ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BASE TRAINING AREA, SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

Prepared by
50 CES/CEV

DECEMBER 2010

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14. ABSTRACT

The Department of the Air Force prepared a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based upon the results of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate environmental issues and potential impacts associated with a proposal to construct a Base Training Area at Schriever Air Force Base (SAFB) in FY 2011. Alternatives evaluated were the Proposed Action, an Alternative Action, and the No Action Alternative. Project-specific and cumulative environmental consequences were analyzed for 13 resource areas, including air quality, biological resources (vegetation, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species), cultural resources, land use, noise, occupational safety and health pollution prevention, socioeconomic conditions, soils, water resources, wetlands, irretrievable commitment of resources, and environmental justice. The resource analysis determined that there would be no significant impacts to these resources as a result of the Proposed Action.

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BASE TRAINING AREA, SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for a Proposed Action and two alternatives. The EA identified and evaluated the potential environmental effects from construction of a Base training area at Schriever Air Force Base (SAFB), Colorado. The EA for this proposed project is incorporated herein by reference. The U.S. Air Force prepared the EA in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 USC 4321-4347) and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations (CEQ) (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). Construction for the Training Area is proposed for fiscal year (FY) 2011.

The EA analyzed the environmental effects from the Proposed Action to construct the Base Training Area (Alternative 1), the alternate location for the Base Training Area, with construction of the Shoot House only, (Alternative 2), and the No Action Alternative (Alternative 3). The locations are presented on pages 2-3 and 2-4 of the attached EA.

1. Description of Proposed Alternatives

ALTERNATIVE 1 – PROPOSED ACTION – CONSTRUCT THE TRAINING AREA IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE BASE.

The Base Training Area would consist of a Shoot House; a Shoot, Move, Communicate (SMC) course; an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) course, a Land Navigation course, Parking Area, and Base-X area. The project would utilize approximately 170 acres of land bordering the southeast corner of SAFB. There would be minor short-term air impacts during construction as a result of fugitive dust; however there would be no detrimental long-term or cumulative effects due to the Proposed Action.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – CONSTRUCT SHOOT HOUSE ON THE SITE OF EXISTING BASE-X AREA

The Shoot House would be located on the site of the existing Base-X area. With this option, the Base Training Area would only consist of the current Base-X area and the Shoot House. No area would be designated for land navigation, SMC course, or ATV training. There would be minor short-term air impacts during construction as a result of fugitive dust, but no detrimental long-term or cumulative effects due to Alternative 2.

ALTERNATIVE 3 – NO ACTION

The Base Training Area in the Southeast corner of SAFB would not be constructed. Personnel would train on the existing Base-X area or travel to locations off of SAFB for training.

2. Environmental Analysis

Based on the analysis contained in the EA, the USAF has determined that the Proposed Action has the potential to result in adverse environmental impacts; however, no significant impacts are anticipated as noted in Table 1 which summarizes the results of the EA analysis.

3. Public Comment and Review

The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment from 12 DEC 2010 to 25 DEC 2010 at East Library and Penrose Library in Colorado Springs, Colorado. No public comments were received during this period. Comments were received from Federal, state, and local agencies. The comments were incorporated into the analysis of potential environmental impacts performed as a part of this EA, where applicable.

4. Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon my review of the EA, attached and incorporated herein by reference, I conclude that the proposed action will not have significant direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse impact upon the environment. The requirements of NEPA, regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and 32 CFR 989 are fulfilled and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

31 JAN 11

WAYNE R. MONTEITH
Colonel, USAF
Commander, 50th Space Wing

Date

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION

Environmental Resource	Environmental Impact
Air Quality	Fugitive dust and carbon monoxide emissions during construction would be minimal with adequate mitigation measures.
Biological Resources	Minor changes to the unimproved land in the Proposed Action would not significantly affect wildlife, threatened or endangered species.
Cultural Resources	No cultural resources are known to occur on SAFB.
Land Use	No prime farmland or state-important farmland is present.
Noise	Temporary local construction noise increases; no effect to noise sensitive receptors. Noise during construction would not exceed permissible levels at property boundary.
Occupational Safety and Health	No short-term or long-term adverse safety and health effects are expected.
Pollution Prevention	Negligible hazardous materials generated during construction.
Socio-economic Conditions	Short term benefit from construction jobs. No significant long-term change in SAFB work force, utilities service, or transportation
Soils	Water is expected to infiltrate into soils.
Water Resources	No changes in current conditions.
Wetlands	No risk or threat to wetlands.
Cumulative Effects	Incremental increase in developed land, impervious surface and storm water runoff.
Environmental Justice	This project would not have an adverse impact upon minority populations and/or low-income populations.
Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources	Irretrievable commitment of materials, energy, fuel, and labor utilized during construction activities.

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COVER SHEET
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BASE TRAINING AREA, SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

Responsible Agency

Department of the Air Force

Report Designation

Environmental Assessment for Construction of Base Training Area, Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado

Abstract

The Department of the Air Force prepared a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based upon the results of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate environmental issues and potential impacts associated with a proposal to construct a Base Training Area at Schriever Air Force Base (SAFB) in FY 2011.

Alternatives evaluated were the Proposed Action, an Alternative Action, and the No Action Alternative.

Project-specific and cumulative environmental consequences were analyzed for 13 resource areas, including air quality, biological resources (vegetation, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species), cultural resources, land use, noise, occupational safety and health, pollution prevention, socioeconomic conditions, soils, water resources, wetlands, irretrievable commitment of resources, and environmental justice. The resource analysis determined that there would be no significant impacts to these resources as a result of the Proposed Action.

Public Comments

The Department of the Air Force encourages public participation in the FONSI and EA process. Public comments on the draft FONSI and EA were solicited by public notice in *The Gazette*. The draft FONSI and EA were also distributed to the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, and Pikes Peak library district. Comments and inquiries regarding the FONSI and EA should be directed to Mr. Andrew Jensen, 50 CES/CEV, in care of:

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ACRONYMNS AND ABBREVIATIONS

50 CES/CEV	50th Civil Engineer Squadron/Environmental Flight
50 SFS	50th Security Forces Squadron
50 SW	50th Space Wing
AADT	Average Annual Daily Traffic (counts)
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADT	Average Daily Traffic (counts)
AFB	Air Force Base
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
BHPO	Base Historic Preservation Officer
CAA	Clean Air Act
C.C.R.	Code of Colorado Regulations .
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CESQG	Conditionally exempt small quantity generator
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	Carbon monoxide
CRS	Colorado Revised Statutes
dBA	A-weighted decibels to human hearing level
DoD	United States Department of Defense
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
HAZMAT	Hazardous Material
HAZMART	Hazardous Materials Pharmacy
IICEP	Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination Act for Environmental Planning
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO_X	Nitrogen oxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places

O_3	Ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
P_2MAP	Pollution Prevention Management Action Plan
Pb	Lead
PM_{1O}	Particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter
PPACG	Pikes Peak Area Council of Government
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SAFB	Schriever Air Force Base
SH	State Highway
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMC	Shoot, Move, Communicate
SO_2	Sulfur dioxide
USAF	United States Air Force
U.S.C.	United States Code
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

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SECTION 1
PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

This section describes the proposed action and alternatives, the need for the proposed action, related environmental documents, the decision to be made, scope of the environmental analysis process, and applicable regulatory requirements and required coordination.

1.1 Introduction

The 50th Space Wing (50 SW), Schriever Air Force Base (SAFB), Colorado, proposes to construct a Base Training Area to provide a location for 50 SW personnel to conduct active shooter, deployment, and contingency training. The proposed Base Training Area would be located outside of the restricted area, which is where non-mission essential facilities are to be sited. The proposed Base Training Area would utilize approximately 170 acres and consist of a Shoot House; a Shoot, Move, Communicate (SMC) Course, an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) course, a Land Navigation course, Parking Area, and Base-X area.

1.2 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of this construction project is to provide sufficient space to adequately accommodate personnel and mission training demands at the SAFB.

The need for the proposed action is existing facilities at the Base for training are either inadequate or lacking completely. There is no training area on SAFB which can support all of the training requirements for the 50 SW and associated tenants. The proposed Base Training Area would provide a localized facility that can support ongoing active shooter scenarios, SMC training, ATV operation and safety, as well as Land Navigation, deployment and contingency training. Due to the current lack of these facilities on SAFB, this training is currently conducted off-site, resulting in time and budgetary constraints.

1.3 Related Environmental Documents

The effects of base development and operations on the existing environment have been evaluated in the following environmental assessments and natural resource and cultural resource management plans. These studies cover the developed portion of the base and its associated buffer and compatible-use zones. Analysis of the proposed action references these reports and they are available in the library of the 50th Civil Engineer Squadron (50 CES/CEAN)/Natural Resources Management, Building 500.

- *Environmental Assessment for the Base General Plan, (*Labat Environmental Inc, *2007).*

- *Environmental Assessment for Construction of Security Forces Training Facilities and Force Protection Upgrades at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado, (SAIC, 2003)*
- *Environmental Assessment for the Black Tailed Prairie Dog Management Plan, Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado, (50 CES/CEV, 2002).*
- *Environmental Assessment for the Physical Fitness Center, (Parsons ES, 1999)*
- *Environmental Assessment for the Security Fence Around the Buffer Zone of the Installation, (Labat-Anderson, 2003)*
- *SAFB Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, (HydroGeoLogic, Inc., 2008)*

1.4 Decision to be Made

The Commander of the 50th Space Wing must decide whether this Environmental Assessment (EA) results in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or if further analysis is necessary.

1.5 Scope of the Environmental Assessment

An EA was prepared for the Proposed Action, an Alternate Action, and the No Action Alternative regarding the construction of a Base Training Area at SAFB, Colorado. Construction for the Base Training Area is proposed for FY 2011.

An advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper announcing the availability of the Draft EA and FONSI.

This EA was prepared in accordance with:

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);
- The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508);
- 32 CFR Part 989, 15 Jul 99, and amended 30 December 2005 (Air Force *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*;
- Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7060, *Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP)*;
- Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2225, *Security Forces Training and Standardization Evaluation Programs;*
- Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7086, *Hazardous Materials Management*

SECTION 2
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

This section names the three alternatives, describes the process used to formulate the alternatives, identifies the site selection criteria, and provides detailed descriptions of the alternatives. The three alternatives evaluated in this EA are:

- Alternative 1 (Proposed Action): Construct a Base Training Area in the southeast corner of SAFB;
- Alternative 2: Construct a Shoot House on the site of the current Base-X Area; and,
- Alternative 3: No Action Alternative, personnel would be required to use existing methods and facilities.

Throughout the remainder of this document, Alternative 1 is referred to as the "Preferred or Proposed Action" and Alternative 3 is referred to as the "No Action" Alternative.

2.1 Alternative Selection and Site Selection Criteria

The *Schriever Air Force Base General Plan* and *Vision 2020* are the principal documents guiding assessment and planning future installation growth and development at SAFB. Current SAFB policy dictates new mission or mission support facilities will be constructed within the restricted area, and all non-mission functions will be sited outside of the restricted area. The restricted area is the central portion of the base enclosed by a security fence.

The following criteria were used to develop the alternatives:

- The location should be convenient to 50 SW and 50th Security Forces Squadron (50 SFS) personnel.
- The selected alternative must meet federal, state, and local environmental regulations. Site location should consider prevailing winds and avoid areas that would have environmental constraints.

