

Environmental Impact Statement for the EA-18G GROWLER AIRFIELD OPERATIONS



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HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

In 2005 and 2012, the Navy prepared environmental analyses pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the replacement of the Prowler aircraft with the newer Growler aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The 2005 Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluated the environmental consequences of a transition of carrier and training squadrons from Prowler to Growler aircraft and the disestablishment of three expeditionary squadrons. The 2012 EA evaluated the environmental consequences of retaining and transitioning three expeditionary Growler squadrons at NAS Whidbey Island from Prowler to Growler aircraft, and the relocation of a reserve expeditionary Prowler squadron from Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, and the transition of that squadron to Growlers at NAS Whidbey Island.

2005 Final EA

The 2005 Final EA is available to download or view online. The following Adobe PDF files represent the main text of the EA and its supporting appendices.

File	Size
Final - EA for Replacement of EA-6B Aircraft with EA-18G Aircraft at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington	3.7 MB
Appendix A - Flight Operations Data	243 KB
Appendix B - Air Quality Calculations Tables	77 KB

2012 Final EA

The 2012 Final EA is available to download or view online. The following Adobe PDF files represent each individual section. Additionally, you can download the entire EA ([Full EA](#) [60 MB]) as a single PDF file:

File	Size
Cover and Table of Contents	1.3 MB
Executive Summary	138 KB
Section 1 - Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action	1.1 MB
Section 2 - Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives	399 KB
Section 3 - Existing Environment	610 KB
Section 4 - Environmental Consequences	1.2 MB
Section 5 - Cumulative Impacts	196 KB
Section 6 - Other Considerations	112 KB
Section 7 - List of Contributors and Preparers	103 KB
Section 8 - References	195 KB
Appendix A - Biological Assessment	6.7 MB
Appendix B - Agency Correspondence	7.0 MB
Appendix C - Noise Report	14.3 MB
Appendix D - Air Emissions Calculations	343 KB

2013 Scoping Effort

Last September, the Navy began an EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the addition of two new expeditionary squadrons and additional Growler aircraft to the training squadron. Scoping was conducted between September 2013 and January 2014 on that proposed action, and open house scoping meetings were held in December 2013 to discuss the proposal.

During spring 2014, the Chief of Naval Operations submitted an Unfunded Requirements List as part of the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 that included a request to purchase 22 additional Growler aircraft. While it is unclear whether more Growlers will ultimately be procured, the Navy is electing to analyze the potential for these aircraft in order to be proactive and transparent. Therefore, a new scoping process is needed and has been initiated based on the proposed action.

Copies of the *Federal Register* Notices related to the 2013 effort are available for download or to view online.

- [Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS and to Announce Public Scoping Meetings, Thursday, September 5, 2013](#)
- [Notice Regarding Scoping Comment Period, Friday, January 17, 2014](#)

A copy of the scoping booklet provided during the previous scoping effort is available for download [here](#).

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The United States Fleet Forces Command is the official sponsor of this project website. Questions regarding its content may be directed to the Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Ted Brown, at (757) 836-4427.

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