:

> ***The Air Force intends to continue to consult with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to protect California bighorn sheep during the critical lambing period in Owyhee canyon lands in all alternatives, consistent with Idaho Fish and Game determination of bighorn sheep needs.***

The Fish and Game Commission believes this commitment by the Air Force will result in avoidance of over-flight of identified critical California bighorn sheep lambing areas during period April 15-June 15, such that no actions which exceed the wildlife startle event threshold of 95 dB will be allowed during this period. It is acknowledged by all parties that the Air Force will develop guidelines relative to specific altitude, speed and flight operations by aircraft (see EIS p. 4-11) to meet this standard, and that this standard will be re-evaluated by IDFG biologists based on on-going and future studies, and is subject to change (increase or decrease) based on peer-reviewed scientific analysis of data.

If this intent is carried forward and incorporated into the Record of Decision, then this commitment addresses IDFG concerns for bighorn sheep protection and preservation under existing Military Operating Airspace.

The letter from Brigadier General Peck also states:

> ***Any final decision for enhanced training would also include mitigation for adverse wildlife impacts.***

The Fish and Game Commission believes that this commitment by the Air Force will include specific measures to assess fish and wildlife impacts associated with training range development and operation, and to provide mitigation for adverse impacts identified. Although the EIS identifies substantial emphasis on mitigating impacts "by avoidance of high risk areas" (EIS p. ES-4), the IDFG believes that every effort should be made to avoid adverse impacts whenever possible; whenever complete avoidance is not possible, adverse impacts should be reduced to an absolute minimum, and mitigation means replacement (near the impacted site and featuring the same kind of resource; i.e., 'on-site' and 'in-kind") of values lost. Standard nationwide methodologies are employed. Critical component parts of this commitment to mitigation, as understood by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, include:

1. Provide funding to complete an analysis of adverse impacts using standard methodologies (i.e., Habitat Evaluation Procedures);
2. Establish Air Force protocols to minimize or eliminate adverse impacts, such as those associated with construction, operation, and maintenance of the range;
3. Identify, and establish if necessary, a pool of resources (funding, man-power, seed, etc.) sufficient to ensure prompt remediation of lands (using site-adapted native plant species) and wildlife resources damaged by military activities (such as wildfire); and
4. Establish a policy to implement all remediation on the ground as soon as possible.

Obvious candidates for mitigation include the no-drop target site and the two emitter sites proposed that do contain important wildlife habitat (EIS p. 2-78.).

If this intent is carried forward and incorporated into the Record of Decision, then this commitment addresses many IDFG concerns for habitat protection and preservation associated with direct manipulation of wildlife habitat, wildfire, and invasion of undesirable plant species associated with range enhancement activities.

Concerns identified by IDFG but not addressed by Brigadier General Peck include the following:

> Expansion of MOA airspace northward over Big and Little Jack creeks, with associated adverse impacts to outdoor recreation that were not analyzed in the EIS.

Recreational experience (observation and hunting) will be degraded to some degree by overflight noise, although these impacts can be reduced by operational scheduling to minimize disturbance on weekends and during hunting seasons.

Mule Deer

Management Goal: Maintain (Unit 40) or increase herds.

Conclusion: *Attainable, provided that Alternative D or B is selected* (Alternative C may adversely affect critical wintering range south of Big Jack Creek canyon).

Impacts on Associated Recreation Recreational opportunity can be maintained at approximately current or slightly enhanced levels, based on expected mule deer population increases. Recreational experience (observation and hunting) will be degraded to some degree by overflight noise, although these impacts can be reduced by operational scheduling to minimize disturbance on weekends and during hunting seasons.

Upland Game

Management Goal:

–Sage Grouse Protect and enhance sage grouse habitat.
Upgrade data on seasonal distribution and abundance.
Increase hunting opportunity.

–Chukar Partridge Improve water sources and riparian areas in chukar habitat.

Conclusion: Although there is *negligible risk to chukar partridge*, sage grouse objectives are *unlikely to be attainable* under this proposal without mitigation. Rationale:

(1) Increased human access for threat emitter maintenance and range management activities will result in increased fire risk and increased risk of invasion by undesirable plant species, degrading and fragmenting critical habitats.
(2) Disturbance may adversely impact reproduction, either through lek abandonment or nest abandonment.
(3) Populations are currently in decline west-wide due in part to low population recruitment, magnifying the effect of adverse population impacts associated with range development actions.

Appropriate mitigation to offset impacts of this range proposal would include (1) a commitment from the Air Force to an aggressive program of wildfire control and range restoration featuring timely re-establishment of native vegetation, (2) establishment of a native plant nursery to provide a readily available source of seed for re-establishment of native vegetation, and (3) financial assistance to help support research on range impacts on sage grouse populations.

Impacts on Associated Recreation Recreational opportunity cannot be maintained at current levels, and certainly not increased, if populations continue to decline. The recreational hunting experience will be degraded to some degree by overflight noise, although these impacts can be reduced by operational scheduling to minimize disturbance on weekends and during hunting seasons.

Nongame Species

Management Goal: Protect identified critical habitat for nongame species, with particular emphasis on threatened and endangered species and Idaho Species of Special Concern. Species that deserve special attention include green-tailed towhee, loggerhead shrike, sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, gray flycatcher, and a number of raptors (i.e., hawks and eagles).

Conclusion: Localized losses are inevitable as critical sagebrush habitats are modified or destroyed. Some raptors may be blinded by use of non-eye-safe lasers. Losses are unlikely to affect population status, ***provided that Alternative D or B is selected, and an aggressive wildfire control program is adopted that incorporates rapid-response aircraft and is coupled with a commitment to rapid rehabilitation of damaged sites using site-adapted native vegetation.***

Impacts on Associated Recreation Recreational opportunity (bird watching) can be maintained at current levels and far exceeds demand. The outdoor recreational experience will be degraded to some degree by overflight noise.

Comparison of Alternatives

None of the range development alternatives is completely benign to Idaho's fish and wildlife resources. Each involves somewhat different potential impacts. After evaluation of potential environmental impacts, IDFG ranks the various action alternatives from least to greatest impact on natural resources as:

Alternative A (No action) This alternative maintains current practices in Owyhee County and does not increase Military Operating Airspace.

Alternative D (Juniper Butte) This Alternative, coupled with (1) commitments for avoidance of critical bighorn sheep lambing areas April 15-June 15, (2) a commitment to mitigation for damages to wildlife and wildlife habitat, (3) an aggressive program of wildfire management and range rehabilitation, and (4) increased monitoring of bighorn sheep herds, will have the fewest adverse impacts on wildlife and recreation. Sage grouse populations will likely continue to decline, and recreational opportunities will be degraded.

Alternative B (Clover Butte) This Alternative is very similar to Alternative D but has somewhat reduced potential impacts on sage grouse. This Alternative, coupled with

(1) commitments for avoidance of critical bighorn sheep lambing areas April 15-June 15, (2) a commitment to mitigation for damages to wildlife and wildlife habitat, (3) an aggressive program of wildfire management and range rehabilitation, and (4) increased monitoring of bighorn sheep herds, will have few adverse impacts on wildlife and recreation. Sage grouse populations will likely continue to decline, and recreational opportunities will be degraded.

Alternative C (Grasmere) Alternative C has significant adverse impacts on wildlife not associated with Alternatives D or B. Even when coupled with the commitments identified above, Alternative C results in significant risks to wintering mule deer, sage grouse, nongame wildlife, and recreational opportunities associated with hunting and with fisherman use of Grasmere Reservoir.

Agreements and Understandings

If an action alternative is selected, the IDFG wishes to continue cooperative efforts regarding fish and wildlife management with the Air Force through updating and expanding the *Cooperative Agreement for the Protection, Development, and Management of Fish and Wildlife Resources at Saylor Creek Air Force Range* (April 5, 1993, as updated) and the *Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Air Force and Idaho Department of Fish and Game* (March 4, 1996) which establishes a Natural Resources Council. Responsibilities of the Natural Resources Council should be expanded to provide an interagency forum to evaluate and make recommendations on range development and management decisions. This group should be officially chartered under Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) guidelines.

It may also be appropriate to jointly establish a citizen's range recommendation committee to establish a forum for the public to review and comment on range management decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed *Enhanced Training in Idaho* Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Mealey
Director

SPM:DET:tlv

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply Refer To:

1784

Colonel Fred Pease
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1480 Air Force Pentagon
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Dear Colonel Pease:

The Lower Snake River Resource Advisory Council (RAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the U.S. Air Force Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We also appreciate the time you took to answer questions at our last meeting.

The Council is composed of 15 members who represent diverse public land users and interests. Our members include representatives of scientific, grazing, mining, recreation, historic cultural resources, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, environmental protection, elected official and other public land constituents. Our primary role is to advise the Bureau of Land Management on public land management issues in southwest Idaho. In this role we are the primary affected RAC for the Enhanced Training in Idaho proposal.

In this capacity, the Council met July 7th to discuss the ETI proposal and preliminary RAC recommendations for comment. The Council is very interested in providing thoughtful comments on many aspects of the ETI proposal. We hope to provide the Air Force and BLM with specific recommendations by reviewing the DEIS. This is not an easy task. The DEIS is a very large, cumbersome document and many of the supporting scientific documents are located outside of the State of Idaho.

The Council would like to have the comment period on the DEIS extended a minimum of 120 days. We feel an extension is necessary to give us adequate time to evaluate the DEIS and any additional scientific documents. The Council would also like to review BLM's comments prior to making any recommendations and an extension would enable us to do this as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the ETI proposal. We look forward to your reply and continued constructive dialog on this important regional and national issue.

Sincerely,

Don Weilmunster
Chairman, Lower Snake River
Resource Advisory Council

cc: BLM Idaho State Director
USAF/BLM
P.O. Box 329
Boise, ID 83701-0329

IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

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John E. Burns
Salmon Region
Carmen, Idaho

August 4, 1997

U.S. Air Force/Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 329
Boise, Idaho 83702-0329

Re: Enhanced Training in Idaho E.I.S.

Dear Reviewers:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission endorsed and forwarded the Department's analysis of the alternatives contained in the subject EIS on July 18, 1997. Although included in the analysis, we would like to highlight the importance of the following subjects.

Access to public lands is an important issue and was identified as such in the scoping process. However, this concern was not addressed in the EIS. We urge that access to public lands be maintained to provide a maximum variety of wildlife associated recreational opportunities.

A major component of the unique quality of hunting in remote Owyhee County is solitude. We strongly recommend that every effort be made to coordinate scheduled training activities to minimize noise and other effects during periods of peak hunting use.

Thank you for your consideration of these important matters.

Sincerely,

John E. Burns
Chairman

cc: Director
Commissioners

RESPONSE SECTION

GENERAL

Comment #	Response #	Response
	GE-1[1]	Thank you for your letter during the public comment period for the draft environmental impact statement for the Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) proposal. Public involvement is an important part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. You and many others can be proud that your participation and comments have become part of the record and will contribute to the decisionmaking process. In the past two years, the Air Force has sought to ensure that new airspace and range proposals balance Air Force training requirements with the important missions of other federal and state agencies and the interests of Native Americans, environmentalists, recreationalists, and other members of the public. The Air Force added a new alternative to their proposal as a result of comments received during the scoping process. NEPA legislation was enacted to give the public just such an opportunity to get involved in agency decisionmaking. Thank you for your interest in the environmental impact analysis process for this and other initiatives.
	GE-2	Thank you for your letter during the public comment period for the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) proposal. Public involvement is an important part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. You and many others can be proud that your participation and comments have become part of the record and will contribute to the decisionmaking process. Specific responses to your environmental questions are presented below.
	GE-3	Thank you for your letter which was received during the public comment period for the draft environmental impact statement for the ETI proposal. Your comments and involvement in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process contribute to an informed decisionmaking process. One of the major points in your letter is the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) trapping and transplanting (translocation) program of California bighorn sheep from the Owyhee River herd in southwestern Idaho.

[1] This response is given on any letter that does not have a bracket.

Comment #	Response #	Response

This program of translocating California bighorn sheep from the Owyhee Canyonlands to other areas with adequate suitable habitat is endorsed by the Air Force as a means of expanding the distribution and population of this majestic sub-species. However, translocation programs must be implemented in a manner that does not jeopardize the continued viability of the source herd (Owyhee River herd). Previously, California bighorn sheep were translocated from the Chilcotin, B.C. herd to areas in the western U.S. In fact, the Chilcotin, B.C. herd was the source for the original transplant (re-introduction) of California bighorn sheep back to southwestern Idaho. Unfortunately, in 1991, translocations from the Chilcotin, B.C. herd were terminated and the Owyhee River herd became the only source for translocations of California bighorn sheep.

In December 1993, IDFG trapped and translocated 105 sheep from the Owyhee River herd. During that operation, 25 sheep (of which 22 were adult ewes) were translocated to Nevada, 35 sheep (of which 30 were adult ewes) to Oregon, and 45 sheep (of which 38 were adult ewes) were released in the Bruneau\Jarbidge\Big Cottonwood areas in Idaho. The removal of 90 adult ewes represented a reduction of 22 percent of the adult ewe segment of the Owyhee River herd based on the spring 1993 population survey. This situation, when coupled with low lamb:ewe ratios in spring 1993 (20 lambs per 100 ewes), led to decreased recruitment into the Owyhee River herd in 1994. Consequently, the 1994 spring population survey indicated a dramatic decline in sheep numbers for this herd. Therefore, IDFG suspended the translocation program for California bighorn sheep until subsequent surveys indicate a population level sufficient to withstand additional translocations.

In their 1995 Bighorn Sheep Job Progress Report, IDFG identified a number of potential environmental and external factors that may have contributed to the population decline. Drought in 1992 and deep snow in the winter of 1992-93 may have contributed to low lamb:ewe ratios. The removal of 90 adult ewes directly reduced the population and indirectly affected the population by removing the lambs that these ewes would have produced in spring 1994. Density dependent population regulation may have contributed to the decline in 1994. Poor forage quality and/or productivity, as a carry over from the 1992 drought, may have contributed to the decline.

The dramatic decline in the Owyhee River herd in 1994 was mirrored at the adjacent herds in the Little Jacks Creek herd and across the border in Oregon. In southeastern Oregon, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) surveys yielded counts of 138 California bighorn sheep upstream from Rome, OR in March 1993

Comment #	Response #	Response

and only 94 in March 1994. The herd has stabilized currently with 1997 surveys counting 95 sheep upstream from Rome, OR.

The influence of military training activities on the California bighorn sheep population is unknown. Since California bighorn sheep were reintroduced in southwestern Idaho in 1963, the herd has been overflown by military aircraft conducting training missions. The herd increased from the original 19 sheep to a peak count of 753 sheep in 1991.

Huntable populations of bighorn sheep have occupied habitat under existing Air Force MOAs in Nevada and Arizona for years. These populations provide consumptive recreational opportunities in areas of high Air Force training activities.

Another major point in your letter is the scheduling changes that Mountain Home Air Force Base (Mountain Home AFB) implemented to seasonally avoid critical lambing areas in Owyhee County in 1995 and 1996. Your Foundation (FNAWS) and IDFG requested these scheduling changes to the Wing Commander at Mountain Home AFB. Mountain Home AFB accommodated these requests as a commitment to their Good Neighbor policy. This request was not conveyed to Mountain Home AFB in 1997. The effectiveness of these scheduling changes for bighorn sheep populations is unknown. However, the Air Force welcomes any additional study results that pertain to jet overflight effects on bighorn sheep.

The Air Force appreciates the opportunity to continue the dialogue established with FNAWS to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Process

Comment #	Response #	Response
0362 1083 1107 1135 1146 1170	PR-1	The Scientific Assessment of the Interior Columbia Basin was in progress at the time the Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) proposal and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were being developed. Although there was no direct coordination at that time, review of the Scientific Assessment indicates that the ETI proposal is not inconsistent with the objectives being developed for the Interior Columbia Basin. Each of the ETI Alternatives were developed in such a fashion to minimize the areas of disturbance and potential impact. The preferred alternative includes strategies to support ecological integrity noted in the Interior Columbia Basin study. ETI mitigation strategies relates to influences on vegetative patterns, disruption of hydrologic regimes, expansion of exotics, fire severity and frequency, and increases in bare soils. The Air Force will continue to consult with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to ensure ETI maintains consistency with the Interior Columbia Basin efforts to the extent practicable while meeting primary mission needs.
0975 8019	PR-2	The public hearings for the DEIS were designed and conducted to allow all commentors to participate in conformance with (National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR 1506.10), and Air Force and BLM regulations (43 CFR 1610.2[e]). At the hearings, each commentor had three minutes to provide substantive verbal comments on the DEIS. After all who desired had participated, commentors could come back to make further comments if desired. All verbal comments were recorded and considered. In addition, comments could be made directly on computers, in handwritten form, dictated to an additional court recorder, or submitted as already prepared written comments for the record. The hearing officer allowed individuals to present oral comments at multiple hearings and where time allowed, individuals could also provide additional oral comments at the end of a session. Although a 90-day comment period is specified in BLM regulations, the public also had the opportunity to submit comments by mail during the 123-day comment period.
0243 0293 0343	0975 1096 8019	PR-3	The public comment period of 123-days, which ended September 8, 1997, exceeded NEPA, CEQ, Air Force, and BLM regulations.
0243 8019 8032	PR-4	In accordance with CEQ regulations, the Air Force distributed copies of the DEIS to libraries and other public repositories so that individuals who had not indicated an interest in receiving the documents had access to those documents. Appendix B, Volume III

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		of this EIS summarizes the public involvement process. Through the scoping meetings, as well as three newsletters, the Air Force solicited names and addresses of individuals and organizations interested in receiving newsletters as well as a copy of the DEIS, Community Report, or both. The resulting list of those respondents indicating their interest in receiving such documentation was used to develop a mailing list. Seven newspaper advertisements were also issued listing the 54 repositories in Idaho and 13 in other states where the public could read the DEIS. For those who requested the DEIS after the public comment period had begun, copies were mailed as soon as possible.
8120	PR-5	Section 2.1.2 describes the process of identifying candidate alternatives. A total of 11 candidates were examined, including three sites within and southeast of SCR. These sites were not carried forward for further analysis primarily due to their proximity to SCR and the limitations this would cause to aircraft operations.
0927 8039 8040	PR-6	Through the NEPA process, the public has numerous opportunities to help shape proposals and influence decisionmaking for a project. While public comments under NEPA are not a "vote" on whether to proceed or not with a proposed action, substantive comments on this EIS can and do influence the decision and the final outcome. If any future actions were to be contemplated, the NEPA process for those actions would also provide for public input.
0997	PR-7	Funding for the proposed range would be obtained through the Air Force planning, programming and budget process. Requests for funding to build and operate the range would be submitted to Congress as part of the Department of Defense (DoD) budget. If Congress approves the budget, the Air Force would commence with construction and training activities.
1136 8039	PR-8	According to NEPA and CEQ regulations, NEPA documentation, such as an EIS, is prepared in order to make environmental information "available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken." It "is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on an understanding of environmental consequences."
8039	PR-9	Scoping during the ETI process achieved its goal to obtain public comment, determine the scope of analysis, identify significant issues, and define other alternatives for this EIS. Neither NEPA, CEQ regulations, nor Air Force Instructions specify a requirement for the format of scoping meetings. Scoping can range from simply talking

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			to agencies and interested members of the public to holding meetings.
0226 0792		PR-10	Under the Engle Act, Congress must approve such a withdrawal. Section 1.4.2 explains the land withdrawal process. An act of Congress is not necessarily required to create a range. However, more than 5,000 acres of public lands would be withdrawn for military use under ETI, so the Engle Act would apply. The Air Force ROD, this EIS, and the BLM's Summary of Findings and Recommendations will be sent forward to the Secretary of the Interior. Legislation for the proposed withdrawal will be prepared and presented to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior, if appropriate.
8126		PR-11	The five studies referred to in your letter were reviewed for general information, however, they did not provide a specific citation within the document. Therefore, these studies were not included in the reference section of this EIS.
0807 0903 0914 0915 0941 0963 1001 1002 1014	1157 1162 1163 1181 8078	PR-12	This EIS has been prepared in accordance with the NEPA to analyze potential environmental consequences. It also has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and its associated regulations for public land withdrawals. This EIS includes analyses of the potential environmental consequences that the four alternatives may have on environmental resources both cumulatively and individually. Environmental resources addressed include all those identified during scoping and as a result of Air Force review. This EIS addresses airspace, noise, safety, hazardous materials, earth resources, water resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, land use, recreation and visual resources, and socioeconomics.
0243 0640 0848 8019		PR-13	Should accidents or damage occur on or near the proposed range, the Wing Commander at Mountain Home AFB has the responsibility for providing immediate response. The organization involved for the property involved (e.g., aircraft, vehicles, etc.) would then take the lead for investigation, the incident, and determining a course of action. The Wing Commander and Mountain Home AFB would continue to provide local support throughout the investigation. Ultimately, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force has the authority and responsibility for safety related incidents involving all Air Force activities. To report potential issues, individuals can contact the Public Affairs office or the Airspace Manager at Mountain Home AFB, ID.

Comment #	Response #	Response
0243	PR-14	Changing world situations and shifts in the strategies for national defense defined by the President and Congress dictate the training activities and support needs for all armed services. Should, in the future, such changes and shifts alter the training requirements, the Air Force would evaluate possible options to fulfill those requirements. Such changes could mean a removal or reduction of a range, as occurred when DoD returned over 300,000 acres of the old SCR to the public in 1963. In all cases, proposed future changes would undergo NEPA analysis, including public comment.
0247 0830 0997	PR-15	No future alteration of ranges, airspace, or emitter sites is contemplated other than that proposed in this EIS. However, should the Air Force propose to alter any of these in the future, appropriate action would be taken in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, with the involvement of appropriate government agencies and public.
0293 0830	PR-16	Preparation of this EIS is an important step in the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP). Each step in the EIAP has been conducted with a careful, systematic approach. Each public and agency comment was rigorously reviewed and studied in detail to prepare the appropriate response. Responses in each resource and issue area were prepared and reviewed by the interdisciplinary team comprised of Air Force, BLM, state representatives, and resource analysts. Each response represents a thorough review of the issue and is comprised of the best information available.
0293	PR-17	FAA approval is contingent upon meeting environmental, safety, and flight operational requirements. The FAA must evaluate any airspace proposal using its own procedures dictated by federal law.
0343 0792 0807 0883	PR-18	The majority of citations used in this EIS can be found in peer-reviewed journals or government documents (in the Federal Repository section) available at universities or accessed from public libraries through the Inter-library Loan program. A few of the citations (Ph. D. dissertations, MS theses, state natural resource agency documents) are available through Inter-library Loan or by contacting the respective agencies. Most of these references were available at the offices of SAIC during the public comment period.
0290	PR-19	The 366th Wing currently obtains composite wing training (CWT) at Nellis Air Force Range, NV and the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR). The Air Force has compared the current training program with that associated with the proposed range to determine the change in flying hours. A typical training sortie for an F-16C to

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			UTTR without refueling lasts about 1 hour and 40 minutes and allows for only 15 minutes of actual training. With the same fuel load, an F-16C pilot could receive 26 minutes of actual training by flying a 1 hour and 4 minute sortie using the range facilities proposed for ETI. Refueling would extend the length of the sortie, but even a refueled aircraft would receive only half as much training at UTTR as it would at the proposed range.
9010		PR-20	The Air Force has coordinated with Owyhee County throughout the EIAP and will continue to do so.
1183		PR-21	The Air Force is the lead agency for ETI, and BLM is a cooperating agency. As lead agency, the Air Force has the responsibility for government to government relations with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Section 1.4.4 of this EIS describes the Air Force's government to government activities and Shoshone-Paiute Tribal and individual concerns raised during these meetings are presented in this EIS for each environmental resource.
1131 1181 1191	1192	PR-22	Cumulative impact analyses were prepared in accordance with NEPA and CEQ guidelines. Special attention was given to including cumulative environmental considerations from ground disturbance, human presence, and operations into the planning process as early as possible to improve decisions. The Air Force sought to develop partnerships with both federal and non-federal stakeholders early in the planning process to improve communication and avoid impacts wherever possible. As described in this EIS, this included meeting with state and BLM representatives, ranchers, Shoshone-Paiute tribal members, public organizations, and interested parties to identify their concerns and plan project elements to avoid impacts. For example, more than 50 potential emitter and no-drop sites were evaluated and of those, 20 with potential to impact sensitive biological, cultural, recreational, or ranching resources were avoided. As another example, existing roads were proposed to be upgraded where possible to protect habitats from fragmentation. The potential for cumulative impacts that could come from different elements of the ETI were specifically addressed in this EIS, for example, potential impacts to each biological resource addressed ground disturbance impacts from construction and operation and noise from human presence and from overflights. In addition, the cumulative implications of project created ground disturbance, noise, vibration, visual, and access intrusions to cultural resources were specified in this EIS analysis.

