

S N M E P | SUMMARY *of* PUBLIC INPUT | 2015

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This document has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of the Southern New Mexico | El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study

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01 INTRODUCTION



This document summarizes input gathered during six public meetings for the Southern New Mexico – El Paso Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) held from June 3 through June 13, 2013, as well as comments received on the project web site (See Table 1). The meetings are part of the initial phase of community outreach conducted for the JLUS and will assist the planning team in describing existing conditions in the study area. Ongoing engagement efforts will include an online survey and a series of more targeted community meetings that focus on particular geographic areas or stakeholder groups.

For a comprehensive understanding of the depth of input, this summary should be reviewed in concert with detailed comments provided in the Appendices and at the project website at <http://snmepjointlanduse.com/maps-reports>.

The project team facilitated a public meeting in each of the six participating counties. A total of 130 people attended the sessions, including members of the Policy and Technical Committees and representatives of study partner entities.

Table 1 | Round #1 Public Meetings | June 2013

Meeting	Number of Participants
Lincoln County Monday, June 3 Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Dr., Ruidoso, NM	14
El Paso County Wednesday, June 5 El Paso Community College-Transmountain Campus, 9570 Gateway Blvd. North El Paso, TX	11
Doña Ana County Thursday, June 6 Butterfield Community Center, 9350 Berry Patch Ln	21
Socorro County Tuesday, June 11 San Antonio Elementary School, 4th Mierra, San Antonio, NM 87832	33
Otero County Wednesday, June 12 Sgt. Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center, 800 East First Street, Alamogordo, NM	33
Sierra County Thursday, June 13 Sierra County Events Center, 2953 South Broadway, Truth or Consequences, NM	18

The general purpose of the meetings was to introduce the JLUS process; give an overview of study partners, including the local governments and Fort Bliss, Holloman Air Force Base, and White Sands Missile Range; present preliminary compatibility factors; and invite feedback to confirm and refine the initial list of potential study issues. The project team also continues to gather comments through the project website at <http://snmepjointlanduse.com/contact-us>. (See **Appendix C**)



Public Meeting Participants | Doña Ana County

02 PUBLIC MEETING INPUT ACTIVITIES



2.1 Compatibility Factor Prioritization

The project team facilitated the meetings as open house sessions that began with a short briefing on the key elements of the JLUS process, partners and initial issues and then transitioned to an interactive review of background information displayed on a series of boards around the venue. Participants could provide input through three mechanisms:

- Written comment sheets (See **Appendix A** for scanned comment sheets)
- Comments written on easel pads as part of dialogue with project team members (See **Table 3** for comments)
- A “dot” prioritization exercise of initial compatibility issues (See **Table 2** for summary of results and **Appendix B** for scanned Compatibility Factor Prioritization sheets)

As part of the prioritization exercise, participants were asked to review the following preliminary list of compatibility factors identified through prior stakeholder outreach, reviews of existing studies and comments, and technical analysis:

- Aviation Noise
- Range Noise
- Energy/Renewable Energy
- Towers
- Road Closures
- Trespass/Access
- Airspace
- Multiple Use Areas
- Call Up Areas
- Cultural/Natural/Recreation Resources
- GPS Jamming and Frequency Spectrum Interference
- Quality of Life/Accommodating Military-Related Growth
- Coordination/Communication
- Water
- Light Pollution
- Mining
- Wildfires (related to military exercises)

Compatibility in the context of the JLUS refers to conditions in which:

- Certain types of development limit the ability of the military to perform its mission or cause changes in operations that reduce mission effectiveness; or
- Communities experience higher than normal levels of impacts from military activities, such as noise or safety risks, which can then affect land uses

The 17 initial factors were displayed on a board. Participants were then given four “dot” stickers and asked to place them next to a factor that they had either experienced and/or thought was important for the JLUS to address. Respondents were instructed to spread the dots in accordance with the intensity of their priorities so that all four stickers could be placed next to one factor to emphasize their most critical issue or allocated among four separate items. It should be noted that the factors as listed on the board were not arranged in any particular order of priority. Participants were also encouraged to list other factors on a table top easel pad and place stickers to rank these additional issues.

The results of this activity are not intended as a strict voting exercise that eliminates issues or narrows the study focus to the top priority items. The feedback, however, will assist the planning team in highlighting areas of particular interest to residents and ensuring that the study recognizes a broad and diverse range of potential challenges and opportunities.

Participants placed a total of 317 stickers as part of the prioritization exercise, including 39 stickers allocated to additional compatibility factors. **Table 2** displays overall and county-specific results for the initial list of factors. **Table 3** shows all new issues or comments related to the input activity, as well as priority feedback. The placement of stickers next to any given item should not be interpreted as a simple expression of support for or opposition to an issue but as emphasis on the relevance of the factor for the JLUS process. Some factors, such as renewable energy development, are complex, multi-dimensional issues. When possible, members of the project team facilitated discussion with participants during the exercises and recorded more detailed comments to capture residents’ underlying views (See **Table 3**).

Overall, water received the highest number of priority stickers followed by energy/renewable energy development and quality of life/accommodating military-related growth. Input also varied geographically, with respondents in Otero County/City of Alamogordo emphasizing the accommodation of military-related growth and energy/renewable energy emerging as the most prominent factor in Socorro County.

Table 3 includes all comments recorded in conjunction with the compatibility factor prioritization exercise. Feedback tends to fall into three categories:

- Comments that overlap with and elaborate on compatibility factors from the initial list shown in **Table 2**
- Comments that represent additional compatibility factors for consideration in the JLUS planning process
- Questions posed during the meeting

Additional compatibility factors proposed by participants include:

- Physical security for public near military installations
- Access to on-installation amenities for general public
- Contamination of ground water by military activities/environmental contamination
- Possible impact on public health from military activities
- Harm to local wildlife
- Military participation in community events
- Cultural values - change to volunteer forces
- Security of weaponry testing and protection against espionage
- Air Quality/dust from ground operations/artillery
- Reduction in Trinity site opening events and local economic effects
- Reduction in Payment in Lieu of Taxes and local economic effects
- Dirt road use and dust and maintenance
- Wilderness study areas
- Economic issues related to local contractors/suppliers

2.2 Written Comments

In addition to input recorded as part of the prioritization activity, the project team collected written comments during the public meetings and through the JLUS web site (See Appendix C for all comments received). Written comments focused on issues such as:

- Analysis of water resources/broader land capacity issues as part of the JLUS process
- Airspace in the region/improved coordination among military and civilian aviation facilities/airports
- The positive economic relationship between the installations and surrounding communities
- Specific comments on the proposed SunZia transmission corridor within the study area

Table 2 | Summary of Compatibility Factor Prioritization - Initial List of Factors

	Doña Ana County	El Paso	Lincoln	Otero	Sierra	Socorro	TOTAL
Aviation Noise (related to low-level military training routes)		1	1	2		6	10
Aviation Noise (related to supersonic operations)	3		3	5		4	15
Range Noise							0
Energy/Renewable Energy Development	6	5	3	3	8	17	42
Towers (related to obstruction of aviation routes)	1			5		15	21
Road Closures (due to military exercises)	2		3	1		1	7
Trespass (onto or off of military land)	1					1	2
Use of Call-Up Areas	4					4	8
Airspace Management	4		1	2	1	1	9
Use and Protection of Cultural/Natural/Recreation Resources	7	5		2	6	1	21
GPS Jamming and Frequency Spectrum Interference	3			1			4
Quality of Life/ Accommodating Military Related Growth	5	1	8	19		1	34
Coordination/Communication between Military/ Communities/Agencies	4		2	5		2	13
Water	9	3	7	16	13	17	65
Light Pollution		1		3		2	6
Mining (related to affect on military testing)		2			1		3
Wildfires (related to military exercises)	2		4	2		3	11

Note: The numbers in the table correspond with the number of dots placed next to the item by exercise participants

Table 3 | Summary of Compatibility Factor Comments and Additional Compatibility Factors

Sierra County	
Funding Source - 90% OEA 10% local contribution	
Why is mining a military issue? Vibration of test environment	
Public at risk of adversary attack of military targets - physical security for public	
Access to on-installation amenities for general public	1
Contamination of ground water by military activities	2
Possible impact on public health from military activities	
Harm to local wildlife	2
Environmental Contamination	
Military participation in community events	1
Cultural values - change to volunteer forces	
What is authority of results? Advisory report of strategies plus action steps/recommendations	
Water and energy-oil and gas impacts	
Lincoln County	
East-west access road	
El Paso County	
Community and population growth	
Doña Ana County	
Affordable housing and medical care for military personnel and civilians, citizens	
Security of weaponry testing and protection against espionage	
Ability to disrupt military testing on intentional basis	
Alamo airport crosswind runway proposal could have impact	
Air Quality/dust from ground operations/artillery	2
Military aircraft flying really low over ranch/rangelands (livestock) and rural communities - even Hillsboro in Sierra County - near mountain ranges	
Carbon Footprint	
Vehicle and heavy equipment	
Other pollution/chemicals/water quality	
Socorro County	
Reduction in Trinity site opening will affect this area financially	10
Payment in lieu of taxes has been reduced - please examine	4
Why is private organization running this meeting?	