2.2 Alternative 1 – Proposed Action

The proposed Base Training Area would be constructed in the southeast corner of SAFB (Figure 2.1). This location is outside the restricted area of the base. This site would provide on-base training access for 50 SW personnel working in both the secure and non-secure areas. Currently, the location for the Proposed Action is un-improved grassland.

The Proposed Action construction design consists of multiple components utilizing approximately 170 acres of land (Figure 2.2). The proposed project components would include the following:

Shoot House: The Shoot House would support and train personnel on active shooter situations. Construction of the Shoot House would require the laying of a concrete pad (approximately 4000 SF) to support the facility.

SMC Course: The SMC course would provide personnel with an area to train on their "Shoot, Move, Communicate" skills, as required by AFI 36-2225. The course area would only need to be cleared and leveled.

ATV Course: The ATV course would provide an area for personnel to conduct ATV operation and safety training. The course area would be cleared and leveled; course obstacles would be installed in the form of dirt berms, hills, etc.

Land Navigation Course: The Land Navigation course would provide all 50 SW personnel with an area to conduct hands-on land navigation training. The course would also be used as a training area for ATV riders to learn how to traverse uneven terrain. The course would not require significant modification, clearing, or leveling.

Parking Area: A designated parking area is necessary to protect the environment and provide all personnel with a safe place away from training to park. The parking area would be cleared and leveled and stabilized with an appropriate material to reduce surface runoff and erosion, such as gravel.

Base-X Area: The Base-X area would provide personnel with an area to conduct deployment and contingency training. The area would provide a site for training activities such as bare base bed-down, biological/chemical warfare training, and bivouac training. In order to meet air quality standards when smoke grenades/obscurants are used, this area would be located at least 300 meters from any base boundary.

2.3 Alternative 2 – Construct Shoot House On Site of Existing Base-X Training Area

The Shoot House would be located on the site of the existing Base-X area (Figure 2.1). The training area would only consist of the current Base-X area and the Shoot House with no area designated for land navigation, SMC course, or ATV training. There would be minor short-term air impacts during construction. There would be no detrimental long-term or cumulative effects due to the proposed action.

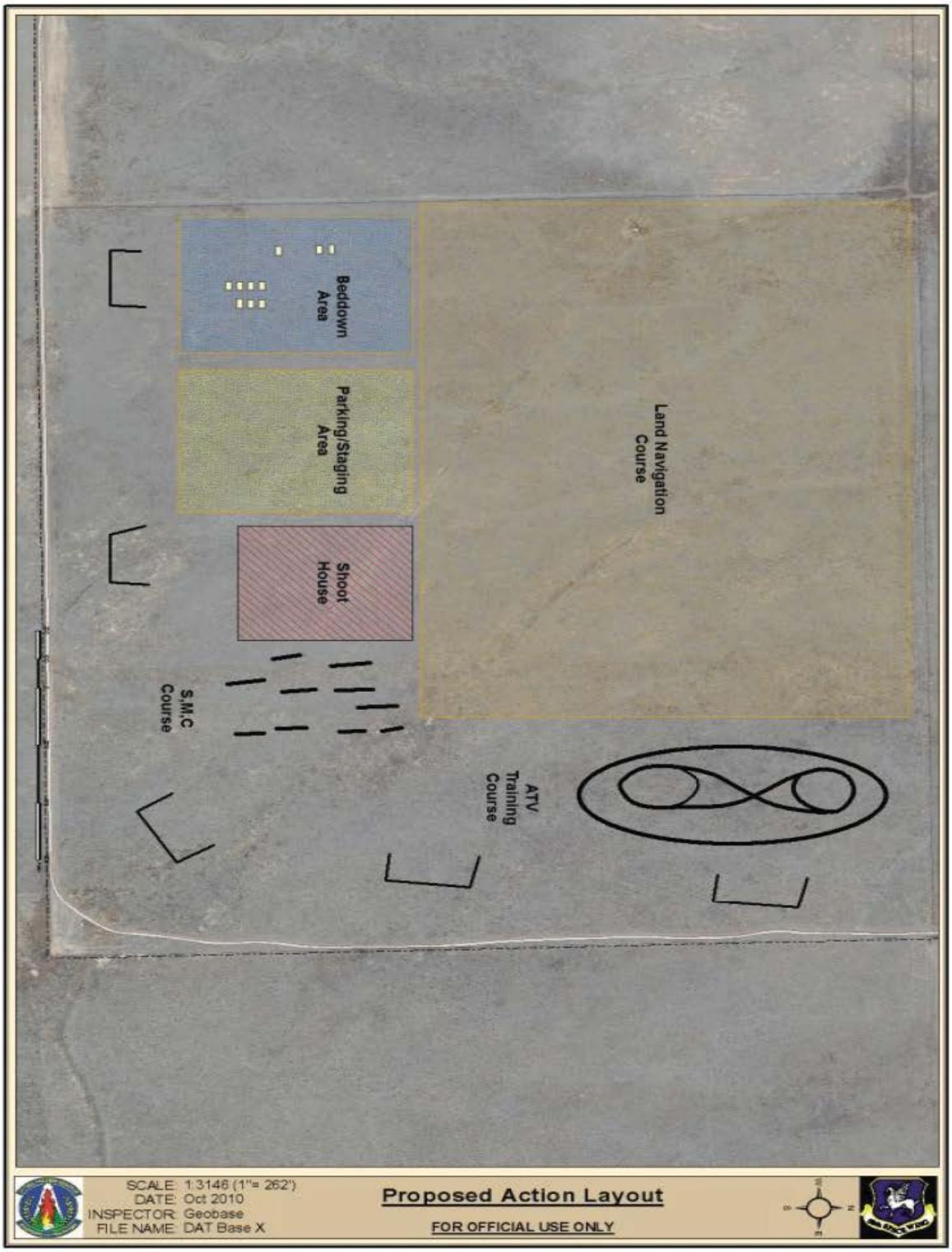
Currently, the location for Alternative 2 is semi-improved to un-improved grassland. There is currently a limited training site at the proposed location of Alternative 2, but it has been allowed to fall into disrepair. This location is outside the restricted area of the base.

2.4 Alternative 3 – No Action

The Base Training Area would not be constructed at SAFB. Personnel would be required to travel off-site for the Shoot House, SMC, ATV, and Land Navigation training.

Figure 2.1 - Location of Proposed Action and Alternative 2

Figure 2.2 – Proposed Layout of Proposed Action



SECTION 3
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section describes existing conditions of the environmental resources on SAFB that may be affected by the alternatives. For this analysis, the affected area for the Proposed Action site is the area in the southeast corner of SAFB.

Alternate 2 site location was evaluated for this action in a previous EA, Environmental Assessment for Construction of Security Forces Training Facilities and Force Protection Upgrades at Schriever AFB, (SAIC, January 2003). During the field investigations conducted in September 2010, it was determined that most of the potentially affected resources at the proposed sites were addressed in six previous documents listed in Section 1.3**, Related Environmental Documents**, p.1-1. This EA summarizes the previous descriptions and updates specific resources as required to evaluate environmental effects. For a detailed description of the affected resources, the reader is referred to these documents which are on file in the library of the Natural Resources Management Element, 50 CES/CEAN, Building 500, SAFB.

SAFB is located in El Paso County approximately 10 miles east of Peterson Air Force Base (AFB) and 16 miles east of downtown Colorado Springs (Figure 3.1). The base covers approximately six square miles (3,840 acres) in Sections 25 and 26 and portions of Sections 22, 23, 24, 27, 34, 35, and 36, all in Township 14 South, Range 64 West; and portions of Sections 19, 30, and 31 in Township 14 South, Range 63 West.

The developed areas of the base are located within one square mile. The developed portion of the base is surrounded by a 3,200-acre buffer zone, 0.5 miles wide on the north, west, and south sides, and 1.5 miles wide on the east side. The proposed Base Training Area would be located outside the restricted area of the base at the southeast corner of the base.

Figure 3.1 – SAFB General Location

3.1 Air Quality

In accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970, as amended, the air quality in a given region or area is measured by the concentration of criteria pollutants in the atmosphere. The air quality of the affected environment is determined by the types and amounts of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, the size of the topography of the air basin, and the prevailing meteorological conditions. Activities with the potential to impact air quality at SAFB include utilities or power generation (e.g., steam, hot water, natural gas, and emergency electrical power), fuel handling, hazardous chemical usage, vehicle emissions, and fugitive dust from ground disturbances resulting from construction (URS Radian International, 2000).

3.1.1 Meteorology

The climate of El Paso County is semi-arid and is influenced by the high elevations of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains to the west, resulting in moderate conditions, with cool, sunny summers and dry, low-humidity winters. The average temperatures for winter and summer are 31.0 degrees Fahrenheit (ºF) and 68.4ºF, respectively. The prevailing wind is from the north-northeast at an average annual speed of 10.4 miles per hour. Average annual precipitation is 15.5 inches, with approximately 85 percent of the precipitation occurring between April and September, during the growing season (Larsen, 1981).

The ambient air quality of El Paso County varies with local meteorological conditions. During the winter months when temperature inversions and limited-dispersion conditions occur, county air quality can be poor because of the high carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations associated with roadway traffic in the Colorado Springs area. Particulate impacts also can be high in the winter, when soil moisture and ground cover are at a minimum, and high wind speeds generate windblown dust.

3.1.2 Air Pollutants and Regulations

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and adopted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), define the maximum allowable concentrations of pollutants that may be reached but not exceeded within a given time period. These standards were selected to protect human health and safety. Section 110 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires states to develop air pollution regulations and control strategies to ensure that state air quality meets the NAAQS established USEPA. These ambient standards are established under Section 109 of the CAA, and they currently address six criteria pollutants. Criteria pollutants are CO, sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), ozone (O_3), lead (Pb), and particulate matter. Each state must submit these regulation and control strategies for approval and incorporation into the federally enforceable State Implementation Plan (SIP). Exceeding the concentration levels within a given time period is a violation, and constitutes a nonattainment of the pollutant standard.

Particulate matter has been further defined by size. There are standards for particulate matter smaller than 10 microns in diameter (PM_{10}) and smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter

($PM_{2.5}$). Table 3.1 presents the current NAAQS and the Colorado Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for the six criteria pollutants.

As indicated in the table, stationary source emissions are well below the limits set for these sources at SAFB. The primary sources of air pollutants near the base are mobile exhaust sources (vehicular traffic) and fugitive dust (from agricultural and construction activities).

TABLE 3.1
2008 BASEWIDE EMISSIONS SUMMARY FOR CRITERIA POLLUTANTS
BASE TRAINING AREA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO
(values in tons per year)

Emissions	CO	VOCs	SO_x	NO_x	PM_{10}
Stationary Sources (Actual)	7.90	3.35	0.381	15.46	2.69
Stationary Sources (Potential)	40.4	20.0	30.0	96.0	N/A

Source: USAF, 2008.
These values include both permitted and non-permitted sources.

Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations also define air pollutant emissions from proposed major stationary sources or modifications to be "significant" if (1) a proposed project is within 10 kilometers of any Class I area, and (2) regulated pollutant emissions would cause an increase in the 24-hour average concentration of any regulated pollutant in the Class I area of 1 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$) or more (40 CFR 52.21[b] [23] [iii]). A Class I area includes national parks larger than 6,000 acres, national wilderness areas and national memorial parks larger than 5,000 acres, and international parks. PSD regulations also define ambient air increments, limiting the allowable increases to any area's baseline air contaminant concentrations, based on the area's Class designation (40 CFR 52.21[c]). According to 40 CFR Part 81, no Class I areas are located in the vicinity of Schriever AFB. Therefore, Federal PSD regulations would not apply to the Proposed Action (USEPA 2009a).