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			Sections on each environmental resource, as well as a separate cumulative impacts section, address the cumulative effects. Where cause-and-effect relationships could not be documented or quantified, qualitative evaluation was incorporated in this EIS. Additional cumulative impact summaries are presented for each potentially affected environmental resource in Chapter 4 of this EIS.
0293 0739 0770 0807 0883 0903 1083 1132	1135 1146 1148 1155 1168 1178 1205 1207	PR-23	Since the 366th is the manager of the airspace and range, it would schedule and oversee all users. All restrictions, procedures, and rules are provided to aircrews in all branches of the military in advance and when they schedule use (also see Response # DP-30).
1099		PR-24	Under NEPA and CEQ guidelines, the analysis accounted for foreseeable short and long-term effects that are presented for each resource area in Chapter 4. Section 5.0 describes irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.
1131		PR-25	All actions that could have reasonably foreseeable future effects are presented in this EIS. No additional withdrawals are contemplated. Should circumstances change, and the Air Force identify a need to proposes changes, they would be assessed under NEPA. The proposal presented in this EIS represent the elements that would form a basis for a range management plan. Development of a range management plan prior to a record of decision could be considered pre-decisional.
1179		PR-26	Committing to written agreements prior to the ROD would be pre-decisional and inconsistent with the NEPA process.

PURPOSE AND NEED

Comment #		Response #	Response
0007	1096	PN-1	Section 1.2 and 1.3 of this EIS presents the defined need for the proposed action, including specific descriptions of training needs and their relationship to proposed elements of the ETI. The Air Force's four key objectives are described in section 1.2. The 366th Wing needs quality tactical training with adequate realism. Current local ranges do not provide quality tactical training opportunities. Also remote ranges fail to provide all the elements specifically designed into the ETI proposal. The Air Force has maintained persistently since the beddown of the composite wing, in federal court and to the community, that a local tactical training range was needed for composite wing training, but that the composite wing did not depend on local tactical training assets for its existence. Mountain Home AFB crews have been able to achieve adequate combat readiness using remote ranges since the beddown of the wing. In contrast, the ETI proposal will optimize the unique training needs of the 366th Wing.
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0316	1160		
0325	1169		
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0739	1171		
0741	1178		
0752	1191		
0769	1193		
0786	1199		
0791	1200		
0830	1203		
0853	1205		
0874	1207		
0883	8011		
0898	8017		
0924	8021		
0926	8061		
0927	8073		
0932	8086		
0941	8093		
0956	8101		
0963	8102		
0982	8120		
1008	8126		
1014	8144		
1083	8148		
1087	9010		

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0014 0070 0081 0237 0314 0369 0390 0739 0828 0830 0910 0928 0957 0997	1126 1131 1171 8126	PN-2	Section 1.3.2.3 of this EIS describes that the 366th Wing does use and, should a decision to develop the ETI be made, would continue to use remote ranges in Utah and Nevada for a specialized proportion of its training. However, due to the distances from Mountain Home AFB to these remote ranges, aircrews from the 366th Wing receive between 16 and 25 percent less combat training time. Flight times were computed by HQ Air Force Oversight Team in 1995 to determine the effectiveness of potential local training versus training at remote ranges. The times were derived directly from the Air Forces flight planning system used for both training and combat missions. Use of other, even more distant ranges in New Mexico, Arizona, or elsewhere would further reduce training time and not meet the need to provide enhanced training local to Mountain Home AFB. Section 1.3.2.3 of this EIS addresses the issue of remote ranges.
0927		PN-3	Section 1.3.2.3 of this EIS describes the reduction of combat training time resulting from a reliance on the use of remote ranges. This information is based on the use of the Air Force's approved Flight Plan model used throughout the world. No detailed fiscal cost-benefit analysis for training is required for an EIS.
8068		PN-4	A conventional range, as described in section 1.3.2.1, refers to the configuration of, and visual cues offered by, its targets. SCR is a conventional range at which no live ordnance has been used since its establishment more than 30 years ago. The Air Force has no plans to use live ordnance at SCR or any of the proposed ETI alternatives.
0243 0246 0640 0940 0975 1099 1128 1131 1135	1171 1182 1193 8015 8017 8019 8026 9010	PN-5	The DEIS has been prepared in accordance with NEPA and CEQ regulations, neither of which establishes a requirement to consider a national scope for the proposed action. Therefore, as presented in section 1.4.1.5 of this EIS, a national needs assessment is beyond the scope of what is required for decisionmaking. (See also PN-15).
0237 0896 1020		PN-6	Computerized simulation is used for training; however, more realistic actual flight training is required to ensure success during armed conflicts.

Comment #		Response #	Response
1193 9010		PN-7	With implementation of ETI, the 366th Wing would be able to fly about the same number of total sorties from Mountain Home AFB in local airspace, yet, at the same time, perform more training and sortie-operations. Because of the effectiveness of local, realistic training, the need to fly to remote ranges would decrease to a greater degree than the increase in local sorties. See Table 2.3-11.
0290		PN-8	Section 1.3.2.3 specifies details that scheduling is but one of the issues affecting quality training. More importantly, the reduction of quality, realistic training time relative to finite flying hours supports the need for ETI.
0188 0290 0314 0363 0862	1131 1181 1202 8126	PN-9	Under NEPA and CEQ guidelines, a fiscal cost benefit analysis for training is not required for an EIS.
0290		PN-10	The extent to which full combat realism can be achieved is always limited to some extent in training. However, the proposal to enhance training in Idaho would permit a greater degree of realism than can be attained at SCR. No plans have been made to use live ordnance on the proposed ETI range.
0290		PN-11	The unique 366th Wing is the only air expeditionary wing in the Air Force. The need for a composite air expeditionary wing of this type was demonstrated during the Gulf War and other deployments. As the military drawdown continues, forces such as the 366th Wing are vested with a greater share of responsibility for the nation's defense.
0290		PN-12	An F-16 traveling at an average airspeed of 480 knots would travel 9.2 miles per minute as stated on page 4-215 of the DEIS. If the entire flight plan from Mountain AFB, ID to UTTR could be accomplished at that speed over a straight line route, then the travel time would be about 20 minutes without refueling. However, an actual flight plan would include activities such as taxi, takeoff, enroute under FAA control, maneuvering in the training area, return under FAA control, decent, and landing of the aircraft that could not be performed at 480 knots. The aircraft would have to follow approved air routes during the trip from Idaho to Utah and back; this would not be a straight line route. The flight plan model used to prepare Table 1.3-3 considered all elements of an actual training mission.

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0290		PN-13	The gap referred to in section 1.3.2.4 is between the eastern edge of the Duck Valley Reservation and the edge of the Paradise Military Operations Area (MOA). This gap is approximately 7 nautical miles (NM) wide. At speeds of 9 miles per minute, a gap of 7 NM is narrow and provides limited room for maneuvering. The effective width of the gap is even less because aircrews tend to fly well away from the Reservation.
0242 0248 0290 0300 0314 0344 0349 0358 0363 0565 0675	0923 0929 1131 1147 1148 1162 1163 1171 1191 1192 1199	PN-14	An Air Force review of the 1995 DoD Inspector General's report did not account for the quality of training versus available flying hours. The existing local range and assets fail to provide all of the realism, quality, and flexibility needed to enhance the 366th Wing's training. However, the proximity of the proposed ETI to Mountain Home AFB would provide minimal transmit time while maximizing training time. Further details of the need to enhance training for the 366th Wing are provided in Chapter 1.0 of this EIS. Further details about training at remote ranges are provided in section 2.2.1.3 of this EIS.
0774 0828 0832 0882 0903 0939 0982	8102		The General Accounting Office (GAO) report, More Assessment Needed Before Implementing Force Projection Composite Wings (May 1993), evaluated the basis for the decision to implement the composite wing concept. At the time of the GAO report, the USAF was preparing to establish three composite wings including the 366th Wing, Mountain Home AFB. One finding of the report described the local range at Mountain Home as too small to support composite force-level training. The USAF did not concur with that finding because the existing range would support a portion of the composite force training and remote ranges would provide the remaining training requirements, which is still the case. The GAO report also noted that at the time composite wings were experimental. Now the 366th Wing is an operational composite wing, and the training requirements have been refined. Therefore, the ETI proposal would improve the quality and realism of local training for that wing.
1083 1131	1155 1202	PN-15	Although not Congressionally mandated, the U.S. Air Force began a range needs assessment in 1996. This involves an analysis of Air Force training requirements, types of ranges, and ability to fulfill current and future training requirements. The goal is to identify excesses and deficiencies. Preliminary results indicate that SCR provides opportunities for single aircraft to practice low altitude weapons delivery from limited axes of attack. SCR cannot support simultaneous use by multiple aircraft, multiple axes of attack, or high altitude weapons delivery. A local tactical training range for

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		the 366th Wing would minimize the transit time and fuel expenditure currently needed to obtain this type of training at remote ranges.
0739 8056	PN-16	Air expeditionary wing or rapid response air expedition wing refers to the 366th Wing and the name given to its mission. It does not indicate another unit of the Air Force or any other branch of DoD.
1131	PN-17	The status of the United States' national security is based on a multitude of factors not pertinent to the proposed action. Discussion of the effects of implementing or not implementing the proposed action on national security would be speculative and beyond the required scope of this EIS.
1199	PN-18	Aerial refueling training involves practicing the procedure of meeting with a tanker and linking with its boom in an effective manner. Only a token amount of fuel may be transferred. Thus, refueling training does not necessarily equate to the capability to fly longer distances.

DOPAA

Comment #	Response #	Response
0013	DP-1	The establishment of the 366th Wing at Mountain Home AFB was based on the recommendation of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission. Since the Commission's recommendations were accepted by the President, and Congress did not reject the recommendations, they were required by law to be implemented. After establishing the composite wing and conducting composite force training, the Air Force reassessed existing composite force training requirements and initiated "composite wing training" (CWT) to prepare for the unique mission of the 366th Wing. This CWT would require integration of local airspace and ground tactical training range assets.
0014	DP-2	The data used in this EIS includes information gathered on environmental conditions at SCR. Since this range has been used for 35 years in its present form and for the 20 years previous to that as part of a larger training range since 1942, this data provides insights into the general effects of long-term range use. The environmental considerations built into the proposed action for ETI (i.e., no hot-spot ordnance, no construction of firebreaks, small target areas) would significantly limit the types of effects that have occurred on SCR during the first 20 years of its use.
1191	DP-3	Greater Owyhee Legal Defense (GOLD) has been in litigation with the Air Force over the composite wing beddown since 1993. Many of the comments submitted by GOLD are not comments on the accuracy or sufficiency of the technical environmental analysis but are conclusions of law and GOLD's characterization of the legal issues it has raised or intends to raise in litigation. The Air Force has responded to the comments directed towards the environmental analysis but has not responded to opinions about the law or the application of law to fact.
0242 1155 0243 1174 0293 1181 0752 1191 0770 8019 0774 8024 0975 8039 1083 8068 1099 8087 1143 8101 1148	DP-4	The proposed Idaho Training Range (ITR) was located near the Owyhee canyonlands northwest of the Duck Valley Reservation. Aircraft training overflights and associated environmental consequences, such as increased noise, would have increased in this area. In contrast, the ETI proposal is near the existing SCR and has fewer environmental consequences, for example, overflight noise is reduced in most of the airspace, including over the Owyhee canyonlands and near the Duck Valley Reservation. The ITR proposal was abandoned prior to publication of a final EIS. Comments from the public and agencies on the ITR DEIS were not documented. Therefore, the ITR DEIS was not specifically cited as a

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		reference in the ETI analysis as it was not published as a final document. In a December 19, 1996 ruling, the Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho, observed that "it has become abundantly clear that there is a substantial difference between the old ITR and the proposal now being considered by the Air Force. . . ."
0247 0335 0358 0363 0775 0828 0883 0931 1128	1135 1146 1148 1183 8025 8056 8119 8126 8128	DP-5 Section 2.2.1.1 of this EIS defines the baseline data used for aircraft sortie-operations in the airspace. Appendix N describes the changes in those sortie-operations since 1992. These data are accurate and based on actual numbers of sortie-operations for the 366th Wing, transients (other units and services), and on projections for A-10, C-130, and B-1B aircraft. In addition, comparison of the data from 1992 through the present indicates that while sortie-operations increased, noise decreased. The baseline conditions described reflect increased use of higher altitudes and shorter sortie durations - both of which reduce noise.
1148 1174 8025 8074 8132		DP-6 Section 2.2.1.1 of this EIS details the use of the existing range and airspace by the 366th Wing, Idaho Air National Guard (IDANG), and all other military aircraft (transients). Under any of the alternatives, airspace use by transient aircraft is projected to remain unchanged from current use. Such use is analyzed along with the activities of the 366th Wing.
0247 0248 0358 0775 0828 0830 0882 0883 0923 0926 1083 1099 1131 1146 1148 1149	1155 1160 1168 1170 1171 1178 1181 1191 1192 1193 1205 8038 8126 8127 8128 9010	DP-7 Cumulative impact analyses were prepared in accordance with the NEPA and CEQ Guidelines. This EIS considers the overall influence of the 366th Wing and use of the airspace by all military training aircraft. Section 1.1.4 and Appendix N trace airspace use by the 366th Wing, including supersonic activity, chaff and flares, and all other users from 1992 to the present. Section 2.5 explains how cumulative actions, including the beddown of the B-1Bs and the IDANG conversion, are integrated into the analysis. Use of the proposed training facilities and airspace by these aircraft is analyzed in detail throughout section 4.0 of this EIS.

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0248 0914 1128 1131	DP-8	Identification of alternatives are described in section 2.1. Section 1.3 of this EIS provides the background for the geographical and functional relationship among the proposed training range, no-drop targets, emitter sites, and airspace. Section 2.1.2 presents the operational considerations, environmental considerations, and screening analysis used in identifying alternatives, and supports the rationale for the location of the various elements of the alternatives. The Preface volume and section 2.6 of this EIS presents mitigation measures incorporated into the development of alternatives and project components.
0248 8038	DP-9	Potential impacts on wildlife habitat and land use under the proposed new airspace areas are discussed in sections 4.8 and 4.10. Section 4.12 provides economic impacts to Owyhee County. No measurable economic impacts are projected under the airspace addition.
1191	DP-10	The purpose of ETI is to enhance training. Having less airspace and fewer emitters would limit operational training opportunities and concentrate environmental impacts into a smaller area. The airspace changes associated with this proposal provide opportunities to divert aircraft operations from certain areas during environmentally sensitive periods. Likewise, having multiple threat emitter sites provides operational flexibility needed to balance training requirements with the environment and traditional land use.
8039	DP-11	On rare occasions and only for emergency reasons, aircrews must adjust the gross weight of aircraft by reducing the amount of fuel prior to landing. Procedures for adjusting the gross weight vary with the situation and condition of the aircraft. In some instances, the crew can continue to fly and use fuel in the process. If the safety of the crew or aircraft would be in jeopardy by remaining airborne for an extended period, fuel may be released directly to the atmosphere prior to landing. Aircrews accomplish this at an altitude greater than 5,000 feet above oceans or greater than 10,000 feet above ground level in sparsely populated areas. The high altitude allows the fuel to vaporize before reaching the ground. Release of fuel prior to landing is done only when absolutely necessary. Safety and protection of the public and the aircrew are taken into consideration whenever fuel is released during flight.
0226 8056	DP-12	There is no proposal by the Air Force or any Federal agency to add additional airspace or range facilities associated with ETI other than those described in this EIS. Section 2.3.3 of this EIS details the

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		proposed airspace modifications and section 1.4.3 details the process that the Air Force and FAA must conduct to modify airspace. This EIS analyzes four alternatives, only one of which may be selected. If different airspace or target areas were to be requested at a future date by any Federal agency, that agency must comply with procedural requirements that allow review by the public, the FAA, BLM, the Air Force, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other potentially affected government agencies.
0247 0771 0739 0914 0932	DP-13	This EIS used accepted scientific methods to determine all reasonably foreseeable impacts from each of the four alternatives. Mitigation measures are presented in the Preface volume and section 2.6 of this EIS. The Air Force will include appropriate mitigation measures in the (Record of Decision) ROD.
0248 1168 8038	DP-14	In each resource section where the potential for impacts is possible, the baseline conditions for the areas under the proposed MOA expansion are described as part of ROI Three. With regard to aircraft activity, section 3.1.1 discusses past and current overflights in these areas. These data form the baseline for aircraft operations.
0290	DP-15	Section 2.3.2.1 describes target development and appearance. From the air, the targets would look like military and industrial targets which the Air Force must be prepared to attack. From the ground, these targets would generally resemble agricultural structures. In order to reduce cost and provide a site consistent with the local landscape, the Air Force proposes to use pre-fabricated buildings that are commonly used in agricultural operations.
0290 1174 1183	DP-16	The Air Force chose to exclude the use of such pyrotechnic devices from the ETI range and targets in order to reduce a potential source of fire. However, such devices would continue to be used at SCR to allow aircrews the opportunity to respond to simulated attacks. As stated throughout this EIS, realistic training is composed of many elements. The availability of pyrotechnic devices on SCR and not on an ETI range does not significantly degrade realism, especially if multiple dispersed emitters provide more realistic and challenging threats to aircrews. An explanation is provided in section 4.3, Safety, within sections that address fire risk and management ground safety.
8025	DP-17	Tables 2.2-2 and 2.2-3 quantify use of the airspace by the 366th Wing and quantify sorties by other users.
0290	DP-18	Section 2.3.2.1 explains that on a typical weekday from 8 to 12, full and part-time personnel would support range operations. Section

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		2.3.2.2 adds 5 to 8 operating emitter sites (each typically with a 2 person crew). The total number of "troops" would not be expected to exceed 30 throughout all of ROI Two and one-half of these would be located at emitter sites with portable water and waste disposal associated with their vehicles. Section 2.3.2.1 explains that water would be trucked in from Mountain Home AFB for the non-potable water. There is no proposal for a sewage treatment plant, rather, as described in section 2.3.2.1, a wastewater septic system associated with range maintenance would be installed.
0290	DP-19	Section 1.0, Purpose and Need, explains that enhanced training is needed for the 366th Wing. IDANG A-10s would also use the range.
1191	DP-20	The seven documents referred to were added to the reference list.
0290 1173	DP-21	If a range development alternative is selected, the grazing permittee associated with that alternative would be compensated for interruption of ranching activities. The precise compensation may vary with the alternatives, but may include compensation in-kind such as fences, pipelines, and water storage. Specific details would be negotiated with the rancher(s) affected by the land withdrawal. Congress would have to authorize the use of funds before any payment would be made. Congress could specify conditions for the land withdrawal in the legislation (e.g., complete land improvements and compensation in kind prior to cancellation of grazing permits, specify terms and conditions for future grazing on withdrawn land, etc.).
0290	DP-22	The chances of cattle being hit by ordnance is remote. However, compensation of livestock injured or killed as a result of Air Force operations within the withdrawn area will be specified in the grazing plan developed by the Air Force and the grazing permittees.
0290	DP-23	The Air Force does not expect the Owyhee County Sheriff to provide law enforcement services as a result of range operations in Owyhee County beyond those currently within his area of responsibility. Responsibility for the protection of Air Force assets located at range facilities from theft or vandalism will remain with the Air Force.
0290	DP-24	The adequacy of fire training equipment will be routinely reviewed and all range personal will receive fire suppression training. Currently, personnel at SCR provide fire suppression; this has been adequate to control fires on the range for more than a decade. It is

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		anticipated that personnel present at an ETI range would receive the same type of training.
0290	DP-25	Appropriate levels of grazing will be determined by the Air Force and in consultation with the BLM and published in the grazing management plan. The definition of fee charges is beyond the scope of this EIS which focuses on environmental issues. Nevertheless, your recommendation will be considered.
0247 0290	DP-26	Personnel assigned to the range to operate and maintain electronic emitters would come from the 266th Range Squadron, a unit from the Idaho Air National Guard. The personnel that would operate and maintain the ground facilities on the proposed range and SCR would come from the 366th Operations Support Squadron, a unit from the 366th Wing. Funding for all range personnel would be provided through the Air Force budgeting process.
0290 8074	DP-27	Closing the proposed range is not considered in this EIS because it is not anticipated within the foreseeable future. If the 366th Wing were deactivated, the training value of the range would be reassessed by the Air Force. However, should the Air Force consider all or part of the facilities associated with the range unnecessary, they would be returned to the public land managing agency in accordance with law under procedures for such actions.
0290 1174	DP-28	The Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) Battle Lab is not a part of the ETI proposal.
0775 0882 1183	DP-29	The No-Action Alternative describes the existing training range and associated activities of the 366th Wing and other users. If selected, that same level of activity would continue - a new range, as described in alternatives B, C, and D, would not be developed.
0291 0995 1165 8022	DP-30	The Air Force has an outstanding flight discipline and safety record. In addition to FAA governing rules and regulations, the Air Force has its own operating instructions and regulations. A strong standardization and evaluation program is used to guarantee the discipline and integrity of the operation. Any discrepancies noted are quickly corrected and in the very rare case when someone is unable to meet the demands of military flying, there are administrative steps that are used to remove them from flight operations or service in the Air Force. The Air Force airspace rules apply to all DoD participants. The Air Force has implemented a program to heighten the awareness of all aircrews on environmental programs, policies and issues.