Table 3 | Summary of Compatibility Factor Comments and Additional Compatibility Factors (continued)

Why does military have say over alignment of SunZia?	
Why does military control so much land and affect our communities?	
How is organization running meetings funded?	
What is status of WSMR's decision on Sun Zia alignment?	
Concern about towers pushing air traffic into new areas	
Additional factor - dirt road use and dust and maintenance in Northern Fix; conditions on roads	
Viewshed impacts related to towers	
Towers impacts on potential uses of private land and property values	
Towers affect on cattle/people/wildlife	
Loss of open space	
Military's use of county roads and need for maintenance - need similar arrangement to USFS -county	
Wilderness study areas	
Otero County	
Military growth good for quality of life	
Airspace important for youth career opportunities	3
Military important for economic development	1
Concern about national (UN) heritage designation next to sensitive military site	3
Hunting and outdoor recreation	
Historic preservation	
Treasure hunting	
Protect airspace - approach corridors and areas surrounding bases	7
Concern with governments imposing land use restrictions on private property	1
Co-use areas should not expand	1
Trespass from Holloman - how are people briefed to make sure they don't cross onto private property and leased properties	1
Problems with helicopters flying over non-military land too low	
Is there a wildfire management plan?	
Economic issues where local contractors/suppliers cannot bid on work at Fort Bliss - TX contractor exclusive even when Ft Bliss projects are in New Mexico	
Local materials procured by out of state vendors for delivery to Holloman AFB - drives higher costs and less efficiency with middle man procurement	
More communication between airport and Holloman AFB	
Access to Otero Mesa via 506- pass needed? Advance notice? Shouldn't be necessary	

Note: The numbers in the table correspond with the number of dots placed next to the item by exercise participants

03 SUMMARY OF MAJOR DISCUSSION THEMES



To identify common elements among the feedback received, the planning team analyzed and grouped related individual comments under the series of broader themes shown below. The comments shown under each theme are actual excerpts of input received and are meant to be representative examples of overlapping concerns. Some input received from the public is highly specific to a particular issue or geographic area and cannot be readily combined with other comments. These items are not included in the theme analysis but are included in the Appendices. As noted earlier, this summary should be reviewed in concert with detailed comments provided in the Appendices and at the project website at <http://snmepjointlanduse.com/maps-reports> to reinforce a more comprehensive understanding of the input.

The following major discussion themes were identified (in no particular order of priority)

Theme: Recognition of the strong economic linkages between the military installations and the surrounding communities

- Military personnel add to the economic development and growth of the community
- We are a military community and region, the economic impact of the military is paramount to the growth of the entire study area
- Would like to see growth in the military installations in the area because I believe it would greatly help support local businesses
- Economic issues where local contractors/suppliers cannot bid on work
- Reduction in Trinity site openings will affect area financially



Theme: Recognition of the complexity of the SunZia transmission corridor planning process and the potential impacts study area

- Would like to see the military work with BLM/SunZia more to establish the much needed infrastructure
- Concerned how Sunzia towers will impact me personally
- Viewshed impacts related to towers

Theme: Concern for the environmental, physical resources, particularly related to water resources, of the study area and a desire for a regional, integrated carrying capacity analysis

- Impact of any development or land use on water resources
- No plans should go forward unless plans for a rational water use/water supply system is in place
- Serious discussion of the overuse of water
- Thorough study of aquifers (by modeling) and recharge study completely through the region and a serious consideration of climate warming
- Other pollution/chemicals/water quality

Theme: Opportunities for increased coordination around specific facilities

- Coordination with Regional Sierra Blanca airport
- More communication between Alamogordo airport and Holloman AFB
- Military's use of county roads and need for maintenance - need similar arrangement to USFS -county



04 CONCLUSION



The results of the dot exercise indicate that water, energy development and quality of life/accommodating military-related growth were the issues of most concern to meeting attendees. Discussions centered around the economic importance of military installations in the area, how to accommodate the SunZia line, and protection of natural and cultural resources, including water resources, as well as specific-property or location-related issues.

All comments received and organizing themes identified were reviewed by the Policy and Technical Committees as part of finalizing the Existing Conditions and Compatibility Analysis phases of the JLUS.



05 PUBLIC MEETING #2 INPUT ACTIVITIES



The planning team also conducted a series of general public and targeted community meetings during the Draft Report phase to gather input on draft compatibility strategies. 167 attendees participated in these sessions.

Table 4 | Round 2 Public Meetings

Meeting	Date	Participants
Doña Ana County	October 6, 2014	17
Otero County	October 7, 2014	26
Socorro County	October 8, 2014	31
El Paso County	October 14, 2014	32
Lincoln County	October 15, 2014	8
Sierra County	October 16, 2014	10
Weed, NM	October 21, 2014	33
Chaparral, NM	October 23, 2014	10

Otero County JLUS Advisory Group

In response to a specific request for additional representation, Otero County formed the Otero County JLUS Advisory Group, consisting of stakeholders from smaller communities across the county. The intent of this group is to focus on issues of particular concern to rural areas and to establish an advisory body to guide county decision-making on JLUS implementation. The planning team met with the Advisory Group on April 3 and May 6, 2014. Critical issues raised by members, as well as attendees at the public meeting in Weed on October 21, 2014 were:

- The effects of noise (and specifically sonic booms) on residents, livestock, and recreation users; residents of the mountain areas believe they experience severe, harmful effects to their health and safety when exposed to sonic booms and low flying aircraft.
- Seasonal population fluctuations due to tourism, which result in a positive economic impact but higher numbers of people exposed to noise impacts; noise may harm economic development in rural communities, particularly for those activities, such as recreation that rely on solitude;
- Concern over restrictions on private property rights and local economic development initiatives, including any potential limitations on renewable energy/telecommunications infrastructure;
- GPS jamming in the community;
- Protection of night-sky conditions for regional observatories;
- Privacy concerns related to UAVs; and
- Positive economic benefits of the military missions on local businesses.

Otero County will be responsible for periodically convening the Advisory Group following JLUS completion and soliciting input on implementation activities. Other counties participating in the study have the option of forming citizen advisory bodies.

Additional correspondence received during public review of the draft JLUS report is included at the end of this report.

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APPENDIX A – ROUND #1 PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT SHEETS



➤ We welcome your comments!

Land use cannot be planned without 1) a thorough study of aquifers (by modeling) & recharge study completely through the region & 2) a serious consideration of climate warming.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

<http://www.snmejntlanduse.com>

CONTACT:

Daniel Hortert

Doña Ana County

danielho@donaanacounty.org

575-525-6113



👉 We welcome your comments!

My husband and I would like to see the military work with BLM / Sun Zia more to establish the much needed infrastructure.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

<http://www.snmejlanduse.com>

CONTACT:

Daniel Hortert

Doña Ana County

danielho@donaanacounty.org

575-525-6113



We welcome your comments!

When any of the military units are conducting maneuvers (especially at night) ~~could~~ on the mesa north of Ruidoso - could you please notify our Regional Sierra Blanca airport? Many people call them to ask about what is going on.

Thanks -

Kathryn Monte

Lincoln Cty, Commissioner

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

<http://www.snmejlanduse.com>

CONTACT:

Daniel Hortert

Doña Ana County

danielho@donaanacounty.org

575-525-6113



➤ We welcome your comments!

ALAMOGORDO is The MILITARY operations we SUPPORT with out
Holloman AFB, WSMR, & FT BLISS ALAMOGORDO will be
a GHOST TOWN. AS a RESIDENT OF ALAMOGORDO
& A US CITIZEN I SUPPORT our MILITARY.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

<http://www.snmepjointlanduse.com>

CONTACT:

Daniel Hortert

Doña Ana County

danielho@donaanacounty.org

575-525-6113



➤ We welcome your comments!

To promote regional development, we need a road through
WSM R From Spaceport to Alamogordo/Tularosa area.

Growth at WSMR @ Ft Bliss has caused substantial growth at
Las Cruces & El Paso & cities are outgrowing available water supplies.
Thus, they are demanding more water from our area. We don't have
any extra to give away.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

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Daniel Hortert
Doña Ana County
danielho@donaanacounty.org
575-525-6113

szigdog@gmail.com



➤ We welcome your comments!

Open road from Tularosa to
I-25 in winter or
whenever possible.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

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Daniel Hortert

Doña Ana County

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575-525-6113



➤ We welcome your comments!

Military Operations, both present and future, are a positive aspect of the area. Military personnel add to the economic development and growth of the community in a more substantial way than any other single entity. Please do not let a few complaints hinder what could be a good & functional relationship between the military and surrounding communities, businesses and citizens. Thanks.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

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Daniel Hortert

Doña Ana County

danielho@donaanacounty.org

575-525-6113



➤ We welcome your comments!

As a small business owner in Alamogordo I know the importance of our Military. I have seen to many times a vocal minority impact the greater good of the silent majority. We are a military community & Region, the economic impact of the military is paramount to the growth of the entire study Area.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

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Daniel Hortert

Doña Ana County

danielho@donaanacounty.org

575-525-6113



➤ We welcome your comments!

I do ~~contracting~~ contracting work on Holloman Air Force Base and am concerned that lower funding or a reprioritization of where training or missions occur would directly effect my job and the economic standing of the community. ~~The~~ I have never noticed any aviation noise, other than sonic booms, any even those don't bother me or my animals.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

<http://www.snmepjointlanduse.com>

CONTACT:

Daniel Hortert

Doña Ana County

danielho@donaanacounty.org

575-525-6113



➤ We welcome your comments!

As a local business owner in Otero county military families often frequent my business. I would like to see growth in the military installations in the area because I believe it would greatly help support local businesses.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

<http://www.snmepjointlanduse.com>

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Daniel Hortert

Doña Ana County

danielho@donaanacounty.org

575-525-6113



➤ We welcome your comments!

~~The~~ The aviation noise doesn't bother me. I have lived in other areas of the country with less military presence and have experienced more aviation noise in those area than here.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

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Doña Ana County

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575-525-6113

milled 98@hotmail.com

6/12/13 6:15 - The military only gets small fraction of total budgets most \$ go to educ. and entitlement programs.
I support our military. Sun Zia will hire temporary employees and the energy is going to Calif.
We welcome your comments!