Air quality regulations apply to construction-related fugitive dust. Fugitive dust emissions from construction projects are considered to be minimal. Contractors are required to obtain a dust-control permit from the State of Colorado, CDPHE.

3.1.3 Regional Air Quality

SAFB is within the Colorado Air Quality Control Region 4. The Proposed Action is subject to rules and regulations developed by CDPHE. The CDHPE is responsible for implementing and enforcing state and Federal air quality regulation in Colorado. The air

quality in El Paso County has been characterized by the USEPA as moderate maintenance area for CO and unclassified/attainment for all other criteria pollutants (USEPA 2002).

SAFB is a minor source of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) or criteria pollutants, with actual emissions of 0.56 tons per year. HAPs emissions are below the thresholds for specific requirements under 40 CFR Parts 61 and 63 for source categories. The base monitors the amount of HAP emissions. Most of the HAP emissions are generated by chemical usage in maintenance shops.

3.2 Biological Resources

Biological resources are native and naturalized plants and animals such as vegetation, wildlife, fish, and threatened and endangered species and the habitats (i.e. wetlands and grasslands). There are no aquatic life resources on SAFB because permanent water bodies are absent. The flora and fauna of the site are typical of the short-grass prairie ecosystem as modified by suburban or low-density development common in the eastern Colorado plains.

The land outside the technical and operations area is no longer leased to local ranchers for domestic livestock grazing.

3.2.1 Vegetation

The area around SAFB is sparsely vegetated. With a semi-arid climate, sandy soils, and a high wind erosion potential, vegetation is difficult to establish and slow to recover from disturbance. The dominant vegetation community in the undeveloped and semi-improved areas at and around the base is short-grass prairie (grassland), which provides habitat for a variety of insects, reptiles, mammals, and birds. The proposed location for the training area alternatives consists of undisturbed short-grass prairie.

Some of the plant species identified around the proposed sites include blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), slender wheatgrass (*Agropyron trachycaulum*), three-awn (*Aristida purpurea*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.), pepper grass (*Lepidium virginicum*), leadplant (*Amprpha canescens*), beardtongue (*Penstemon* sp.), woolly plantain (*Plantago patagonica*), and plains ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*).

3.2.2 Wildlife

A number of mammal species, a variety of songbirds and raptors, and several amphibian and reptile species are typical of this shortgrass prairie region of eastern Colorado (Parsons ES, 1997a). Pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), thirteen-lined ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*), and killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) have been observed on SAFB.

The *SAFB Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan* (HydroGeoLogic, Inc. 2008) identifies additional wildlife species that may forage, hunt, or nest in the area at and near the base. These species include silky pocket mouse (*Perognathus flavus*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), horned lark (*Ermophila alpestris*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella*

neglecta), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), and bull snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus sayi*). Other species that potentially hunt at the sites include coyote (*Canis latrans*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), great horned owl (*Bubo virginisnus*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), and rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*).

3.2.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), and Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) revealed the base is within the potential distribution range of several threatened and endangered species (Table 3.2). Historically, there were no records of any federally or state listed or candidate threatened or endangered species occurring on SAFB (USAF, 2001a). Periodic site visits in September 2010 did not reveal any evidence of threatened or endangered species using the proposed or alternate sites (Jensen, 2010).

However, black-tailed prairie dogs (Cynomys ludovicianus), a candidate for federal listing and a state species of special concern, have moved onto SAFB from adjacent state land. Burrowing owls (*Athenae cunicularia)*, a state threatened species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, have been observed using the associated black-tailed prairie dog burrows.

Black-tailed prairie dogs form prairie dog colonies (or towns) in short grass or mixed-grass ecosystems, which provide or enhance habitat for a variety of species including black-footed ferrets, mountain plovers, and burrowing owls (Fitzgerald et al., 1994). Black-tailed prairie dogs also regulate and maintain prairie biodiversity through vegetation and soil manipulation (Sharps and Ursek, 1990). They are an important food source for many species including ferruginous hawks, wintering bald eagles, swift foxes, and black-footed ferrets (Sharps and Ursek, 1990).

In eastern Colorado, burrowing owls favor prairie dog colonies for nesting. These colonies provide the owls with burrows, mounds for perching, and short vegetation, which enables the owls to detect approaching terrestrial predators (Kingery, 1998). Burrowing owls are migratory birds that winter in Texas and south to Central America. During the summer of 2010, burrowing owls were observed by base personnel in black tailed prairie dog colonies located in multiple areas on SAFB (Jensen, 2010). None of these areas are located within the Proposed or Alternative sites.

Informal consultation with the USFWS and CDOW was initiated in October 2010 to ensure these agencies are aware of potential impacts to black-tailed prairie dogs and burrowing owls, and to obtain their recommendations to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts.

Previous studies identified the special-concern species listed in Table 3.2 as potentially occurring at SAFB. Appendix A provides copies of agency consultation letters regarding

threatened, endangered, and special-concern species. No critical habitat for species listed as threatened or endangered has been designated at the Proposed Action site by CDOW or USFWS (HydroGeoLogic, Inc. 2008).

Although both of the proposed project areas are within the historic range of the federally listed endangered black-footed ferret, this species has not been observed within base boundaries. Prairie dogs are the primary prey for the black-footed ferrets. There is no evidence of prairie dogs colonies in the area of the proposed action; therefore, ferrets are not expected to inhabit these areas.

The Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) was added to the federal threatened species list in 1998 (USFWS, 1998). Habitat for the mouse usually is found in floodplains of intermittent streams with dense vegetation. It is unlikely that the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse would occur within the area of the proposed action as they have not been known to exist in the eastern portion of El Paso County.

The Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*), is a secretive species that occurs in the general region. It may occasionally use the base for foraging. It is unlikely this species dens within 0.25-mile of the roadways. No swift fox dens have been observed on SAFB.

Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* and other raptors do not reside in the area, but may be observed as rare, transient migrants. This area does not attract bald eagles permanently because of the small number of prairie dog colonies and bodies of water large enough to support water fowl or fish.

The ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis),* also may nest and hunt on SAFB, but is more often only observed wintering in the region. These hawks have not been observed at the base and no nests have been reported.

TABLE 3.2
THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SPECIAL-CONCERN SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING AT SCHRIEVER AFB

AMPHIBIANS			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Status**	**Occurrence**
Northern leopard frog	*Rana pipiens*	SC	Does not exist on Base.
BIRDS			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Status**	**Occurrence**
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	FT, ST	Does not exist on Base.
Burrowing Owl	*Athene cunicularia*	ST	Migratory Resident
Mexican Spotted Owl	*Strix occidentalis lucida*	FT, ST	Does not exist on Base.
Ferruginous Hawk	*Buteo regalis*	SC	Does not exist on Base.
Mountain Plover	*Charadrius montana*	SC	Does not exist on Base.
MAMMALS			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Status**	**Occurrence**
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	*Cynomys ludovicianus*	SC	Permanent Resident
Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse	*Zapus hudsonius preblei*	FT, ST	Does not exist on Base.
Lynx	*Lynx canadensis*	FT, SE	Does not exist on Base.
Swift Fox	*Vulpes velox*	SC	Does not exist on Base.

SOURCE: FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONALCOMPONENT PLAN FOR SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO, MARCH 2008

Status Codes: FE = Federally Endangered; FT = Federally Threatened;
SE = State Endangered; ST = State Threatened; SC = State Special Concern

3.3 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources is an umbrella term for many heritage-related resources, including prehistoric and historic sites, buildings, structures, districts, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, a subculture, or a community for scientific, traditional, religious, or any other reason. A cultural resource inventory was completed for SAFB in 1992. There are no known archaeological or historical properties on the base eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (Parsons ES, 1997b). All areas surveyed were recommended for cultural clearance (Roybal Corporation, 1992).

If subsurface cultural materials were found during future excavation on SAFB, the Base Historic Preservation Officer (BHPO) would be notified. If the BHPO determined the materials might be significant, work in the area would be halted until cleared to resume by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

In a 27 January 2010 memo from Air Force Space Command (AFSPC), Schriever AFB was exempted from preparing and implementing an Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (SAFB 2010). The installations cultural contexts and archaeological survey results are summarized in an ICRMP prepared for Schriever AFB in 2005 (SAFB 2005a).

3.4 Land Use

The term “land use” refers to real property classification that indicates either natural conditions or the types of human activity occurring on a parcel. Land use on the base is designated in the Base General Plan as developed, semi-improved and undeveloped. The land within the restricted portion of the base is designated as semi-improved or improved (640 acres). Most of the 3200 acres in the buffer zone is designated as unimproved except for the 10 acres of improved land for warehouse buildings around the Schriever Activity Center (SAC).

3.5 Noise

Noise is defined as unwanted sound, or any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with communication, is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise annoying. Noise would temporarily increase during construction of the Base Training Area, but the action would occur away from the main buildings on base. There are no nearby inhabitants that would be affected and the impacts are not considered significant.

Additionally, no significant noise issues would be anticipated from use of the Base Training Area.

3.6 Occupational Safety and Health

Safety hazards associated with the proposed action are defined as those risks associated with construction. Construction safety practices are subject to requirements established by the

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The construction project would not involve or result in any adverse impacts and is therefore not discussed further in this EA.

3.7 Pollution Prevention

SAFB is designated a conditionally exempt small-quantity generator (CESQG) of hazardous waste. All toxic and hazardous wastes are stored at the Central Hazardous Waste Accumulation Facility. Wastes are transported off-base to licensed treatment, storage, and disposal facility. The SAFB *Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* (CEMP) 10-2 establishes procedures and guidance for SAFB personnel to handle hazardous materials and petroleum products in the event of an accidental discharge, spill, or leak (50 CES/CEX, 2010). The SAFB fire department comprises the core of the initial response team for any HAZMAT release and they will isolate, evacuate, and deny entry to a hazardous material release according to procedures listed in the SAFB CEMP 10-2.

HAZMATs are also managed through the HAZMART system which controls the ordering and distribution of HAZMATs. The operation of the HAZMART is a key component to the base having an effective pollution prevention program. Contractors must report HAZMAT usage on SAFB to the HAZMART (AFI 32-7086).

3.8 Socio-economic Conditions

The work force at SAFB consists of about 7,526 military, US Department of Defense (DoD) civilian, and contractor personnel (SAFB, 2009). There is limited housing on base, so most personnel commute from Colorado Springs, Peterson AFB or surrounding areas. General growth trends for the county reflect continued growth associated with the Colorado Springs area. Growth around the perimeter of the base has been limited and remains agriculture and rural housing. The potential future workforce expansion of the base is considered strong because the base's mission is considered strategically important.

The main access to the base is from the west and north gates through Irwin Road and Enoch Road, respectively (via Curtis Road and State Highway (SH) 94, respectively). Average daily traffic (ADT) counts from El Paso County Department of Transportation for 2007 at Enoch Road south of SH 94 show a volume of 7,147 vehicles, and a volume of 4,769 vehicles at Irwin Road east-west of Curtis Road (El Paso County, 2010). Additional data from the Colorado Department of Transportation (2010) indicates that in 2009, the annual average daily traffic (AADT) on SH 94 east of Space Village Ave was 11,300 vehicles; east of Curtis Road, 7,300 vehicles; and east of Enoch Road, 4,900 vehicles, indicating over half of the vehicles headed eastbound on SH 94 turned off on Curtis Road or Enoch Road, presumably towards SAFB.