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0338 1191 1202	DP-31	The DEIS has been modified in response to this comment. Proposed mitigation measures of the range of impacts and public and agency concerns of the proposed action are presented in section 2.6 and the Preface volume. These mitigation measures are considered whether potentially significant or the subject of agency or public concern.
0292 1147	DP-32	The type of ordnance is identified in Table 2.3-14. Cattle currently graze on and around target areas on many ranges (e.g., Avon Park, Smoky Hill). Air Force operations and cattle ranching currently exist side-by-side in the SCR area without incident.
1191	DP-33	Chapter 2 of the 1992 *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Air Force in Idaho* (AFI) does indeed state that "Currently, chaff is used only within the SCR complex, with approximately 14,000 bundles dispensed annually." However, it should be noted that this statement specifically referred to the F-111 aircraft then-stationed at Mountain Home AFB. This was because the chaff used by the F-111 was explosive chaff. Thus, if the explosive charge used to deploy the chaff were to malfunction, for safety reasons it was necessary to ensure that the ordnance remain contained within a range impact area. These restrictions did not apply to other aircraft that used non-explosive chaff. The ROD for the AFI specified three action decisions: 1) to establish a Composite Wing at Mountain Home AFB; 2) to submit airspace change requests to the FAA, and to submit application for supersonic activity in accordance with applicable regulations; and, 3) to pursue further study of the State of Idaho range proposal. None addressed the initiation of the use of chaff. The only mention of chaff use in the ROD is in that portion of the document pertaining to mitigations, where it is stipulated that chaff would not be used on MTRs outside of MOAs.
0290	DP-34	Section 1.4.1.5 states that helicopter activities occurring within the region of influence for ETI are considered as part of baseline conditions. Since none of the activities are expected to change, they are not addressed in Chapter 4 impact analyses.
0247 0292 0355 1193 9010	DP-35	Chapter 2, as well as portions of Chapter 1, describe the nature, frequency, and altitude distribution of aircraft activities under current and proposed conditions. These data were used in the noise analysis as described in section 4.2 and Appendix K.

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0290		DP-36	Within the context of its primary mission, Air Force implementation of a range alternative would strive to protect the environment in five fundamental ways: 1) the early identification and incorporation of environmental considerations in siting of all potential ground disturbing elements ensured mitigation through avoidance; 2) the Air Force applies Federal environmental and cultural laws and guidelines to any lands it administers; 3) elements of ETI, such as airspace changes and multiple emitter sites that are infrequently used, permit the Air Force flexibility to address seasonal concerns regarding effects on such resources as recreation and wildlife; 4) the Air Force has extended its concern for natural and cultural resources by funding and preparing numerous resource studies, including, in southwest Idaho, sage grouse habitat rehabilitation, baseline studies of bighorn sheep, archaeological surveys, rare plant and ecosystem studies, and ethnographic studies; 5) at the highest levels, Air Force leadership has made clear a commitment to support a sustainable environment through ecosystem management. The value of these five actions to resource management and environmental protection is significant.
0290 1160	1193 9010	DP-37	Sections 3.6.5, 4.8.1.2, 2.3.2.3, 3.6, 4.6, and Table 2.5-1 have been modified to address these issues.
0290		DP-38	Personnel involved in range operations would be instructed to avoid road use when conditions would reasonably be expected to prevent safe passage (e.g., ice, deep snow, etc.) or if the vehicle or the road would be severely damaged during use (e.g., deep mud, etc.). The Air Force would assist in maintaining the roads specified in this EIS in a condition that would allow use by Air Force vehicles. Some decisions regarding road use would require the judgment of crew members at the scene and would be based on local conditions. In other instances, decisions may be based on forecasts of inclement weather. Protection of health and property is paramount.
0290		DP-39	Before any change in the management of state grazing lands would occur, the USAF would meet with the State Land Board to request a change. This would be accomplished in accordance with state regulations.
0292		DP-40	Section 2.3.4 of this EIS describes the use of the airspace and range assets under the proposed ETI. This section provides information on expected time at altitude for the MOA and restricted airspace that would overlie no-drop targets and a range. All other factors (e.g., airspeed) were integrated into the noise analysis in section 4.2.

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8068		DP-41	Section 2.2.3 states that none of the ETI alternatives would change the current nature or amount of use of any Military Training Routes (MTRs). NEPA and CEQ regulations direct an agency to analyze only those actions with a potential to affect the environment. As such, this EIS does not analyze MTR use, with the exception of cumulative noise effects in the airspace directly associated with the proposals (see section 3.2.2).
0292 0350 0739 0830 0848 0932	8087	DP-42	The Air Force will annually consult with the IDFG and BLM using existing and ongoing studies to determine critical lambing areas, lambing periods, and avoidance criteria for California bighorn sheep in the Owyhee canyonlands. The 366th Wing is prepared to implement avoidance criteria absent compelling national security circumstances, military contingencies, or hostilities.
1131 8031		DP-43	Committees already exist for addressing matters associated with the environment of Idaho. The Mountain Home AFB Restoration Advisory Board includes members from the base and the community. They discuss items brought to their attention by the public and make recommendations to the Air Force. Another option for addressing environmental matters associated with Air Force operations at Mountain Home AFB is the base Environmental Protection Committee. It is chaired by the Vice Wing Commander and contains representatives from the operations, medical, legal, environmental, and other offices on the base.
1191		DP-44	This EIS baseline includes the composite wing beddown, the relocation of the 34th Bomb Wing B1-Bs to Mountain Home AFB, 124th Wing conversion from F-4Gs to A-10s and C-130s, modification of the IDANG MTR segments in northern Nevada, and a myriad of other state and federal agency actions. Thus, this EIS evaluates the full scope of environmental impacts of present and past state and federal actions (section 2.5) under the No-Action Alternative. Also, this EIS identifies and analyzes reasonably foreseeable future actions (section 2.5.2) that will have either direct or indirect cumulative impacts. The environmental impacts of these actions are addressed in the cumulative impacts section after the analysis of each environmental resource (Chapter 4). The DEIS has been modified at each resource analysis in Chapter 4 to show that all aspects of the proposal, increased human presence, ground disturbance, noise, and military overflight were analyzed in determining the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives.

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0290		DP-45	The other ranges are aware of the proposed changes in use by the 366th Wing. As presented in section 2.2.1.2 of this EIS, both current and future use of these ranges by the 366th Wing does not represent an amount that would affect their viability or require their expansion.
0292		DP-46	Table 2.3-16 in the DEIS, which states that the expansion of the MOA would "reduce noise levels in many areas," is accurate. As established in Table 4.2-3, out of the 30 reference points for which noise levels were characterized, noise levels would be reduced at 13 to 15 points (depending upon alternative); noise levels would increase at three to five points (depending upon alternative).
0830 1183	1193 9010	DP-47	The Air Force's rapid response Air Expeditionary Wing is the 366th Wing.
1193 9010		DP-48	Cumulative impacts analyses were prepared in accordance with NEPA and CEQ guidelines. Section 2.5 explains how cumulative actions are integrated into the EIS.
0927		DP-49	Section 1.1.1 states that DoD returned over 300,000 acres of the World War II era SCR to the public in 1963.
1083 1135 1155		DP-50	Within sections 1.3.1 and 2.3.4, this EIS illustrates that use of the MOA airspace overlying canyon areas is essentially random, with the vertical and horizontal location of an aircraft varying from sortie-operation to sortie-operation. Therefore, predicting the number, altitude, or location of overflights of a particular spot is not feasible. However, section 2.3.4 (Figure 2.3-20) presents the estimated percentage of cumulative time of all sortie-operations at different altitudes.
1131		DP-51	Section 1.3 of this EIS describes the training requirements for the 366th Wing and the training it currently conducts. It shows that the current training would be enhanced by implementation of ETI.
1160 1183 8038		DP-52	NEPA and CEQ regulations require that the proponent of a major federal action present the decisionmaker with reasonable alternatives, one of which was in response to scoping. Chapter 4 of this EIS and the Preface volume detail the differences among the four alternatives. That the emitter locations and airspace expansions remain the virtually the same for the three development alternatives is a factor of operational requirements and mitigation by design. Other configurations would not achieve the goal of balancing realistic training with the environment and traditional land uses.

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1131	DP-53	The Air Force would maintain the emitter sites. No helicopter access is proposed or anticipated for this maintenance. A detailed description of road improvements is presented in section 2.3.2.3 of this EIS. The Air Force would be responsible for maintaining those roads directly leading to emitter sites to the condition necessary for Air Force use proposed in this EIS (see section 4.10.2.4). Public access will not be limited on the roads to the emitter sites. As indicated in section 2.3.2.3, most of these roads already exist and offer public access.
1131	DP-54	Helicopters would be used only on rare occasions for support of ETI facilities, most often as a result of emergencies. While the Air Force cannot predict the number of times emergency events would occur, it is likely to average less than twice per year.
1131	DP-55	IDFG has not requested funding support under this proposal.
1131	DP-56	As stated throughout section 2.0 of this EIS, public access would be restricted to only the 12,000 training range, the no-drop targets, and ten, 1-acre emitter sites. No other elements of the proposed action would impose any type of restrictions on public access.
1143	DP-57	Threat emitters are designed to replicate a wide range of enemy capabilities and they elicit a wide variety of offensive and defensive aircrew actions. The primary offensive action against a threat emitter is direct attack. The primary defensive action against a threat emitter is avoidance. Avoidance can include high overflight, terrain masking, or geographical distance. Typically, threat emitters would expel, rather than compel, close in flight activity.
1143	DP-58	Under the ETI range development alternatives, the proposed Jarbidge MOA would receive 536 additional sortie-operations. A proportion of these sortie-operations would involve threat emitter avoidance. However, this would not necessarily increase low-altitude flight activity. In addition, threat emitter avoidance training would also take place in the Owyhee MOA, even though the emitters would lie on lands under the proposed Jarbidge MOA.
1143	DP-59	The projected increase in flight activity below 2,000 feet AGL in the proposed Jarbidge MOA would stem primarily from air-to-ground training associated with the proposed range and no-drop targets.
1143	DP-60	Figure 2.3-20 in this EIS presents data on the amount of time for sortie operations projected to occur below 5,000 feet AGL. For the proposed Jarbidge MOA, the cumulative time for sortie operations

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		under 5,000 feet AGL would increase by 15 percent. This increase stems primarily from an increase in air-to-ground training associated with the training range and no-drop targets.
1143	DP-61	While it is possible that low-altitude training activities associated with threat avoidance maneuvering could result in a startle effect, it is impossible to predict how many such events might occur. The coincidence of essentially random sortie-operations in MOA airspace with the presence of a person at precisely the same time and location cannot be predicted.
1147 1163	DP-62	Section 1.3.1.1 presents a description of air-to-ground training activities. These activities would be the same for the no-drop targets, except that no ordnance would be used. The minimum altitude used for training by the 366th Wing is 500 feet AGL.
1147	DP-63	This EIS does not state that supersonic flight was part of the BRAC recommendations. Rather, in section 1.1.2, it states that supersonic flight above 10,000 feet AGL was part of the ROD for the Air Force in Idaho EIS.
1193 9010	DP-64	Figure 1.3-3 shows the exclusive use area (EUA) for SCR. As the area surrounding the EUA is used as a buffer zone, the entire SCR is appropriate as shown.
1147	DP-65	The sortie-operations that would use the no-drop targets do not include the types of activities for which the FAA would require a restricted area.
0739 1147	1162 DP-66	In each pertinent resource, analysis of the area encompassed by the proposed MOA expansions is included.
1147	DP-67	This EIS addresses the no-action alternative and three action alternatives for a new training range. The number of aircraft, frequency of training, type of training, and location were taken into consideration for each alternative. This EIS reports the environmental consequences of the entire project and the cumulative effect when considering other projects that are likely to occur.
1147	DP-68	The proposed restricted airspace was defined based on the types of flight activities expected to occur relative to FAA requirements for restricted airspace.
1159	DP-69	The Air Force is not proposing increased use by groups other than the 366th Wing. The data in the tables and figures show two different measures of aircraft activity: sorties and sortie-operations.

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		The difference between these two measures is detailed in section 2.2.1 of this EIS. Table 2.3-11 shows the changes in sorties, defined as a takeoff, mission, and landing involving Mountain Home-based aircraft. A sortie may include several sortie-operations in different airspace units. Figures 2.3-17 through 2.3-19 address sortie-operations and include all users of the airspace, not just the 366th Wing. Users other than the 366th Wing are assumed to remain unchanged. Thus, the proposed increase of 653 sorties from Mountain Home AFB accounts for the increase in sortie-operations.
1159	DP-70	The effects of the proposed action are addressed for the area outside of ROI One under discussion of ROI Two and Three.
1164	DP-71	Section 2.1.1 describes the process used to identify alternatives and establishes that the western half of Owyhee County (location of the proposed Idaho Training Range [ITR] sites) was eliminated from the siting process for cultural and environmental concerns.
1174	DP-72	Table 2.3-14 presents all the types of ordnance currently used and projected for use by all aircraft using the range should ETI be implemented. No strafing would occur at the proposed 12,000 acre training range and current use of the existing SCR by A-10s would not change. No depleted uranium rounds would be used.
1183 1192	DP-73	During the DEIS public review, several commentors expressed the opinion that they did not like current (or past) use of southwest Idaho airspace by military training aircraft. Those comments are included as part of the record for decisionmaking. In each resource section of Chapter 4.0, Environmental Consequences, the effects of the No-Action Alternative are addressed. In NEPA, No-Action means continuation of current activities, not that the current aircraft activities would cease.
1183 8056	DP-74	The impacts of supersonic flight within military training airspace over Idaho were analyzed in the "Proposals for the Air Force in Idaho" Final EIS, January 1992. The ROD, signed 11 March 1992, allowed Mountain Home AFB to request authorization to conduct supersonic training above 10,000 feet AGL in military training airspace over Idaho. The approval authority for this action is HQ USAF, and approval was granted in October 1992. The airspace modifications proposed as part of the AFI EIS would have simplified the existing structure and would not have increased the lateral boundaries of the airspace. These changes were not necessary to allow supersonic training within the existing airspace.

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1183 1191	DP-75	The Alternatives developed include use of remote ranges as a means of obtaining a portion of the training requirements. Reliance on remote ranges is not responsive to the purpose of the proposed action; it would not provide local training. SCR provides opportunities for single aircraft to practice low altitude weapons delivery from limited axes of attack. SCR cannot support simultaneous use by multiple aircraft, multiple axes of attack, or high altitude weapons delivery. A local training range for the 366th Wing is needed to minimize the transit time and fuel expenditure currently associated with training at remote ranges. An expanded Saylor Creek was considered but eliminated from further analysis because it would not meet the operational requirements of the 366th Wing. Specifically, it would not provide sufficient geographic separation from existing training activities needed for safe and realistic training.
1183	DP-76	The number of training missions presented in the BLM study was inaccurate and not derived from any actual records. Data from the Air Force's records of scheduled flight activities, as presented in the Draft EIS Realignment of Mountain Home AFB and Proposed Expanded Range Capability in 1990 establishes that over 10,000 sortie-operations occurred in the MOAs over southwest Idaho. Similarly, over 7,100 sortie-operations were conducted at SCR and in its associated MOAs. Thus, conclusions drawn in the BLM document regarding the degree of change were inaccurate.
1193 9010	DP-77	The proposal includes no requirement for any telephone lines. Telephone and other communications would use wireless technology.
1193 9010	DP-78	The statement means that the training ordnance would not contain (or lack) a spotting charge.
1193 9010	DP-79	The Air Force proposed to replace the existing bridge and diversion dam to accommodate the traffic requirements for the ETI proposal. The necessary real estate transaction would be negotiated with the land owner before any changes occur.
1191	DP-80	The alternatives developed include use of remote ranges to provide a smaller proportion of training. Similarly, the No-Action Alternative fully includes the use of these other ranges. Creating artificial combinations of a partial range development alternative and use of remote ranges would not fulfill even a reduced portion of the need and would not necessarily provide the decisionmakers with a more distinct choice.

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0739 1149	DP-81	Section 2.3.4 of this EIS describes the proposed nighttime sortie-operations. Section 3.2 describes how the noise analysis accounts for these nighttime activities, including the addition of 10 dB to noise levels. These data and factors were employed in pertinent resource analysis in this EIS.
1191	DP-82	The ETI purpose and need defines the necessity of a local tactical training range and threat emitters to provide enhanced, realistic, and quality CWT (section 1.3). To look at "out-of-state alternative sites" would defeat the purpose of the stated need for the ETI. Federal agencies are not required to evaluate a range of alternatives that do not meet the stated purpose and need of the proposed action.

AIRSPACE USE

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8011	AU-1	Section 2.3.3.1 and 3.1.1 discuss the fact that military aircraft are currently authorized by the FAA to operate within the area of the proposed northern expansion of the Owyhee MOA (Area X-Ray) when transiting between the base and the MOA. Altitudes flown by these aircraft will vary, depending on their phase of flight.
0981	AU-2	This EIS section 4.1 divider page stated "There would be no impact to emergency flight since the Air Force is required to support such flights." Emergency civilian airspace access receives priority operational handling for air ambulance flights when required and requested by the pilot.
0292	AU-3	The MTR segments were eliminated as part of earlier airspace actions to more widely disperse training flights entering the Owyhee MOA.
0292	AU-4	Use of the no-drop target areas and associated airspace requirements are discussed in sections 2.3.3.2 of this EIS. The nature of flight activities over the no-drop targets is consistent with MOA operations and would not require restricted airspace designation. Section 4.1.2.2 describes those means that would be used to help ensure VFR aircraft have safe access through these areas. Use of the no-drop target areas would also be included in information provided by Mountain Home AFB to local pilots on mission activities and airspace operations.
0292	AU-5	In the judgment of the Air Force, the restricted area proposed for the drop site would be adequate to perform mission activities to ensure flight safety without restricting more airspace than necessary.
0290	AU-6	Civilian air traffic volume throughout the airspace area tends to be very low. Considering that daily military flights in this area would increase by only about two per day, the potential for mid-air collision remains negligible. Within the MOAs, all aircraft under VFR must apply see and avoid measures to preclude conflicts. The addition of a military radar unit at Mountain Home AFB will provide additional air traffic control and further reduce the potential for mid-air mishaps.

NOISE

Comment #		Response #	Response
0242 0304 0335 0363 0774 0739 0995 1139 1162 1171 8024 8088		NO-1	The procedures by which the aircraft noise exposure and its effects were estimated represent the best available technology. Subsonic noise was computed using the recent MR_NMAP software (released in 1994; current user's manual 1996). MR_NMAP uses the same physical principles as used for aircraft noise analysis throughout the world, and was specifically validated for military airspace operations. Noise measurements were made at numerous other ranges, where precision instrumentation can validate flight patterns. Sonic boom modeling used methodology based on several long-term monitoring and analysis projects in military supersonic airspaces. An intermediate version of the supersonic procedure has been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The model has been further refined with more measurements, since it is practice in the Air Force to continue to evaluate all of its procedures. Similarly, the impact models are based on data which is widely accepted by the scientific community. The Air Force participates in various scientific organizations to ensure that it always has the best available data and methods.
0013 0247 0304 0314 0363 0740 0752 0775 0832 0882 0883 0914 0923	0986 1087 1127 1131 1148 1174 1182 1191 1192 8011 8025 8086 8136	NO-2	Section 4.2.1.2 discussed both "Noise Regulations and Policies" and "Quantifying Noise From Outdoor Recreationists' Perspective." The first sub-section clearly indicates that a dosage-response relationship between noise exposure and annoyance (the "Schultz Curve"), although useful for planning purposes in residential areas, is not appropriately applied as a sole criterion of noise impact for current purposes. No well documented, peer reviewed, or widely accepted dosage-response relationship is available for such purposes. The second sub-section frankly describes a range of noise effects that may be associated with outdoor recreation in lands underlying airspace used for military training. These effects range from inaudibility of distant flight activity through startle and annoyance due to nearby flights. Section 4.2.1.2 cannot be construed as either intentionally or inadvertently mis-estimating noise effects or mis-applying a noise effects criterion. Analyses and comments concerning the adequacy of the Schultz curve for such purposes are mis-directed, since this EIS does not rely upon the Schultz curve to predict noise impacts on outdoor recreation.

Comment #		Response #	Response
0853 0893 0914 1119	1126 1128 1130 1149	NO-3	The physiological effects of aircraft noise on people and the effect of subsonic aircraft noise on animals, structures, terrain, and historical and archaeological sites are discussed on pages K-12 to K-18 of Appendix K.
0243 0247 0325 0358 0640 0739 0771 0828 0830 0832 0923	1099 1128 1132 1147 1163 1168 1191 8025 8030 8068	NO-4	Section 4.2.1 begins by defining noise as unwanted sound and as one of the most common environmental issues associated with aircraft operations. Section 4.2.1.1 of this EIS presents the maximum noise levels from individual aircraft overflights. None of these maximum noise levels is loud enough to cause physical harm but each is loud enough to startle or cause annoyance. The impact due to aircraft noise depends not only on the maximum noise level, but also on how long each event lasts and how often overflights occur. The day-night average sound levels (L_{dn}, L_{dnmr}, and L_{Cdn}) used in the study have been found to adequately reflect the combined effect of these quantities. Appendix K presents a discussion of the basis and interpretation of the day-night average sound level.
0292 0363 1147 1182 1192 8087 8126		NO-5	The F-16 noise data shown in Table 4.2-1 and 4.2-2 were taken from an F-16C measured on 28 June 1994 in Cheyenne Wells, CO. The noise levels vary depending on the aircraft speed. At 1000 feet AGL, the Sound Exposure Level for an F-16 traveling at 585 knots is 102.8 dB; at 465 knots it is 93.3 dB. In this study it was assumed that the average aircraft speed on military training routes and in military operating areas would be approximately 500 knots, producing a Sound Exposure Level of 97.7 dB at 1000 feet AGL. (See the discussion in section 4.2.1.3 for a description of applying average conditions to military aircraft training.) The F-16 noise data referenced in your comment was extracted from a table contained in Appendix D of this EIS on "Aircraft Conversions at the 103 Fighter Group, Bradley International Airport, Connecticut, and the 104 Fighter Group, Barnes Municipal Airport, Massachusetts, and Changes in Utilization of Military Training Airspace." These actions were proposed by the Air National Guard, and the document was developed in 1991. The noise curve data shown were extracted from the noise curve data file (OMEGA10) then in use with the ROUTEMAP computer program. They reflect speed and power setting selections that were available for use in the program, and which the Air National Guard Bureau considered representative. The intent of the data, as stated in the document, "[was to] . . . present a worst-case situation. Actual noise levels experienced within areas of military training airspace may be reasonably expected to fall between these two conditions."