I have property in the Northern Extension ^{over} of WSMR which has involuntary land lease and evacuation required for military missions associated with the military installations. I'm concerned how Sun Zia ^{towers} will impact me personally. Will private landowners be reimbursed or paid for right of way easement? Is eminent domain possible? Will what happened to John Prather ^{happen} to private landowners? Are private landowners likely to be affected in contract payments by budget shortfalls? (Northern Extension area WSMR)

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:
<http://www.snmepjointlanduse.com>

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Daniel Hortert
Doña Ana County
danielho@donaanacounty.org
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***Inconvenience of evacuations and contracts ^{which are involuntary} shortfalls? (Northern Extension area WSMR)

The postcards notifying of mandatory evacuations is appreciated.
I support our military. Sun Zia will hire temporary employees and the energy is going to Calif.



➤ We welcome your comments!

Concerned about the Red Sands Motorcycle + ATV area (BLM) to stay open and useable at all Times, on the approved trails. We the Prairie Dogs Motorcycle Club have only this area to ride + permit once a year for a national race. P.D.M.C. Pres. Donald LeRoy Harris LeRoy-2up 18005@hotmail.com, My great grand Father was murdered Aug 22 1915 in Orgrande, I want my grandchildren to be able to walk in that area

INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

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Daniel Hortert

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575-525-6113

From:

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2013 11:07 AM

To: Drake, Liz

Subject: Re-Open Engle to Tularosa

I wasn't able to attend the meeting, but I feel you should be aware of an issue that has come up several times in the last few years.

It would really benefit the communities of T or C, Spaceport America, Williamsburg, Elephant Butte, plus Hillsboro, on the West End and Tularosa, Alamogordo, Ruidoso, Mescalero, Cloudcroft, Roswell, Holloman, plus WSMR on the East End if the road was re-opened between Engle and Tularosa through Rhodes Canyon. Much of it is already paved and security could be accomplished with state of the art fences, aerial, satellite, infrared, etc. Even if the road could be opened during the weekends, it would help to have a road across the lower third of New Mexico. Also as the Spaceport and WSMR collaborate more and more, it would provide a more direct supply route, equipment route, payload route, and space vehicle route.

Thank you,

Ms. Liz Drake
Urban Planner
AECOM
404-965-9672
liz.drake@aecom.com

September 23, 2013

RE: Southern New Mexico – El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) questions / concerns.

CC: Mr. Ronny Rardin, Otero County Commissioner, Ms. Susan Flores, Otero County Commissioner, Ms. Pamela Heltner, Otero County Manager, + more - see list

Ms. Drake,

I have a few questions about the fiscal impact on rural residents (me), the study scope and the integrity of this “study”. Since Department of Defense (DoD) activities are the heart of this study, my questions focus on DoD activities (present and future). I expect a written response from a knowledgeable DoD representative addressing each of my concerns. Please no generalities or platitudes. I want this letter and these questions made part of the so called “Southern New Mexico – El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study”, with copies distributed to committee’s, subcommittees, meetings, panels, etc as necessary to insure my concerns are addressed completely. Further I want to be included on all communications within this “study”.

I require your mailing address for USPS delivery and your FAX number, not just an email address.

As I understand it the present representation and control entities for this “study” is as follows:

Fully Represented on the “Joint Land Use Study” are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entity Type</u>
Doña Ana	County Government
Otero	County Government
Lincoln	County Government
Socorro	County Government
Sierra	County Government
El Paso	County Government
Alamogordo	City Government
Las Cruces	City Government
El Paso	City Government
Fort Bliss	Department of Defense
White Sands Missile Range	Department of Defense
Holloman AFB	Department of Defense
New Mexico State Land Office	State Government
Bureau of Land Management	Federal Government
New Mexico Office of Military Base Planning & Support	State Government
New Mexico Spaceport Authority	State Government Appointed Panel

Not Directly Represented (or represented at all) on the “Joint Land Use” Decisions Are:

- Rural residents in Otero County
- Rural residents in Lincoln County
- Rural residents in Socorro County
- Property owners in the affected rural areas.
- People with limited internet access such as rural poor and elderly.

As you can see, arguably, most of the proposed negative impact falls on those not directly represented. Excluding these citizens in the study raises questions about the validity, and intentions of the “study”. In my

view this “study” enables tyranny of the majority (see John Adams 1788). My individual rights should not be subject to a public vote, especially without representation. My rights are important, I demand they be respected.

As you must know the term “Joint Land Use Study” is prevalent across the United States, wherever there is a significant Department of Defense presence. Indeed, obviously, DoD developed the JLUS as a tool to counter private property rights. Review of the results of these many “studies” shows that they are a precursor to control of private property through zoning (or similar regulation). The private property use loss (or taking) is usually justified by touting the money brought in to local government coffers, the enrichment of a few citizens through DoD money and the need for security (military might). Property is taken by the aforementioned “tyranny of the majority” not by willing sellers.

A “Joint Land Use Survey” almost always uses a word such as “balance” or “balanced” in talking about private property takings. Normally (for most people) this would mean that both of the parties in a bargain gave/took something and the deal was balanced. For example, the Department of Defense would promise not to expand and take more property rights and the private property owners would limit their property use to facilitate DoD operations. That would be balanced (well sort of).

That is not what the “Joint Land Use Survey” process is about. Yes, the private property rights are taken, but the DoD makes no promise not to take more next year or the year after. Effectively the “Joint Land Use Survey” is a one way street toward the DoD. It is primarily for their benefit (minimize their costs). Secondly, a few people and various government entities enrich themselves. DoD already owns huge areas of the United States and huge areas of airspace. Most of New Mexico is owned by various government agencies (Yet, as a side note, Federal payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) keeps decreasing every year. PILT payments to counties for federal land within their borders, even at its highest rate is lower than the rate private landowners have to pay in property taxes (yes DoD / USFS / BLM have a say in PILT)). Little land area is left for private ownership. Never-the-less DoD wants more. How much is enough? Is there a limit? The mechanism for “taking” is often a “memorandum of understanding” rather than proper due process. MOU are very difficult (impossible) to change for private citizens. Effectively due process is eliminated.

“Balance” is a fiction. For example, in 1995/1997 we “gave” the German's the right to fly LOW over our homes (DoD took our rights). In Weed, NM in 2007 we gave up property rights to allow low supersonic flight over our homes (DoD took rights using a bogus FONSI document). Yes, Alamogordo, El Paso, Las Cruces are enriched (\$\$\$), but what has the DoD ever “given” to Weed/Sacramento/Pinon (leave out the “security” argument please)? The property owners affected received nothing except sonic booms, noise and crashed German aircraft. The claimed positive economic impact was miniscule for us, while the loss was significant. The stated reason the USAF wanted the right to fly supersonic over my house in 2007 was to base the F-22. The F-22 is now leaving. Will the USAF restore my rights? Or will they keep the supersonic corridor over my house? I bet I'll have a long wait if I expect any “balance”. This is “tyranny of the majority”. It is one way only. JLUS is not a fair or reasonable process. That is why DoD started it, to reduce their costs. It is not about military preparedness, it is about money.

With that preface in mind, a small community that is “offered” (forced into) a “Joint Land Use Survey” by government (see above list of JLUS “Partners” for the government players) must ask itself “What do they want to take from us now?” That is my fact finding mission; What does the DoD want from me? From the Pinon, Weed, Sacramento Communities this time? What will they take from my family?

My questions are simple. I just want to know what the scope of my property loss might be. It would be refreshing to get forthright, honest, complete answers. Here are my questions:

1. Is Night (or day) Joint Training planned, now or in the future, in the Lincoln National Forest (Southern Sacramento Mountains)? This training is typically (not limited to) combat simulations with soldiers traveling over the forest, it could include helicopters, aircraft and simulated combat (pyrotechnics), possibility maneuvering military vehicles. This kind of DoD activity has become common on USFS land (for example, the Cibola National Forest). Since I reside in the USFS (LNF) this kind of activity by DoD is likely to NEGATIVELY affect my quality of life, negatively affect the value of my property, negatively affect my livestock and hurt my business operations. It will reduce environmental quality.

DoD owns huge areas of New Mexico already. What is the limit? (Will it be the knock on your door?) Will a MOU limiting DoD use of USFS land be drafted? If not why not?