3.9 Soils

The soil at the location of the proposed alternate site is classified as Ascalon sandy loam with slopes ranging from 1 to 3 percent. This soil is well drained with a permeability of 0.6 to 6.0 inches per hour (in/hr) in the top 8 inches, and 0.6 to 2.0 in/hr at a depth of 8 to 30 inches.

The soil has moderate engineering limitations due to soil strength, but it is generally well suited for building construction (Larsen, 1981). The erosion and soil blowing hazards are rated as moderate. These soil characteristics require regular monitoring and maintenance to control erosion from storm water runoff and from high winds that erode unvegetated areas.

3.10 Water Resources

There are no permanent surface water bodies or perennial streams present on SAFB. Several man-made livestock watering ponds and shallow depressions retain standing water on a seasonal or temporary basis. None of the man-made ponds occur in the proposed development site.

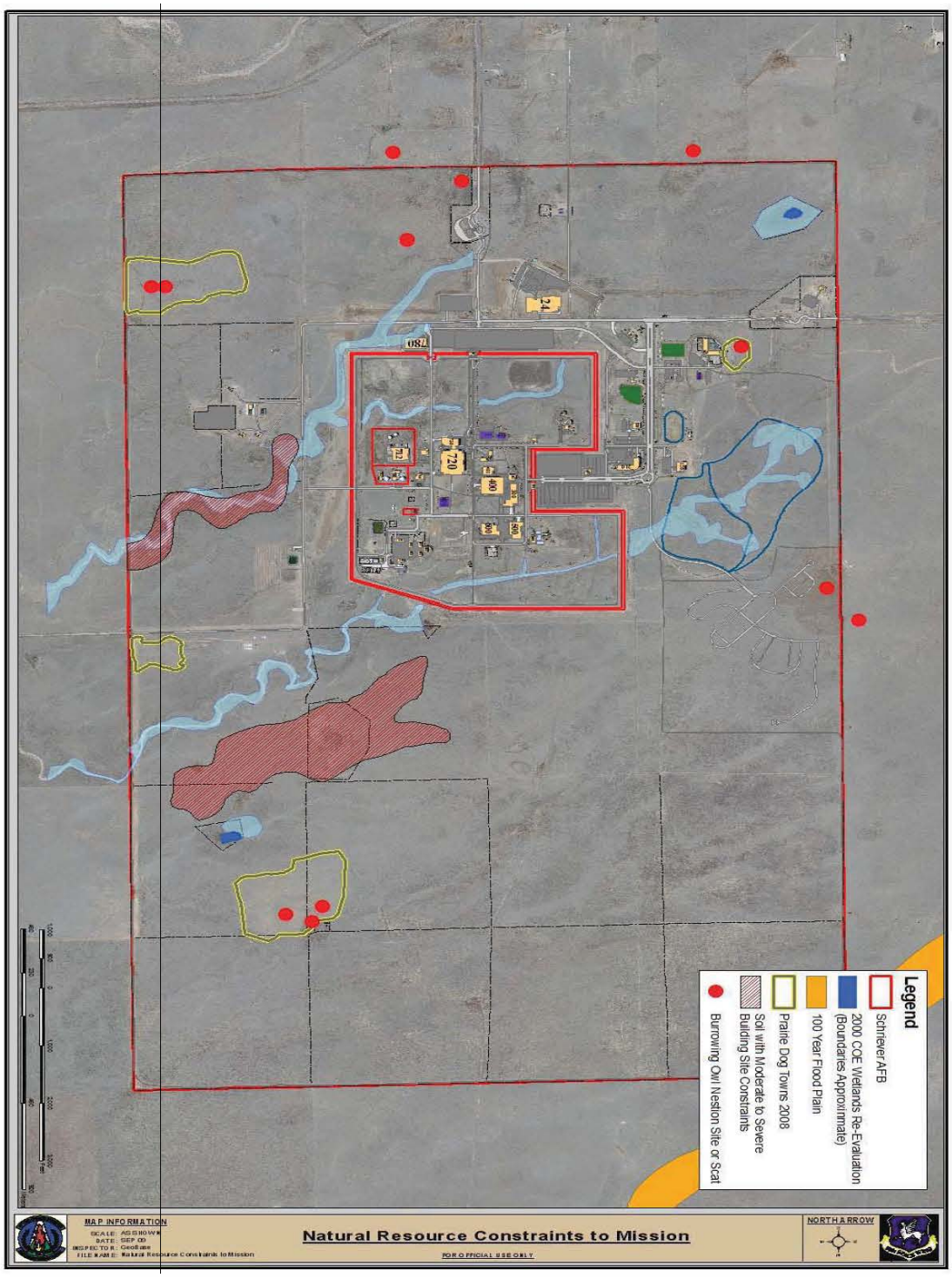
Stream channels on the base are all unnamed and support only intermittent or seasonal flow. Flow is generally from northwest to southeast. The stream channels convey water temporarily during periods of wet weather or after heavy, intense thunderstorms. Storm water runoff is typically routed to these channels from buildings, roads, and other impermeable areas of the developed portion of the base. Some of the stream channels in the undeveloped eastern portion of the base have been diked, dammed, or excavated to function as surface runoff collection ponds for watering livestock. Wetlands that have formed in these areas are discussed in Section 3.11.

The Upper Black Squirrel aquifer is the primary water supply source for agricultural and municipal users in unincorporated portions of El Paso County. The shallow aquifer occurs from 25 to 100 feet below the ground surface. This aquifer provides domestic and potable water to Cherokee Metropolitan Water District (CMD), which supplies water to SAFB. The average daily water use for SAFB in 2007 was 229,000 gallons with a maximum daily usage allowed per contract with CMD being 720,000 gallons (SAFB 2009). SAFB has a system capacity of 1.3 million gallons per day.

3.11 Wetlands

A jurisdictional wetland determination was performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2001) for SAFB. Three jurisdictional wetlands and two non-jurisdictional wetlands were identified by the survey. All the jurisdictional wetlands display wetland characteristics. Functions performed by these sites appear to include water quality improvement through sediment retention, groundwater recharge, and limited habitat for some wildlife species (Parsons ES, 1997a**)**. None of the jurisdictional wetlands are at or near the proposed site or the alternate site.

Figure 3.2 SAFB Natural Resources Constraints Map



SECTION 4
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Potential environmental consequences of the three alternatives are described in this section. Environmental consequences are analyzed for each relevant resource area described in Section 3. Short-term and long-term effects are described during and after construction, as well as cumulative effects of the Alternative 1 - Proposed Action, Alternative 2, and Alternative 3 - the No Action Alternative. For each resource, a definition is provided under no action for the type and magnitude of environmental change that would be considered a major impact. All alternatives were evaluated with the same evaluation criteria. Potential impacts are identified and mitigation measures are discussed as appropriate.

4.1 Air Quality

Local air quality conformance with national standards is overseen by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Government (PPACG) through the SIP. Effects to air quality would be considered significant impacts if air emissions:

- Exceeded limitations established in the SIP; or
- Caused or contributed to any new violation of any standard.

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would result in the disturbance of approximately 60 acres during facilities development, which presents the potential for particulate (dust) generation. A dust control permit from the CDPHE Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (CAQCC) would be required. Compliance with the requirements of this permit would minimize short-term impacts associated with particulate matter and ensure that significant impacts would not result. Air pollutant emissions from equipment and certain tools would also be expected during the various construction periods associated with the Proposed Action. These emissions would not be considered significant because the quantities would not be expected to generate violations of air quality standards, contribute in any meaningful way toward overall measures of pollution for urban area attainment goals, and because they would be temporary and could be addressed with standard equipment emission controls.

Alternative 2 entails constructing only the Shoot House at the current Base-X area location. Dust emissions associated with construction of this option would be expected to be similar to those of the Proposed Action.

The proposed Shoot House included in Alternatives 1 and 2 would involve handling and use of weapons and ammunition with the potential to emit HAP emissions in the event of an accident and during normal use. However, this potential would be minimized by required procedures for handling ammunition and use of weapons on the site.

With regard to mobile sources, the Proposed Action would generate new vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled both on-site and off-site, and would decrease emissions from travel associated with locations off-site by providing local training opportunities for SAFB personnel and other organizations.

Alternative 2 would not significantly change the vehicular traffic currently associated with use of the existing Base-X area.

The users of the Base Training Area would be active duty military assigned to SAFB. To ensure that no smoke or dust leave the SAFB boundary, any smoke generating device used during training activities would be used with a minimum of 300 meter buffer zone from any perimeter fence line.

Based on the descriptions of the components of the Alternative 1 - Proposed Action, and Alternative 2, the construction associated with these options would not be expected to add new pollutants or change SAFB's CDHPE permit status based on a higher emission inventory. Furthermore, these activities would not have a significant impact on the area's air quality because of the short timeframe and relatively small project size. Therefore, there are no significant short or long-term air quality impacts associated with the construction of the proposed action and an air conformity analysis would not be required.

Under the No Action Alternative, the new or existing training areas would not be constructed or expanded at SAFB. Therefore, there would be no change in air quality under this alternative.

4.2 Biological Resources

An effect to biological resources would be considered an impact if one or more of the following conditions occurred.

- The project "may affect" federally-listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered plant or animal species or their designated critical habitat.
- The project would degrade the habitat or result in the loss of rare or special-interest plant or animal species; or
- The project would cause the loss of the only example of a biological community type present on base.

There would be no adverse impacts on biological resources from the No Action Alternative. Effects from the Proposed Action and Alternative 2 are discussed below.

4.2.1 Vegetation

The sites for the Proposed Action and Alternative 2 are sparsely vegetated shortgrass prairie. Both the Proposed Action and Alternative 2 would result in the clearing of approximately 60 acres of grass and conversion of approximately 4000 SF to impervious surfaces. This would result in the direct loss of shortgrass prairie habitat for wildlife species.

Additional habitat for wildlife would also be lost due to fragmentation and edge effects such as the spread of noxious weeds, thereby reducing wildlife habitat quality for species dependent on or adapted to the shortgrass prairie.

Additionally, noise and disruption from construction activities and operation of the ATV training course would result in temporary displacement of some wildlife species. However, because species using SAFB for hunting and foraging would likely find adequate habitat elsewhere either on base or in adjacent areas, direct loss of wildlife from construction and operations is not anticipated to be significant (see Section 4.2.3 for a description of potential impacts to sensitive wildlife species).

The acres being converted for the Proposed Action and Alternative 2 are not considered of special interest to federal, state, or public resource protection and management organizations. There would be no significant impacts associated with either proposed alternative on local vegetation communities.

4.2.2 Wildlife

No significant impacts on wildlife would occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Potential direct and indirect impacts on wildlife could occur as a result of Alternative 2 (see section 4.2.3).

4.2.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

The Proposed Action project site does not occur in areas currently known to be used by the protected, threatened, or endangered species listed in Table 3.2 as observed by site surveys conducted by SAFB Natural Resources personnel in September 2010 (Jensen 2010). There are no unique or special-interest biological communities present in the proposed project area that could be affected. Therefore, it would be unlikely the proposed action would significantly affect current SAFB biodiversity conditions.

Black Tailed Prairie Dogs and Western Burrowing Owls have both been observed in the vicinity of Alternative 2 (Jensen 2010). For that reason, Alternative 2 presents the potential to indirectly impact those two species that are considered sensitive, and to indirectly impact bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, mountain plover, and swift fox. The prairie dog colony located south of the Base-X area, near the intersection of the south base perimeter road and Enoch Road, provides habitat for burrowing owls and potential habitat for mountain plover, ferruginous hawk, bald eagle, and swift fox. The black-tailed prairie dog is currently a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act and is therefore addressed as a federally listed species in accordance with United States Air Force (USAF) policy. The western burrowing owl, a state threatened species, has been seen using the prairie dog burrows within the area of the proposed Alternative 2 and it is assumed that burrowing owls may be breeding in these burrows. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking of burrowing owls.