Comment #	Response #	Response
		The Air Force's goals is to constantly improve noise modeling techniques, and incorporate the most current empirical data on noise created by aircraft flying with the most representative speeds and engine power settings. Since knowledge in these areas has significantly expanded over that in use six or more years ago, the most recent data available were used in these analyses.
0292 1147	NO-6	The 95 dB Sound Exposure Level threshold for observed startle response in some animals was obtained from a study at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska (Eleventh Air Force 1992).
0304	NO-7	The noise data used in the analysis does not assume a 25 dB attenuation by buildings.
0334	NO-8	The nonauditory health effects of long-term noise exposure are discussed on pages K-12 to K-16 of Appendix K. The existing noise levels and the levels which would occur for the proposed action and alternatives are below those at which any adverse health effects would occur.
0390 0785 1165	NO-9	Aircraft traveling at supersonic speed create a sonic boom which consists of a shock wave in which the pressure quickly rises to a peak value above the normal atmospheric pressure, then drops to a similar value below atmospheric pressure, and then returns to the normal value. Depending on altitude, flight parameters, and aircraft type, the peak overpressure from military supersonic operations usually falls in the range from a few tenths of a pound per square foot (psf) to several psf. Since normal atmospheric pressure is approximately 2,000 psf, a sonic boom represents a small perturbation above the norm. The sonic boom resulting from an F-15 in steady level flight at 10,000 feet AGL and mach 1.2 is about 5.1 psf; that from flight at 30,000 feet AGL is about 1.7 psf. The duration of a typical sonic boom is between 0.1 and 0.2 seconds. The predominant effect of sonic booms on humans and on wildlife is annoyance. Individual booms are not of a level which would cause any direct physiological or hearing damage. Ninety-eight percent of the booms have peak levels below the 140 dB limit specified by the Occupational Safety and Health Act for impulsive noises in the workplace (OSHA 1982). That occupational limit is established for protection of workers who are continuously exposed to such noises over a working career. Impacts to wildlife are primarily associated with a startle effect that can range from an increase in heart rate to flight. Wildlife reactions to noise, including sonic booms, are described in section 4.8.5.1. Exposure to an

Comment #	Response #	Response
		occasional event above the OSHA level would not cause any hearing damage. No auditory damage occurred in a group of subjects exposed to a series of booms from 50 to 144 psf (Nixon, C.W., H.K. Hille, H.C. Somer, and E. Guild. 1968. Sonic Booms Resulting from Extremely Low-Altitude Supersonic Flight: Measurements and Observations on Houses, Livestock and People. AMRL-TR-68-52. October).
0828 0887 0926	1083 8068	NO-10	The analysis of the cumulative effects of subsonic operations is summarized on Table 4.2-3. The analysis of the cumulative effects of sonic booms is summarized in section 4.2.6.
0363 0739 0770 1083 1131 1144 1147 1155 1162 1163	1178 1181 1183 1191 1192 1199 1205 8088 8126	NO-11	The methods used for ETI noise analysis represent the best available technology and are legally defensible. The Air Force always strives to improve its methods. The documents cited define research which the Air Force would like to perform so that it will continue to have valid tools to meet changing needs.
0830 0986 1182		NO-12	Annoyance produced by sonic booms is best predicted by C-weighted Day-Night Average Sound Level (CDNL) (Committee on Hearing, Bioacoustics, and Biomechanics [CHABA], National Research Council, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C. 1996). Depending on numbers and levels of sonic booms heard, dosage-response curves identified in the latest CHABA report predict as much as three or fourfold increase in the prevalence of annoyance with regard to numerically equivalent values of DNL (A-weighted). It should be recalled, however, that CDNL values for sonic booms may often exceed DNL (A-weighted) values by 20 to 30 dB.
1191		NO-13	The setting for the U.S. Forest Service study included the Superstition Wilderness which is characterized by desert with no vegetative canopy whatsoever. Also, respondents interviewed in the Golden Trout Wilderness were susceptible to overflights by helicopters and by Low-Altitude Navigational and Targeting Infrared System for Night (LANTIRN)-equipped aircraft producing SEL values well in excess of 100 dB while flying day and night at very low altitudes through the Kern River Canyon and over Trout Meadow.

Comment #	Response #	Response
		Although the frequency or number of overflights by low-altitude, high-speed aircraft was low, a greater number of respondents reported that they did not notice any aircraft at all during their Wilderness visits than reported noticing any particular type of aircraft. In the U.S. Forest Service study, the single most often noticed aircraft was high-altitude jet aircraft. The next most often noticed aircraft was small private airplanes. Comparably small percentages of respondents (about 10 to 13 percent) reported noticing both helicopters and low flying jets during their wilderness visits (cf. Tables 7 and 8, pp. 2-16 and 2-17, U.S. Forest Service study, 1992). Thus, to the extent that noticing on aircraft overflight may be considered an interference with the enjoyment of solitude, low-altitude, high-speed jets were not the most frequent source of this form of interference with outdoor recreation in the U.S. Forest Service study. Among the 10 to 13 percent of respondents who did notice low flying jets or helicopters, the greater annoyance associated with low flying jets was almost certainly attributable to the higher noise exposure levels that they create.
0739 0883 1155	NO-14	Noise from the generators will be limited to an area close to each generator (see section 4.2.1.5).
0245 0290 8014	NO-15	Aircraft noise does have adverse effects. These effects are discussed in section 4.2 and Appendix K. The purpose of this EIS is to quantify adverse effects and balance them against the need for and benefits of the proposed action. Section 4.2.1.2 of this EIS makes it clear that the proposed flight activity will create noise exposure of varying level in different overflown areas; that some people will consider this range of noise to be annoying; and that some types of aircraft noise will be startling as well. In the ETI proposal, noise levels decrease in the majority of the effected areas.
1193 9010	NO-16	Figure 3.2-1 has been modified in this EIS to reflect your suggestions.
0292 0362	NO-17	Environmental consequences of sonic booms are quantified by the cumulative effect over long periods of time, and best represented by the average values presented. The analysis does not emphasize days when there will be more than the average number of booms, and also does not understate boom impact by emphasizing the even larger number of days when there will be no booms.

Comment #	Response #	Response
0243 0245 0304 1097 1174 1181 8014	NO-18	Although scientific evidence indicates that sonic booms generally do not produce forces of the magnitude necessary to cause structural damage, claims alleging such damage are thoroughly investigated by the Air Force on a case-by-case basis. This ensures that the Air Force meets its obligation to both the claimant and the tax-paying public to pay only for damage actually caused by its operations. A thorough investigation regarding alleged sonic boom damage to the Castleford School was conducted in April 1996 by personnel from the Mountain Home AFB Claims Office and Civil Engineering Squadron. Based upon data gathered during this investigation, it was concluded that structural damage observed at the Castleford School could not have been caused by forces typical of a sonic boom. The Military Claims Act, 10 U.S.C. 2733, provides a mechanism for the payment of meritorious claims resulting from non-combat activities of the Air Force, including sonic booms caused by the operation of military aircraft. Whenever its operations cause damage, Air Force policy is to make prompt payment of fair amounts for such damage.
0363 1128 1174 1191 1192	NO-19	This EIS accurately presents the conclusions of the USFS Report to Congress. The analyses summarized in Figures 24 and 25 of the USFS Report do not establish that "persons in wilderness settings are at least 10 times more sensitive to aircraft noise than those in urban settings." The USFS Report to Congress indicates that these analyses are based on a questionable assumption about the utility of "L_{dn} for purposes of predicting reactions to overflights by short-term visitors to outdoor recreation sites;" that the fit of the wilderness annoyance data to the standard, empirical dosage-response relationship is unremarkable; and that the comparison with the theoretically-based relationship requires replication and generalization before it can be viewed as well-established. The very next sections ("Results of Surveys" and "Conclusions") of the USFS Report to Congress further state that: • "Aircraft noise intrusions did not appreciably impair respondents' overall enjoyment of their visits to wildernesses nor reduce their reported likelihood of repeat visits." • "The majority of wilderness users interviewed were not annoyed by overflights. . ." • "Few adverse impacts to wilderness users were found resulting from overflights. . ."

Comment #	Response #	Response
		• "The principal adverse impact was aircraft noise-induced annoyance of a fairly small percentage of outdoor recreationists." • "Comparing overflights reported by visitors and actual overflights identified by acoustic recorder, it appears that many visitors do not notice aircraft even when they are present." Given the Forest Service's own conclusions, the brief summary of the findings of this work contained in two paragraphs of this EIS are hardly "disingenuous." Rather, this EIS is more explicit in rejecting the use of L_{dn} for purposes of predicting reactions to overflights by short-term visitors to outdoor recreation sites than the 1992 Forest Service Report to Congress. The discussion in section 4.2.1.2 on page 4-14 of this EIS expressly rejects reliance on the Schultz curve as a sole interpretive criterion ("For this EIS, it is recognized that affected areas are diverse and it is not appropriate to use a single criterion.") The subsequent discussion (on page 4-15 *et seq.* of this EIS) characterizes at length the nature of the likely aircraft noise exposure of outdoor recreationists and its effects on them, including those noise impacts described both by the Forest and Park Service reports to Congress.
0363 1182 1192	NO-20	The noise models used in this EIS considers all aircraft associated with the proposed action and alternatives, including flights of multiple aircraft. The primary analysis is based on cumulative noise.
0363 1174 1192	NO-21	Noise exposure, not annoyance, is expressed in units of decibels. The Air Force does not calculate or recognize a "53 dB annoyance benchmark." The USEPA has determined, however, that exposure to environmental noise at levels lower than a DNL equaling 65 dB has no health or welfare consequences.
0828 0882 1155 1163 1183	NO-22	Section 4.2.1.2 of this EIS summarize the results of studies by the Forest Service (USFS 1992) and National Park Service (NPS 1994) on noise in wilderness areas. This EIS acknowledges that L_{dnmr} is not necessarily appropriate for outdoor recreationists. The results of the Forest Service and National Park Service studies are reviewed and applied to the proposed action.
0014 1165 8020	NO-23	Overpressures associated with sonic booms that would occur during training activities are well below those that would even begin to do damage to structures or land forms.

Comment #	Response #	Response
0013	NO-24	The cumulative noise levels reflected in this EIS account for all aircraft using the airspace. Also, the calculations performed by the noise models account for multiple aircraft passing over the same location since the cumulative noise levels represent the sum of all noise exposures experienced at each specific location. The maximum A-weighted sound levels shown in Table 4.1-1a do represent the maximum sound level experienced regardless of the number of aircraft that may be in a formation. This is because the maximum sound level is only experienced when the aircraft is closest to the receptor (in this case 500 feet directly overhead), and only one aircraft at a time can be in that precise location.

SAFETY

Comment #		Response #	Response
0310 1132 1171 1182	8014 8052 8132	SF-1	As stated in section 3.3.3.1 of this EIS, chaff has been authorized for use over the SCR and in the Owyhee and Paradise MOAs for many years. Section 4.3.2.3 establishes that the elements contained in chaff occur naturally in soils and no study has ever shown chaff to be harmful to persons or animals. Also refer to Response # SF-10.
0245 1131 1182	8014	SF-2	Section 4.3.2.1 of this EIS addresses safety issues associated with emitter sites. Warning signs are required for operational safety measures.
0245 0292 1083 1143 1155 1182 1191 8045 8132		SF-3	As stated in sections 2.2.2.2 and 2.3.6 of this EIS, chaff has been approved for use in the Owyhee and Paradise MOAs for many years. Chaff will continue to be used randomly in the airspace, except over the boundaries of the Duck Valley Reservation (see DEIS section 4.3.5). Due to its light weight, its natural dispersion, and susceptibility to spreading from winds, no significant volume of chaff would be expected to accumulate at any specific points on the ground. A degradable form of chaff is in development. It is unknown whether it will meet operational requirements and still comply with the Clean Water Act.
0252 0792 0994 1174 1193 9010		SF-4	As stated in section 4.3.2.1 of this EIS, although increased human presence and activities have the potential to increase fire risk, that risk would be extremely low for several reasons: 1) section 2.3.6 explains that overall flare use would decrease and current restrictions would continue; 2) processes and procedures would be enforced during construction, operations, and maintenance to minimize fire risk; 3) use of only training ordnance that has no heat-producing components further minimizes risk; and 4) when the fire risk is extreme, according to the standards and system used by the BLM, National Weather Service, and the Air Force, all training ordnance delivery will cease. It is impossible to predict how often this might occur.
0290 0870 1193		SF-5	Safety issues associated with the handling and use of ordnance are addressed in section 3.3.3.2 of this EIS. Data from the Safety office at Mountain Home AFB confirm that there have been no inadvertent releases of ordnance during the last five years.

Comment #	Response #	Response
0290 0292 1143 1147 1191	SF-6	As stated in sections 3.3.1.3 and 4.3.2.1 of this EIS, each target is specifically assessed for any hazardous conditions that might exist before being approved for laser-targeting use. A discussion of the proposed laser operations is described in section 2.3.7. Since no people would be present in the impact area when a target is being lased in the combat mode, there is no risk of exposure. While the potential for an animal's exposure to the high intensity main beam of the laser cannot be totally discounted, it is considered highly improbable. All laser operations in the combat mode are contained within the 12,000 acre range area. Warning signs will be posted at regular intervals around the site.
1174	SF-7	With the exception of flares, which will be dispersed no lower than 20,000 feet AGL, none of the items you identify are used over the Duck Valley Reservation. Therefore, there is no risk to the inhabitants.
0290	SF-8	Some risks associated with the use of the proposed ETI candidate ranges are not totally similar to those associated with current operations at SCR. Climatological and vegetative conditions that increase fire risk and could cause a modification of operations on a range are unique and specific to the geographic area of the range. In the case of SCR, the activities normally curtailed during heightened fire risk are the use of hot spots in spotting charges and the use of defensive flares as low as 700 feet above ground level (AGL). For any of the proposed candidate ETI range locations, only cold spots or training ordnance with no spotting charges would be used (section 4.3.2.1). Defensive flares would only be authorized for use at altitudes in excess of 2,000 feet AGL (section 4.3.2.3). The use of cold spots and the higher altitude for flare use mitigate fire risk on any proposed ETI range alternative.
0290 1083 1155 1191	SF-9	There is not going to be a significant fire hazard from the use of flares. In the past, it is possible that flare use on air-to-ground ranges in the United States may have caused fire. However, land management agencies (such as BLM) do not specifically maintain this information in their data bases. To mitigate potential risk, the Air Force will not use flares during periods when the fire danger is extreme. Also, minimum release altitudes that maintain adequate margins for safety are specified in guidance concerning flare use. Consider a flare released by an aircraft which begins descent but is not acted-on by any aerodynamic drag forces. Due to the force of gravity alone, it accelerates at the rate of 32 feet per second per second. Therefore, after a maximum of 4.5 seconds, the flare has dropped 324 feet and is no longer burning. The minimum release

Comment #	Response #	Response
		altitude for flares is 700 feet AGL on SCR and 2,000 feet in all other locations. The risk of fire hazard from flares is not significant. Further details are provided in sections 2.2.1.2 and 2.2.2.2 in this EIS.
0355 0739 1083 1155 1168 1174 1191 1192 8045 8132	SF-10	As stated in section 3.3.3.1 of this EIS, chaff is not known to pose any health risks to persons or animals. Chaff is composed primarily of silica (60 percent), with an aluminum surface and a coating of stearic acid. The silica contains no resin and exists in nature in a pure state as quartz. Silica is the main constituent of sand, sandstone, and diatomaceous earth, and constitutes about 28 percent of the earth's crust. Silica is used as a food and water additive for animals, and is permitted for human consumption. Aluminum is the third most abundant element in the earth's crust and is found in clays, mica, kaolin, and feldspar. It occurs naturally in soil, air, water, and plant and animal tissue, including food products. In general, aluminum is considered non-toxic, and the average person consumes or inhales approximately 45 mg of aluminum daily. Minuscule trace quantities of silicon, iron, copper, manganese, magnesium, zinc, vanadium, or titanium may be found in the alloy, but at levels well below those that might cause concern. Stearic acid, the third component of chaff, is a biodegradable material and has no impact on the environment. In 1988, the United Kingdom Health and Safety Executive for the Ministry of Defense (UKHSEMD) conducted a study on the effects of chaff use by aircraft training near RAF Spadaedam. The study measured concentrations of chaff fibers in the air and surface deposits in the Spadaedam area as indications of potential for inhalation or ingestion of chaff. The study concluded that inhalation impacts would not occur in humans or animals. If inhaled at all, it was concluded that any particles would be too large to pass beyond the larynx, and would either be expelled through the nose or swallowed. This, and other studies have shown that ingestion of chaff by livestock causes no ill effects. The chaff passes through the gastrointestinal track normally, and is eliminated. A recent study performed by Air Combat Command (ACC) included a test firing of chaff to determine whether chaff has the potential to break down into respirable particulates (PM_{10}). The findings of the test detected no particulates less than 10 microns in diameter (ACC 1997).

Comment #	Response #	Response
8039	SF-11	Section 4.3.2.1 details the human and wildlife health risks from radio frequency energy associated with emitters and aircraft.
1131	SF-12	Section 4.3.2.1 of this EIS addresses the fact that detailed procedures governing range operations would be developed and implemented to effectively manage potential safety risks. Section 2.3.2.1 (Maintenance Activities, Fire Prevention and Suppression) discusses the supplies and equipment that would be present at the maintenance facility to support fire suppression. In addition to trained personnel, a 50,000-gallon water storage tank would be located on the facility. This would provide a water supply for a 1,200-gallon fire truck, two pickup trucks with 200-gallon "slip-ons," and a 5,000-gallon tank truck capable of refilling the pumpers away from the facility. Additionally, on Juniper Butte, a pipe line-supplied water reservoir capable of storing 50,000-gallons of water would be located in the southwest corner of the range area.
0290 1181 1183	SF-13	Federal and state standards and procedures regarding the storage, transportation, and handling of hazardous materials are designed to ensure that safety risks are minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Compliance with these requirements affords the maximum protection to all resources, whether they are environmental or physical property. Additional information on the handling of hazardous materials is contained in sections 3.4 and 4.4 of this EIS.
1191	SF-14	The BLM workshop of 4-5 March 1997 provided a forum to identify issues and concerns related to military activities associated with public lands. As a result, a staff level report was prepared that identified and recommended the need to revise and reissue policy guidance for military use of public lands. The recommendations have not been adopted as official policy. The BLM has no policy that addresses authorizing the dropping of chaff as part of military training activities in airspace over public lands. However, the BLM has encouraged the development of degradable chaff for use during military training. The USAF has obtained prototype material that performed successfully during initial operational tests. Additional operational and environmental tests are needed prior to introducing the degradable material into the military procurement system. The use of degradable chaff would be a major step toward resolving BLM's concerns regarding chaff on public lands. During the interim period, the BLM will continue to work with the USAF to address this national issue.

Comment #	Response #	Response
1179	SF-15	On a typical weekday between 8 and 12, full and part-time personnel would support range operations and an additional 10 to 16 personnel would be at emitter sites. The fewer than 30 people throughout ROI One would not be expected to result in quantifiable increased safety risk. As stated in section 4.3.2.1 of this EIS, detailed range operating processes and procedures similar to those currently used for operations at Saylor Creek would be developed for the proposed new range. If required, emergency response from Mountain Home AFB would be implemented similarly to that currently in place for Saylor Creek.
1143 1192	SF-16	The information cited is not contradictory to data presented in this EIS. The three sentences selectively cited are contained in three paragraphs in Appendix I of this EIS on "Aircraft Conversions at the 103rd Fighter Group, Bradley International Airport, CT, and the 104th Fighter Group, Barnes Municipal Airport, MA and changes in Utilization of Military Training Airspace." For your information, the complete text of those paragraphs is provided below: There is little data on impacts of chaff to aquatic and wildlife (NGB 1990). Wildlife species tend to have more efficient digestive systems than livestock, and more of the chaff components may be digested and absorbed. However, considering the low concentrations of chaff from military operations and the documented lack of oral toxicity of aluminum or fiberglass, impacts to wildlife would be minimal. The amount of chaff ingested would probably be much less than the amount of aluminum and silica consumed daily via dirt and sand occurring normally on forage. Notable increases in aluminum concentrations in surface water bodies would be unlikely and effects on aquatic life would not be expected. Wind-blown particles would tend to concentrate on the lee side of water bodies where nutrient levels are higher. Surface feeding wildlife such as ducks may consume chaff particles on the surface of their primary vegetation. These would either pass through the digestive system or form compacted pellets in the gizzard. Only in extreme cases is this likely to be fatal. Studies of six aquatic organisms exposed to high concentrations of chaff, including benthic worms, American oysters, blue mussels, blue crabs, menhadan, and killifish, had no mortalities (NGB 1990). It was concluded that the lower concentrations from military training would cause no environmental impact.

Comment #	Response #	Response
1143 1192	SF-17	As described in section 2.3.2.1 of this EIS, public access to the 12,000-acre training range would be limited. Fencing would enclose the entire range, and individual targets would also be fenced. Furthermore, as required by Air Force Instruction 13-212, the range operating agency must ensure public awareness of the range's existence, and the hazards associated with its operations. Signs on the fences around the perimeter of the range identifying hazards associated with entering the range are also required (see EIS section 2.3.5). Should an accident occur involving any range activities, liability, if any, would be adjudicated based on the specific circumstances surrounding the incident. Any predetermination of liability is inappropriate.

HAZARDOUS

Comment #	Response #	Response
0290	HZ-1	No 30mm ammunition will be used on any ETI range alternative. Use will be restricted to approved strafe targets on Saylor Creek Range. Use of 30mm ammunition was approved in the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Aircraft Conversion for the 124th Fighter Wing (1996). No increase in the use of 30mm ammunition is proposed under this proposal.
0290 0739 0883 1132 1143 1148 1168 1174 1178 1182 1183 1199 1200 1205 8052	HZ-2	The cold spotting charge for scoring of inert ordnance contains approximately 17cc of titanium tetrachloride. When exposed to the atmosphere, a non-thermal chemical reaction occurs between the titanium tetrachloride and moisture in the air producing a smoke-like plume. The plume persists for 15 to 30 seconds depending on the moisture content of the air and the wind velocity. Section 3.4.2.2 of this EIS identifies titanium tetrachloride as an irritant to the skin, eyes, and mucous membranes. If a person were immediately adjacent to a cold-spot discharge, he or she could have irritation, but cold-spot charges would only be used on the 300-acre targets within the 12,000-acre training range. There is no one at the target and cattle do not graze within the 300 acres. The small quantities of the substance in training ordnance and the byproducts produced are rapidly dispersed and neutralized. Quantities are insufficient to create even minor human health concerns or impacts to wildlife or cattle.
1143	HZ-3	Non-explosive training ordnance is released from aircraft during air-to-ground training on the 300-acre ordnance impact area. Training ordnance can contain a small cold spot marking device that is used to score the training event. Inert training ordnance is described in section 2.3.5. The gunpowder in the spotting charge contains nitroglycerin and nitrocellulose. These materials are ignited and consumed upon impact. Gunpowder combustion products include carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. For the small proportion of duds, the gunpowder either decomposes or is neutralized by explosive ordnance disposal personnel. Waste products on the range are limited to steel and small quantities of aluminum from projectiles. These waste products are collected and recycled according to guidance for the solid waste (also see Response #HZ-2).
1143	HZ-4	Vanadium is not included in the chemical make-up of titanium tetrachloride.

EARTH RESOURCES

Comment #	Response #	Response
9001	ER-1	As noted in EIS sections 3.5 and 4.5, no known or published paleontological sites are within or directly adjacent to any areas of construction. Therefore, no direct impacts to the paleontological resources of the Snake River Plain region will occur.
9001	ER-2	Proposed ETI road improvements lead directly to facilities or emitter sites. The proposed ETI improvements will not enhance the present public access to known or published fossiliferous areas. The increase of approximately 30 people scattered among 10 to 12 locations in ROI Two during work days is not expected to result in amateur or commercial collecting.
9001	ER-3	The author of the earth resources section was trained by paleontologists working in the Snake River Plain to identify and collect vertebrate and invertebrate fossils. Standard fossil collection procedures were used, including following the "scrap trail." Paleontologists Dr. Gerald Smith, University of Michigan and Dr. Jonena Hearst, University of Kansas-Lawrence were both contacted but inadvertently not listed in the DEIS. This omission has been corrected in this EIS.
9001	ER-4	These universities and institutions publish information on collections. All published fossil localities were reviewed for the proximity to the proposed ground disturbing components of the project. No fossil locations were found to be within or directly adjacent to any proposed project components.
9001	ER-5	Section 3.5.4.1 addresses the importance of fossil localities found within the Idaho Group formations. However, the Hagerman fossil site and other known or published fossil localities are not located within or directly adjacent to any proposed project components.
9001	ER-6	This EIS section 3.5.4.1 recognizes the variety of creatures formerly living along the shores of Lake Idaho. The sediments from the beach and marginal lake deposits contain numerous, fossil localities. However, the deltaic and subaerial gravel deposits, like those referred to in section 3.5.4.2, contain few, if any fossil remains.
9001	ER-7	Based on current practices and procedures, it is understood that professional geologists involved in ongoing mapping and research on federal lands are not required to obtain agency collection permits.
9001	ER-8	Dr. Gerald Smith identified the fossil fish locality already documented by the University of Michigan, Museum of

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		Paleontology. The locality information for the mammal material sites was sent to Dr. Jonena Hearst. The material and the locality information are now part of the University of Kansas-Lawrence, Museum of Natural History paleontological collection.
1174	ER-9	The Grasmere alternative boundaries were identified and a field survey was conducted by a geologist with more than 10 years experience in the specific area and training from paleontologists working in the Snake River Plain. Standard professional survey methods were employed. No paleontological resources were identified. The purpose of a Draft EIS is to provide interested individuals and agencies an opportunity to comment on and enhance the information contained in this EIS. Individuals with any knowledge of resources outside the published or unpublished data available in repositories have the opportunity to provide that data as part of this EIS for decisionmakers.
1174	ER-10	The statement in this EIS refers to the comment provided in the report concerning a locality well away from the site associated with the proposed ETI. However, the statement has been corrected in this EIS.

