

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FLOODPLAIN

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that the Navy is conducting an evaluation of a proposed action, which may involve activity in a floodplain to determine the potential effects that its activity in the floodplain would have on the human environment. The Navy will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988.

The proposed action is the planting of sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*), native to this area, in the coastal dune area south of Building 3558 located on Naval Air Station Pensacola in Escambia County, Florida. As required by EO 11988, a more detailed description of the proposed action is available below.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative methods to serve the same project purpose and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Interested parties may submit written comments no later than 5:00 PM Central Time on March 31, 2023 by email to joelle.a.odaniel-lopez.civ@us.navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than March 31, 2023 to:

Naval Air Station Pensacola
Joelle O'Daniel-Lopez
NEPA Program Manager
310 John Towers Road
Pensacola, FL 32508

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed action is planting of sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*), native to this area, south of Building 3558 located on Naval Air Station Pensacola in Escambia County, Florida. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide carbon sequestration and dune renourishment along the coastal dunes.

The Navy is proposing the action in a floodplain because the coastal dunes are located within the boundaries of floodplains associated with Pensacola Bay and are in need of renourishment in order to stabilize the coastal dunes. The dune areas along the south of Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola that abuts the Pensacola Bay have increasingly deteriorated through the years due to storm surge, high water and extreme weather conditions. These occurrences have both displaced and eroded sand as well as destroyed abundant natural vegetation that helped to keep the shoreline as natural and protected as possible. Plant totals shall be 10,000 2-inch plugs. Plant spacing shall be 18 inches apart, installed in a staggered pattern alternately north and south forming diamond shaped grids. The total planted area will be less than one acre in size. Existing vegetation is to remain and not to be removed. If no action is taken, the coastal dune area south of Building 3882 will continue to erode which will be detrimental to natural resources.

Implementation of the proposed action would not affect flood frequency or severity because there would be no construction of structures that would increase the potential for an increased amount of flood waters.

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Location Map



Site Map

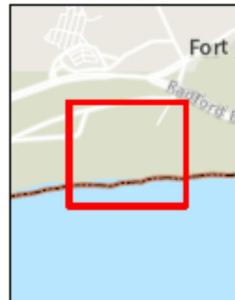


NAS Pensacola Dune Renourishment

SYMBOL KEY

■ Sea Oats Planting Area

Installation Location



0 0.01 0.02 0.04 mi

0 0.02 0.04 0.07 km

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