The bald eagle, mountain plover, ferruginous hawk, and Swainson's hawk are protected species that could be potentially affected by the partial loss of the black-tailed prairie dog colony (the ferruginous hawk and Swainson's hawk are protected under the MBTA). The

swift fox is a State special concern species and therefore not considered a protected species. Bald eagles would likely hunt at the prairie dog colony during the winter or during migration, which is the time period when construction of the Base Training Area would occur to avoid the burrowing owl breeding season. Construction activities would likely result in avoidance of the prairie dog colony by bald eagles, resulting in a potential indirect impact to this species. However, because bald eagles only use the base for occasional foraging due to the lack of roosting sites (i.e., trees), the number of bald eagles using base habitat during the winter is low, and alternate food sources are available in the surrounding landscape, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on bald eagles.

Loss of the shortgrass prairie, as well as impacts to the prairie dog colony, would result in an indirect impact to the ferruginous hawk and Swainson's hawk. However, because neither of these hawks is known to nest on Base, and alternate nesting sites and food sources are available either on Base or in surrounding areas this impact would be considered minor.

Mountain plovers, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act, could potentially nest in the prairie dog colony and in heavily grazed areas (e.g., shortgrass prairie) on SAFB, although this species has not been observed or surveyed for on-base. Impacts to the prairie dog colonies and shortgrass prairie habitat would result in a potential indirect impact to mountain plovers. However, because suitable habitat is available in surrounding areas, the Proposed Actions would not be expected to have a significant impact on mountain plovers.

Plains ragweed would not be directly or indirectly impacted as it has not been observed in the area of the Proposed Action or Alternative 2.

4.3 Cultural Resources

An effect to cultural resources would be considered an impact if one or more of the following conditions occurred:

- The project caused the loss of or substantial change in a cultural resource or site listed on the NRHP; or
- The project caused the loss of or substantial change in a cultural resource or site eligible for listing on the NRHP.

The Proposed Action or Alternative 2 would not produce direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP because such resources are not present on SAFB (see section 3.3 Cultural Resources). Direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources (if they existed) would not occur as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.4 Land Use

A change in land use would be considered an impact under any of the following conditions of change:

- Nonconformance with SAFB land use plans;

- Conversion of prime agriculture land or land of statewide importance to other uses; or
- Conflicts with environmental goals and USAF regulations.

The Proposed Action and Alternative 2 would result in the semi-development of approximately 60 acres of unimproved land on SAFB. No prime agricultural land or land of statewide importance occurs on SAFB. Therefore, these resources would not be affected by construction of the Base Training Area. There would be no significant impact on land use under the Proposed Action or Alternative 2.

There would be no direct or indirect land use impacts associated with the No Action Alternative.

4.5 Noise

A noise effect would be considered an impact if it:

- Caused physical damage to a human ear, or permanent hearing loss;
- Exceeded the State of Colorado maximum permissible noise levels; or

Substantially increased the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas with noise-sensitive receptors.

The Proposed Action or Alternative 2 would not increase long-term ambient noise levels above existing conditions, or effect noise sensitive receptors during sensitive time periods between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the next morning.

Short-term effects during the construction period may be caused by construction equipment. Typical construction equipment such as cranes, cement trucks, graders, and semi-trucks produce maximum noise levels of 73 to 102 A-weighted decibels to human hearing level (dBA) at a distance of 25 feet (CERL, 1978; EPA, 1971; and Beranek, 1992). Both of the Proposed Action sites are located in the undeveloped area of the base. No residential or commercial activities are located near the site. Noise would not exceed state of Colorado maximum permissible levels beyond the property boundary.

The No Action Alternative would not change existing noise conditions. New construction and associated equipment would not be required. Sources of loud or extreme noise would not be created. There would be no direct or indirect noise impacts caused by this alternative.

4.6 Occupational Safety and Health

An action would be considered to have a significant impact if it:

- Created an unsafe working environment; or
- Violated National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1500.

No short-term or long-term adverse safety and health effects are expected from construction and operation of the Proposed Action or from Alternative 2. OSHA regulations pertaining to construction and operations would be followed.

The No Action Alternative would continue existing practices and safety measures required under OSHA and NFPA Standard 1500.

4.7 Pollution Prevention

The pollution prevention effects of an action would be considered an impact if it resulted in:

- Release of a regulated waste;
- Noncompliance with applicable Pollution Prevention Management Action Plan (P_2MAP) and HAZMAT plan; or
- Amounts of generated waste that exceeded available waste management capacities.

Pollution generating activities associated with the Proposed Action or Alternative 2 would occur during facility construction and operation. These activities would not cause a release of a regulated waste, would not exceed available waste handling capacity, and would conform with the P_2MAP. Construction debris would be considered solid waste and would be disposed in the county landfill or recycled.

Infectious waste would not be generated during operation of the training area in the Proposed Action or Alternative 2. Any hazardous waste generated would be managed through the hazardous waste program currently in existence at SAFB.

The No Action Alternative would not impact Pollution prevention.

4.8 Socio-economic Conditions

A socio-economic change would be considered an impact if it resulted in:

- Substantial changes in the local population or work force;
- The need for substantial increase in utilities or service; or
- An increase in transportation that would change or require extensive construction of road improvements.

Both the Proposed Action and Alternative 2 would have very limited effects on socio-economic conditions at SAFB. Construction associated with these options would result in a positive benefit from jobs and revenue generated during building construction. However, the magnitude of effects would be localized and short-term as the complexity of the construction project is limited and would be completed in a year or less.

The No Action Alternative would not result in any change in work force, utilities, or transportation service.

4.9 Soils

A change in soil conditions would be considered an impact if it:

- Causes sedimentation in wetlands and permanent surface waters;
- Results in loss of prime, unique, or state-important farmlands; or
- Results in the loss of land use due to soil erosion or steep slopes.

The Proposed Action and Alternative 2 would result in shallow soil alterations of approximately 60 acres. It is possible that pockets of unstable soil are present at the Proposed Action and Alternative 2 sites. If such soils are encountered during construction, the affected soil volume would be over-excavated and replaced with structural fill. After the re-vegetated areas were established, erosion and uncontrolled precipitation runoff would be minimal over a majority of the site, resulting in a beneficial long-term impact on soils through stabilization and a reduced potential for erosion.

Standard construction practices and El Paso County dust-control permits require implementation of short-term mitigation measures, such as application of water to disturbed surface areas, observation of restricted speed limits in disturbed areas, restricting earthwork during high-wind periods, and various other measures to minimize wind erosion and control runoff during construction. Implementation of these practices during construction would ensure that soil erosion is minimized.

The No Action Alternative would not create or produce changes in existing soil conditions.

4.10 Water Resources

Changes in either surface water or groundwater conditions would be considered an impact on water resources if they:

- Result in degradation of surface water or groundwater quality such that an existing use would be impaired, a designated use could not be achieved, or new or additional violations of water quality standards occurred; or
- Cause a shortage in SAFB's or adjacent landowners' water supply systems under existing water rights.

Neither the Proposed Action nor Alternative 2 would cause or create changes in the existing groundwater or surface water conditions or uses at SAFB. Currently, there are no surface bodies present that would be degraded by practices associated with the Proposed Action or Alternative 2. Storm water runoff generated by increased impervious surfaces is expected to infiltrate into the soil and would not be received by permanent streams, ponds, or wetlands. Thus, there would be no impacts to existing water quality standards. Therefore, there would be no direct or indirect impacts to water resources from this alternative.

A construction storm water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be required for either of the proposed actions. A permit must be obtained from USEPA prior to the start of construction activities, if more than one acre of land is disturbed. Since construction of the new Base Training Area or renovation of the existing Base-X area would result in the disturbance of more than one acre, an NPDES permit would be required. Standard construction best management practices, such as using silt fences, would be used to control the runoff from the site.

There would be no direct or indirect impacts to water resources with the No Action Alternative.

4.11 Wetlands

Changes in jurisdictional wetlands would be considered an impact if they:

- Result in the permanent loss of wetland areas because of filling or excavation activities or because of substantial and permanent change in surface water or groundwater hydrology; or
- Result in the loss or substantial change in existing functions being provided by the existing wetlands.

The Proposed Action and Alternative 2 would not result in any direct or indirect physical or hydrological changes to existing jurisdictional wetlands. This alternative would not produce significant changes in current wetland functions or hydrologic regimes. Thus, there would be no direct or indirect wetland impacts associated with this alternative.

The No Action Alternative would not result in any changes to existing jurisdictional wetlands. This alternative would not produce changes in current functions being performed at existing wetlands. Thus, there would be no direct or indirect wetland impacts associated with this alternative.

4.12 Cumulative Effects

Secondary impacts are those that are caused by a Proposed Action, but may occur later in time or farther removed in distance, relative to the primary impacts of the Proposed Action. “Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions" (40 CFR 508.7)

The most important examples of secondary and cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Action are as follows (These cumulative effects would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment):

- Incremental losses of grazing land, open space, and shortgrass prairie habitat associated with converting undeveloped land.
- Incremental contributions to local traffic and the potential for accidents.
- Incremental impacts associated with noise pollution.
- Contributions to regional and local air pollutant emissions.
- Incremental increases in storm water runoff quantities and contaminant loads.

• Incremental impacts to native plant populations by introduction of noxious weeds.

There would be no significant cumulative effects associated with the No Action Alternative.

4.13 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

There would be an irretrievable commitment of materials, energy, fuel, and labor utilized during construction activities associated with the Proposed Action and Alternative 2. Building and construction equipment wear (i.e., depreciation) also would be irreversible. The irretrievable resources to be committed are typical for the scale of the proposed project. Implementation of best construction management practices, standard equipment maintenance schedules, and use of energy conservation and recycling measures during building operation would minimize the use of irretrievable resources. At the end of the useful life of the facility, it is expected that some building materials (e.g., asphalt and concrete, scrap metal, and fixtures) could be retrieved for recycling and reuse.

4.14 Environmental Justice

Executive Order (EO) 12898*, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, was issued on 11 Feb 94. The EO requires federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

- An adverse impact would have a deleterious effect on human health or the environment that is significant, unacceptable, or above generally accepted norms.

No adverse impacts would be borne by human populations; therefore, the Proposed Action and Alternative 2 would not have an adverse impact upon minority populations and/or low-income populations.

The No Action Alternative would not have an adverse impact upon minority populations and/or low-income populations.

4.15 Summary

A summary of effects for each alternative is provided in Table 4.1. These determinations support a FONSI for the Proposed Action (Alternative 1).