WATER RESOURCES

Comment #	Response #	Response
0364	WR-1	No aspect of the ETI proposal involves creation of new water wells. All water would be transported to the selected site from Mountain Home AFB or provided by contractors.
8130	WR-2	Water quality is discussed in section 4.6 under surface water and ground water. As the Air Force does not plan on dropping ordnance into surface water, no contamination is expected from the proposed action.
1193 9010	WR-3	The probability of training ordnance coming to rest outside the 12,000 acre training range is 0.01 percent or less. Since air-to-ground training events would deliver ordnance onto the targets from all approaches and the canyon lies to the east only, this already low probability is further reduced. The potential for chaff to disperse into this canyon would not change due to the presence of the range. Furthermore, chaff would not affect water quality, quantity, or availability.
1193 9010	WR-4	ROI Two includes two major drainages, the Bruneau and the C.J. Strike drainages. The Owyhee drainage bounds ROI Two to the west. As stated, the East Fork Bruneau Canyon is not within the proposed site. The Owyhee River Basin represents the western boundary of ROI Two, however it is not included within ROI Two. Section 3.6.2.1 in this EIS discusses the study area and boundaries in further detail. The discussion of the Owyhee River included in section 3.6.2.1 provides additional description of the periphery of the proposed project area. Although the entire Owyhee River drainage is not included in Figure 3.6-1, it does provide a southwestern area of reference in comparison to other surface waters within and adjacent to the study area. This EIS has been corrected to reflect these changes. Figure 3.6-1 is based upon data obtained from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Idaho Department of Water Resources. These forms of digital data are routinely transferred for use in analysis and map production. In addition, to supplement this information, databases were developed through project field surveys, literature review, and other data collection methods to provide a digital format that could be directly used in the project database. This information was also reviewed by technical experts as well as resource specific experts to verify its relative level of accuracy.

AIR QUALITY

Comment #	Response #	Response
8039	AQ-1	The EPA does not define emissions expelled during take-offs, flights, and landings to be hazardous materials. Section 4.7.2.2 quantifies aircraft emissions by aircraft flying under military power. Emissions for each alternative in each affected airspace are contained in sections 4.7.1 through 4.7.4. No National Ambient Air Quality Standards are exceeded (or ever approached) by range or aircraft operations.
1182	AQ-2	Emissions from diesel powered generators operations were accounted for in the analysis. The hours and days per week of operation were based on the projected activities of the 366th Wing. Commonly, it operates five days per week. The air quality analysis in section 4.7 calculated the greatest concentration of pollutants in the briefest period of time. The maximum use scenario did not create an exceedance of any air quality standard.
1171	AQ-3	Section 4.7 describes, using methods approved by the EPA, that implementation of the ETI would predominantly reduce emissions in southwest Idaho. Moreover, the area affected by ETI does meet federal air quality standards. As the analysis demonstrated, none of the proposals would contribute to exceedances of any federal or state standards for air quality. This analysis is based on current, enforced EPA and state standards under the Clean Air Act, as amended.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Comment #		Response #	Response
0014 1162		BI-1	Wildlife habitat (section 3.8.4) describes the types of environment found in each of the ROIs. Species, including raptors, found in or foraging in these habitats were presented in section 3.8.5. A detailed discussion of bird species for each habitat type is included in that section. The potential impacts to birds and other species are described in section 4.8.5, as are potential impacts from the cumulative sources of ground disturbance, noise, and human presence. Following CEQ guidelines, impact analysis was based on the best available information regarding the biological resources. For ROI One, complete surveys were conducted of each alternative during the breeding and wintering seasons. Information about raptors in ROI Two and ROI Three was obtained from existing BLM, ICDC, and USGS databases as well as from previous Air Force surveys. Potential impacts described in section 4.8.5 were evaluated based on appropriate studies in the scientific literature.
0014 0870 0975 1015 1147 1159 1170 8128		BI-2	Sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 of this EIS discuss noise impacts to wildlife. There is evidence in the scientific literature that startle or panic responses to noise do occur in some wildlife species. However, existing studies suggest that these short-term responses to subsonic or supersonic noise do not result in long-term impacts, such as increased mortality or reduced reproductive success to wildlife populations. Also, the available study concerning reproductive success of cattle with respect to aircraft overflight reveals no evidence of miscarriages or other birth complications. Also, the available study concerning reproductive success of cattle with respect to aircraft overflight reveals no evidence of miscarriages or other birth complications.
1191		BI-3	In accordance with the Clean Water Act, and following Section 404 guidelines, wetland surveys for the ETI EIAP determined that some ephemeral ponds exist within ROI One for Alternative B and C. For Alternative D, no jurisdictional wetlands occur in the 12,000-acre training range. The 2.4 miles of "waters of the U.S." that were found within the primary ordnance impact area are "defined bed or banks." This refers to cuts from erosion during short-term events, such as heavy thunderstorms or spring runoff. The functions and values of these areas are very low from a Section 404 standpoint. There is no fish habitat and limited wildlife habitat provided by these cut areas
0248 0292 1131	8038 8082 8087	BI-4	Following CEQ guidelines, impact analysis in this EIS was based on the best available information regarding the biological resources in the region of influence. Data in tables in section 3.8.5 present the status of

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		the Big Jacks Creek California bighorn sheep population. These data were obtained from the June 1996 report, Lamb Production Survey: California Bighorn Sheep Herd, IDFG and Idaho Chapter, FNAWS. IDFG has not conducted population monitoring surveys for the Big Jacks Creek bighorn sheep herd since June 1993. However, surveys of the adjacent Little Jacks Creek bighorn sheep herd yield a declining population (270 in 1993 down to 181 in 1996) and declining ewe numbers from 1993 to 1996 (142 ewes observed in 1993 down to 95 ewes observed in 1996). These surveys also yielded a drop in lamb:ewe ratios for 1993 (25 lambs per 100 ewes) relative to 1992 and 1994. The best available data, from IDFG in 1996 (IDFG 1996b), does not indicate a range or population expansion of the Big Jacks Creek bighorn sheep herd.
0226 0788 1191	BI-5	The best information currently available indicate that the effects of aircraft overflights on wildlife and livestock are generally short-term and minor. Noise impact studies from a variety of military use areas, including Fallon Naval Air Station in Nevada and other installations in the western U.S., were considered in the impact analysis process. Please refer to sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 of this EIS for further discussion of noise impacts to wildlife.
0242	BI-6	Results from a survey conducted for the ETI EIAP are reported in this EIS. Some winter 1997 (February) aerial survey results were inadvertently omitted from the DEIS. The Air Force has openly provided information to the public through management agencies, institutions, and other interested groups. These data have not been altered except in the case of providing locational information on wildlife to hunting groups.
0247	BI-7	The baseline conditions of 1995 take prior actions into account when determining environmental impacts under the No-Action Alternative. The current proposal and all reasonably foreseeable projects are considered when addressing cumulative impacts to biological resources and other resources. Further details are provided in section 2.5 of this EIS.
1193 9010	BI-8	"Waters of the United States" include water bodies such as lakes and ponds and unvegetated streambeds. These streams are commonly referred to as "blue line" streams and appear as blue lines on USGS hydrology maps. The 2.4 miles referenced in this EIS, Table 2.4-1, refers to linear miles of ephemeral streams that occur within the direct impact study area.

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0252 0358 0828 1136 1147	1166 1191 8134	BI-9	Numerous studies of ungulates, including bighorn sheep, indicate that the effects of aircraft overflights on these animals are temporary and minor, with no mechanism to cause long-term impacts. This topic is further discussed in section 4.8.5 of this EIS.
0252		BI-10	Human presence may increase in ROI One and, to a lesser extent, in ROI Two as a result of the proposed action. As discussed in sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 of this EIS, the impact of this increased human presence would range from negligible for most species to moderate for species that are known to be easily disturbed.
0290 1131		BI-11	Section 2.3.2.1 describes the planned use of a three strand fence that consists of two strands of barbed wire and one strand of smooth wire on the bottom. This is based on guidelines contained in the BLM Manual Handbook H-1741-1 1989, Chapter 4 - Fencing. According to this manual, "antelope normally do not naturally attempt to jump or go through barbed wire fences, but prefer to go under them."
0290 0292 0293 0739 0830 1147	1168 1183 1192 1199 8087	BI-12	Winter aerial surveys for large mammals were conducted in February 1997; results are described in section 3.8.6.1 of this EIS. Statements in sections 3.8.6.2 and 3.8.6.3 indicating that surveys have not been completed are in error and has been corrected in this EIS.
1191		BI-13	The Owyhee River bighorn sheep declined in 1994 throughout its range in Idaho as well as across the border in Oregon. ODFW classified 138 sheep in southeast Oregon in March 1993 and only 94 in March 1994 (personal communication, Van Dyke 1997). Military overflights in southeast Oregon are restricted to altitudes from 14,500 to 17,999 feet MSL, or approximately above 10,000 feet AGL. Also, see section 3.8.5 for a discussion of potential environmental factors that may have contributed to the population decline. Also refer to Response #BI-30.
0290 1131		BI-14	The study described in section 4.8.5.2 of this EIS regarding noise impacts to bighorn sheep is in its preliminary data collection stages. This study was implemented in regards to ongoing Air Force operations. No conclusions have been made based on these preliminary data; therefore no results have been released (also refer to Response # BI-32).

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0290 0390 0792 1131	BI-15	Sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 of this EIS discuss noise impacts to wildlife. Although few long-term studies of noise effects on wildlife have been conducted, the many studies of short-term effects of subsonic and supersonic noise have generally failed to identify mechanisms through which long-term, population-level impacts may result. These mechanisms would include such factors as reduced reproductive success, increased mortality, or reduced survival.
0290 1183	BI-16	The control of noxious weeds by the Air Force would comply with all federal, state, and local regulations. The Air Force would implement and fund all required actions on Air Force controlled lands. Where possible, Air Force actions would be coordinated with Owyhee County's weed control program to insure efficient weed control.
0291	BI-17	There are no published reports currently available that document injuries to humans resulting from animals that were startled by aircraft overflights. Sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 of this EIS discuss noise impacts to wildlife.
0292 0316 0994 1147 1162 1163 1183 8087	BI-18	The IDFG Commission approved the Idaho Sage Grouse Management Plan during its August 1997 meeting. The plan as approved provides population goals for different management areas, but does not identify specific areas of critical habitat or legally preclude activities in sage grouse habitat areas. Because the sage grouse does not have status as a state or federal threatened or endangered species, no recovery plan under the jurisdiction of the ESA exists for this species. Potential impacts to sage grouse from ground disturbance associated with emitters, no-drop sites, or target areas are discussed in section 4.8.6. The Air Force is committed to work with the IDFG to support sage grouse management objectives. Also refer to Response #BI-20.
0292 0739 0825 0848 0883	1147 1163 1174 8087	BI-19	The effects of proposed expansion of airspace over Jacks Creek on biological resources is addressed in various portions of section 4.8.5.2 of this EIS. Furthermore, potential impacts of noise in this area on wildlife is discussed in sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11.
0292 1147 1199	BI-20	The Air Force designed mitigations into the proposal as described in section 2.6 and the Preface volume of this EIS. Most emitter and target sites were selected to avoid known historic, or potential sage grouse leks. Three emitter sites (AI, AQ, and BD) are believed to be used by wintering or breeding sage grouse. These sites, as well as other sites subsequently found to be on or near sage grouse leks, would be

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		avoided to the maximum extent possible during periods in which sage grouse are likely to be present. Any wildlife-related mitigation will be coordinated with Idaho Fish and Game and BLM biologists. Range crews will be trained and given operating instructions to avoid potential impacts to sensitive species. The availability of multiple emitter sites and less constricted airspace will permit operational mitigations to reduce the potential for impacts. One reason the Grasmere alternative is not the environmentally preferred alternative is the presence of bighorn sheep.
0292 1147	BI-21	As discussed in section 4.8.5.2 of this EIS, impacts to sage grouse in the Clover Butte area would be low because less than 600 acres of sagebrush habitat would be disturbed as a result of Alternative B.
0292 1147 1163	BI-22	Complete surveys for upland game birds, mule deer, and pronghorn were conducted of the 640-acre no-drop site in June 1996 (walking surveys) and February 1997 (aerial surveys). No mule deer or pronghorn were observed using the 640-acre no-drop area during the winter 1997 aerial surveys. The vegetation present on the 640-acre site is predominantly crested wheatgrass. Please refer to sections 3.8.1.3 through 3.8.11 of this EIS for the results of these surveys.
0292 0739	BI-23	Following CEQ guidelines, the best available information was compiled during the EIAP. The federal statutes do not require original research be conducted as part of the EIAP. As such, under the No-Action Alternative, Alternative A, impacts to sage grouse would remain the same as baseline condition (refer to section 4.8.8.1).
0292 0364	BI-24	As reported in the study conducted by Ellis et al. 1991, low-level overflights and mid- to high-altitude sonic booms did not have long-term adverse impacts to nesting raptors (refer to section 4.8.10.1). Also, under Alternative A, impacts to raptors and sage grouse would remain the same as baseline conditions (refer to section 4.8.10.1).
1191	BI-25	Potential wetland impacts associated with ETI will be mitigated as appropriate through consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers during the Section 404 permitting process.
0364 0730 8130	BI-26	Early field surveys were an integral part of mitigation by avoidance to minimize potential impact to biological species. In accordance with the requirements of the ESA, as amended, the Air Force entered Section 7 consultation with the USFWS early in the ETI environmental process. The Air Force submitted a Biological Assessment of the effects of the proposed action of all threatened, endangered, and candidate species in the project area. On June 4, 1997, USFWS

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		concurred with the Air Force's findings of no affect or not likely to adversely affect these species. This also meets the FLPMA requirement for addressing endangered species.
0364	BI-27	As discussed in sections 4.6 and 4.8.5, water quality in the Owyhee and Bruneau/Jarbidge watersheds would not be affected by any alternative. Therefore, fish populations in these and downstream areas would not be adversely impacted by the proposed action.
0292 0731	BI-28	Based on the best available information, bighorn sheep do respond to helicopters but appear to habituate to low level aircraft overflights with increased exposure (Weisenberger et al. 1996). Please see section 4.8.5.2 for a discussion of the impacts of noise to bighorn sheep.
0731	BI-29	The last time IDFG trapped and transplanted California bighorn sheep from the Owyhee River herd was in December 1993. Following the bighorn sheep population monitoring surveys in 1994, which indicated a drop in population numbers, IDFG suspended the trapping/transplanting program until the sheep population recovers. Please see section 3.8.5, pages 3-148 and 3-149 for a discussion of the possible environmental and external factors that may have contributed to the Owyhee River bighorn sheep population decline. As to the role that current Air Force operations may have played in the decline, please see Tables 3.8-15 and 3.8-16 (IDFG Data) for a comparison of bighorn population trends in areas without training flights (the Little Jacks Creek herd) and areas with training flights (the Owyhee River herd). Also refer to Response # BI-30.
0335 0825 0994 1131 1147 1159 1192 1199 1202	BI-30	The addition of airspace and the training tactics for an enhanced training range reduces overflight noise in most areas throughout the airspace. Under the northern airspace expansion and near a selected action alternative, noise would increase. The impact analysis of the proposed action on bighorn sheep utilized the best available information found in the scientific literature and from consultation with agency personnel. The IDFG population monitoring survey results in Table 3.8-16 and IDFG transplant information in Table 3.8-15 illustrate the recent similar population patterns of two bighorn sheep herds in southwestern Idaho. One of these herds is currently overflown by military aircraft performing training operations (the Owyhee River herd) and the other herd is not subjected to training overflights (the Little Jacks Creek herd). Both herds experienced similar population declines in 1994. The Little Jacks Creek herd continues to decline (as of 1996 data) while the Owyhee River herd is apparently increasing (as of 1996 data). Additional training airspace

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		and an associated tactical training range will redistribute overflights, change altitudes, and, in most cases, reduce existing noise levels throughout the airspace.
0364 0982	BI-31	IDFG comments on this proposal state that under Alternatives B and D, the Department will be able to meet IDFG Species Management Plan objectives.
0247 0304 0824 0832 1131 1171 1181 1192	BI-32	Following CEQ guidelines, analyses of baseline conditions and potential impacts from the proposed action were based on the best available information regarding the biological resources in the region of influence. The best available information was obtained from a review of the scientific literature and consultation with state and federal agency personnel. The federal statutes do not require original research be conducted as part of the EIAP. This EIS includes all information collected during field surveys conducted for ETI between May 1996 and February 1997. The Air Force is sponsoring a long-term study of bighorn sheep responses to normal on-going operations in Idaho and Nevada. The Air Force is also sponsoring research efforts on bighorn sheep habitat carrying capacity and vegetation community rehabilitation. The collective impetus for all of these research efforts is to improve resource stewardship on military lands and contribute to understanding the natural resources present in southwestern Idaho. These studies were initiated prior to, and are not connected with, the current ETI proposal.
0292	BI-33	It is recognized that mule deer that summer in Nevada and winter in Idaho normally migrate back to Nevada in late March and April (personal communication, Williams 1996).
0292	BI-34	Winter 1997 (February 1997) surveys conducted for the ETI EIAP recorded elk use in ROI Two and that information has been added to this EIS for section 3.8.6.2.
0292	BI-35	Based on the best available information as presented in this EIS, the level of impact from the proposed action would be low due to a very limited amount of sage grouse habitat that would be affected.
1160	BI-36	The potential natural vegetation community type of all areas within ROI One is sagebrush-grassland. Mature plant communities within ROI One are based on existing vegetation and modeled after Hironaka et al. (1983) habitat classifications. Seral stages such as bluebunch wheatgrass have resulted from both natural and human caused fires.

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		Other grassland communities are the result of reseeding to non-natives after fire.
1191	BI-37	This EIS contains four practicable alternatives. In addition, the wetlands resources being impacted in the primary ordnance impact area are not of a high value for wetland resources. The jurisdictional waters of the United States located at the alternative sites are limited in function and value. These sites are usually shallow, narrow, unvegetated drainages which rarely contain water (ephemeral) and provide little or no fish and limited wildlife habitat. The primary function of these ephemeral areas is to carry excess run-off and they rarely pond or retain water.
0830	BI-38	This EIS does not state that the population of sage grouse observed near the Clover Butte alternative is "insignificant." This EIS does state that based on the best available information, impacts to sage grouse at Clover Butte would be low due to a very limited amount of sage grouse habitat that would be affected. California bighorn sheep are not desert bighorn sheep. Please refer to Geist 1971, page 9, for an explanation of the seven living races of bighorn sheep in North America.
0865 1148	BI-39	Training overflights have occurred and continue to occur throughout southwest Idaho. The sporadic nature of training overflights do not result in a concentration of overflights or noise in any specific area. This sporadic nature of overflights has not and is not projected to cause sheep to abandon preferred habitat. The only bighorn sheep populations potentially impacted by increased noise associated with ETI would be those on the Grasmere site (not the environmentally preferred alternative) or those in the Jacks Creeks area. The airspace expansion over the Little and Big Jacks Creeks would increase noise levels from 41 L_{dnmr} to 51-53 L_{dnmr}, depending on the alternative. Currently, the airspace above the Little and Big Jacks Creeks area, designated as "Area X-Ray" is delegated daily by the FAA to Mountain Home AFB for providing air traffic control services to aircraft arrivals, departures, and overflights. This airspace extends from the surface to 16,000 feet MSL. At present, and under the No-Action Alternative, over 20,000 transit overflights occur annually over Little and Big Jacks Creeks (in Area X-Ray) at altitudes ranging from 500 feet AGL (A-10s) to 11,500 feet AGL (F-15, F-16). The bighorn sheep that inhabit the canyonlands associated with the Little and Big Jacks Creeks have been exposed to numerous military transit overflights at various altitudes and speeds.

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		In addition, accessibility of the Jacks Creek area has contributed to a high degree of human disturbance from recreationists. The Jacks Creeks sheep appear to have become more accustomed to human presence than sheep in the Owyhee River or the Bruneau-Jarbidge River.
0562	BI-40	Sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 of this EIS discuss noise impacts to wildlife. There is evidence in the scientific literature that startle or panic responses to noise do occur in some wildlife species. However, existing studies suggest that these short-term responses do not result in long-term population impacts. A study conducted in North Carolina concluded that "the low response rate of waterfowl behaviors to the presence of aircraft in this study suggested that waterfowl either did not perceive the aircraft as a stressor, or that they became habituated to the presence of aircraft due to repeated exposures over time" (Fleming et al. 1996). Also, the same study found that nesting rates, nesting success, the number of eggs laid, the number of eggs hatched, and nest desertion rates were the same in areas with aircraft overflights and areas without aircraft overflights. However, the study did find that duckling exposed to airport-related aircraft noise grew slower and weighed 4.6 percent less than ducklings not exposed to noise. The existing noise levels and any changes in noise should ETI be implemented, do not result in the levels of noise related to airport activity. With regards to the colonial nesting waterbirds on the Duck Valley Reservation, the ETI proposal will de-conflict training operations with Duck Valley. The Air Force has operational restrictions over Duck Valley Reservation thereby reducing exposure to aircraft noise events. Please see section 3.2.3 for a discussion on the restrictions on military flight activities over the Duck Valley Reservation.
8044	BI-41	Section 4.8.5.2 discusses the potential impacts from noise on the airspace expansion in northern Nevada. The proposed airspace expansion for the Paradise MOA would occur over an existing MTR. Therefore, noise exposure levels on the ground (the level the mule deer would receive) would not change from baseline conditions due to the effect of the MTR. Potential impacts from the ETI proposal to the mule deer herd occupying habitat under the airspace expansion in northern Nevada were analyzed based on discussions with Joe Williams, NDOW Wildlife Biologist in Wells, NV. Mr. Williams stated that the critical mule deer wintering area was south of Murphy Hot Springs. Mr.