2. Are any limits on residential development possible (limitations on dwelling densities for example)? If so why? My property was purchased for my enjoyment and for my economic benefit. Limiting my rights further (over and above existing State/county rules) deprives me of these rights. Using a Memorandum Of Understanding reduces my representation for zoning changes.
3. Are any limits on Wind Energy Farms (wind turbines) possible (including allowing DoD to review permits)? If so why? My property was purchased for my economic benefit. One of the few money making uses for land in this area is solar and wind energy development. The Country needs green energy. Preventing my use, including by the use of bureaucratic red tape, hurts me and deprives me of my property rights. DoD is not part of the local government.
4. Are any limits on "tall structures" (antennas/wind/solar/etc), over and above the existing, longstanding, FAA requirements, possible? If so why? These structures are used for both solar and wind energy. I purchased my property with the anticipation of that use. These structures are also used to facilitate communications (cell, television, satellite, etc). The Pinon/Weed/Sacramento area lacks a robust communication infrastructure. We have limited cell coverage, limited broadcast television coverage, etc. Many residents rely on satellite and radio for communications. I purchased my property anticipating using communication structures. Limiting my right to improve communications and develop energy for my economic benefit affects me, my business, my family.
5. Are any limits on power transmission lines possible (needed for Wind Energy)? If so why? Power transmission infrastructure is critical to development of wind and solar energy. Transmission lines that are "required" to be located far away from the solar/wind generating facility effectively prohibit solar/wind development.. No solar/wind facility can exist without proper support from a transmission line. Imposing limits on transmission lines imposes limits on solar and wind energy development. This problem affects the entire Weed/Pinon/Sacramento area.
6. Are any limits on Solar Arrays possible? If so why? DoD complains about "reflections" from solar panels (see numerous JLUS). They are not joking. They have suggested that property owners use solar panels of DoD's selection. No consideration of the cost, availability or quality for these special panels. Other solar energy companies do not have to meet DoD requirements. These are my competition. Increasing my costs to develop solar on my property makes me uncompetitive. In fact requirements and bureaucratic red tape (DoD "review") may make solar impossible (economically). This effectively is the same as taking my right to develop my property. If retro fitting became the "law" (through a MOU) the impact to the Weed/Pinon/Sacramento area will be devastating.
7. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are surveying Communities in the Southern Sacramento Mountains (as "training"). Private information is collected. Are any limits put on this data collection? Who is it shared with? I have an expectation of privacy and I should be secure against unreasonable searches for myself, my houses, my papers, and effects. UAV should not use technology to invade and take my rights. Will a MOU limiting DoD invasion of privacy and the use of this information be drafted? If not why not?
8. Are more UAV flights planned? What increase (% or number)? Noise / pollution will increase by how much? The increase in UAV affects the quality of life, rights under the Fourth amendment, my safety and the environment. DoD offers no limits for these issues, rather is looking to facilitate large increases in drone use at the expense of rural residents.
9. Are there any UAV "no fly" areas to protect private property and privacy (not those zones required for DoD operations)? If not why not? Are these areas designated by law or whim? Where are these areas? Will a MOU limiting DoD use be drafted?
10. DoD owns/controls most airspace in Otero County (FAA is very accommodating for the DoD). Are new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Access routes being considered? Where? What altitude? What private property will be affected? What USFS land is affected? What hours of operation? Will a MOU limiting DoD routes be drafted? If not why not?
11. Are any, new, specific laws planned to protect private property rights from DoD encroachment? If not why not? If so what are the likely laws in general terms? Include planned MOU that limit expansion of DoD.
12. Are any, new, noise increases possible (average, peak, etc) in the Southern Sacramento Mountains? This would include noise from Army/USAF/German AF, etc (Multiple Branches and Multiple Countries). It would include UAV, aircraft, helicopters and ground operations. Are any limits on these increases to be set? Are any limits on future expansion to be set? If not why not?

13. Are any limits on radio spectrum use possible (through the FCC or not). Are any compatibility/allocation/use issues related to radio frequency interference, radio frequency spectrum possible? If so what spectra is impacted? This question includes requirements for blanking/jamming RF (SATCOM Etc). What are the possible frequency spectrum interference strategies anticipated by DoD? As I stated above the Pinon/Weed/Sacramento area lacks a robust communication infrastructure. Limited cell coverage, limited broadcast television coverage, etc. Many residents rely on satellite for communications. In addition, two way radio is used extensively by private citizens (MURS, GMRS, FRS, Amateur). Otero County uses VHF and microwave frequencies for emergency services. GPS is used for economic benefit. GPS is used for emergency services (for example emergency medical evacuation by helicopter). I purchased my property anticipating using various radio communications. In fact I use EVERY one of the above radio spectrum areas. In addition, I already must accept the existing limits imposed by DoD for the area around WSMR. Now will there be more interference from DoD? Limiting my right to improve communications for my economic benefit and my family's safety affects me and my business. Will a MOU limiting DoD be drafted? If not why not?
14. Relative to frequency spectrum impedance, are any limits possible in the construction of buildings or other facilities that block or impede the transmission of signals from antennas, satellite dishes, or other transmission/reception devices in the Southern Sacramento Mountains? Imposing further regulation on building can only hurt development. Requiring property owners to meet DoD's changing requirements destroys the value of their holdings. Will a MOU limiting DoD building control be drafted? If not why not? Will DoD change requirements next year and again the year after and again two years later? What limit is there?
15. Are there any service reductions possible for GPS (degradation, jamming, etc)? (see my comments above for both economic and public safety uses of GPS)
16. Are any increases/changes in trash dumped on public/private land possible? Examples include flares, pyrotechnic, shell casings, debris, etc. This could be from any DoD activity in the Southern Sacramento Mountains. Will a MOU limiting DoD dumping be drafted? If not why not?
17. Is there any possibility that DoD water use/pollution will increase in the Southern Sacramento Mountains?
18. Is there any possibility that aquifers in the Southern Sacramento Mountains will be impacted by future DoD operations (explosions, sonic booms, heavy vehicle operation, etc)?
19. Are any limits on the use of lighting by residents possible? If so why? My business and personal safety require outdoor lighting. Limiting or requiring "permission" for lighting will negatively affect my operations. At the minimum, loss of lighting rights will add cost and reduce safety for me, my business, and my family.
20. Are any limits on "gathering facilities" (arenas, etc) possible? If so why? Our area has a rich history of public gathering. Limiting the right to gather, and to have facilities to gather, is an important right. Traveling "somewhere else" will cost me, and stifles my freedom.
21. How does our rural life specifically impact the military's ability to conduct their missions and how are the rural communities and population "encroaching" on the military facilities? Please detail the specific "encroachments" feared by DoD. If none are listed then no JLUS is needed.
22. When will those impacted in the Southern Sacramento Mountains be allowed equal representation in these private property rights discussions (JLUS)?

Thank you for seeing that our Southern Sacramento Mountains Communities have answers to these questions. I hope that we do in fact see a "balanced" plan in which we have had equal representation in its formulation, and our rights are honored and protected.

Sincerely,

Walt Coffman
Kathleen Henderson



The Weed Community and Surrounding Areas of the Southern Sacramento Mountains

Mission Statement

To preserve, protect, enhance and defend the health, safety, economic well being, and cultures of the Southern Sacramento Mountains.

Driving Principles

1. The natural, and historical conditions and uses of the southern Sacramento Mountains are the economic base and foundation for our way of life.
2. Ranching, small business, lodging, camps, recreation, hunting, astronomical observation, entrepreneurship and current and future renewable energy production exemplify our economic base.
3. The survival of this base is dependent upon the maintenance of a quiet, rural grassland and forest environment.¹
4. Private landowners' have the right to use their private lands freely within the law without unwarranted government intrusion.
5. Support of the United States military with the understanding that our guaranteed freedoms, health, safety, economy and way of life are not restricted nor negatively impacted.

¹ Quiet in the mountains is far different than urban quiet. Quiet means "silence", the ability to hear the sounds of nature without the intrusion of man-made noise. This is the foundation for our way of life and economic success

Ms. Liz Drake
Urban Planner
AECOM
(404) 965-9672
liz.drake@aecom.com

Sept 23, 2013

Initial questions presented at the 9-23-13 meeting.

Dear Ms. Drake,

Below are a few of our initial questions. We expect to send additional questions to you, in writing, after the meeting. We ask that all questions to be answered in writing and mailed to me at the address listed below.

- 1- What is the objective of this JLUS study?
- 2- What kind of restrictions can/will the DoD place upon our properties?
- 3- Our understanding is that in order to participate in your survey online access is required. Our area includes a high percentage of elderly and/or low income that does not have a computer or internet access. How will you account for this and assure their voice is heard? Not including these citizens in the study raises questions about the validity of the study.
- 4- How was the data collected on the Southern Sacramento mountain communities/surrounding areas and subsequently analyzed?
- 5- Without the involvement of anyone from those communities/area in the collection of that data how can you consider the data legitimate and how does it meet the requirements of the study as set forth by the DoD?
- 6- Why was this study initiated? By this we mean, what “permissions” is the DoD seeking given the results of the study (what do they want to take from/do to us without our permission?)
- 7- Given the huge impact past DoD activities have on our communities/area, how can you insure our rights and concerns will be protected by you and the DoD?
- 8- If we disagree with the findings what resources are available to us to affect change before anything is implemented?
- 9- The recommendations of the JLUS must insure future flexibility so as the missions/technology and projected uses change, there is guaranteed reassessment and public input before any proposed changes occur. How is your study addressing this issue and assuring its enactment?
- 10- We have not yet seen your on line survey but understand that it will be used to help

determine what permissions will be granted the military in Otero County. In order for any survey of this nature to be valid, fair and balanced, it must include both cause and effect. In other words, if we are asked to vote on allowing A to occur, it must also state what the effects of A will be and on whom. Does your survey account for both the cause and effect of the decisions? If not, why not? Does your survey allow for a cause vote with the effects of that vote to be suffered by those who do not want that permission granted?

11- Is night or day joint training planned, now or in the future, in the So Sac mts? This is typically combat simulations, soldiers traveling over forest at night, can include helicopters, aircraft and simulated combat (pyrotechnics), possibly vehicles. This has become common on USFS land (Cibola National Forest) and could involve many countries.

12- Are any limits on wind energy farms (turbines) possible? If so, why?

13- Are any new laws planned to protect the rights of private property owners from encroachment? If not, why not?

14- Are any limits on radio spectrum use possible? Are any compatibility/allocation/use issues related to radio frequency interference, radio spectrum possible?

15- Are any new noise increases possible (average/peak/type etc) in the So Sac Mts?

16- Are there any UAV “no fly” areas to protect private property and privacy? If not why not?

17- Are there any limits on solar, tall structures or power transmission lines possibly needed for wind energy?

18- Since there is no representation of rural areas and rural property owners on any JLUS committee, how will the JLUS meet the 1994 Presidential Order - “Environmental Justice”- regarding future military activity in defining and addressing any/all adverse human health, safety, environmental and economic impacts especially on rural, low income, elderly populations in Weed, it’s surrounding communities and the Southern Sacramento Mountains?

19 - What regulations, policies and laws will be made to?

- a) Reduce encroachment on our properties, health, safety and economy?
- b) Hold Holloman and other military users accountable for adhering to those laws, regulations and policies?

20- It has been our experience that studies done by the military/DoD/Federal Govt selectively include/exclude data and use questionable modeling and data analysis that result in outcomes clearly predetermined to be favorable for the military at the expense of private property owners and local residents. How will this process be any different, especially given we have been excluded in this process to date and surveys are to be conducted on line further excluding residents in our area who do not have wireless or computer access ?