TABLE 4.1
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Resource	Alternative 1 Proposed Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 No Action
Air Quality	With implementation of best management practices, fugitive dust and CO emissions during construction are *minimal.*	With implementation of best management practices, fugitive dust and CO emissions during construction are *minimal.*	No change in current conditions
Biological Resources	Conversion of un-improved land would not affect wildlife, threatened or endangered species.	Conversion of un-improved land would not affect wildlife, threatened or endangered species.	No changes in onsite habitat and no effects to threatened or endangered species.
Cultural Resources	No cultural resources are known to occur on SAFB.	No cultural resources are known to occur on SAFB.	No cultural resources are known to occur on SAFB.
Land Use	Slight increase in developed land. No prime farmland or state-important farmland is present.	Slight change in developed land. No prime farmland or state-important farmland is present.	No change in current conditions.
Noise	Temporary local construction noise increases; no effect to noise sensitive receptors. Noise during construction would not exceed permissible levels at property boundary.	Temporary local construction noise increases; no effect to noise sensitive receptors. Noise during construction would not exceed permissible levels at property boundary.	No change in current conditions.
Occupational Safety and Health	No short-term or long-term adverse safety and health effects are expected.	No short-term or long-term adverse safety and health effects are expected.	No impact.
Pollution Prevention	Negligible hazardous materials generated during construction.	Negligible hazardous materials generated during construction.	No effect on pollution prevention opportunities.
Socio-economic Conditions	Short term benefit from construction jobs. No significant long-term change in SAFB work force, utilities service, or transportation	Short term benefit from construction jobs. No significant long-term change in SAFB work force, utilities service, or transportation	No changes in current conditions.
Soils	Water is expected to infiltrate into soils.	Water is expected to infiltrate into soils.	No changes in current conditions.
Water Resources	No changes in current conditions.	No changes in current conditions.	No changes in current conditions.
Cumulative Effects	Incremental increase in developed land, impervious surface and stormwater runoff.	Incremental increase in developed land, impervious surface and stormwater runoff.	No changes in current conditions.
Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources	Irretrievable commitment of materials, energy, fuel, and labor utilized during construction activities.	Irretrievable commitment of materials, energy, fuel, and labor utilized during construction activities.	No additional commitment of materials, energy, fuel, and labor utilized.
Wetlands	No risk or threat to wetlands.	No risk or threat to wetlands.	No risk or threat to wetlands.
Environmental Justice	This alternative would not have an adverse impact upon minority populations and/or low-income populations.	This alternative would not have an adverse impact upon minority populations and/or low-income populations.	This alternative would not have an adverse impact upon minority populations and/or low-income populations.

SECTION 5
REGULATORY REVIEW AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

This section lists the relevant laws pertaining to the alternatives and addresses regulatory review and permit requirements.

5.1 Relevant Federal, State, and Local Statutes, Regulations, and Guidelines

5.1.1 Federal Regulations

Regulations implementing NEPA are detailed in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, 32 CFR Part 989, and AFI 32-7061. In addition to the requirements of NEPA, other federal requirements are considered in the preparation of an EA. These regulations comprise an important subset of the NEPA process. Environmental laws, with which the proposed action must comply, either directly or indirectly, are described below.

5.1.1.1 Clean Air Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. §7401 *et seq.*

The CAA of 1970 is a broad federal statute that established NAAQS and set emission limits for certain air pollutants from specific sources. Major provisions of the act are intended to set a goal for cleaner air by setting NAAQS.

A few pertinent sections of the CAA are Section 109 and Section 176 (c). Section 109 sets standards for the following "criteria" pollutants: PM_{10}, SO_2, CO, O_3, NO_X, and Pb. Section 176(c) of the CAA established a conformity requirement for federal agencies in which all EIAP documents must address applicable conformity requirements and the status of compliance (40 CFR Part 93, Subpart B).

The CAA requires states to develop and submit a SIP for achieving NAAQS within each state. The SIP must establish state air quality control regions and specify emission limits, schedules, and timetables for compliance from both stationary and mobile sources. The CAA requires federal facilities to comply with state air pollution requirements. EO 12088 directs federal agency compliance. DoD Instruction 4120.14 implements EO 12088 for the USAF.

Schriever AFB is in El Paso County, which is within the Colorado AQCR 4. The Proposed Action is subject to rules and regulations developed by the CDPHE. The CDPHE is responsible for implementing and enforcing state and Federal air quality regulations in Colorado. The air quality in El Paso County has been characterized by the USEPA as moderate maintenance area for CO and unclassified/attainment for all other criteria pollutants (USEPA 2002).

5.1.1.2 Clean Water Act of 1987, 33 U.S.C. §1251 *et seq.*

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) of 1972, as amended by the Clean Water Act of 1987 and the Water Quality Act of 1987, forms the legal framework to support maintenance and restoration of water quality, and also addresses wetlands. The FWPCA established the NPDES as the regulatory mechanism to achieve water quality goals by regulating pollutant discharge to navigable streams, rivers, and lakes.

Implementing regulations are detailed in 40 CFR, Subchapters D and N. Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Standards, directs federal facility compliance. The proposed site locations were evaluated for impacts to wetlands. No industrial activities are conducted at SAFB and they are therefore exempt from stormwater permit requirements. In a letter dated 28 March 1995 from the USEPA, it was confirmed that no Federal Stormwater Permit was required.

5.1.1.3 Endangered Species Act of 1973, amended 1982 and 1987, 16 U.S.C. §1531-1542.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended in 1982 and 1987, is intended to prevent the further decline of endangered and threatened plant and animal species and to help in the restoration of populations of these species and their habitats. The act, jointly administered by the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior, requires that each federal agency consult with the USFWS to determine whether endangered or threatened species are known to exist or have critical habitats on or in the vicinity of the site of a proposed action.

Sections relevant to this EA include Section 7(c) and Section 9(a). Section 7(c) of the ESA authorizes the USFWS to review proposed major federal actions to assess potential impacts on listed species. In accordance with Section 7(c) of the ESA, the USAF, in consultation with the USFWS, must identify potential species in areas of concern. Section 9(a) of the ESA prohibits "take" of individuals of endangered species. "Take," as defined by the act, means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." Habitat modification can be considered "take" if death or injury of a listed wildlife species occurs from removing essential habitat components or impairing behavior patterns, such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering. The absence of effects to endangered species and their habitats were verified through consultation with the USFWS and CDOW.

5.1.1.4 Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 7 U.S.C. §4201 *et seq*.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 is intended "to minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses, and to assure that federal programs are administered in a manner that, to the extent practicable, will be compatible with state, units of local government, and private programs to protect farmland." Prime farmland and state important farmland were evaluated under land use in this EA.

5.1.1.5 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. §470-470t.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, establishes historic preservation as a national policy and defines it as the protection, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, or engineering. It also expands the NRHPA (36 CFR 60) to include resources of state and local significance and establishes the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

NHPA Section 106, implemented by regulations issued by the ACHP (36 CFR 800), requires federal agencies to consult with the SHPO regarding impacts that a proposed action may have on cultural resources.

A cultural resource survey was conducted in 1992 at SAFB. None of the cultural resources evaluated were determined as significant, based on the eligibility criteria of the NRHP. A cultural clearance was approved by the SHPO.

5.1.1.6 Noise Control Act of 1972, 42 U.S.C. §4901 *et seq*.

The Noise Control Act of 1972 establishes that federal agencies, when engaged in an activity resulting in the emission of noise, should comply with federal, state, interstate, and local requirements respecting control and abatement of environmental noise to the same extent as private entities. The principles involved are applicable to activities that produce sufficient noise to result in incompatible land uses in the surrounding community (40 CFR 209). In 1978, the Noise Control Act was amended by the Quiet Communities Act. This amendment provides for greater involvement by state and local authorities in controlling noise and provides for the development and implementation of a national noise environmental assessment program. These regulations were considered in making the noise impact determination associated with the proposed action.

5.1.1.7 Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, 20 U.S.C. §333

The Occupational Safety and Health Act administered by OSHA forms the framework for a body of regulations (29 CFR 1910) which, among other things, are intended to ensure worker safety and health through regulation of work practices and work environments. The Act specifically addresses construction projects, hazardous waste operations, emergency responses, toxic and hazardous substance operations, and communication of information concerning occupational hazards, specifying appropriate protective measures for all employees. The proposed action was evaluated to determine if there was a change in work practices and the need for administrative actions other than normal compliance with OSHA standards.

5.1.1.8 Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §13101(b).

The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 presents congressional findings on the need for pollution prevention and source reduction programs. It states that "pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible; pollution that cannot be prevented should be recycled in an environmentally safe manner, whenever feasible."

The Air Force implements this program through AFI 32-7080. It focuses on source reduction as the primary and first step toward pollution prevention, followed by recycling/reuse and treatment/disposal, if necessary. AFI 32-7080 also implements requirements of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Toxics Substance Control Act of 1976, Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, Clean Water Act of 1987, and Department of Defense Directive 4210.15, Hazardous Materials Pollution Prevention, dated 27 July 1989.

The proposed action and alternatives were evaluated for potential pollution. Measures to prevent pollution are incorporated wherever feasible.

5.1.1.9 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. §1901 *et seq*.

Regulations prescribed under Subtitle C of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) mandate that hazardous waste will be treated, stored, and disposed of so as to minimize the present and future threat to human health and the environment. These regulations established a cradle-to-grave system of identifying, testing, storing, transporting, recycling, and disposing of hazardous waste. RCRA was amended in 1984 to restrict the disposal of hazardous waste at landfill facilities and waste minimization, and to require USEPA to develop specific corrective action procedures for release of RCRA hazardous wastes.

Colorado has developed a program to implement hazardous waste management within the state, including RCRA corrective action. The applicable state regulations are found at Code of Colorado Regulations (6 CCR 1007-3, Hazardous Waste) and Section 25-15-302, Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S). CDPHE has the authority to determine whether SAFB is properly executing its RCRA responsibility as set forth by USEPA. In addition, the Federal Facility Compliance Act of 1992 dissolves any sovereign immunity under RCRA, and allows the state and USEPA to collect fines for violations.

Hazardous waste activities conducted at SAFB include generation, characterization, and manifesting to off-site disposal. SAFB is a conditionally exempt small-quantity hazardous waste generator that generates more than 100 kilograms (approximately 25 gallons or 200 pounds), but less than 1,000 kilograms (approximately 300 gallons or 2,500 pounds) of hazardous waste per month. The SAFB Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan 10-2 (CEMP 10-2) establishes procedures and guidance for SAFB personnel to handle hazardous materials and petroleum products in the event of an accidental discharge, spill, or leak (50 CES/CEX. 2010).

5.1.2 Relevant State of Colorado and Local Regulations

Relevant State of Colorado regulations and guidelines appropriate to this project are often the outcome of one of the aforementioned federal programs. Colorado agencies associated with the administration of federal regulations applicable to this project are listed below. Local agencies relevant to this project also are identified below.

5.1.2.1 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

The Air Quality Control Division of CDPHE administers the CAA. Colorado has adopted the federal air quality standards, and has promulgated dust-control regulations for construction projects disturbing 5 acres or more of ground (5 CCR 1001-3, section III.D.2.b.(ii).), and for gravel-surfaced roads used by 200 or more vehicles per day (5 CCR 1001-3, section III.D.2.a.(i).(B).).

5.1.2.2 Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)

The CDOW coordinates with the USFWS to manage protected species and habitat. It is responsible for maintaining state-specific protected and special-concern species and habitat classifications, and works with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program to maintain protected species and habitat listings for the state. The CDOW also implements Senate Bill 40 Wildlife Certification regarding construction within stream banks and tributaries.

5.1.2.3 Colorado Historical Society and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

The SHPO administers the NHPA and serves as liaison for the state with the ACHP. The Colorado Historical Society maintains site records for all documented cultural resources in the state. Regulations regarding historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources of Colorado are included in the State Antiquities Act of 1966.

5.1.2.4 Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)

The PPACG is responsible for regional-level enforcement of CAA and compliance with the Colorado SIP. The PPACG is also responsible for regional-level population development and transportation plans. Regulations relevant to construction-related fugitive dust control have been established by El Paso County and the State of Colorado.