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		Williams also stated that important deer winter range occurred within one to two miles of the Jarbidge Canyon. These areas are in ROI Three where no ground disturbance or habitat alteration is expected. Please see section 4.8.6 for discussions on potential impacts to large mammals.
1160	BI-42	The site is approximately a sixteenth of an acre, located on a hillside seep, outside the primary ordnance impact area. Whitetop increases through ground disturbance, and is very competitive once established. Land managers are required by Idaho law to control noxious weeds. Whitetop may be effectively controlled through use of herbicides or other management practices according to applicable regulations.
8044	BI-43	Nevada's unoccupied California bighorn sheep habitat largely occurs outside of ROI Three and is therefore outside the scope of analysis for ETI. Furthermore, NDOW has released Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep into the Jarbidge Mountains (personal communication, Williams 1996) and some of these sheep have been observed as far north as the Idaho border. This situation precludes releasing California bighorn sheep in the upper reaches of the Jarbidge River canyon due to the potential loss of genetic purity in the respective races of bighorn sheep. The economic value of this herd would decrease greatly if genetic mixing of Rocky Mountain and California bighorn sheep would occur. Hunters are reluctant to spend a "once-in-a-lifetime" permit on a sheep of questionable genetic makeup that may not qualify as a Grand Slam trophy.
0939 1131 1149	BI-44	Following CEQ guidelines, analyses of baseline conditions and potential impacts from the proposed action were based on the best available information regarding the biological resources in the region of influence. The best available information was obtained from a review of the scientific literature and consultation with state and federal agency personnel. The federal statutes do not require original research be conducted as part of the EIAP. As a result of these reviews and consultation, many of the impacts of the proposed ETI project on biological resources will be negligible to low (see sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 for a discussion on the impacts to wildlife). The previous wing commander of the 366th Wing at Mountain Home AFB, General Peck, submitted a letter to the IDFG Commission stating a cooperative approach to the management of the bighorn sheep population at Little and Big Jacks Creek which occur under the northern airspace expansion. The Air Force intends to continue to

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		consult with IDFG to protect California bighorn sheep during critical lambing periods in Owyhee canyonlands in all alternatives. The Air Force will work closely with IDFG to identify Air Force actions that would support the Sage Grouse Management Plan.
1191	BI-45	Wetlands analysis complying with Section 404 guidelines shows impacts to jurisdictional waters of the United States could occur at six sites due to construction of new roads. In addition, 2.4 miles, or less than ½ an acre, of waters of the United States would be directly impacted by the primary ordnance impact area. Impacts to these areas could include erosion, removal of vegetation and changes in stream flow. However, due to the limited wetland values of these areas, these impacts are considered not significant. Although not significant, any impacts to jurisdictional wetlands are regulated by the Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the CWA (see also BI-37 for a description of the "jurisdictional waters" impacted).
0730	BI-46	If the Air Force decides to implement ETI, it does not propose to establish permanent IDFG positions for monitoring purposes. Correspondence between the Air Force and IDFG outlines the proposed working relationship. As stated in a letter from Brig. Gen. Peck, 366th Wing Commander, to Mr. Burns, IDFG Commission Director, "The Air Force intends to continue to consult with the IDFG to protect California bighorn sheep during the critical lambing period in Owyhee canyonlands in all alternatives, consistent with IDFG determination of bighorn sheep needs. Any final decision for enhanced training would also include mitigation for adverse wildlife impacts. We are prepared to implement such measures absent compelling national security circumstances, military contingencies, or hostilities." The IDFG Commission has stated "Alternatives D (Juniper Butte) and B (Clover Butte) would likely enable the IDFG to meet species management plan objectives if accompanied by appropriate measures and mitigations to ensure protection of public resources." Mitigation measures will be included in the Final EIS and Record of Decision. Gen. Peck concluded his letter by stating, "By partnering with IDFG and the IDFG Commission, we are certain we can develop a strategy for conducting essential military training while protecting the wildlife resources of the Owyhee canyonlands.
1179	BI-47	The disturbances and the potential for increased traffic over new and existing roads could increase the potential for invasion by exotic species along the road corridors and in the off-road areas. Many of the existing roads are currently used by land management agencies and some recreationalists. However, only a small segment of road

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		leading to recreational destinations is intended for construction or major improvements, thus the potential for increased recreational use of these areas is minimal. Additional military traffic will be minimal. Weed control on land managed by the Air Force would be coordinated with Owyhee County and State and Federal agencies.
1191 1192	BI-48	Ground disturbing activities avoid all ACECs and would not occur in any of these areas under any alternative. The only potential impact to wildlife in ACECs would be from noise associated with aircraft overflights. Overflight noise would decrease over the Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat ACEC. Military aircraft currently overfly, at varying altitudes, all of the ACECs in Owyhee County. Overflight noise would increase slightly over whichever alternative were selected compared with current levels. Overflight noise would increase slightly over the Cottonwood Creek ACEC under all alternatives. The Bruneau-Jarbidge Bighorn Sheep Habitat ACEC will have localized increased noise if Clover Butte were selected and reduced noise if either Grasmere or Juniper Butte were selected. Noise levels associated with ETI alternatives would have a low impact to wildlife species in these areas. Sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 of this EIS discuss noise impacts to wildlife and the cumulative impact of noise, human presence, and ground disturbance on species of special concern in locations potentially cumulatively impacted.
0994	BI-49	The legal ram counts in the Little Jacks Creek herd has apparently declined since 1993. However, the Air Force does not conduct military training over the Jacks Creek area. The legal ram counts for the Owyhee River herd, where the Air Force has conducted military training overflights for decades has fluctuated between 46 and 57 rams between the years 1990 and 1996, except for 1991. In 1991, IDFG data indicated that there were 114 legal rams and only 60 sublegal rams. It is a very unusual situation in a wild ungulate herd to have a ratio of nearly twice as many "old" rams as young rams. However, the overall trend, since 1990, is relatively stable for legal rams in the Owyhee River herd. There is insufficient data (IDGF has conducted only one population survey for bighorn sheep in Big Jacks Creek since 1990) to make a determination as to the stability of the legal ram population of the Big Jacks Creek herd. As for the Bruneau-Jarbidge herd, 89 bighorn sheep were released into this herd between 1989 and 1993. Because of this tremendous, and relatively recent, influx of sheep, it is difficult to ascertain whether the legal ram or the entire bighorn sheep population is stable.
1011 1082	BI-50	This EIS does not propose to chase down pregnant ewes and put radio collars on them, nor does any other Air Force study. No capturing or

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		collaring of sheep would proceed on any federal study without concurrence from the IDFG.
0982 1001 1192	BI-51	Following CEQ guidelines, analyses of baseline conditions and potential impacts from the proposed action were based on the best available information regarding the biological resources in the region of influence. The best available information was obtained from a review of the scientific literature and consultation with state and federal agency personnel. The federal statutes do not require original research be conducted as part of the EIAP. As a result of these reviews and consultation, many of the impacts of the proposed ETI project on biological resources will be negligible to low (see sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 for a discussion on the impacts to wildlife).
1159	BI-52	Pronghorn surveys conducted in 1993-95 represent the best available information for pronghorn populations in the Owyhee uplands. While the sample size is small (one survey per year for three years), statistical analyses show that the increasing trend in population size over the three-year period is significant.
1159	BI-53	The statement in section 4.8.6.1 of this EIS that approximately 3,500 acres of vegetation would burn annually under the No Action Alternative is incorrect. Between 1991 and 1995, about 145,000 acres of vegetation in ROI burned in approximately 41 fires. However, it is inappropriate to calculate average fire size or average acres burned per year because of the high degree of variability in fire size and total acres burned from year to year. Please note that the above figures refer to current conditions and would remain the same or decrease under the No Action Alternative or under Alternatives B, C, or D as discussed in section 4.3, Safety, and section 4.8.1, Vegetation.
0957 1147 1163	BI-54	By definition, mitigation measures are designed to reduce adverse impacts, not necessarily to eliminate them. The mitigation measures described in this EIS were incorporated into the development of range alternatives, and succeed in reducing potential impacts to wildlife at a minimum of 28 of 30 proposed emitter sites and 6 of 7 proposed no-drop target sites.
0292 1147 1163	BI-55	Proposed no-drop target site ND-8 and emitter sites BK and AU have been graded, graveled, and/or excavated and are therefore devoid of vegetation and unsuitable for most wildlife species. The areas around these sites were included in noise and human disturbance analyses. Section 4.8.5 of this EIS was revised to specify the proximity of a sage grouse lek that was active in 1996 to ND-8 and AU.

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1147 1183	BI-56	Five hundred meters is the distance from overflying jets at which Ellis et al. (1991) found that raptors began to exhibit startle reactions; when jets were greater than 500 m away from nests, raptors generally showed no reaction. Significant responses occurred only when jets passed within 150 m of nests. Because of the wide variation in responses to aircraft among individual birds, species, and season, no overflight avoidance recommendations have been developed by wildlife agencies in Idaho for raptor nesting areas. No evidence exists to directly link sonic booms with avian mortality. The International Bibliography on Noise (IBON 1995) includes several studies that address impacts of sonic booms on birds. A study conducted in Florida concluded that there was no evidence that sonic booms caused mortality in the raptor population. Despite low altitude overflights and sonic booms, the osprey and bald eagle populations in the study area were observed to be reproducing very well (IBON 1995). Additional data on the likely effects of low-level jets and sonic booms on nesting peregrine falcons and other raptors were gathered at aeries in Arizona (Ellis 1981). Responses to extremely frequent and nearby jet aircraft were often minimal and never associated with reproductive failure. Nesting success and site reoccupancy rates were high for all aeries (Manci et al. 1988). Other studies of birds indicate that a simple startle is the most common response to sonic booms. While birds were occasionally observed to run, fly, or crowd, reactions varied from exposure-to-exposure, and are not predictable (IBON 1995). In a detailed study of the possible effects of sonic booms on avian reproduction using poultry, the sonic boom simulation in the experiment produced an impulsive noise of 156.3 dB sound pressure level. The same hens served as their own control group, without the sound stimulus. No effect on time of oviposition, shell weight, percent of shell, shell thickness, hatchability, viability, or hatching time was found between the stimulated and unstimulated groups. However, chicks subjected to sound stimuli after hatching did exhibit less weight gain than those not so exposed (IBON 1995). These studies clearly indicate that sonic booms do not contribute to increased avian mortality. It is also important to note that these studies subjected eggs to 156.3 dB peak sound pressure levels. This is equivalent to 27 pounds per square foot (psf) of overpressure. Overpressures anticipated from supersonic flight associated with ETI activities directly under the aircraft are anticipated to be on the order of 1 to 2 psf, with very rare occurrences peaking to approximately 8 to 8.5 psf.

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1163	BI-57	The proposed 640-acre target would be a no-drop target; therefore, training ordnance would not impact the target or surrounding area.
1131 1148 1168	BI-58	ROI Two comprises approximately 1.5 million acres, of which 69.9 percent are covered by sagebrush steppe vegetation. However, ground disturbance within ROI Two is highly unlikely under any alternative. Within ROI One, no more than 722 acres of native vegetation would be directly disturbed for any alternative, and no more than 8,000 acres of native vegetation (i.e., potential sage grouse or California bighorn sheep habitat) would have potential to be indirectly disturbed. Please refer to sections 3.8.4 and 4.8.4 for discussions of the amount of native vegetation that would be disturbed under each alternative relative to baseline acreages.
1131 1192	BI-59	Response # BI-30 discusses a comparison of herd productivity, based on IDFG and FNAWS data, between areas overflown by military training flights and areas without military training overflights. Also, the HEP model references by the commentor is a Habitat Evaluation Procedure, not a plan. The HEP model was developed to evaluate potential reintroduction sites for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. The referenced HEP model is designed for bighorn sheep herds that have access to distinct summer and winter ranges. In typical Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep habitat, sheep summer at high elevations and winter at low elevations. The California bighorn sheep that inhabit southwestern Idaho are restricted in the opportunity for altitudinal migration between summer and winter range. Therefore, bighorn sheep in southwestern Idaho are forced to occupy the same habitat on a year-round basis, except for some temporary seasonal shifts to lambing areas. Bighorn sheep in low elevation year-round habitats face increased intra-specific competition for forage and space. Thus, it is inappropriate to attempt to apply the Rocky Mountain HEP model to the bighorn sheep in Owyhee County, Idaho. Please see responses BI-20 and BI-47, section 2.6, and the Preface volume of this EIS for a discussion of mitigation measures.
1173	BI-60	Vegetation patterns outside the primary ordnance impact area at Juniper Butte were estimated using visual observations. Vegetation sampling techniques were based on accepted and proven scientific methods. The purpose of the map is to show vegetation types within the 12,000 acre range, not to depict a complete site inventory of existing improvements from cattle operations.
1191	BI-61	A range of scientific evidence states that helicopters can and occasionally do cause severe behavioral reactions from bighorn sheep. However, helicopters are not part of the ETI proposal. Helicopter use

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		is not expected to change over current use conditions. Also, the only impact to ACECs and WSAs in the region of influence will be related to the visual presence of aircraft or noise from aircraft overflights that may affect solitude and/or biological resources. No ground disturbance or increased human presence (military personnel) will occur to ACECs or WSAs as a result of the ETI proposal. In addition, the noise levels above the Owyhee River bighorn sheep habitat ACEC will decrease if the ETI proposal is carried forward.
1191	BI-62	The cumulative impacts section for biological resources, section 4.8.13, addresses the potential cumulative impacts from current and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The commentor requests a cumulative impact analysis of the various "factors" (e.g., noise, construction activities, human presence, wildfire) that could potentially impact wildlife in the region of influence from the proposed ETI range. Based on the guidelines in the CEQ report, "Considering Cumulative Effects under the National Environmental Policy Act," if cause-and-effect relationships can not be quantified, then qualitative evaluation procedures can be used (CEQ 1997, p. 41). For the ETI EIAP, relative qualitative cumulative impacts to biological resources for each alternative are presented in Table 4.8-2. A relative ranking of the baseline habitat conditions present at each alternative are presented in Table 3.8-12. This relative qualitative approach was used to assess cumulative impacts at the individual 12,000-acre range alternatives since some wildlife species, such as bighorn sheep, do not occur at all of the alternatives. This precluded a quantifiable comparison of cumulative impacts among the alternatives. The overall relative cumulative impacts would be highest at the Grasmere alternative due to the higher diversity of available habitats and wildlife species at that location. However, the overall relative cumulative impacts to the habitat and wildlife species present at Grasmere would be moderate, and low at both the Juniper and Clover Butte alternatives. One factor that would have a significant impact on cumulative effects is an increased rate of conversion of native habitats to annual grasses and weeds. A disruption or conversion of the vegetation communities currently existing within the region of influence would have the greatest impact at the Grasmere alternative. Any additional loss of the shrub-steppe vegetation community will have an increased impact on the habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity that is occurring in southwest Idaho. A shorter fire periodicity has converted the native shrub-steppe habitat into large expanses of annual grasses and forbs. These conditions will remain regardless if the ETI proposal is carried forward. The Air Force is attempting to minimize the potential for training operations to ignite

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		fire events. Please see section 4.3.2.1 for a discussion on proposed actions to reduce the risk of fire from training operations. The cumulative impact from the proposed ETI range would be low to moderate due to the low probability or potential of significant impacts. However, if a catastrophic event does occur (i.e., a large scale fire), the cumulative impacts could be significant. For the past four years, the Air Force has been conducting studies on efficient methodologies for rehabilitating native vegetation communities on the SCR. The Air Force is gathering expertise from various agencies and universities to assist it in wise resource stewardship on Air Force training ranges. This is in response to ongoing training operations. The recent trend in conversion from the native shrub-steppe vegetation community to a community dominated by exotic annual grasses and forbs has a cumulative effect of altering available habitat, decreasing forage nutritional quality and quantity, increasing habitat fragmentation, reducing biodiversity and forcing some wildlife species to abandon portions of their existing home range. Again, this trend in converting native shrub-steppe habitat to exotic annual grasses and forbs will likely continue regardless of the decision on the ETI proposal.
1192	BI-63	None of the four ETI alternatives includes a proposal to capture, handle, or track bighorn sheep
1192	BI-64	There is no evidence that military aircraft overflight activity causes long-term stresses on bighorn sheep populations. Please refer to section 4.8.5 of this EIS for a discussion of this topic. Similarly, no adverse impacts to bighorn sheep or other wildlife from the use of chaff have been identified. Because chaff is generally non-toxic and degrades quickly into small particles, effects related to toxicity, ingestion, and inhalation are not considered to be significant impacts.
1192	BI-65	This EIS did not state that Alternatives B, C, or D would have no effect on wildlife. Potential impacts to wildlife were determined to range from negligible to moderate, depending on the alternative and wildlife species group. Please refer to sections 4.8.5 through 4.8.11 of this EIS for the discussion of potential impacts to wildlife associated with each alternative.
1191	BI-66	There are several studies which concluded that some wildlife species, such as bighorn sheep (Bleich et al. 1990, Bodie et al. 1992, Workman and Bunch 1991a), pronghorn antelope (Workman and Bunch 1991c)

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and elk (Workman and Bunch 1991b) reacted adversely to helicopters and occasionally to small fixed-wing overflights. The magnitude and duration of the negative reaction varied with species and exposure to overflights. Similarly, some wildlife species reacted adversely to human encroachment (people entering the animals pens). One explanation for the adverse reaction to helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft is the negative experiences wildlife species associate with these types of aircraft. Helicopters have been used increasingly by state natural resource agencies for annual population classification surveys and animal capture and translocation programs. State natural resource agencies are required to collect appropriate and sufficient data to justify hunting season lengths and harvest quotas that will not jeopardize the continued existence and reproductive potential of the herds subjected to hunting pressures. As an example, during classification surveys for bighorn sheep, helicopters are used to locate and haze groups of sheep into areas where biologists aboard the helicopter can accurately identify and classify the age and sex of all of the members in that particular group. This may require several minutes of hazing and/or hovering in close proximity to the group for the biologists to classify all individuals. Similarly during capture operations, helicopters are used to locate and haze bighorn sheep into open areas where a biologist can fire a net over the animal or fire a dart containing an immobilizing agent into the animal. Bighorn sheep that have been hazed for three to five minutes, or longer, by a helicopter quickly learn to associate the sound of a helicopter as a threat and attempt to avoid future encounters with helicopters.

Small fixed-wing aircraft are also used extensively by state natural resource agencies to collect locational data on wildlife species. Many radio telemetry studies utilize small fixed-wing aircraft to efficiently relocate radio-instrumented bighorn sheep (or mule deer, elk, waterfowl, raptors, etc.). Again, the plan must locate the individual animals and circle above the animal a number of times to accurately record the position of the animal. This technique is typically conducted at approximately 500 to 1,000 feet AGL and occasionally elicits a negative behavioral response from the radio-instrumented animal and any conspecifics associated with it.

These adverse behavioral reactions to helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft are typically a result of negative experiences that animals have been exposed to. There is a negative feedback mechanism that the animals associate with the sound or sight of helicopters and some small fixed-wing aircraft. Due to these learned behavioral responses, the Air Force does not propose to use small

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		fixed-wing aircraft nor does it propose to use helicopters except in life threatening situations. Since these types of aircraft are essentially not part of the proposed ETI range, literature pertaining to impacts from helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft were not included in this EIS. Similarly, many of the specific comments raised in response to previous Air Force EIS efforts to expand training in Idaho were not included in this EIS since, by design, these concerns weighed heavily in the decisions of where to locate proposal alternatives to minimize or eliminate conflicts with sensitive wildlife species and their habitats. Specifically, ETI attempts to decrease noise exposure levels near the Owyhee Canyonlands by dispersing training flights in that area and by moving the proposed impact area to potential sites in eastern Owyhee County. The information in the ITR DEIS that the commentor refers to are studies investigating the impacts associated with overflights from helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft. Since helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft are not part of the ETI proposal, that literature was not relevant and therefore not included in the ETI impact analyses.
1191	BI-67	Several studies have concluded that helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft overflights elicited a negative behavioral reaction from bighorn sheep. Other studies, however, have concluded that bighorn sheep habituated to low level military jet overflights with continued exposure. Also, Toweill and Bodie's assessment of the potential impacts from the ITR proposal were merely speculative. The evidence and conclusions in the peer-reviewed wildlife literature indicate that bighorn sheep habituate to jet overflights. Also, their statement that sheep are altering their patterns of distribution due to jet overflights is again speculative. The spring 1997 IDFG/FNAWS lamb survey was conducted on the South Fork of the Owyhee River (personal communication, Nelson 1997). This survey yielded counts of over 100 adult sheep with a lamb:ewe ratio of 41:100. This is a dramatic increase in sheep numbers in an area where a high number of low level jet overflights currently occur.
1191	BI-68	BLM has acknowledged and consistently acted within its authority and responsibility for environmental resources through close involvement with all aspects of NEPA and FLPMA during the ETI EIAP. As a cooperating agency, BLM has participated in the definition of direct and cumulative impacts, mitigation by design, mitigation by avoidance, and operational mitigations.

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1191	BI-69	Defensive flares released above 700 feet over SCR and above 2,000 feet over other areas. They burn out after descending about 325 feet after release. In an extensive literature review of the potential environmental impacts of defensive flares (US Air Force 1997), no reports were found of documented startle effects or vision impairments by wildlife attributable to defensive flare use. The distance from potential wildlife resources and short duration of ignition (approximately 4 to 4.5 seconds) associated with flare use minimizes the risk of potential startle effects or vision impairment.
1191 8101	BI-70	The statement about field notes is incorrect. The researchers were not working on Phase I of the overflight study. They were gathering data for a carrying capacity study and filed a trip report when they returned. The trip report contained incidental observations of bighorn sheep behavior and military overflights. The statement should not be interpreted as describing direct cause and effect between overflights and sheep behavior. The sheep may have responded to the presence of the researchers or some other factor. For the same reason, the Air Force has not relied on reports from other field trips for the carrying capacity study which contained incidental observations where the bighorn sheep did not react to aircraft overflights.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

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0335 0739 1147 1183	CU-1	With regard to cultural resources, the Air Force is complying with NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and various laws and regulations pertaining to Native American issues. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) encourages federal agencies to integrate compliance with NEPA and the NHPA to the extent feasible and to coordinate studies needed to comply with these regulations (36 CFR Part 800.14[a]). NEPA requires that the federal agency proposing an undertaking, in this case the Air Force, collect enough information to allow the decisionmaker, in this case the Secretary of the Air Force, to make a decision regarding the alternatives. The sample survey and background research conducted for ETI has provided sufficient information to allow the decisionmaker to weigh the potential impacts to cultural resources caused by each alternative. The NHPA (see 36 CFR Part 800.3[c]) allows nondestructive planning prior to an undertaking, as well as phased compliance at different stages of planning. However, the Section 106 process must be completed prior to the Agency's approval of the expenditure of federal funds on the undertaking. The Air Force conducted surveys of the alternative target areas as part of the planning process for ETI and to comply with NEPA. Before an undertaking (e.g., target construction) can actually begin, cultural resources in the area of potential effect must be inventoried and evaluated. Adverse effects to significant cultural resources (i.e., those that are eligible for the National Register) must be avoided or mitigated. The NHPA and 36 CFR Part 800 discuss ways in which adverse effects can be mitigated. Adverse effects from ETI would be mitigated by the Air Force only for significant cultural resources that fall within the area of potential effect for the selected alternative. Appropriate levels of mitigation would be determined through consultation among the Air Force, the BLM, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, the ACHP, and the Idaho SHPO.
0338 0939	CU-2	Native Americans value traditional lands as important to their history, customs, and beliefs. The Shoshone-Paiute tribes have made it clear that their traditional lands include all of southwest Idaho. In response to tribal concerns, the Air Force and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation have signed an agreement regarding use of airspace over the reservation (section 1.4.4.2). The Air Force has followed the terms of that agreement and will continue to do so if a new range is developed. Further details regarding the ETI proposal and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes are presented in Chapters 3 and 4 of this EIS.

