Outline

• Overview – EIS/OEIS
• National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process for the EIS/OEIS
• Public Involvement
• Purpose & Need
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• Northwest Training Range Complex EIS Study Area
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Overview – EIS/OEIS

• Part of the Navy’s overall commitment to environmental stewardship as it trains and tests

• Provides the opportunity to:
  – Review procedures
  – Ensure the benefits of scientific progress are applied toward minimizing environmental impacts

• Prepared in accordance with:
  – Executive Order 12114, “Environmental Affects of Major Federal Actions” (1979)
NEPA Process

Notice of Intent (July 31, 2007)

Public & Agency Scoping (August - September 2007)

Draft EIS (Early 2009)

45-day Public Review & Public Hearings (Early 2009)

Final EIS (Mid 2009)

30-Day Public Review Period (Mid 2009)

Record of Decision (Mid 2009)
Public Involvement

- Briefings to elected officials, agencies, and interested organizations

- Government to Government consultations with Native American Tribes & Nations

- Publicized scoping meetings
  - Press Releases & Media Alerts
  - Letters & Mailers
  - Advertisements
  - Project Web site: www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com
  - Information Repositories at Public Libraries
Public Scoping Meetings

Whidbey Island, WA
Monday, September 10, 6-9pm
The Coachman Inn
32959 State Route 20
Oak Harbor, WA

Pacific Beach, WA
Tuesday, September 11, 6-9pm
Pacific Beach Fire Hall
4586 State Route 109
Pacific Beach, WA

Grays Harbor, WA
Wednesday, September 12, 6-9pm
Grays Harbor College Cafeteria
1620 Edward P. Smith Drive
Aberdeen, WA

Depoe Bay, OR
Thursday, September 13, 6-9pm
Spouting Horn Restaurant
110 Southeast Highway 101
Depoe Bay, OR

Eureka, CA
Saturday, September 15, 6-9pm
Eureka Women’s Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, CA
Public Scoping Period

- Public Scoping Period: July 31, 2007 to September 29, 2007

- Submit comments on-line at:
  
  www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com

- Submit written comments to:
  
  Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest
  1101 Tautog Circle Suite 203
  Silverdale, Washington, 98315-1101
  ATTN: Mrs. Kimberly Kler - “NWTRC EIS”
Purpose and Need

- Achieve and sustain Fleet readiness
- To train and prepare its Sailors when they must go in harm’s way
- Provide adequate training for planned and proposed changes in quantity and types of ships, submarines and aircraft, and their associated systems
- To enable the Navy to respond to ever-changing global defense challenges
- Maintain the long-term viability of the range complex while protecting human health and the environment
Purpose and Need (cont.)

- The Northwest Training Range Complex provides the ideal location to:
  - Train local Navy units
  - Conduct realistic training with minimal encroachments
  - Train across the spectrum of naval missions in one of the Navy’s largest operating areas
- The Proposed Action is needed to ensure range capabilities are sufficient to continue these activities
Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS

Study Area
Alternatives

- The proposed actions are organized into three alternatives, or sets, of proposed actions:
  - No Action
  - Alternative 1
  - Alternative 2
**No Action Alternative**

**No Action Alternative:**

Training and testing activities would **continue** at current levels. This alternative provides a baseline for assessing the potential environmental effects of the other alternatives.
**Alternative 1**

Increased number of training activities from current levels to accommodate force structure changes associated with the introduction of new weapon systems, vessels, and aircraft into the Fleet. In addition, training and activities associated with force structure changes would be implemented for the EA-18G Growler, Guided Missile Submarine (SSGN) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
Alternative 2

Includes all elements of Alternative 1; plus an increase in the level of training activities over levels identified in Alternative 1; and implement range enhancements. Range enhancements include the establishment of an electronic combat emitter along the coast of Washington, proved a cold water training environment for underwater training, development of air target services, and installation of surface targets.
Situation Summary

• What is driving the need for increased levels of training activity?
  – Increased flexibility and responsiveness to respond to national security challenges
  – Improve quality of life for Sailors by training locally when possible
Situation Summary

• What testing will be analyzed in this EIS?
  – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle activities only
  – Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) for Unmanned Undersea Vehicles is primarily conducted on the NAVSEA NUWC Keyport ranges.

