Proposed Action

To keep up with advances in technology and new national security challenges, the U.S. Navy occasionally must reassess and alter its activities within the Northwest Training Range Complex (see Figure 1 on this page and Figure 2 on back), including its methods of training Sailors and testing weapons. These changes in the level and type of training and testing activities are called the Proposed Action.

Specifically, the Navy proposes to:
- Increase the number of training activities of the same type currently being conducted;
- Operate air target services for locally-based aircraft and vessels;
- Operate surface target services for locally-based aircraft and vessels;
- Develop an additional land-based electronic combat threat signal emitter along the Washington coast for offshore use by aircraft and vessels;
- Develop a small-scale underwater training minefield for submarines; and
- Use a portable undersea tracking range for anti-submarine training.

The Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Navy’s Proposed Action in the Northwest Training Range Complex is to achieve and maintain Fleet readiness by enhancing and sustaining training activities and research, development, test and evaluation activities, as well as modernizing existing range capabilities.

The Proposed Action is needed to provide a training environment consisting of ranges, training areas and range instrumentation with the capacity and capabilities to fully support required training tasks for operational units and military schools. By federal mandate, the Navy needs to:
- Maintain current levels of military readiness, including ships, submarines and aviation squadrons, and accommodate future increases;
- Adequately support the training need for new ships, aircraft and weapons systems;
- Identify and provide for range enhancements; and
- Maintain the long-term viability of the range complex while protecting human health and the environment.
The Navy’s proposed range enhancements include:

- New air and sea surface targets
- Operation of air target services for locally-based aircraft and vessels
- Development of an additional electronic signal emitter along the Washington coast
- Use of a portable undersea tracking range for anti-submarine training
- Development of a small-scale underwater training minefield

Evaluating Alternatives

In preparing the EIS/OEIS, scientists and technical experts evaluated different alternatives for accomplishing the Proposed Action. Three alternatives were analyzed to help determine the appropriate level and type of activities to be conducted in the Northwest Training Range Complex.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

Under the No Action Alternative, training activities within the range complex would continue at current levels. This alternative provides a baseline for assessing the potential environmental effects of the other alternatives.

Activities currently conducted at the Northwest Training Range Complex can be divided into the following primary mission areas:

- Anti-air warfare
- Anti-surface warfare
- Anti-submarine warfare
- Electronic combat
- Mine warfare
- Naval special warfare, explosive ordnance disposal, and search and rescue training
- Strike warfare
- Support activities
- Research, development, test and evaluation

**ALTERNATIVE 1**

Alternative 1 is a proposal designed to meet Navy and Department of Defense current and near-term training requirements. In addition to accommodating training activities currently conducted, this alternative proposes an increase in the number of training activities to accommodate force structure changes associated with the introduction of new weapons systems, vessels and aircraft into the Fleet. Specifically, Alternative 1 proposes to:

- Increase baseline levels of training activities; and
- Implement training activities associated with proposed force structure changes for:
  - EA-18G Growler Aircraft
  - Guided Missile Submarine
  - P-8 Multimission Maritime Aircraft
  - Unmanned Aerial Systems

**ALTERNATIVE 2**

(Preferred Alternative)

Alternative 2 is also designed to meet current and near-term training requirements. Alternative 2 is the Navy’s preferred alternative and proposes to:

- Include all elements of Alternative 1; plus
- Increase the level of training activities over levels identified in Alternative 1; and
- Implement range enhancements (see side bar).

Alternative 2 is the Navy’s preferred alternative because it fully supports the type and frequency of activities required to achieve complete Fleet readiness and allows the Navy to carry out its mission in the Northwest Training Range Complex.

For more information about the Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS, visit www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com.