5.1.2.5 El Paso County

El Paso County has local responsibility for land use and transportation planning, and maintenance responsibility for county roads. The county also regulates fugitive dust control through the 1987 air quality regulation, *Regulations for Fugitive Particulates and Open Burning, Section 10*, which requires a permit for construction when earth work disturbance exceeds 1 acre but is less than 25 acres.

The county also regulates erosion control standards required for construction activities. Depending on the activity, an erosion control plan may be required by the county as set forth in the El Paso County Drainage Criteria Manual (Watt, 1997). However, the county does not have jurisdiction over activities at SAFB unless the project drains toward a county property, a county road, or a private property in El Paso County.

5.2 Permit Requirements

Only permit requirements identified for resource categories evaluated as a part of this EA are identified here. Routine permits required for construction and/or maintenance of the project are not listed.

- NHPA, Section 106 Clearance - None required unless subsurface cultural resources are identified during construction.
- Construction Stormwater NPDES permit - A permit must be obtained from USEPA prior to the start of construction activities, if more than one acre of land are disturbed. Since the Proposed Action and Alternative 2 would result in the disturbance of more than one acre, a NPDES permit would be required.
- El Paso County Dust Control Permit - This permit must be obtained from El Paso County prior to the start of construction activities that disturb more than one acre and less than 25 acres.

SECTION 6
AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONTACTED

Individuals consulted during the preparation of this EA are listed by agency or organization in the following subsections. Copies of correspondence with agencies are provided in Appendix A.

1. Schriever Air Force Base

1. Mr. Doug Hamm, 50 CES/CEV Air Quality Program Manager (719) 560-3011
2. Mr. Doug Chase, 50 CES/CEV Hazmat/Hazwaste Program Manager (719) 560-4242
3. Mr. John Mooney, 50 CES/CEV Water/Wastewater Program Manager (719) 560-3944
4. Mr. Ralph Mitchell, 50 CES/CECC Community Planner (719) 560-2075
5. Mr. Danne Smith, 50 CES/CECD Programmer (719) 560-4029
6. Mr. Kem Reliford, 50 CES/CECC Civil Engineer (719) 560-4687

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ms. Susan C. Linner – Colorado Field Supervisor – (303) 236-4748

3. Colorado Natural Heritage Program

Ms. Beth Van Dusen – Environmental Review Coordinator – (970) 491-7331

4. Colorado Division of Wildlife

Mr. Shaun Deeney – Area Wildlife Manager – (719) 227-5200

5. Colorado Historical Society

Mr. Edward C. Nichols – State Historic Preservation Officer – (303) 866-4678

6. Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Mr. Rich Muzzy, Environmental Planning Program Manager – (719) 471-7080, ext 109

SECTION 7
LIST OF PREPARERS

1. Mr. Andrew Jensen - 50 CES/CEV Environmental Impact Analysis Program Manager

2. Ms. Heather Rekart – 50 CES/CEV Contract Support (Booz Allen Hamilton)

3. Ms. Tymeri Schleicher – 50 CES/CEV Contract Support (Booz Allen Hamilton)

SECTION 8
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APPENDIX A
AGENCY CONSULTATION CORRESPONDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
50TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

Andrew Jensen
50 CES/CEV
500 O'Malley Ave Ste 19
Schriever AFB CO 80912-5019

27 OCT 2010

Colorado Division of Wildlife
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
Attn: Cory Chick

SUBJECT: Proposed Construction of a Training Area at Schriever AFB

I am writing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a Training Area outside the restricted area of Schriever AFB. I have attached a copy of the draft EA for your review and comment to ensure I adequately addressed environmental issues.

Your review and response by or before 29 November 2010 will be greatly appreciated.

Please call me at (719) 567-3360, or e-mail me at andrew.jensen-02@schriever.af.mil, if I can answer any questions for you.

Sincerely

Andrew Jensen
Biological Scientist

Attachment:
Draft Environmental Assessment

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Colorado Field Office
P.O. Box 25486, DFC (65412)
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

IN REPLY REFER TO:
ES/CO: Schriever/NLAA
TAILS: 65412-2011-I-0115-CPA-0007

NOV 2 4 2010

Mr. Andrew Jensen
50 CES / CEV
500 O'Malley Avenue
Schriever AFB, Colorado 80912-5098

Dear Mr. Jensen:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your e-mail dated October 27, 2010, and an October 2010 Draft Environment Assessment (EA) for the **proposed construction of a Base Training Area at Schriever Air Force Base (AFB), El Paso County, Colorado**. These comments have been prepared under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (916 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4327), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703 et. seq.), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668 et. seq.).

Based on the information provided in the draft EA for the proposed project, the Service concurs that the project is not likely to adversely affect any federally-listed threatened or endangered species. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

Please remember that, in addition to burrowing owls, the MBTA prohibits taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of *all* migratory birds (e.g., ground nesting birds, other raptors, etc.), their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. Unlike the ESA, neither the MBTA nor its implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 21) provide for permitting "incidental take" of migratory birds.

If the Service can be of further assistance, please contact Sandy Vana-Miller in this office at 303-236-4748.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Linner
Colorado Field Supervisor

cc: FWSR6/ES/LK, S. Vana-Miller

Colorado State University

Knowledge to Go Places

ANDREW JENSEN, GS-12
Biological Scientist
50 CES/CEV
500 O'Malley Ave
Schriever AFB, CO 80912-5098
COMM: (719) 567-3360
DSN: 560-3360

Dear Mr. Jensen:

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) serves as a primary datacenter in Colorado for information on sensitive species and plant communities. CNHP has reviewed the "Draft Environmental Assessment for Construction of Base Training Area, Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado" and would like to provide the following comments for your consideration. Our review focused in the area of our greatest expertise, Biological Resources in the Affected Environment.

General Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments. The 50th Civil Engineer Squadron/Environmental Flight (50 CES/CEV) has produced an Environmental Assessment (EA) that gives good descriptions of sensitive species and potential impacts on species in the planning area. It is apparent from the data presented that the 50 CES/CEV has taken advantage of CNHP's previous surveys on the base and we are grateful that our data have been considered.

Affected Environment: Biological Resources Comments

This section of the EA details biological elements present on the base in the area of the affected environment. CNHP reviewed our BIOTICS database of sensitive species and natural communities and didn't find any species missing among the species listed on Table 3.2 of Threatened, Endangered, and Special-Concern Species. A sensitive plant species in the vicinity, plains ragweed (*Ambrosia linearis*), is not listed in the table but is adequately dealt with elsewhere in Section 3.2.1 (Vegetation). Further, it would appear by virtue of being in the shortgrass prairie that habitat may exist for Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montana*) as indicated in Table 3.2. It is stated in the EA that the base has never been surveyed for Mountain Plover. Given the mobility of wildlife and the high conservation value of the species, CNHP would advise a ground-based survey for Mountain Plover may be beneficial for clearance as our database shows an extant occurrence record within five miles to the southeast of the affected area and the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas has active breeding blocks within the general vicinity of the base as well. Also, CNHP's surveys were completed in 2000 and

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have not been updated since. It is likely that existing biological resources have changed in that time, and reassessment would help ensure that environmental compliance and management priorities are in line with the current ecology of the base.

Environmental Consequences Comments

Table 4.1 summarizes environmental impacts. CNHP found no issues here given that there are no Mountain Plover present. If Mountain Plover are subsequently found in a survey, impacts should be investigated in regards to any Mountain Plover occurrences or activities found in said survey.

Comments on the Alternatives

From the perspective of protecting sensitive species and imperiled communities it would appear to CNHP that Alternative I is preferable over Alternative II given that Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) populations are much closer to the area of impact than Alternative I. Also given the data on known populations, CNHP would agree that Alternative I should not result in any major adverse affects on wildlife, threatened and endangered species (again if Mountain Plover are present, they may need to be addressed).

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this EA.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Menefee

Environmental Review Coordinator
Colorado Natural Heritage Program
Colorado State University
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1474 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1474
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Visit CNHP Online At:
http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu

Natural Heritage Program
COLORADO

STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Thomas E. Remington, Director
Southeast Region
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907
Telephone: (719) 227-5200
wildlife.state.co.us

For Wildlife-
For People

November 23, 2010

Andrew Jensen
50 CES/CEV
500 O'Malley Ave Ste 19
Schriever AFB CO 80912-5019

Subject: Proposed Construction of a Training Area at Schriever AFB

Dear Mr. Jensen,

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) is in receipt of the above referenced Environmental Assesment and is familiar with the site. Based on the location and type of action being proposed the Division believes impacts to the wildlife resource to be minimal. The DOW feels the current expansion of local prairie dog colonies should be monitored throughout the use of the proposed development for the presence of Burrowing Owls, which are currently listed as a Threatened Species in Colorado. We have included recommended survey protocols. We appreciate being given the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager Aaron Flohrs at 719-227-5282 or aaron.flohrs@state.co.us should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Cory Chick
Area Wildlife Manager

xc: File
SE Regional Office
Aaron Flohrs, DWM

RECOMMENDED SURVEY PROTOCOL AND ACTIONS TO PROTECT NESTING BURROWING OWLS WHEN CONDUCTING PRAIRIE DOG CONTROL

Western Burrowing Owls (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) are commonly found in prairie dog towns throughout Colorado. Burrowing owls require prairie dog or other suitable burrows (e.g. badger) for nesting and roosting. Burrowing owls are migratory, breeding throughout the western United States, southern Canada, and northern Mexico and wintering in the southern United States and throughout Mexico.

Federal and state laws prohibit the harming or killing of burrowing owls and the destruction of active nests. It is quite possible to inadvertently kill burrowing owls during prairie dog poisoning projects, removal of prairie dogs, destruction of burrows and prairie dogs using a concussive device, or during earth moving for construction. Because burrowing owls often hide in burrows when alarmed, it is not practical to haze the birds away from prairie dog towns prior to prairie dog poisoning/removal, burrow destruction, or construction activity. Because of this, the Colorado Division of Wildlife recommends surveying prairie dog towns for burrowing owl presence before potentially harmful activities are initiated.

The following guidelines are intended as advice on how to determine if burrowing owls are present in a prairie dog town, and what to do if burrowing owls are detected. These guidelines do not guarantee that burrowing owls will be detected if they are present. However, adherence to these guidelines will greatly increase the likelihood of detection.

Seasonal Timing

Burrowing owls typically arrive on breeding grounds in Colorado in late March or early April, with nesting beginning a few weeks later. Active nesting and fledging has been recorded and may be expected from late March through early August. Adults and young may remain at prairie dog towns until migrating to wintering grounds in late summer or early autumn.

Surveys should be conducted during times when burrowing owls may be present on prairie dog towns. Surveys should be conducted for any activities occurring between March 15th and October 31st. No burrowing owls are expected to be present between November 1st and March 14th.

Daily Timing

Burrowing owls are active throughout the day; however, peaks in activity in the morning and evening make these the best times for conducting surveys (Conway and Simon 2003). Surveys should be conducted in the early morning (1/2 hour before sunrise until 2 hours after sunrise) and early evening (2 hours before sunset until 1/2 hour after sunset).

Number and locations of survey points

Burrowing owls are most frequently located visually, thus, obtaining a clear view of the entire prairie dog town is necessary. For small prairie dog towns that can be adequately viewed in their entirety from a single location, only one survey point is necessary. The survey point should be selected to provide unobstructed views (with binoculars if necessary) of the entire prairie dog town

(burrow mounds and open areas between) and all nearby structures that may provide perches (e.g., fences, utility poles, etc.)