• These RDT&E operations are being analyzed under a separate NEPA analysis—the NAVSEA NUWC Keyport Range Extension EIS/OEIS
  – For more info, visit www-keyport.kpt.nuwc.navy.mil/EIS_Home.htm
Situation Summary

- What changes would increased training potentially involve?
  - Larger net explosive weight underwater detonations
  - Increased number of training activities taking place in the offshore operating area
  - Ability to conduct electronic combat training in all operating areas
Potential Environmental Issues

- **Sound in the water** - the effects of sonar and impulsive sound sources on marine mammals, including listed threatened or endangered species of marine mammals

- **Threatened and endangered species** - acoustical and non-acoustical effects of training activities on marine mammals, fish, birds, and sea turtles

- **Water quality** - effects of routine discharges, accidental releases, and munitions constituents on marine resources
Thank you!

Questions?
Back-up Slides
Alternatives Eliminated From Further Consideration

• Reduction in the level of training
  – Does not meet purpose and need (does not support Title 10 obligation)
  – Jeopardizes ability of forces to be ready and qualified for deployment
  – Would force local forces to travel extensively to train in other ranges
Alternatives Eliminated From Further Consideration

• Alternative range complex location
  – One of the complex’s primary qualities is its location, near locally based forces
  – The range complex has unique qualities not found in other ranges (cold water, protected waters, unique bathymetry)
  – As previously noted, would force local forces to travel extensively to conduct training
Alternatives Eliminated From Further Consideration

- **Simulated Training**
  - Already used to the extent practicable
  - Computer simulation is no substitute for high stress environments encountered on ranges
  - Simulations are not capable of creating the complexity of real world situations
Situation Summary

• The Navy’s need for sonar
  – Quiet, diesel-electric submarines are easily available
  – Extending detection ranges is imperative to national security
  – Sonar is the only effective means available to quickly detect hostile submarines
  – Realistic training with sonar is imperative to Navy personnel expertise in the real world
Situation Summary (cont.)

THEN – 1970s

Passive Detection Range

Noisy submarines detected farther away

Short Weapons Range
Situation Summary (cont.)

Now -- 2006

Quieter submarines not detected until close in

Longer weapons range makes ships vulnerable before detection

Passive Detection Range

Weapons Range

Now - 2006
Marine Mammals

- The EIS/OEIS will allow the Navy to analyze the potential effects of noise in the water, including sonar, on marine mammals.
Marine Mammal Science

• Good science is essential in determining the effects of sonar on marine mammals and formulating policies

• Marine mammal acoustics is a complex science
  – Sound intensity is different in air and water
  – Different species of marine mammals have different frequency detection ranges
  – Different frequencies of active sonar have unique features, affecting marine mammals in different ways
Marine Mammal Research

- U.S. Navy funds 70% of U.S. research and 50% of worldwide research on marine mammals
- $7-10 million per year spent on research since late 1990s
- Over $10 million allocated for next 5 years
- Research funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) is independent and not influenced by Navy policy:
  - ONR does not restrict interpretation or publication of any research it supports
  - ONR does not require Navy review or appraisal of scientific results before release to the public
- Through this research, the Navy is developing and implementing ways to use sonar in an even more environmentally sensitive manner
Responsible implementation of environmental protective measures, developed with the help of scientific research, is standard operating procedure for the Navy:

- Operators complete a marine species awareness training program, which is supported by National Marine Fisheries Service
- Lookouts are posted 24/7
- Passive sonar used to detect marine mammals prior to and during training activities