

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 construction 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 and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988.

The proposed action is to repair erosion at a small recreational beach, Ski Beach, located on Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola and to stabilize the shoreline to prevent further erosion in the future. Beach erosion has been a continued threat at Ski Beach, but Hurricane Sally accelerated the issue when the hurricane made landfall in September 2020. 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 wetlands 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 and wetlands 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 June 8, 2021 by email to Joelle.odaniellopez@navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than June 8, 2021 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 to repair erosion at a small recreational beach, Ski Beach, located on Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola and to stabilize the shoreline to prevent further erosion in the future. Beach erosion has been a continued threat at Ski Beach, but Hurricane Sally accelerated the issue when the hurricane made landfall in September 2020.

Ski Beach is a family beach destination open to all Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) eligible patrons aboard NAS Pensacola. Wading and swimming is traditionally available, as well as rental equipment. During COVID, Ski Beach has remained one of very few facilities open for our Active Duty population to continue to relax and enjoy outdoor recreation.

This shoreline stabilization project will place geotextile barrier and riprap rocks adjacent the beach area in an attempt to reduce current erosion problems and prevent the loss of the existing trees. Beach sand will then be added to rebuild the beachfront back to its previous levels. The goal is to provide a pleasant, safe beach environment for patrons to best utilize and enjoy the facility, while maintaining a positive result for the environment through erosion control.

The Navy is proposing the action in the floodplain because Ski Beach provides a safe, clean recreation area for our Active Duty population and all MWR eligible patrons aboard NAS Pensacola. If immediate actions are not taken, erosion will continue to threaten this beach and the adjacent coastline. These erosion control methods will provide an immediate solution and prevent any further loss.

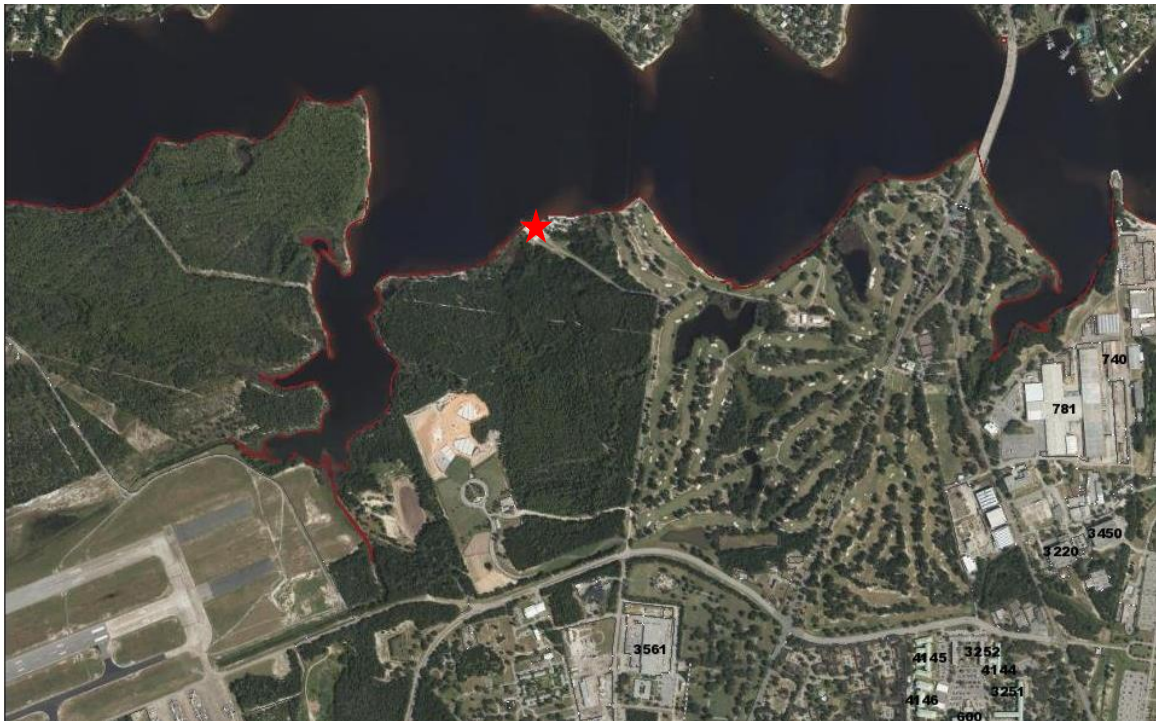
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Location Map



Site Location



Proposed Action