21- Otero County public meeting, June 12, 2013, recognized supersonic noise over the Sacramento Mountains as a compatibility factor to address. Past military studies regarding noise have been inadequate at best if not completely dishonest. (Averages do not represent what actually occurs) How will this study be any different in addressing this issue?

22- Low flying aircraft over our homes and property present a devastating risk to our health, safety, quality of life and economic wellbeing. How will this study account for this risk and recognize our rights to be free from this encroachment?

23- Who conducted the radio frequency spectrum interference investigation/ survey and how was it performed? Where are the study results?

24- Was the FCC or any other spectrum authorities involved in the local RF data collection and analysis? If so who and what is the contact information of the individuals involved? Generic information is not acceptable.

25- How does our mountain life/personal lives specifically impact the military's ability to conduct their missions and how are the rural communities and population "encroaching" on the military facilities?

26- Exactly what polices, zoning restrictions and/or legislation is being targeted for revision as a result of this study?

27- What are the resources available, at no cost, to the individual and group property owners to rebut and legally force reassessment of the survey results?

28- Exactly how do rural communities stand to benefit from actions taken as a result of this survey and how is this, in a "balanced way", equitable to the rural communities and residents compared to that of the military and "urban" communities?

We thank you in advance for your written response to these initial questions.

Respectfully,


John Bell
Weed Community Association President
PO Box 482
Weed, New Mexico 88354

cc: Safe Skies Coalition

Attachment: Weed Community Association Mission Statement

Weed New Mexico Community Association &
Safe Skies Coalition
PO Box 482
Weed, NM 88354

Date: October 24, 2013

RE: Southern New Mexico/El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study - JLUS

Dear Ms Drake,

We are writing to request direct rural representation on all committees related to the JLUS.

As you know, to date all committee members are from urban areas, government entities or elected officials. There is **no** appropriate rural representation on any of the JLUS committees.

We find this disturbing and unacceptable but not unusual. The rural areas are generally the areas that suffer the consequences of decisions made by the DoD through loss of freedoms, drastic effects on our health and safety as well as our economic well being. The best way to continue this pattern of assuring harm is done to those of us living and working in rural areas impacted by decisions made by the DoD is to eliminate us from adequate and direct representation.

Appropriate rural representation should have occurred at the onset of the JLUS process. It clearly did not. The lack of appropriate rural representation demonstrates, once again, the intention of the DoD to take rural citizen's rights and freedoms and to continue to cause us harm.

If the contention is that the County Commissioners represent rural residents on the JLUS committees, then the Commissioners should have also been representing all others areas of the counties including cities and urban areas, resulting in no need for anyone else on the committees. Since this was and is not the case, those other areas (urban, government, city etc.) are given special privilege for their special interests at the expense of the rural populations.

The demographics speak volumes.

	Population	Sq miles
Otero County	66,041 (rural-53%)	6,613 (more than 99% rural)
Alamogordo	31,500 (urban-47%)	21 (less than 1 % of the land area)

Your contention that one person can represent the interests of people living in 99% of the land area of Otero County and understand their needs, interests and wishes for this study in the time frame allowed is simply not reasonable or fair for us or for the Commissioner who is representing us for this study.

Your study information states that the DoD/AF bases and activities are continually being encroached upon by civilian activities and "sprawl". We find this narrow and simplistic view

very disturbing and self serving for the DoD since it is not us, in the rural areas, that are encroaching on the military but rather the military that are encroaching on rural communities, without our consent, doing harm to our health, safety, economic well being and way of life. This is simply a sanctioned form of government taking from its citizens without their permission.

We expect that the rural areas of the counties included in the JLUS have appropriate direct representation on **each** of the JLUS committees. This representation for each county is to include

- 1- A rancher elected by the local cattleman's association
- 2- A small business owner appointed by the local community association
- 3- A local rural property owner appointed by the local community association
- 4- An "at large" rural representative who has special interest in this process appointed by the local community association.

Failure to include appropriate direct rural representation (as outlined above) on each JLUS Committee and opening all information and decisions made to date by those committees without direct rural representation for review and change based upon new input, will be interpreted by our communities as JLUS, and those associated with JLUS, granting special privilege to special interests. These special interests support encroachment by the military into rural areas and discount and marginalize the health, safety and economic interests of those of us living and working in rural areas.

We request a written response within ten (10) days of your receipt of this letter.



John Bell
Weed Community Association President
and for the
Safe Skies Coalition

cc: Commissioner Flores
Commissioner Rarden
Commissioner Harrel
County Manager Hiltner

RE: Validity of the Southern New Mexico-El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study.

Date: November 25, 2013

From: E. Kazor
PO Box 436
Weed, NM 88354

Ms. Drake,

My husband and I own property in the Weed/ Mayhill New Mexico area. We have chosen to spend our retirement in the Southern Sacramento Mountains. We spent years researching and traveling hundreds of miles before deciding to purchase property in the Weed/Mayhill area. The Weed/ Mayhill area offers what we are looking for; a place of solitude and quiet, a rural setting, and a spirit of community. Since 1999 we have worked hard and invested our retirement funds and sweat equity to improve our property and make it "home".

I have very serious concerns regarding the JLUS, what has taken place to date and what will be generated as a result of the study .

On October 23, 2013 at the Public Meeting in Weed you presented a Power Point show explaining the JLUS process. A question and answer session followed that presentation. A number of your responses to the questions have caused serious concerns about the current JLUS process.

1. Recognition by AECOM of Invalidity of Survey

A statistically invalid survey will be used to make very important decisions regarding the health, safety and economics of our communities.

At the Public Meeting you encouraged area residents to complete an "on-line" survey. At the same time you acknowledged the survey is statistically invalid !!! Did everyone in the "study area" receive the same information....that the survey is invalid ? If not, does this not then skew the results of the survey even more ? How many people at the October 23rd meeting will not fill out the survey because we were told it is invalid? How many people, who have not been told the survey is invalid, will complete the survey? Probably more. Will this not also skew the results ?

In reading other JLUS, the surveys play a key role in JLUS recommendations.

2. Survey is not “Area Specific” but generalized

During the Public Meeting it was clarified that the survey is not “area specific” but generalized. Given that policy development and zoning regulations may be based on the results of JLUS and the survey, explain how results of a generalized survey address the specific economic requirements of a particular area . By applying generalized findings (findings from both urban and rural survey responders) to specific situations (e.g. potential zoning rules for rural areas) questions the validity of the JLUS.

3. The survey is “on-line”

Numerous people from rural areas will be excluded from taking the survey. Urban residents and those with access to computers will represent most of the survey respondents. Based upon survey results, data and recommendations will be skewed in favor of more populated urban areas.

Many elderly and rural residents do not have access to computers or wireless communication. Some may not know how to submit a survey “on-line”. Many of these people are located directly under military training routes (MTR’S) or flight zones. Doesn’t “on-line” methodology marginalize rural and elderly citizens living under military training routes who will be directly impacted by future plans of the military?

4. Failure to recognize the Relationship between the Environment and Economy

When asked if there would be any demographic or economic assessment of our rural communities or consideration of Environmental Justice your response was “We will certainly look at the environment and natural resources issues. But we don’t tie them to a particular demographic or economic status or the characteristics of communities.” This statement and position is very short cited. Only half of the picture is painted by only addressing the environment and not assessing the impact that environment has on rural as well as urban economies.

The environment generates the economy of a community and the economy of a community creates the environment. When working with communities, the environment and economies go hand in hand. By not considering the interdependence of the environment and economy and, at the very least, establish an economic baseline (through proper assessment) of urban AND RURAL communities that will be impacted by the JLUS , suggests an invalid study.

5. No Rural Landowners on JLUS Committees

Shouldn’t those that will be directly impacted by the recommendations and decisions of the JLUS be “at the table” ? While it the urban areas have their own representatives, there appears to be no one who owns property or a ranch in the Weed/ Mayhill/ Pinon/ Sacramento area “at the table”. Our communities are located directly under the fly zones of Holloman AFB. The health, safety, environment and economy of Weed/ Mayhill/Pinon/Sacramento NM will be

directly impacted by JLUS and the subsequent decisions based on JLUS. Yet we do not have a voice in those decisions. Why ? This lack of proper representation lends credence to the creation of an invalid JLUS.

6. Recognition of Rural Economic Development

Moving in to the 21st century, rural landowners and ranchers are faced with many new and unique challenges. Drought, dependence on unreliable grid systems, economic opportunities to gain footing in renewable resources sector and so forth require a new economic paradigm.

Rural natural resource development will play a very significant role in providing a source of consistent revenue for the State of New Mexico and the creation of state wide employment opportunities. The job opportunities would more reliable and permanent then the current situation in which area employment is unstable and is at the mercy of the DoD, it's ever changing missions and the Federal Government's inconsistent budgeting for military spending. "Dependence on the military leaves the County's economy subject to the vagaries of the US Government's plans (Otero County, JLUS Partner Briefing; Maps and Reports; SNEPPTX-JLUS; 2013).

The State of New Mexico recognizes the huge economic potential of rural natural resource development . For example the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) estimates that

"The New Mexico Wind Energy Center will bring more than \$40 million dollars into rural De Baca and Quay counties over 25 years. This includes \$450,000 per year in payments in lieu of taxes to be made to the county governments and school districts; about \$ 450,00 per year in payments in lease payments to landowners; and an estimated \$500,000 in salaries for the permanent jobs to be created."

and

" New Mexico has the potential to produce many times its own electrical consumption, which puts it in a position to EXPORT (my emphasis) wind electric power."

(Ref: www.emnrd.state.nm.us/ECMD/RenewableEnergy/wind.html)

The above cited reference states the EMNDR'Wind Power Project

" ...has provided studies and report of the potential economic benefits of wind power to five counties: Eddy, **OTERO**, Quay, Lea, and Coffey. "

Will this data be considered in the JLUS ?