For prairie dog towns that can not be entirely viewed from a single location because of terrain or size, enough survey points should be established to provide unobstructed views of the entire prairie dog town and nearby structures that may provide perches. Survey locations should be separated by approximately 800 meters (1/2 mile), or as necessary to provide adequate visual coverage of the entire prairie dog town.

Number of surveys to conduct

Detection of burrowing owls can be highly variable and multiple visits to each site should be conducted to maximize the likelihood of detecting owls if they are present. At least three surveys should be conducted at each survey point. Surveys should be separated by approximately one week.

Conducting the survey

- Weather Considerations Because poor weather conditions may impact the ability to detect burrowing owls, surveys should only be conducted on days with little or no wind and no precipitation.

- Passive surveys Most burrowing owls are detected visually. At each survey location, the observer should *visually* scan the area to detect any owls that are present. Some burrowing owls may be detected by their call, so observers should also *listen* for burrowing owls while conducting the survey.

  Burrowing owls are frequently detected soon after initiating a survey (Conway and Simon 2003). However, some burrowing owls may not be detected immediately because they are inconspicuous, are inside of burrows, or are not present on the site when the survey is initiated. We recommend that surveys be conducted for 10 minutes at each survey location.

- Call-broadcast surveys To increase the likelihood of detecting burrowing owls, if present, we recommend incorporating call-broadcast methods into burrowing owl surveys. Conway and Simon (2003) detected 22% more burrowing owls at point-count locations by broadcasting the primary male (*coo-coo*) and alarm (*quick-quick-quick*) calls during surveys. Although call-broadcast may increase the probability of detecting burrowing owls, most owls will still be detected visually.
-

  We recommend the following 10-minute timeline for incorporating call-broadcast methods (Conway and Simon 2003, C. Conway pers. commun.). The observer should scan the area for burrowing owls during the entire survey period.

  - 3 minutes of silence
  - 30 seconds call-broadcast of primary call (*coo-coo*)
  - 30 seconds silence
  - 30 seconds call-broadcast of primary call (*coo-coo*)
  - 30 seconds silence
  - 30 seconds call-broadcast of alarm call (*quick-quick-quick*)
  - 30 seconds silence
  - 4 minutes of silence

  Calls can be broadcast from a "boom box" or a portable CD or cassette player attached

to amplified speakers. Calls should be broadcast loudly but without distortion.

Compact discs recordings of this survey sequence are available free of charge by contacting:

David Klute
All-bird Conservation Coordinator
Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
Phone: 303-291-7320
Email: David.Klute@state.co.us

Identification

Adult burrowing owls are small, approximately 9-11 inches. They are brown with white spotting and white barring on the chest. They have long legs in comparison to other owls and are frequently seen perching on prairie dog mounds or other suitable perches (e.g., fence posts, utility poles) near prairie dog towns. Juvenile burrowing owls are similar to adults but smaller, with a white/buff colored chest that lacks barring.

General information about burrowing owls is available from the Colorado Division of Wildlife website:
http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/Birds/BurrowingOwl.htm

Additional identification tips and information are available from the U.S. Geological Survey Patuxent Wildlife Research Center website:
http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/i3780id.html

What To Do If Burrowing Owls Are Present

If burrowing owls are confirmed to be present in a prairie dog town, there are two options before proceeding with planned activities:

1. Wait to initiate activities until after November 1st or until it can be confirmed that the owls have left the prairie dog town.
2. Carefully monitor the activities of the owls, noting and marking which burrows they are using. This is not easy to accomplish and will require considerable time, as the owls may use several burrows in a prairie dog town. When all active burrowing owl burrows have been located and marked, activity can proceed in areas greater than 150 feet from the burrows with little danger to the owls. Activity closer than 150 feet may endanger the owls.

Reference

Conway, C. J. and J. C. Simon. 2003. Comparison of detection probability associated with Burrowing Owl survey methods. Journal of Wildlife Management 67:501-511.

revised 03/2007
See also:" Controlling Prairie Dogs: Suggestions For Minimizing Risk To Non-Target Wildlife Species" Colorado Division of Wildlife 03/2007

From: Rich Muzzy
To: Jensen, Andrew A Civ USAF AFSPC 50 CES/CEV
Subject: RE: Proposed Construction of a Training Area at Schriever AFB
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2010 6:51:21 PM

Hi Andy,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review the Draft EA for construction of the training area at Schriever AFB. I found it to be complete and have no comments. I agree with your environmental analysis regarding the potential impacts you highlighted in the Report.

Rich

Mr. Rich Muzzy, Environmental Planning Coordinator

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

15 South Seventh Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80905

From: Jensen, Andrew A Civ USAF AFSPC 50 CES/CEV [mailto:andrew.jensen-02@schriever.af.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2010 1:29 PM
To: Rich Muzzy
Subject: Proposed Construction of a Training Area at Schriever AFB

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

15 South Seventh Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Attn: Mr. Rich Muzzy, Environmental Planning Coordinator: rmuzzy@ppacg.org

Per our prior telephone conversation, I am writing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a Training Area outside the restricted area of Schriever AFB.

I have attached a copy of the draft EA for your review and comment to ensure I adequately addressed all environmental issues.

Your review and response by 27 November 2010 will be greatly appreciated.

Please call me at (719) 567-3360, or e-mail me at andrew.jensen-02@schriever.af.mil, if I can answer any questions for you.

Sincerely,

ANDREW JENSEN, GS-12

Biological Scientist

50 CES/CEV

500 O'Malley Ave

Schriever AFB, CO 80912-5098

COMM: (719) 567-3360

DSN: 560-3360

HISTORY Colorado

Received
DEC 14 2010 - AD.

29 November 2010 CHS #58305

Andrew Jensen
Biological Scientist
Department of the Air Force
50 CES/CEV
500 O'Malley Ave., Suite 19
Schriever AFB, CO 80912-5019

RE: Proposed Construction Training Area, Schriever Air Force Base, El Paso County

Dear Mr. Jensen:

Thank you for your recent correspondence dated 1 November 2010, concerning the proposed construction of a new training area at Schriever Air Force Base. Our office has reviewed the submitted materials. We concur with your assessment that no significant cultural resources will be affected by this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Saldibar, Architectural Services Manager, at (303) 866-3741.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Nichols
State Historic Preservation Officer, and
President, Colorado Historical Society

APPENDIX B
PUBLIC COMMENTS

The request for public review and comment on the Finding of No Significant Impact and the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Base Training Area was announced in *The Gazette Telegraph* on 12 Dec 2010. The final draft EA and FONSI was placed in the Penrose General Library, Penrose local history desk and Colorado Springs East library for a period of 14 days.

As of 28 DEC 2010, no public comment on the proposed action was received.

Legals

I, Kenneth Lee Dameron am no longer responsible for any past, current or future debt, promises, collections or charges of any kind for Yolanda Ann Berrera Holder Dameron as of 12/1/2010.

Published in The Gazette on December 12, 15, 2010.

EL PASO COUNTY COURT
EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO
270 S. Tejon, PO Box 2980
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

CASE NUMBER: 10C16989

In the Matter of the Petition of Adult: DIANA ROSE NELMS
For a Change of Name to: DIANA ROSE SINDONA

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION OF CHANGE OF NAME

Public notice is given on December 6, 2010 that a Petition for a Change of Name of a Adult has been filed with the El Paso County Court.

The Petition requests that the name of: DIANA ROSE NELMS be changed to: DIANA ROSE SINDONA

Lynette D. Collins
Clerk of Court
Kyan Fonville
Deputy Clerk

Published in The Gazette: December 10, 11, 12th 2010.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems will conduct an accreditation site visit of Memorial Star Transport on January 17 and 18, 2011.

The purpose of the site visit will be to evaluate the program's compliance with nationally established medical transport standards. The site visit results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded to the program.

CAMTS accreditation standards deal with issues of patient care and safety of the transport environment. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent or valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the CAMTS site surveyors at the time of the site visit. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for public information interviews must be made in writing and sent to CAMTS no later than 5 business days before the site survey begins. The request should also indicate the nature of the information to be provided during the interview. Such request should be addressed to: Office of the Executive Director Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems
PO Box 130
Anderson, SC 29677

The Commission will acknowledge such written requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the program of the request for an interview. The program will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time and place of the meeting.

Published in The Gazette on December 5, 12, 2010.

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RossAuction.Com

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www.pyramidautoauction.com

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A TRAINING AREA AT SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

The 50th Space Wing, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. has prepared a draft EA and a draft FONSI, to analyze potential impacts from constructing a Training Area at Schriever AFB. The EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementing NEPA to analyze the potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action. No major impacts were identified in the analysis.
The 50th SW invites public comments on the draft EA and FONSI, which will be available DEC 12, 2010 to Dec 25, 2010. The EA will be available at the following libraries, or by calling Ms. Jennifer Thibault, 50th Space Wing Public Affairs Office, at (719) 567-5448.
1. Reference Desk: East Library, 5550 N. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO
2. Local History Desk: Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO

Published in The Gazette on December 12, 2010.

Fillmore Street Traffic Analysis Study

PUBLIC FORUM

The City of Colorado Springs is hosting a Public Forum for the Fillmore Street Corridor Study. You are invited to attend and discuss the proposed improvements for the corridor.

Date: December 15, 2010

Place: Coronado High School
1590 West Fillmore Street
Colorado Springs, CO

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

On the web: www.pprta.com or www.springsgov.com

The cafeteria at Coronado High School is ADA accessible.

Published in The Gazette on December 12, 2010

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO.
EPC201003385
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
On September 28, 2010, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of El Paso records.
Original Grantor(s):
Adam A. Wells
Original Beneficiary(ies):
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for New Line Mortgage
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt:
MidFirst Bank
Date of Deed of Trust:
6/10/2005
County of Recording:
El Paso
Recording Date of Deed of Trust:
6/27/2005
Recording Reception Number:
205095527
Original Principal Amount:
$166,176.00
Outstanding Principal Balance:
$152,839.72
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments pro-

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO.
EPC201003207
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
On September 14, 2010, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of El Paso records.
Original Grantor(s):
Thayne Leo Broin and Beverly Ruth Broin
Original Beneficiary(ies):
First Capital Financial Services Corp. DBA Full Compass Lending
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt:
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Date of Deed of Trust:
6/5/2001
County of Recording:
El Paso
Recording Date of Deed of Trust:
6/13/2001
Recording Reception Number:
201081156
Original Principal Amount:
$275,000.00
Outstanding Principal Balance:
$243,269.90
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments pro-

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO.
EPC201003197
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
On September 13, 2010, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of El Paso records.
Original Grantor(s):
Jerry B Sahnd and Joyce M Sahnd
Original Beneficiary(ies):
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt:
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Date of Deed of Trust:
10/29/2008
County of Recording:
El Paso
Recording Date of Deed of Trust:
10/31/2008
Recording Reception Number:
208118326
Original Principal Amount:
$268,550.00
Outstanding Principal Balance:
$264,236.15
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO.
EPC201003269
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
On September 20, 2010, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of El Paso records.
Original Grantor(s):
Brett C. Nerem
Original Beneficiary(ies):
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt:
BAC Home Loans Servicing, L.P.
Date of Deed of Trust:
11/3/2003
County of Recording:
El Paso
Recording Date of Deed of Trust:
11/17/2003
Recording Reception Number:
203269479
Original Principal Amount:
$179,200.00
Outstanding Principal Balance:
$175,791.65
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: failure to pay principal and interest when