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0357 8129	CU-3	Distribution of the cultural resources technical document (which contains information about National Register eligibility) has been restricted for reasons of confidentiality. Locational and other sensitive data included in the report could potentially be used by individuals wishing to vandalize archaeological sites. Confidentiality of Native American cultural resource information is of particular concern to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. In cases where a report contains sensitive cultural resource data, restriction of public access to the data (including exemption from Freedom of Information Act requests) is allowable under the NHPA, ARPA, and other laws and regulations. Copies of the sensitive data were supplied to the federal agencies involved in the decisionmaking (the BLM and the Air Force), to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes at the Duck Valley Reservation, the Idaho Department of Lands, and to the Idaho SHPO. Under the NHPA, determination of a cultural resource's National Register eligibility is made by the lead agencies in consultation with the SHPO. The Air Force and the BLM had full access to all the background information available when they determined the National Register eligibility of cultural resources potentially affected by the ETI alternatives. The Idaho SHPO had access to the same information when deciding whether to concur with the determinations.
0357 8129	CU-4	Until there is a Record of Decision (ROD) for this EIS, compliance with the NHPA for the studied lands is the responsibility of the BLM, the land-holding agency. At the time the DEIS and draft cultural resources report were written, the SHPO and BLM had not yet reviewed the Air Force's eligibility recommendations, and it was premature for the BLM to make formal determinations of eligibility. Since that time, these determinations have been made, and the Idaho SHPO has concurred, with certain stipulations. Sections 3.9 and 4.9 of this EIS have been modified to reflect these changes. Section 106 of the NHPA can be completed after the signing of the ROD. NEPA requires that enough information be gathered to allow the decisionmaker to make an informed decision concerning the alternatives. It is not necessary to identify or formally evaluate the National Register eligibility of each cultural resource within the area of potential effect during the EIAP. Not until after a ROD is made will the Air Force complete the cultural resources inventory of the chosen alternative, determine National Register eligibility for all affected cultural resources, and mitigate or avoid adverse effects to National Register-eligible cultural resources, thus fully complying

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		with Section 106 of the NHPA. Eligibility determinations have been completed for all sites recorded during the Air Force surveys within ROI One. These procedures are summarized in section 4.9.2 of this EIS.
0357 8129	CU-5	The areas of potential effects, equivalent to the ROIs described in this EIS, were defined appropriately in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c). Sampling within a large area of potential effect is an accepted method to characterize an area (cf. 40 CFR 1502.22). As described in Chapter 2, the footprints were defined based on a 300-acre primary ordnance impact area within an approximately 12,000-acre training range. Weapons footprint analysis will be used to restrict deliveries and attacks to ensure ordnance will remain with the 12,000-acre training range Section 2.3.2.1 discusses evidence from SCR that over 95 percent of ordnance falls within 300 acres and that most ordnance falls within 300 feet of a target. See section 2.3.2 and 2.3.5 for a complete discussion. This percentage should be further improved through increased accuracy in weapons delivery provided by newer aircraft. During the cultural resource survey for ETI or during earlier surveys, all or portions of the primary ordnance impact areas within the three training range alternatives were examined. Areas within each 12,000-acre range, but outside the primary ordnance impact areas, have been examined as well. In each case, the intensity of survey has been sufficient to characterize the density and types of archaeological and architectural resources that could be potentially adversely affected.
0357	CU-6	The ROIs for the analysis of cultural resources were defined in consultation with the Idaho SHPO and BLM. The level of analysis for each ROI is appropriate for the level of potential effects anticipated within that ROI. Section 3.9 describes the data collection methods used by the Air Force for each ROI. For Alternatives B, C and D, resources outside the primary ordnance impact area but within the training range were discussed and analyzed (sections 4.9.3, 4.9.4, 4.9.5, 4.9.6, "ROI One"). Cultural resources throughout Owyhee County were discussed under ROI Three.
8040	CU-7	The Air Force has not shared cultural resource location information with anyone not authorized to receive it. Site forms containing location data were distributed outside the Air Force *only* to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, the BLM, the Idaho Department of Lands, and the Idaho SHPO. Vandalism of

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		cultural resources is a long-term problem in southwestern Idaho dating back to the nineteenth century, and the Air Force is willing to work with the Tribes and with the BLM to find ways to reduce it.
8040	CU-8	Section 3.9 of this EIS does not refer to a migration theory. The migration of the Shoshone and Paiute people is presented in the cultural resources technical report as a hypothesis that has been proposed by some archaeologists. Other archaeologists disagree with this interpretation, and many Native Americans have expressed the opinion that the hypothesis runs counter to their traditional beliefs. These various positions will be clarified in the final technical report.
8040	CU-9	Archaeologists and other researchers frequently use GPS to locate cultural and natural resources. This system is employed because it increases accuracy and saves time and money. While the technology is relatively new, archaeologists have recorded universal transverse mercator (UTMs) or other locational data for many years. In fact, without locational data, site forms would not be accepted by the BLM or Idaho SHPO. GPS coordinates for archaeological sites also allow an accurate assessment of the impacts of each alternative. This location information is confidential and is available only to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, the BLM, the Idaho SHPO, the Idaho Department of Lands, and the Air Force.
0786 8040	CU-10	The Air Force corresponded with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley Reservation and the Shoshone and Paiute Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Reservation and met with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley. Information gathered during the process was used to design the ETI alternatives, assess the environmental consequences of the alternatives, and prepare this EIS. A separate section in this EIS details Shoshone-Paiute concerns for each identified resource. Shoshone-Paiute consultations prior to the commencement of the ETI environmental process resulted in the exclusion of some potential range alternatives west of Highway 51. Shoshone-Paiute Tribal concerns were taken into consideration in the selection of Juniper Butte as the preferred action alternative.
8040	CU-11	Section 3.9.1 of this EIS briefly discusses some of the issues related to the territorial land claim. It is beyond the scope of this EIS to present detailed evidence concerning the status of territorial land claims, nor is it within the purview of the Air Force to resolve these matters.

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1183 1203 9008	CU-12	The information contained in this EIS regarding traditional cultural resources, beliefs and practices of the Shoshone-Paiute has been reviewed by a person selected by the Tribes to ensure that confidential information is protected. The purpose of the ethnographic studies sponsored by the Air Force in cooperation with the Shoshone-Paiute is compliance with Sections 101(d)(6) and 110(a)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act as they apply to existing operations at Mountain Home AFB. This work, still unfinished, is not related to evaluating impacts from proposed Air Force actions, such as ETI. A promise of confidentiality as a condition to properly conducting the ethnographic work was made by the Air Force to the Tribe early in 1995 and continues in effect.
0739 0957 1001 1174 1183 8056 8071 9008	CU-13	Section 3.9 includes intangible traditional cultural resources and properties in the definition of cultural resources. Traditional cultural resources can be sacred areas as well as many other site types. The general types of resources and the concerns of the Shoshone-Paiute relative to these resources are addressed in sections 3.9.1.3, 3.9.2.3, 3.9.3.3, 4.9.1.1, 4.9.1.2, 4.9.2, 4.9.3.3, 4.9.4.3, 4.9.5.3, and 4.9.6.3. A significant effort was made to ensure that the discussions provided in this EIS intangible cultural resources are accurate, yet do not reveal sensitive or confidential information.
0957 1183 1203 8066 9008	CU-14	Federally recognized Indian tribes are considered by the Federal government to be "quasi-sovereign domestic dependent nations." Historically, tribal sovereignty has been interpreted by the judicial, executive, and legislative branches in various ways. However, the principal attributes of tribal sovereignty are that: 1) Indian tribes possess inherent governmental power over internal affairs; 2) the states are precluded from interfering with the tribes' self-government; and 3) Congress has plenary power to limit tribal sovereignty (Canby 1981, cited in Utter 1993). It is outside the purview of the Air Force and beyond the scope of this EIS to resolve disagreements over sovereignty. As a federal agency, the Air Force recognizes the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation as a sovereign nation, with specific rights and limitations established by statute, interpretation and custom. In recognition of this status, the Air Force is working with the Shoshone-Paiute in a government-to-government relationship, as directed by the President's memorandum on government-to-government relations (1994) and as described in section 1.4.4. Section 3.9.1 of this EIS briefly reviews the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley, the 1864 Boise River Treaty, and the 1866 Bruneau Treaty.

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		As stated in the letter of June 9, 1997 from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, the Tribes "... still consider the southern portion of Idaho to be their homeland and do not recognize the 1985 U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding the Treaty of Ruby Valley (1863)." This letter also states that "... aboriginal title to Southern Idaho was never extinguished because the Bruneau and Boise treaties were never ratified by Congress, not was it extinguished by the Executive Order of 1877 establishing the Duck Valley Reservation." The Air Force acknowledges the continued concerns the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes have regarding treaty issues and questions of sovereignty.
0805 0824 0825 0903 1174 1183	CU-15	The Air Force has paid particular attention to the concerns of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes at the Duck Valley Reservation. In addition to studies of the effects of Air Force actions on Shoshone-Paiute culture, the Air Force has conducted extensive consultation with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes or Tribal representatives. This outreach process is summarized in section 1.4.4.4 of this EIS. Within most sections in Chapter 4 of this EIS, subsections directly address specific concerns of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. In addition, the environmental justice of the proposed action is addressed in section 4.12.6.
0848 1192	CU-16	Analysis of land use and transportation (section 4.10.5) concludes that none of the alternatives would have any effect on access by members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation to locations within ROI Three. However, public access would be restricted within the 12,000-acre proposed training range (ROI One). The Air Force has worked, and will continue to work, with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to resolve various issues relating to on-going Air Force activities in southwestern Idaho, including ways to ensure access to resources on existing Air Force lands that are important to Native Americans.
8040	CU-17	The document referred to in this comment was not cited, referenced, or used in any way during the preparation of this EIS.
1148 1174	CU-18	As discussed in section 3.9 of this EIS, setting may be an important aspect of a cultural resource's National Register eligibility. Section 4.9 in this EIS discusses the potential effects of aircraft noise on the audible setting of National Register-eligible cultural resources and on Shoshone-Paiute rituals and ceremonies. While solitude and silence may sometimes be characteristics that contribute to the significance of a cultural resource, neither characteristic is, in and of itself, a cultural resource. Neither solitude nor silence are protected by existing historic preservation legislation except as they relate to the setting of particular cultural resources.

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1183	CU-19	Cumulative impacts are addressed throughout this EIS. Section 2.5 in this EIS explains that the assessment of cumulative impacts focused on two questions: (1) Does a relationship exist such that impacts from the ETI project might affect or be affected by impacts of the other actions? and (2) If a relationship exists, does this assessment reveal any new information of consequence not identified when ETI is considered alone? Two types of cumulative impacts are addressed in this EIS. These are cumulative impacts from ground disturbance, human presence, and overflights and cumulative impacts from other foreseeable projects. Foreseeable projects include an Air Force communication tower at Blue Butte; Administrative Transfer of Electronic Combat Emitter Operations; Installation of Wind Turbine Generators, Grasmere Electronic Combat (EC) Site; and Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) Battlelab. As explained in section 4.9.7, activities associated with these foreseeable projects would not disturb known archaeological or architectural resources eligible for listing on the National Register. On the other hand, as explained in this EIS, traditional cultural resources might be affected by cumulative actions. Neither the Air Force communication tower at Blue Butte, east of SCR, nor the proposed Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) Battlelab would be likely to have any effect on Shoshone-Paiute traditional cultural resources. Blue Butte lies beyond the area previously described by the Shoshone-Paiute as being sensitive or containing traditional cultural resources. The proposed AEF Battlelab would be located on Mountain Home Air Force Base itself. The Shoshone-Paiute have expressed concerns regarding visual intrusions on sacred sites caused by the existing Grasmere EC Site. Additional construction at the site would probably be perceived as further intrusion. Since each of the ETI range development alternatives would include the use of emitter sites or other facilities in the general vicinity of Grasmere, there could be a cumulative adverse effect on Shoshone-Paiute traditional cultural resources or ceremonial practices. Some members of the Shoshone-Paiute tribes have expressed concerns about the Administrative Transfer of Electronic Combat Emitter Operations to the Idaho Air National Guard. The placement and operation of the emitters would be no different than that proposed under ETI; only the personnel operating the emitters

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		would differ. Any legal requirements pertaining to the protection of cultural resources would still apply following the administrative transfer. However, the Shoshone-Paiute are more familiar with the Air Force than with IDANG and have an established relationship with the Air Force.
1183 9008	CU-20	Various sections of this EIS explain that existing aircraft overflight noise and visual intrusions can and do have an adverse effect on the solitude, naturalness, and pristine environment that are important to Shoshone-Paiute ritual practices. The Shoshone-Paiute have stated that such intrusions may also harm spirits, plants, and animals. Tribal representatives have highlighted their concerns about these intrusions to the Air Force on numerous occasions. Specific examples of such intrusions have been left out of this EIS in the interest of maintaining confidentiality. The Air Force has made an effort to learn more about Shoshone-Paiute concerns, to reduce intrusions in some locations, and to accommodate the Shoshone-Paiute when they are holding ceremonies. The Air Force will continue these efforts.
9008	CU-21	The term "prehistory" has been changed in this EIS and in the technical report to "early Native American history". This period is distinguished in the ETI region from "recent Native American history" and "Euro-American history". Prehistory and history are somewhat arbitrary distinctions made by many archaeologists and historians to distinguish periods before and after the presence of written records. Tribal members do not make such a distinction, but instead see one long history that is described in their oral traditions.
9007	CU-22	The Air Force agrees with the findings of the Idaho State Historical Society regarding the BLM's determinations of eligibility for cultural resources recorded during the field surveys for ETI. These findings have been incorporated into this EIS and the final technical report. The Air Force will provide the information requested by the Idaho SHPO regarding previously recorded sites.
9007	CU-23	The Table of Contents refers only to sections numbered to the fourth level. Unnumbered section headings throughout the document are not included in the Table of Contents.
9008	CU-24	This EIS and final cultural resource technical report have been modified to reflect this comment where appropriate. In cases where information from Air Force-supported ethnographic studies is requested, inclusion of such information would violate the promise of confidentiality the Air Force made to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes regarding the ethnographic work.

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

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0245 1192 8014	LU-1	Military aircraft have been overflying southwest Idaho on training missions for over 50 years. These aircraft have been a part of southwest Idaho for as long as most residents of the area can remember. Section 4.10 discusses environmental documentation prepared by the BLM supporting WSA recommendations indicating that military overflights are not a reason to consider the areas inappropriate for future Wilderness Area designation. This EIS cites several BLM Final Environmental Impact Statements prepared between 1987 and 1989 including this EIS for the Jarbidge and Bruneau River Sheep Creek WSAs and the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness which support this statement.
0245 1171 8014	LU-2	Sections 2.3.2 and 4.10.2.4 describe vehicle use levels associated with Air Force training activities. Use levels would range from one or two vehicles traveling each training day approximately 50 to 200 days per year on light duty roads. On medium duty roads, a use level of as many as 32 trips during the week of range cleanup is anticipated. These use levels are very low and analyzed in this EIS.
0247	LU-3	Section 3.10.3.2 provides a discussion on the Wilderness Study Areas and other special use areas under the existing and proposed airspace. Big Jacks and Little Jacks Creek WSAs are included in that description. All WSAs were identified and avoided in the siting of facilities. Section 4.10 provides an analysis of overflight impacts to these areas. Military training overflights did not preclude BLM designations of WSAs nor Congressional designation of wilderness status for resource areas in Idaho or throughout the west.
0355	LU-4	Although there are no designated wild and scenic rivers currently underlying the existing or proposed airspace, section 3.10.3 explains that 121 miles of the Bruneau-Jarbidge River system were recommended by the President as suitable for designation under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act based on a 1976 Bureau of Outdoor Recreation study. In addition, approximately 223 miles of streams within the Owyhee Resource Area were identified as eligible for designation by the BLM. River segments in Nevada and Oregon are also discussed as potentially eligible. All potentially wild and scenic rivers were avoided during siting of any ground disturbing activities. Section 4.2.1.4 explains that all but two areas in the airspace would have reduced noise as a result of selection of an action alternative.

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		Section 4.10.2.3 explains that the potential impacts of aircraft overflights associated with ETI are not likely to affect a river's eligibility based on its scenic quality, biological values, or recreation values. The continued and historic use of the area for military aircraft training has not precluded recommendation as wild or scenic rivers or resulted in a determination that the areas scenic, biologic, and recreational attributes are degraded by the training overflights.
0362 8119	LU-5	The impacts of constructing and improving roads, including the effects of hauling gravel, are addressed within the various resource sections of this EIS. Temporary construction activities and long term usage were assessed for the following: potential impact on public and Air Force personnel safety (see section 4.3); possible effects of fugitive dust as it relates to water quality (see section 4.6), air quality (see section 4.7) and biological resources (see section 4.8); potential soil erosion and the effects on earth resources (see section 4.5) , water quality (see section 4.6) and biological resources (see section 4.8); potential effects to transportation users and facilities (see section 4.10); and possible recreation and visual impacts (see section 4.11). Impacts related to increased access are also addressed in the Recreation, Biological Resources, and Socioeconomics sections of this EIS.
0292 0830 1163 1199	LU-6	Although some consideration has been given by conservation groups, the BLM indicates that a National Conservation Area (NCA) has not been formally proposed for the Owyhee Canyon Lands or the Bruneau Jarbidge area. Section 3.10.3.2 provides a discussion of the special use areas under the existing and proposed airspace. Section 4.10 provides a complete analysis of the impacts to these areas. In the development of the proposal to enhance training, the Air Force and cooperating agencies paid special attention to protect biodiversity and prevent habitat fragmentation. Special use areas were avoided during siting of facilities. Whenever possible, existing roads have been upgraded rather than create new corridors. Concurrent activities are underway to promote reestablishment of native sagebrush communities in currently disturbed areas.
8017 1131	LU-7	Section 3.10.1 presents the general land uses under the existing and proposed airspace. These current land uses include grazing, mining, and recreation. The impacts on these land uses are provided in section 4.10.

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8130	LU-8	None of the lands to be withdrawn under ETI are designated as WSAs or include Wild and Scenic Rivers. The proposed Jacks Creek airspace expansion does overlie a WSA. Solitude values are recognized as an evaluation criteria for wilderness designation. Mitigation measures have been proposed.
1174	LU-9	Section 3.10.3.2 provides a discussion on the special use areas under the existing and proposed airspace. Section 4.10.2.3 provides a complete analysis of the impacts to special use areas, including WSAs, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and other special land uses. All ACECs, applicable plans, and management policies are presented specifically in section 3.10.2 of this EIS.
1179 1183 9010	LU-10	The Resource Management Plan would integrate management strategies to address the full range of resource concerns; discuss pertinent laws and existing plans, including the Owyhee County Land Use Plan; and identify agencies for consultation and coordination. The Owyhee County Commission would be advised as they have been throughout the EIAP.
1193 9010	LU-11	All figures are graphically scaled to fit a page so all information cannot fit on each figure. Figure 3.10-1 illustrates the status of land in ROI Three and Figure 3.10-2 illustrates land status within ROIs One and Two. Figure 3.10-7 focuses on the local road network and communities within ROIs One and Two.
1191	LU-12	The CEQ regulations require that an EIS address possible conflicts between a proposed action and federal land use policies for the area concerned. However, section 4(f) (Pub. L. 89-670) is not applicable to the airspace proposals that FAA will be asked to approve. Congress recently specifically addressed the subject in Section 1079 of the DoD Authorization Act, 1998. That section provides that "[n]o military flight operation (including a military training flight), or designation of airspace for such an operation, may be treated as a transportation program or project for purposes of section 303(c) of title 49, United States Code [Section 4(f)]." The Senate Armed Services Committee, in its report that addressed this provision, stated that application of Section 4(f) to military airspace proposals is not consistent with congressional intent and that military overflights are not a use of the lands protected by Section 4(f). These statements, coupled with the legislative action taken by Congress, demonstrate that Section 4(f) is not an applicable policy required by the CEQ regulations to be addressed in this EIS.

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1179	LU-13	The Air Force would enter into an interagency support agreement and provide funding for a proportional share of road maintenance. This agreement would be in effect prior to the beginning of range operations.
1135 1146 1155 1183 1191 1192	LU-14	Wilderness Study Areas are discussed in section 3.10 and evaluated in section 4.10 of this EIS. The evaluation was performed to determine if the proposed action would negatively affect the lands suitability for designation as wilderness and to determine if the proposed action would affect management under the Interim Management Policy. No activities would be expected to disturb or alter the features or physical resources of Wilderness Study Areas. The primary concern would be impacts to solitude associated with military overflight activities. During the BLM's wilderness study process in Idaho, military overflights were acknowledged. The BLM recognized the importance of these military training operations for national defense preparedness of this country. The impacts of the level of flight activity at that time was not considered sufficient to warrant a nonsuitable recommendation for any of the WSAs within the designated flight operations areas. The Wilderness Act and the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) do not discuss overflights as they relate to designated wilderness areas or WSAs. The BLM does not control airspace over public lands. The BLM does take into consideration the potential changes in airspace activities associated with any land based activities or facilities the agency may authorize. Impacts associated with the ETI proposal would be temporary, reclaimable, and not constrain the Secretary of the Interior's recommendations and, ultimately Congress' decision on Wilderness designation.
1193 9010	LU-15	As discussed in section 2.3.2.3, roads would only be used when weather and road conditions permit. The Air Force would not routinely plow or remove snow.
0290 0355 1132 1143 1174 1183	1191 1199 8132	LU-16	There are no federal laws or regulations that specifically identify chaff as litter, or that even indicate that the use of chaff constitutes littering. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) defines litter as "The highly visible portion of solid waste carelessly discarded outside the regular garbage and trash collection and disposal system." Chaff fibers, because of their small size, while

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		detectable in some circumstances, are not "highly visible." Furthermore, when chaff is ejected from an aircraft, it is being used for its intended purpose, and is not being "carelessly discarded." A field study of two locations where chaff is used, including a desert location where chaff has been used intensively, examined the potential for chaff to accumulate and create land use or visual impacts. Chaff was found to dispense and settle over broad areas, thus being unnoticeable under most conditions. Occasionally, clumps of chaff that had not dispersed properly were found to be visible at short distances, generally less than 25 feet away. Findings indicate that adverse effects on land use or visual resources are unlikely (ACC 1997).
1193 9010	LU-17	Figure 3.10-7 has been corrected in this EIS.
1191	LU-18	ETI is an entirely new proposal. The proposal was designed to reduce noise throughout the military training airspace. It addresses new locations, and incorporates new training methods and tactics. Lessons learned from previous projects were incorporated into this proposal to balance readiness training with the environment and traditional land uses. As discussed in section 4.2, noise levels are generally reduced throughout the area, with the exception of those specific points associated with a particular range alternative and the area encompassed by proposed airspace expansion.
1191	LU-19	Information regarding specific attributes of each of the WSAs has been added to section 3.10.3.1 of this EIS. The discussion provided in section 4.10 is based on complete analysis of potential impacts on the WSAs from the proposed actions. The cumulative effects analysis is provided in section 4.10.6. Furthermore, discussions of the various specific attributes of these areas may be found throughout the document, including biological resources and recreation and visual resource sections.
1193 9010	LU-20	The Owyhee County Land Use Plan was reviewed as part of this analysis and its intent is summarized in section 3.10.2.2. The land withdrawal would not affect any privately held lands, but would change the land management responsibility from the BLM to the Air Force. Also refer to Response #LU-10.
1191	LU-21	Public lands of the United States have been managed for multiple use for many years. WSAs are no exception. Military overflights have and do occur in airspace over numerous WSAs. The airspace

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		associated with the Air Force's premier training range for military pilots, Nellis Range, Nevada, includes a Forest Service Wilderness Area, a fish and wildlife refuge, and several WSAs that serve as sanctuary for sensitive species. Although noise from overflights could disturb a person's sense of solitude, overflights are not a limiting factor for designating a WSA as wilderness. There are many WSAs and designated wilderness areas that are currently overflown by military aircraft. The BLM has already made its recommendations for wilderness designation in Idaho. WSAs identified by the BLM would continue to remain suitable for designation. Also refer to Response #LU-14 and LU-22.
1191	LU-22	The ETI proposal has been analyzed using the standards and the evaluation procedures required as described in the BLM's manual that addresses IMP (H-8550-1). As a cooperating agency, the BLM has participated in the evaluation and analysis of the ETI proposal throughout the NEPA process. Public scoping meetings and public hearings were conducted as cooperating agencies. The environmental analysis was performed to determine if the proposed action would affect management under the Interim Management Policy. No activities would be expected to disturb or alter the features or physical resources of WSAs. It is important to note that the airspace is authorized by the FAA. Noise from military overflights is recognized as detracting from solitude, but it is outside the authority of the BLM. The BLM does not control airspace, does not authorize the military use of airspace, and does not control the number of sorties flown. However, the BLM can often influence airspace activities over special use areas by working with the military.
1191	LU-23	The BLM in the *Idaho Wilderness Study Report* recognized the importance of military training operations, but did not consider the impacts of the overflights as sufficient to warrant a nonsuitable recommendation for any of the WSAs within the designated flight operation areas. This EIS simply states that if these WSAs were eligible for designation during the 1976 through 1991 time frame when overflight activities occurred at similar if not more intensive levels than under the proposed action, designation should not be precluded under the proposed action. Also refer to Response #LU-14.