Similar data concerning State wide economic benefits of solar power is available through the EMNRD

In studying the composition of the JLUS Committees, it appears that the Committees are

composed of urban, governmental officials and urban planners. Rural Development or the NMEMNRD is not represented. Not only is this a short sighted situation it is not a balanced one. This situation is contrary to JLUS stated goal of a "balanced" study.

7. President Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994 Environmental Justice

During the Public Meeting there was a question of JLUS defining and addressing any/all disproportionately high and adverse human and health and environmental effects (including economic) on the low income, and elderly population of Weed, Sacramento, Pinon and Mayhill. In other words, Environmental Justice. Your response was " We will certainly look at the environment and natural resource issues. But we don't tie them to a particular demographic or economic status or characteristics of a community." "Disparate impacts" are an environmental concern. It is recognized by current researchers and ecologists that humans are part of the environment. Humans (in this case the military) impact the environment and humans (in this case the rural elderly and low income residents) are impacted by the environment. To separate humans from the environment is baffling given current environmental and ecological philosophies.

Future Concerns

Looking "downstream" I have concerns as the JLUS develops.

1. Only positive impacts of military will be presented.

It has been the experience of the residents of Weed, Mayhill, Pinon, and Sacramento N.M. that studies involving the DoD result in findings that are favorable to the military.

The F-22 EIS stated "Findings of No Significant Impact" (FONSI). However, the F-22 and the flight zones created as a result of the F-22 have significant negative impacts on our communities. The FONSI was and remains a false conclusion.

In the F-35A Training EIS the citizens of Weed, Sacramento, Mayhill and Pinon expressed serious concerns regarding the health safety and economic impact the F-35 would have on our communities if Holloman was chosen as the basing site for the F-35. That EIS minimized our concerns by not properly addressing our questions or assessing our communities. Our concerns were labeled as an "annoyance" in the Final F35 EIS. The positive impacts to Alamogordo were emphasized. The negative impacts to our communities were minimized or not addressed.

Will the JLUS be comprehensive and balanced by evaluating both the positive and negative impacts the military will have on not only urban areas but RURAL areas as well ?

2. Future Environmental Impact Statements

How will the results of the JLUS affect future Environmental Impact Statements ? Will the results and recommendations of JLUS be used as a method to by-pass or abbreviate any future NEPA /EIS processes ? Will a statement be found in JLUS stating that the JLUS document is not

to be used as a “short cut” to the NEPA process ?

3. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Noise Control Act of 1972

Congress declared through the NEPA that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to “..improve and coordinate Federal plans, functions programs and resources to the end that the Nation (among other directives) attain the widest range of beneficial uses to the environment without degradation, risk to health and safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.” (attached : NEPA Policy Act)

The Noise control Act of 1972 declared that it is a policy of the United States to promote an environment for all Americans free from noise that jeopardizes their health and safety.

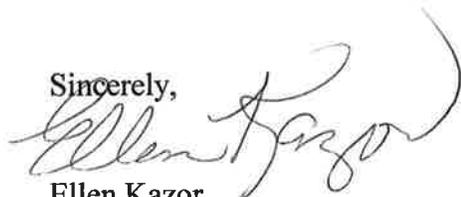
While it is recognized that the JLUS makes only recommendations, not policies, will the JLUS recommend the military adhere to NEPA Policies and the Noise Control Act when designing, implementing and evaluating plans, programs etc that impact urban and **rural** areas ?

I expect this letter to be entered into the Southern New Mexico-El Paso Texas Land Use Study as public comment.

I look forward to your written response to each of the concerns and questions I have expressed in this letter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ellen Kazor
PO Box 436
Weed, New Mexico 88354

cc: US Senator Martin Heinrich, US Senator Tom Udall, US Rep. Steve Pearce, NM Senator Ron Griggs, NM Rep William Gray; Commissioner Tommie Herrell; Commissioner Susan Flores; Commissioner Ronny Rardin; Otero County Manager Pamela Heltner

**Weed Community Association
PO Box 482
Weed, New Mexico 88354**

Re: Southern New Mexico-El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)

November 28, 2013

Ms Drake,

As per your request of 9/23/13 the Weed Community Association and the Safe Skies Coalition are sending you the data showing that the DoD, Air Force and agencies contracted by the military have, for the most part, refused to recognize and properly address the concerns of our communities.

We believe that our health, safety and economic well being are compromised as the DoD seeks to maximize their use of lands and air space that surrounds us..

Options exist that would meet the needs of the Air Force and preserve the health, safety and economy for our communities. However, the Air Force has refused our requests to have a meaningful dialog with our communities.

Since you stated you and your company are a neutral party, we are sending you material with the hope that the JLUS study will result in recommendations that protect the health, safety and economic well being of residents of the Southern Sacramento Mountains.

Organization of attachments

Section I:

Mission Statement of the Weed Community and Surrounding Areas of the Southern Sacramento Mountains

Section II : History

The history documents continued and expanding encroachment of the military upon private property owners in the eastern Sacramento Mountains.

Section III : On the Ground

The data titled "On the Ground" illustrates the damage done to the residents of the Sacramento Mountains by the USAF and German AF. The military has demonstrated an unwillingness to address issues of residents' health, safety, and economic well being.

Section IV : Economics and Population

This section reflects data gathered in 2011 by a community member. Since requests for a valid and reliable socio/economic study of the Weed, Mayhill, Sacramento and Pinon area has not been done by any official entity, these are the most accurate figures we have.

Section V: Literature and Data

This section cites some of the research and the literature citations that were presented to the military through 2012 F-35 EIS NEPA process. This information was discounted by the DoD EIS the contractors and military. We believe this data is still very pertinent to the current JLUS. Refer to the Final F-35 Environmental Impact Statement to substantiate these claims, especially the section "Responses to Letters". New data is presented as it relates to the current JLUS process. More data is available but to present more in this document would be overwhelming.

I and the members of the Safe Skies Coalition expect this document to be entered into the Southern New Mexico- El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study and become a permanent part of the record.

Sincerely,



John Bell, President
Weed Community Association
and for
Safe Skies Coalition

Cc: Commissioner Ronny Rardin, Commissioner Susan Flores, Commissioner Tommie Herrell
U.S Senator Tom Udall, U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, U.S Congressman Steve Pearce
N.M. Representative William Gray, N.M. Senator Ron Griggs, Otero County Manager
Pamela Heltner

The Weed Community and Surrounding Areas of the Southern Sacramento Mountains Mission Statement

To preserve, protect, enhance and defend the health, safety, economic well being, and cultures of the Southern Sacramento Mountains.

Driving Principles

1. The natural, and historical conditions and uses of the southern Sacramento Mountains are the economic base and foundation for our way of life.
2. Ranching, small business, lodging, camps, recreation, hunting, astronomical observation, entrepreneurship and current and future renewable energy production exemplify our economic base.
3. The survival of this base is dependent upon the maintenance of a quiet, rural grassland and forest environment.¹
4. Private landowners' have the right to use their private lands freely within the law without unwarranted government intrusion.
5. Support of the United States military with the understanding that our guaranteed freedoms, health, safety, economy and way of life are not restricted nor negatively impacted.

¹ **Quiet in the mountains is far different than urban quiet. Quiet means "silence", the ability to hear the sounds of nature without the intrusion of man-made noise. This is the foundation for our way of life and economic success**

History of Holloman with Weed, Sacramento, Mayhill and Pinon Communities

The following is a brief account of the history rural residents and ranchers of the South Sacramento Mountains and ranchers, once located in now the White Sands Missile Range, have with the DoD and Holloman Air Force Base. Given the time frame of the JLUS, it is difficult to capture more facts. Additional facts are scattered throughout numerous archived documents.

This history documents the encroachment of the military upon area private property owners and ranchers.

1940's- During WWII the Army/military ran off many ranchers who lived in the area that became the White Sands Missile Range. Many of the ranchers said they were told by the military officials that this was a temporary situation and that the military would return these private properties back to the ranchers after the war. Acting in good faith, some of these ranchers left their furniture, dishes, and personal items in their homes thinking they would be gone for only a short period of time. That was over 70 years ago and the ranchers have never been allowed to return to their properties.

One of these homes was the McDonald Ranch house. This home has not been restored by the Army, the Department of Energy or the National Park Service but has not been returned to the McDonald family (ref: Tina Prow, White Sands Ranchers Take Aim With Figures For Their Losses, Feb 1984: McDonald Ranch. Wikipedia.)

Late 1950's and early 1960's - The military forced ranchers off their private lands to create McGregor Missile Range. One of these ranchers, John Prather, owned several thousand acres of private land on what is now the McGregor Missile Range. Mr. Prather refused to sell or leave his ranch so the military decided to run him off. Mr. Prather called the newspapers and television stations and invited them to witness the military carry out their threats. The military backed down several times. Friends and neighbors took Mr. Prather food and supplies so he could stay on his ranch and defend his property rights. The military was unable to remove him until he became sick and then died. John Prather is a folk hero among many people.(ref: NM Farm and Ranch Museum/Porter, Irving and multiple other sources).The Prather family still maintains a strong and respected presence in the Sacramento Mountains.

Currently - Many of the ranching families in the Weed and Pinon area are descendants of these ranch families. These families feel strongly that the Army/military have taken advantage of them, their families, friends and neighbors over the past 60-70 years. Sixty to seventy years later some ranch families have still not been reimbursed for private property taken from their families by the military. As a result of this history, there is a lot of distrust and even animosity between the ranching families and the military.

Ranchers feel they have not been properly represented in the past. They insist that ranchers and other business people that live in the Southern Sacramento Mountain area be appointed to serve on the JLUS committees.

