

December 2015

U.S. Navy Environmental Projects in the Pacific Northwest



The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects.

- Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing and geographic location.
- Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off and/or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents.
- NEPA documents for training (e.g. Northwest Training and Testing EIS) focus on training activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships and range complex enhancements.
- NEPA documents for aircraft home basing actions (e.g. EA-18G Growler EIS) focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs.
- NEPA documents for installations (e.g., Land Water Interface and Service Pier Extension EIS) focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions.
- Every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local and private) in addition to the proposed action.

The Navy mission evolves to address global events and emerging threats, and changes its operational training and testing requirements, as appropriate. The Navy has recently initiated or completed several NEPA documents for proposed actions in the Pacific Northwest.

These documents include:

1. EIS for Land Water Interface and Service Pier Extension at Naval Base Kitsap Bangor:

Navy proposes to construct and operate security barriers at the northern and southern ends of the Bangor Waterfront Restricted Area, extend and upgrade the existing service pier; and relocate two submarines from Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton to Naval Base Kitsap Bangor. Navy announced its intent to prepare an EIS on February 1, 2013 and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of Draft EIS analysis. The Navy released a Draft EIS in February 2015. For more information, please visit the project website at www.nbkeis.com/lwi/welcome.aspx.

2. EIS for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at NAS Whidbey Island and OLF Coupeville:

Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of this EIS on September 5, 2013 and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft EIS that is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more

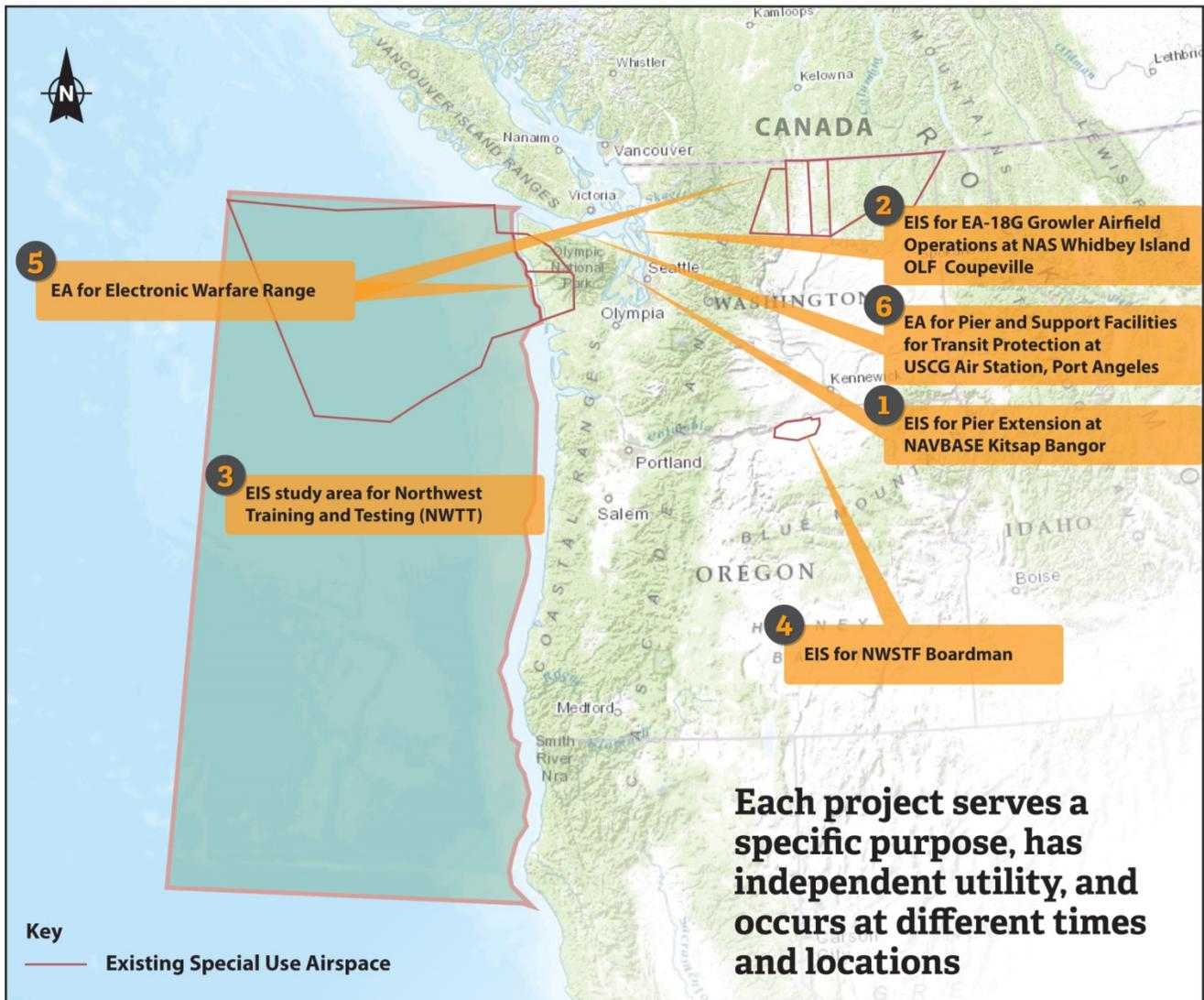
information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeveis.com.

3. EIS for Northwest Training and Testing (NWT):

Navy proposes to continue and enhance training and testing activities at sea and in inland waters at existing range complexes, military operations areas, and select pier-side locations. The Draft EIS was released in January 2014, and the public was invited to submit comments on the findings of the Draft EIS. In December 2014, the Navy published a supplement to the Draft EIS, which focused on a proposed change in the use of sonobuoys and analyzed maritime security operations, and invited the public to submit additional comments. A Final EIS was released on October 2, 2015. For more information, please visit the project website at www.nwtteis.com.

4. EIS for Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility (NWSTF) Boardman:

Navy proposes to continue and enhance training for Navy and Oregon National Guard at NWSTF Boardman. The Draft EIS was released in September 2012. The Navy has completed regulatory and tribal consultation efforts and released the Final EIS to the public on December 18, 2015 and is available through January 19, 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.nwstfboardmaneis.com.



5. EA for Electronic Warfare Range: Navy proposes to use fixed transmitter site and up to three mobile transmitter vans that will send out signals that pilots need to detect and identify to improve training that is already occurring in existing military operations areas. The EA was completed in August 2014 and tiers off the electronic warfare training analysis in the 2010 Northwest Training Range Complex Final EIS. The 2010 NWTRC EIS analyzed at-sea and inland training, which addressed existing electronic warfare training in existing military operation areas. The Navy notified the public about the EA and invited public comment. No public comments were received. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. Navy is currently working with U.S Forest Service for permission to drive mobile transmitter trucks on these public lands. For more information, please visit the project website at

www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/installations/nas_whidbey_island/om/environmental_support.html and forest service website at: http://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=42759.

6. EA for Pier and Support Facilities for Transit Protection System: Navy proposes to construct a pier and support facilities at the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station, Sector Field Office in Port Angeles, Washington. A description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives was released for public review in January 2015. The Navy released a Draft Environmental Assessment on November 30, 2015, and is accepting comments through January 28, 2016. For more information, please visit the NAVFAC NW NEPA website at <http://go.usa.gov/tAr4>.