RECREATION AND VISUAL

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0245		RV-1	No specific survey was conducted for this EIS. However, recreation use data and visitor perception data were provided by the BLM. Furthermore, a study on wilderness visitors perception on aircraft overflights was used (USFS 1992). In this study, a number of the visitors surveyed were exposed to comparable settings to southwestern Idaho.
0290		RV-2	As presented in section 4.11, ETI will affect the areas in ROI One that incur ground disturbance and the area under a selected alternative and in the northern airspace extension which will have increased overflights. The Owyhee Canyonlands and the Duck Valley Reservation will receive fewer overflights. Given the remoteness of the area, dispersed recreation use data are difficult to estimate. Both land and resource managers, BLM and IDFG provided the most recent visitor use data for the area. The Idaho Department of Commerce was also contacted for visitor use of the area, but does not keep track of dispersed recreation use.
0292 1131	1148 1163	RV-3	Section 4.11.2.3 provides a discussion of the range support MOA expansion which includes Little and Big Jacks Creek WSAs. Impacts to recreation in WSAs from the MOA expansion are covered under this section. Also refer to Response # LU-3.
0292 0739	1147 8082	RV-4	The Idaho State Centennial Trail is discussed in this EIS (see section 3.11.1.2).
0870 1147 1181		RV-5	Visual resources were examined during the EIAP for ETI. Air Force training has been a part of the Idaho environment for over 50 years. Much of the training has occurred over the Owyhee canyonlands. The addition of airspace associated with the ETI proposal provides opportunities to alter aircraft operations during seasonal periods of certain activities. Alternatives B, C, and D would add two aircraft sorties per day to the existing conditions. Such a change, in conjunction with additional airspace, would not significantly affect the visual resources of southern Idaho. The visual resource analysis for the proposed ranges and emitter sites included both the BLM's VRM guidelines and a line-of-sight or viewpoint determination. The combination of these components form the visual analysis and are discussed in section 4.11 of the DEIS.
0292 0350 0807 0932	0957 0973 1147 1149	RV-6	This EIS has been prepared in accordance with NEPA and CEQ regulations. Following the guidelines, the best available data regarding recreation use and opportunities, including hunting and boating, were used. Public and agency concerns regarding

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			recreation are found in Volume 2. Possible mitigation measures are presented in the Preface volume and section 2.6.
1147 1162	1163 8119	RV-7	Section 3.11.1.2 addresses the issue(s) of opportunities for solitude. This EIS indicates the expected impacts to solitude in section 4.11.2.3.
1083 1155 8128		RV-8	Section 4.11 of this EIS utilizes the *Potential Impacts of Aircraft Overflights of National Forest System Wildernesses* (USFS 1992) study as well as other studies, as the basis for determining the effects of aircraft overflights on people in a wilderness setting. In the Forest Service study, wilderness visitors were interviewed to assess the actual impacts from exposure to aircraft overflights while using wilderness areas. Analysis of the noise environment is presented in sections 3.2 and 4.2 of this EIS.
0245		RV-9	No defined recreation site exists in the area surrounding the Clover Butte Alternative, however a float boat put-in/take-out point is located along the Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers, west of the Clover Butte range. The access road to the boat point will continue to remain open.
0848 1015		RV-10	Recreation issues associated with floating and fishing the Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers are addressed in section 4.11 in the discussion of each alternative. These recreation opportunities would not change as a result of the proposed alternatives.
0903		RV-11	Noise issues are addressed in section 4.11 in the discussion of each alternative. The noise environment would change very little over the existing conditions, except around the alternative site and the range support MOA. In the canyon regions, specifically the Bruneau and Owyhee rivers, where most recreation opportunities exist the noise levels would decrease.
1083 1155 1192		RV-12	Only temporary task lighting and local safety lighting would be used on the 12,000-acre range. Visibility of this range from a public access point is limited and would not be visible from within a canyon area. As stated in section 2.3.4, night operation would represent less than 10 percent of the total flight activity.
1131 1162 1163		RV-13	Approximately 13 miles of the Clover-Three Creek road would have some improvements performed such as gravelling, and where appropriate to prevent erosion, drainage culverts. A bridge would be replaced over Clover Creek. The majority of road improvements lead to emitter sites or no-drop target areas and not to highly used specific recreation destinations. Since the Clover-Three Creek road

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		leads to Murphy Hot Springs, some increase to recreation use may occur due to the road improvements. However, Three Creek is already considered a good access road compared to other roads in the area. It is already able to accommodate light or medium duty travel most of the year and does not require seasonal limitations. A substantial portion of the Clover-Three Creek road would remain unimproved. With low visitor use in the region and the roads recognized quality compared to other roads, it is unlikely that recreation use would increase substantially as a result of the road improvements. This information is reflected in this EIS.
1147 1162 1163 1193 9010	RV-14	Access to recreation sites would not be restricted. Changes in residential and recreational use due to changes in access as well as road maintenance are discussed in section 4.10. The majority of road improvements lead to emitter sites or no-drop target areas and not to highly used specific recreation destinations. The access roads closed under any alternatives are not primary access roads for recreation or residential travel and are rarely used.
1147 1162 1163	RV-15	Sections 4.11.2, 4.11.3, and 4.11.4 discuss the potential loss of primitive recreational land due to the proposed target areas. As discussed, overall, very little primitive recreational lands would be lost as a result of the proposed action.
1171	RV-16	As discussed in section 3.11, the dispersed nature of outdoor recreation activities and the remote undeveloped area makes recreational use figures difficult to determine. The recreational use data was obtained from the BLM, IDFG, and from an independent study performed on recreation use in the region (BSU 1993).
1191	RV-17	Section 3.11 of this EIS acknowledges that the southern Idaho desert has a variety of physical and psychological settings that provide a primitive recreational experience of natural beauty, solitude, and freedom from the regulations of structured urban areas. Public testimony during the scoping sessions for this proposal attested to the many wonderful attributes and opportunities for recreation and a solitude experience were also discussed even though the area is located south of an existing training range that has been in use for over 30 years. The two ROIs used for the recreation analysis were for the larger land area affected as a direct impact to recreation included military overflights. ROI One, which addressed on range components was not specifically used to prevent a narrowly focused look at a specific point on a map. The recreation section did not include "recreational use" of cultural resources in ROI One since

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		Native Americans and other agencies specifically object to such recreation.
1191	RV-18	The recreation analysis for this EIS was not based on the ITR Recreation Technical Support document (TSD). The methodology for recreation and visual analysis is present in section 4.11. The ITR Recreation TSD was used only as a general background source of information. No specific information was used, therefore, the ITR Recreation TSD was not used as a reference.
1191	RV-19	The reference for the 1976 Bureau of Outdoor Recreation can be found in the DEIS Chapter 7 under U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. This citation has been corrected in the reference section to reflect the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as the authors.
1191	RV-20	All preparers of this EIS are highly qualified individuals. The analyst which performed the recreation analysis has over nine years of experience.
1191	RV-21	The primary purpose of the BSU survey (1993) was to determine how many people recreate in certain areas of southwestern Idaho. The survey focused on existing users of all types. The recreation analysis presented in this EIS uses the best available data regarding recreation use and opportunities. The BSU survey was only used as a source for recreation use figures in the ETI analysis. Besides using recreation use data from the BSU survey, other recreation use data were gathered from the BLM and IDFG.
1193	RV-22	Section 3.11 has been modified to reflect your suggested correction.
1191	RV-23	The BSU survey (BSU 1993) used random sampling to gain a representative sample of people recreating in the Bruneau-Jarbidge and Owyhee River canyonland areas. The U.S. Forest Service study (1992) and BSU survey reached similar conclusions in that people recreate in an area which, although exposed to aircraft, they still find enjoyable and return to.
1193	RV-24	Figure 3.10-7 depicts the road network associated with the alternative components.
1191	RV-25	Section 4.11 describes the methodology used for recreation and visual analysis. Recreation use and opportunities, recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS), visual resources, and visual resources management (VRM) were all reviewed using this methodology, including for the land withdrawal. A broad sweeping statement was

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		not used in the impact analysis for the land withdrawal. Section 4.11.2.1 discusses recreation and use opportunities (in ROI Two) in regards to the land withdrawal.

SOCIOECONOMICS

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0290	SO-1	The financial data regarding controlled hunts are not used in the impact analysis because the recreation analysis found that there would be no impacts.
0364	SO-2	No change in the population of the ROI is anticipated as a result of the proposed action or alternatives, consequently no new households, schoolchildren, or use of community services such as schools or libraries are anticipated.
8044	SO-3	The socioeconomic analysis conducted for this EIS included an analysis of the impacts on the livestock and grazing industry in the region (sections 3.12 and 4.12) and on recreation activities in the region (sections 3.12 and 4.12).
0939 1083 1131 1147 1149 1155 1192 1202 8044	SO-4	The studies conducted for this EIS concluded that no significant impacts to recreation activities, access or amenities were anticipated as a result of the proposed action or alternatives. Impacts to economic factors associated with the recreation industry in Owyhee County, would be driven by substantial changes in recreation activity by participants, access to recreation sites, or changes to the amenities (i.e., wildlife, scenery) they value. Because no such changes were expected, no impacts to recreation businesses or related economic activity was projected to occur.
0363 1179 8126	SO-5	According to the analysis, the ETI proposals would result in a general reduction of average noise levels throughout the airspace except in a few notable locations where residential property values are not an issue (i.e., directly over the proposed training ranges). Because noise levels are expected to decrease over the incidental residence or ranch within the area, no analysis of impacts to property values as a result of noise was warranted. For a more detailed discussion of aircraft overflights and land values, please see Response # SO-12.
0363 8126	SO-6	The Composite Wing was established in 1992 and was complete by 1994. From FY92 to FY93, there was a significant increase in the number of sorties flow, however from FY93 to FY96 the number of sorties flown remained essentially the same. From 1991 through 1994 (the period including and following the establishment of the Composite Wing), recreation-related revenues in Owyhee County fluctuated somewhat, but remained between $900,000 and $1,000,000 per year--the increase in the number of sorties flown during 1992/1993 did not seem to affect recreation activities in the region. During 1995, there was about a 30 percent decrease in recreation-related revenues in Owyhee County (primarily related to recreation services, including

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		outfitters and guides), however these revenues rebounded somewhat in 1996. A variety of factors could result in a temporary decline in outfitter and guide services, including limitations by the BLM and low water in the river system.
0927	SO-7	The direct quote from Appendix H is: "The mining industry maintains a relatively small but important role in the economy of Owyhee County." The $6.9 million earnings by mining represented ten percent of county total earnings. The number of recreational jobs in Owyhee County is only estimated to be 15. This is a relatively small portion of Owyhee County's approximately 3,195 jobs. The 446 retail trade employees were not as a result of the 15 recreation jobs. Text has been added to Appendix H to clarify the retail trade jobs.
0363	SO-8	The Composite Wing was established in 1992. The baseline economic information presented in this EIS includes, for most parameters, 1990 Census data and several subsequent years, including the years of the Composite Wing build-up. Not all of this data is presented in table form, therefore the reader must read the text in addition to reviewing the tables in order to get a complete understanding of the baseline economic conditions.
1173	SO-9	The total number of AUMs on each affected allotment was provided by the BLM. This data is presented in Table 3.12-15 of this EIS. In order to determine the number of AUMs on the specific portion of each allotment located within the 12,000-acre range, it was assumed that the AUMs were evenly distributed throughout the allotment. The cow-calf budgets used in the analysis were provided by the Owyhee County Extension Agent and provide values for gross receipts and operational costs on a per head basis. It is believed that this data is representative of livestock operations in the region.
1173 1179	SO-10	The regional economic impacts addressed in livestock grazing assume "removal of the 12,000 acres in its entirety from existing grazing allotments. Use of the affected lands for grazing, following acquisition, would lessen or eliminate the livestock industry impacts." In regional economic terms, this means that the worst case for an operator would be removal of all 12,000 acres. Approximately 11,000 acres of the 12,000 acres would continue to be part of regional grazing. For the region as a whole, the proposed action would remove only approximately 1,000 acres from grazing. The direct, indirect, and induced impact to economic activity from a loss of approximately 1,000 acres of rangeland would total less than one-fifth of a employee when all impacts to trucking, feed production, feedlot usage, etc. are included. This total regional impact was believed to be not significant

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		and this EIS focuses on the specific impacts to an individual rancher. An expanded economics section in this EIS identifies and quantifies livestock industry concerns and explains the low total impact. In addition, the expanded economics section more thoroughly quantifies the economic benefits to the region from construction and operation of a new range.
1173 1179 1193 9010	SO-11	Not more than two or three BLM allotments will be affected by a selected alternative. The Air Force has agreed to work directly with the ranchers potentially disrupted by a new training range. Detailed agreements between the Air Force and the affected ranchers will include a real estate agreement to be completed in concurrence with a ROD. This agreement will include language to address road use, disruption to operations, cattle movement, and water pipelines. The agreement will not include details on hiring employees or management of those employees by specific ranchers.
0363 1192	SO-12	Public and agency comments on the DEIS requested an expanded economic analysis. This EIS contains expanded analysis that describes regional socioeconomic implications of project construction and operation. Projected reduction in noise around the Duck Valley Reservation and in the majority of Owyhee County associated with a new range is described in section 4.2. There is no quantifiable economic benefit that can be attributed to this reduction in noise just as there is no quantifiable cost that can be attributed to any increase in noise in a rural setting. Commentors on the DEIS expressed concern that aircraft overflights could affect land values. The question of aircraft overflights potentially affecting land values has been asked in many locations throughout the nation. In some urban locations, documentation has been prepared that seeks to quantify the economic impacts of aircraft overflight to urban land values. This documentation deals with aircraft noise around airports in an urban setting. Some quantification has been performed but the variability of land and land improvements, even in the immediate vicinity of scheduled and direct overflights near airports, has made it extremely difficult to document land value changes attributable to airport activity. In a rural setting, any increase in daily aircraft overflights from, for example, 5 to 10 overflights at a distance anywhere between 500 feet to many miles, may or may not be discernible. Where there is an ability to discern that there is a change in non-airport overflight activity,

Comment #	Response #	Response
		existing variability's in land location and improvements make it impossible to quantify any potential difference believed to be associated with aircraft overflights. Given the very rural nature of the area and the sporadic nature of overflights within a MOA, changes to aircraft overflights are not projected to produce measurable impacts upon the economic value of land beneath the MOAs.
1179	SO-13	The BLM, other offices within the Department of the Interior, and the Air Force will be drafting language for consideration by Congress for the land withdrawal. The terms of the withdrawal will be specified in that language and this comment will be taken into account.
1193	SO-14	PILT revenues are projected to decline by less than one percent. This decline represents less than one-tenth of one percent of Owyhee County revenues. See section 4.12.
1183 1193 9010	SO-15	An economic analysis of the potential impacts associated with ETI was conducted and included discussion of both Owyhee and Elko counties. The results of the socioeconomic analysis indicated that negligible long-term impacts to employment and population were likely to occur, therefore specific analyses of each community (e.g., Bruneau) within the counties was not considered necessary. Humboldt and Malheur counties are partially located under affected airspace, however they are outside the area expected to experience any measurable socioeconomic effects and were not included in the socioeconomic ROI. Socioeconomic analysis of existing conditions and potential impacts at Duck Valley Reservation are included in sections 3.12.7 and 4.12.6. Additional detail regarding Native American populations residing in potentially affected regions under the airspace are included in this EIS.
1131	SO-16	The biological resources analysis conducted for the DEIS concluded that no significant impact to bighorn sheep in Owyhee County were anticipated as a result of the proposed action or alternatives. Therefore, an analysis of the value of the bighorn sheep population in Owyhee County was considered to be outside the scope of this study. Refer to section 3.12.6 in the DEIS for information regarding hunt permit revenues and other hunting and recreation-related economic activity.
1182	SO-17	The Air Force has been sensitive to environmental justice concerns associated with ETI impacts. Environmental justice issues are addressed specifically in section 4.12.6 and the various resource sections.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAA	Anti-Aircraft Artillery
AAMRL	Armstrong Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory
ACC	Air Combat Command
ACCI	Air Combat Command Instruction
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACM	Air Combat Maneuver
AEF	Air Expeditionary Force
AESO	Aircraft Environmental Support Office
AFB	Air Force Base
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AFP	Air Force Pamphlet
AFOSH	Air Force Occupational Safety and Health
AFR	Air Force Regulation
AGL	Above Ground Level
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
ANG	Air National Guard
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
ARTCC	Air Route Traffic Control Center
AST	Aboveground Storage Tank
ATC	Air Traffic Control
ATCAA	Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace
AUM	Animal Unit Month
AWACS	Airborne Warning and Control System
BAM	Bird Avoidance Model
BASH	Bird-Aircraft Strike Hazard
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BDU	Bomb Dummy Unit
BHB	Bruncan-Hardtrigger-Buncelvoir
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
BP	Babbington-Piline
BSU	Boise State University
CAA	Clean Air Act
CaO	calcium oxide
cc	cubic centimeters
CCD	Census County Division
CDNL	C-Weighted Day-Night Average Sound Level
CDP	Census Designated Place
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensations and Liability Act
CERFA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
CT	Continuation Training
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWT	Composite Wing Training
dB	Decibels
dB(A)	decibel (A-weighted)
dB(C)	CDNL in units of decibels
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DEQ	Division of Environmental Quality
DNL	Day-Night Average Sound Level
DoD	Department of Defense
DODI	Department of Defense Instruction
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOT	Department of Transportation
DRMO	Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office
DRMS	Defense Reuse Management System
EA	Environmental Assessment
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
EC	Electronic Combat
EDR	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EED	Electroexplosive Devices
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
E.O.	Executive Order
EOD	explosive ordnance disposal
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESII	Envirosafe Services of Idaho
ETI	Enhanced Training in Idaho
EUA	Exclusive Use Area
F	Fahrenheit
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEBA	Forward Edge of Battle Area
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFCA	Federal Facilities Compliance Act
FICON	Federal Interagency Committee on Noise
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act
FIP	Federal Implementation Plan
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FMZ	Fire Management Zone
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FTRC	Fallon Training Range Complex
FY	Fiscal Year
GAP	Gap Analysis Project
GCI	Ground Control Intercept
GIS	Geographic Information System
GYE	Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
HAP	High Accident Potential
HASP	Health and Safety Plan
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HMA	Herd Management Area
HSV	Hardtrigger-Snowmore-Vickery
ICDC	Idaho Conservation Data Center
IDANG	Idaho Air National Guard
IDARNG	Idaho Army National Guard
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDHW	Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
IFR	Instrument Flight Rules

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

IMACS	Intermountain Antiquities Computer Survey
IMP	Interim Management Policy
INPS	Idaho Native Plant Society
IR	Instrument Route
IRA	Indian Reorganization Act
ISHS	Idaho State Historical Society
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department
ITR	Idaho Training Range
KTAS	Knots True Airspeed
kW	kilowatt
Ldn	Day-Night Average Sound Level
Ldnmr	Onset Rate-Adjusted Monthly Day-Night Average Sound Level
Lmax	maximum sound level
MAILS	Multiple Aircraft Instantaneous Line Source
MCI	Major Command Instructions
MCL	maximum contaminant level
MFP	Management Framework Plan
mg/l	milligrams per liter
mm	millimeter
MOA	Military Operations Area
MRNMAP	MOA Range NOISEMAP
MRU	Military Radar Unit
MSL	Mean Sea Level
MTR	Military Training Route
MUA	Multiple Use Area
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NAWC	Naval Air Warfare Center
NCA	National Conservation Area
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NAFR	Nellis Air Force Range
NAGPRA	Native American Graves and Repatriation Act
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center
n.d.	no date
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NM	Nautical Miles
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPS	National Park Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O_3	Ozone
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OGOI	Operation Group Operating Instruction
OHV	off-highway vehicle
ONA	Outstanding Natural Area
ORE	Operational Readiness Exercise
ORI	Operational Readiness Inspection
PAA	primary assigned aircraft
Pb	Lead
PBR	Precision Bombing Range
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PEL	Permissible Exposure Limit
PILT	Payments in Lieu of Taxes
PL	Public Law
PM_{10}	particulates less than 10 microns in diameter
POD	Point of Diversion
POU	Place of Use
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
psf	per square foot
RANS	Range Squadron
RAPCON	radar approach control
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RF	Radio Frequency
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
ROI	Region of Influence
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
RRP	Rubbleland-Rock outcrop-Pachic Argixerolls
RRTAC	Raptor Research and Technical Assistance Center
SAC	Strategic Air Command
SAM	Surface to Air Missile
SCR	Saylor Creek Range
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SEAD	suppression of enemy air defenses
SECAF	Secretary of the Air Force
SEL	Sound Exposure Level
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRP	Snake River Plain
SUA	Special-Use Airspace
SWDA	Solid Waste Disposal Act
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
TDS	total dissolved solids
THC	Total Hydrocarbons
T.O.	Technical Order
TSCA	Toxic Substance Control Act
TSD	treatment, storage or disposal
TSP	Total Suspended Particulates
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UTTR	Utah Test and Training Range
VCA	Vertebrate Characteristics Abstract
VFR	Visual Flight Rules
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
VR	Visual Route
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WZ	Wickahoney-Zecanyon