1991- DoD based the German AF at Holloman and allows them to fly at 500 feet traveling at 520 mph over the Sacramento Mountains. Ranchers filed suit in Federal Court. The ranchers

lost.

1997- German AF doubles the number of planes and sorties impacting the communities and ranches in the Sacramento Mountains with a proportional increase in very low and fast jets flying over our homes and properties.

December 2, 1998 - "Germans reject U.S. jurisdiction over training flights" ODESSA, Texas (AP)- The German Air Force says the United States has no court jurisdiction to restrict it's Luftwaffe pilots from low-level training missions in West Texas.

The Luftwaffe responded last week to a lawsuit filed by a coalition of ranchers in U.S. District Court. The plaintiffs claim the low-level flights endanger people and livestock.

Near-collisions have been reported with civilian aircraft as well as spooked horses throwing cowboys and people being bowled over by powerful downdrafts the planes create at low altitudes.

Defendants in the lawsuit include both the Luftwaffe and the U.S. Air Force, which is training German pilots at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, N.M.

No date has been set for the lawsuit to be tried.

Plaintiff Kaare Remme told the Odessa American that the Luftwaffe's claim to diplomatic immunity is "just crazy".

"What are we supposed to do ? Let a foreign power operate here illegally? Do we have to call Border Patrol ?"asked Remme.

Remme said the German Air Force claim to immunity runs counter to the Holloman "bed-down" agreement it signed in which it agreed to abide by the laws and regulations of the U.S. Air Force before beginning operations in the United States in 1991.

2007- DoD/ USAF established a new, low altitude supersonic corridor over Weed/Pinon. Only the very legal minimum was done to inform rural residents. A request to extend the F-22 Draft EIS review period so that residents could be informed of DoD/AF actions was denied. Finding of "No Significant Impact" (which is untrue) by the DoD/Air Force allowed supersonic flight at low altitude over rural residents.

2008- Holloman AFB intentionally creates sonic booms over communities even though such activity is forbidden by USAF regulations. "The 49th Fighter Wing has developed a plan using T-38 aircraft to conduct supersonic flights to familiarize the local communities to sonic boom noise caused by supersonic flights" Lt. Col Linda Haseloff, Holloman AFB Public Affairs 3/8/2008.

2009-2012- F-22's based at Holloman result in increased numbers of supersonic flights and sonic flights over our communities. Sonic booms increase in numbers and intensity to include focused

sonic booms. Area residents experience the detrimental effects of intense and numerous sonic and focused sonic booms.

2010 - Local residents resist F-35 basing at Holloman. A basing of F-35's at Holloman would have resulted in hundreds of F-35 flying supersonic speeds at low altitudes above our homes and properties. The F-35 is extremely noisy.

The F-35 Final EIS states that F-35's flying over our homes and properties at supersonic speeds and at altitudes of 300 feet be only an "annoyance" to spite facts to the contrary.

No assessment was done of the Weed/Sacramento/Mayhill/Pinon areas concerning impacts of the F-35 prior to the conclusion of "annoyance".

That EIS stands today and is the reference document for future basings of the F-35 at Holloman.

2011- Drones are placed at Holloman. No considerations of impacts to rural residents and only the legal minimum was done to inform rural residents. Our communities were not informed of any EIS

2013- A Joint Land Use Survey is started (the DoD is a major financier and instigator). This is a method to abbreviate the EIS process and enable DoD encroachment activities in rural Otero County.

The Weed Community Association and The Safe Skies Coalition request representation on JLUS committees of private property owners and ranchers that live in the Weed, Sacramento Mayhill and Pinon areas.

On The Ground

Listed below are some of the detrimental and life threatening effects the citizens of Weed, Sacramento, Pinon and Mayhill have endured due the Air Force, it's activities and it's continued encroachment into our rural lives. The list is far from complete but serves to demonstrate the fact that our health, safety and economic well being are continually jeopardized by military activities over our communities on a daily basis.

These facts will not be found in any of the DoD's data. The DoD/AF chooses to ignore these facts.

German Air Force (GAF)

The GAF has (and continues) to fly very low and very fast over rural people while they work or use public lands. The planes often fly at 500 feet above the ground and 550 mph. This startles people and livestock. There are documented cases of the GAF "buzzing" homes at less than 200 feet above a home. This is illegal. The GAF has a poor safety record with plane crashes in our area (as well as Germany). Since the 1990's the GAF has terrorized local ranchers, homeowners livestock and visitors to our area.

As a result of sonic booms

A husband (an experienced heavy equipment operator) and wife were moving large boulders. A sudden sonic boom caused the operator to almost loose control of the equipment swinging the boulder dangerously close to the wife, who was helping. The wife was almost hit by the boulder. Had she been hit she would have died. The wife was so frightened and stressed by the experience that she was bed bound and unable to participate in social activities for some time after that.

An owner of a horse reported her horse charged into a barbed wired fence when frightened by a sonic boom. The horse sustained numerous injuries. Expensive vet bills expenses were incurred by the owner,

A farrier was almost kicked and trampled by a horse when the horse was startled by a sudden sonic boom. The farrier was able to jump free without injury.

A house ridden by a very experienced rider suddenly reared up when hit by a sonic boom. The rider was almost sent falling off backwards. Had the rider been inexperienced, serious injury would have occurred This rider often guides inexperienced young campers on horseback rides throughout the mountains. Fortunately, the rider was alone at the time. An inexperienced rider would have suffered very serious injuries.

A horse owner watched as his three horses charged into a barbed wired fence when they were startled by a sonic boom.

One rancher reports an unusually high number of cows aborting. The rancher suspects the

increased rates are due to the increased frequency and intensity of sonic booms over his ranch. Studies cited in the F-35A Training Basing Environmental Impact Statement (Appendix B- pg 32) supports this experience. Result: Loss of income.

A wife of a US military veteran (Viet Nam) reports her husband is so fearful that he “goes for his guns” when he is exposed to sonic booms.

A spiritual and health spa owner provided services to military personnel. Some of the service personnel experienced PTSD and came to the spa seeking emotional and spiritual healing. Sudden sonic booms impeded the healing process.

The owner of a retreat center reported clients would not return because of sonic booms. As a consequence of the sonic booms, income has been lost..

Community elders experience true fear when exposed to sonic booms.

Numerous reports of the cracking of sheet rock in a number of homes.

September 29, 2009

From a resident of Weed, New Mexico as reported to Holloman AFB PR

“Today my business was subjected to eleven (11) sonic booms between 2:15 PM and 3:00 PM (Yes, 45 minutes and 11 BOOMS!). Wow !!! Please , just picture yourself at work in a quiet setting, concentrating, then suddenly a building shaking boom hits you. Again, and again, and again. Every three minutes for 54 minutes. How would that affect you ? How could you conduct business?”

February 16, 2010

Same resident as above. As reported to Holloman AFB, PR

Location- Rural Sacramento Mountains.

Time: 6:55 PM (“shake the house” 2 BOOMS together

6:56 PM (mild Boom)

6:56+ PM (“shake the house” BOOM)

6:58 PM (mild BOOM)

March 5, 2010

Seven, terrorizing, earth shattering sonic booms within ten minutes:

Here are just a few results of this episode.

Pictures falling off of walls

Livestock stampeding

Pets cowering under furniture

Citizens fearful for their lives

One citizen was so frightened while the walls of the building she was in shook, that she was crying out "When will they stop ? Why are they doing this to us?"
One citizen almost lost control of her vehicle after the fifth the sonic boom.
Citizens were fearful and felt terrorized !!!

When these and other facts were presented to the Holloman Base Commander at a public meeting (as a result of legislators' direction), his response was "Submit a claim".

Many residents of our community reported symptoms associated with PTSD after this experience. Fear of not knowing when the next round of sonic booms would occur and fear of how destructive the booms would be pervaded the community for days. For some residents, this fear endured for weeks.

At first Holloman denied any knowledge of this incident. Later we were told that there was a chance a for a space craft landing at Holloman and that last minute changes to flight scheduled had to be made. The pilots in charge of the flights that day chose to fly over our communities and chose maneuvers that resulted in the terrorizing sonic booms.

When pressed about these incidents, Holloman's PR stated "The mission comes first."

Focused Sonic Booms

Focused booms defined: Very intense sonic booms caused by sudden maneuvers or directional changes of aircraft flying at supersonic speed. The quick maneuvers cause excessive pressures and noise that far exceed a "normal", "thunder-like" sonic boom. People, animals, and properties under the focused booms experience detrimental effects of increased over pressures and extreme increase (five to ten times!) in the severity in sonic boom noise.

A property owner experienced concussion-like forces when exposed to a focused boom while working in a ditch. He was unable to function for some time after the exposure.

At the same time the wife of the above property owner was in their home and experienced what felt like an implosion on their new home. Windows flexed and she felt that their home was going to fall in around her. She experienced momentary compressive forces.

Another property owner experienced a similar flexing windows in his home.

A resident was using a table saw when he was exposed to a focused sonic boom. The startled response experienced by resident resulted in a piece of wood being caught in the table saw at an improper angle. The wood was launched into the wall behind the owner. At the same time the spouse, experiencing the same focused sonic boom forces, thought that a hot water heater blew up in their shop. The husband thought the boom was caused by a water heater blowing up in the house. No injuries were sustained but nerves were unraveled and lasted for some time after the focused sonic boom

Economics and Population as of 2011

There are over 600 residents in Weed, Sacramento, and Pinon and many more in Mayhill.

There are three recreational camps within a ten mile radius of Sacramento. 10,486 campers and counselors were served. Sixty percent of this number were under the age of 18 and 400 of the campers were disabled. The camps also serve as a respite for active military personnel. One camp alone will serve close to 50,000 meals in 2013.

Sonic booms and focused sonic booms are detrimental to the health and safety of the campers.

Emergency call systems used by the local and regional EMS Services depend on radio frequencies.

There are 21 businesses in Weed, 14 in Sacramento and 10 in Pinon. Many of these businesses require the use of wireless communication in order to survive.

Four of these establishments are astronomy . The astronomy businesses require wireless communication in order to conduct national and international research, to provide distance education to students nationwide and to access the skies. Sensitive and expensive instruments and equipment are being used by the astronomers. The instruments and equipment are susceptible to damage from sonic boom and electromagnetic interference. Thus research and education are compromised at a very expensive price.

There were a number of Bed and Breakfast, retreat centers and spas. One had to close due to the noise and stress clients endured due to sonic booms.

In the late 1980's (pre -F-35 and pre Drone technology) the U.S. Navy, in it's EIS re: Supersonic Operating Area at Fallon AFB Nevada recognized that some residents living under MOA's may be so severely affected by sonic booms that they would be required to relocate. (895 F.2d 1416 Bargaen vs. DoN, FAA, EPA).

Data from Literature

Below is just a very small sample of the data that supports our concerns regarding the health, safety, and economic welfare of the communities of Weed, Sacramento, Mayhill and Pinon.

More data is available upon request

The Environment

Carefully read the **National Environmental Policy Act Sec. 101[42 USC 4331]**. A copy is attached. While we are aware that the JLUS Committee cannot require actions, we would like a recommendation to include the DoD/AF “adhering to NEPA law for rural as well as urban citizens.”

Sonic Booms

1. In November 2005, the Israeli Air Force began using sonic booms over the Gaza Strip as a military tactic to “instill fear into terrorists”. A joint petition submitted by Israeli and Palestinian medics on Nov 2nd “demanded an end to the tactic that was said to be “...terrorizing the civilian population of Gaza...” The petition further added “The psychological damage caused by sonic booms amounted to ‘collective punishment’ noting that the Israeli Air Force no longer flew over residential areas at speeds exceeding the speed of sound due to the stress it caused.” www.americanintifada.com/2005

2. As of March 22, 2009: Israel warplanes carried out sonic booms in the skies of Gaza Strip Sunday afternoon, causing wide-spread panic witnesses said.(AFP, date: 11-13-05)

3. On March 5, 2010 our mountain communities experienced seven earth shattering, house shaking sonic booms within ten minutes. Refer to “On the Ground” for details

4. October 20, 2013- Two current studies: The first shows “...a statistically significant association between exposure to aircraft noise and risk of hospitalization for older people living near airports”. The second study “...found US seniors on Medicare who were exposed to the most airplane noise were also most likely to have been hospitalized for heart disease. ([British Medical Journal 2013;347:f5561 Residential exposure to aircraft noise and hospital admissions for cardiovascular diseases: multi-airport retrospective study](#)).

“These studies provide preliminary evidence that aircraft noise exposure is not just a cause of annoyance, sleep disturbance, and reduced quality of life but may also increase morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular disease.” (Stephan Stansfeld, Professor of Psychiatry, Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine)

The populations of Weed, Mayhill, Sacramento and Pinon are largely elderly and on Medicare. Thus, there is a public health issue with super sonic noise over our communities. The DoD/AF does not recognize the health impact of sonic booms but considers sonic booms as an annoyance.

Radio Astronomy

There are serious concerns regarding the effects of future military programs and their the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and electromagnetic interference (EMI) as these activities relate to radio astronomy.

Weed, Mayhill and Sacramento are homes to a number of astronomy bases, some of which plan to employ radio astronomy. Telecommunications, medicine, and industry have benefitted and advanced from the contributions and innovations of radio astronomy.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission(FCC) recognize that the public interest can be served by providing for radio astronomy service.

Coordinated long range spectrum compatibility analysis and planning should be a consideration of the JLUS study.

Refer to **C-Band and Ku- Band UAV Line -of- Sight Data Link EMC Analysis For Two Operational Scenarios. Prepared by Bonter, Steve, Dunty, Diana, and Mangrum, Amy for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, October 2004. PDF document (JSC-04-054.pdf)**. This document discusses in detail the DoD Strategic Spectrum Plan from February2008.

APPENDIX B – INITIAL COMPATIBILITY PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE RESULTS

What Does Compatibility Mean?

- Primary purpose of the JLUS is to minimize or when possible prevent land use compatibility challenges
- Land use compatibility challenges occur when:
 - Certain types of development limit the ability of the military to perform its mission or cause changes in operations that reduce mission effectiveness; or
 - Communities experience higher than normal levels of impacts from military activities, such as noise or safety risks, which can then affect land uses
- Impacts are spread across the six-county study area and do not always occur close to installations

Initial Compatibility Factors

Below is a list of initial compatibility factors identified in the study area. Place a dot next to a factor that you have experienced or that you think is a high priority to address. You can place more than one dot next to the same issue. Where have you experienced impacts? What other issues should be addressed in the JLUS?

Aviation Noise (related to Low-Level Military Training Routes)	••••
Aviation Noise (related to Supersonic Operations)	•
Range Noise	
Energy/Renewable Energy Development	••
Towers (related to obstruction of aviation routes)	•••••••• No
Road Closures (due to military exercises)	• not concerned
Trespass (onto or off of military land)	•
Access to Co-Use Areas	••
Use of Call-Up Areas	•
Airspace Management	
Use and Protection of Cultural/Natural/Recreation Resources	•
GPS Jamming and Frequency Spectrum Interference	
Quality of Life/Accommodating Military-Related Growth	•
Coordination/Communication between Military/Communities/Agencies	••
Water	••••••••••••••••
Light Pollution	
Mining (related to affect on military testing)	
Wildfires (related to military exercises)	•



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Aviation Noise (related to Low-Level Military Training Routes)	•
Aviation Noise (related to Supersonic Operations)	• • •
Range Noise	
Energy/Renewable Energy Development	• • •
Towers (related to obstruction of aviation routes)	
Road Closures (due to military exercises)	• • •
Trespass (onto or off of military land)	
Access to Co-Use Areas	
Use of Call-Up Areas	
Airspace Management	•
Use and Protection of Cultural/Natural/Recreation Resources	
GPS Jamming and Frequency Spectrum Interference	
Quality of Life/Accommodating Military-Related Growth	• • • • • • • •
Coordination/Communication between Military/Communities/Agencies	• •
Water	• • • • • • •
Light Pollution	
Mining (related to affect on military testing)	
Wildfires (related to military exercises)	• • • •



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Aviation Noise (related to Low-Level Military Training Routes)	•
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Range Noise	
Energy/Renewable Energy Development	• • • • •
Towers (related to obstruction of aviation routes)	
Road Closures (due to military exercises)	
Trespass (onto or off of military land)	
Access to Co-Use Areas	
Use of Call-Up Areas	
Airspace Management	
Use and Protection of Cultural/Natural/Recreation Resources	• • • • •
GPS Jamming and Frequency Spectrum Interference	
Quality of Life/Accommodating Military-Related Growth	•
Coordination/Communication between Military/Communities/Agencies	
Water	• • •
Light Pollution	•
Mining (related to affect on military testing)	• •
Wildfires (related to military exercises)	



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Aviation Noise (related to Low-Level Military Training Routes)	
Aviation Noise (related to Supersonic Operations)	● ● ●
Range Noise	
Energy/Renewable Energy Development	● ● ● ● ● ●
Towers (related to obstruction of aviation routes)	●
Road Closures (due to military exercises)	● ●
Trespass (onto or off of military land)	●
Access to Co-Use Areas	●
Use of Call-Up Areas	● ● ● ●
Airspace Management	● ● ● ●
Use and Protection of Cultural/Natural/Recreation Resources	● ● ● ● ● ● ●
GPS Jamming and Frequency Spectrum Interference	● ●
Quality of Life/Accommodating Military-Related Growth	● ● ● ● ●
Coordination/Communication between Military/Communities/Agencies	● ● ● ●
Water	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Light Pollution	
Mining (related to affect on military testing)	
Wildfires (related to military exercises)	● ●



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Aviation Noise (related to Low-Level Military Training Routes)	●
Aviation Noise (related to Supersonic Operations)	●
Range Noise	● ● ● ● ● ●
Energy/Renewable Energy Development	
Towers (related to obstruction of aviation routes)	
Road Closures (due to military exercises)	● ● ● ●
Trespass (onto or off of military land)	●
Access to Co-Use Areas	
Use of Call-Up Areas	
Airspace Management	●
Use and Protection of Cultural/Natural/Recreation Resources	
GPS Jamming and Frequency Spectrum Interference	
Quality of Life/Accommodating Military-Related Growth	● ● ● ●
Coordination/Communication between Military/Communities/Agencies	●
Water	● ● ●
Light Pollution	
Mining (related to affect on military testing)	
Wildfires (related to military exercises)	● ● ●



APPENDIX C – WRITTEN COMMENTS – PROJECT WEB SITE

SNMEP JLUS Comments

Generated on Jan 16, 2014 / 8:33PM

Comment #1:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 1:47PM

How do I learn about the Southern New Mexico-El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study? Is there a document that shows the expected outcome, the scope of work for conducting the study, documents that will be part of the study, persons that will be interviewed, site trips, meetings, etc?

Posted by:

Audon Trujillo
audont@yahoo.com
703 300 6067

Comment #2:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 1:47PM

Hopefully, the impact of any development or land use on water resources has been added to the agenda for presentations, discussions, and citizen comments.

Posted by:

Raymond Madson
RaymondLMadson@aol.com
575 524 2174

Comment #3:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 2:05PM

What draft report or background materials are available on the Southern NM - El Paso Texas Joint Land Use Study? What is the objective. If contractors are hired to complete it what is their scope of work?

Posted by:

Audon Trujillo, Jr
audont@yahoo.com
703 300 6067

Comment #4:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 2:06PM

*Please add my name to the emailing contact lists. Thank you,
Marie Sauter
Superintendent
White Sands National Monument
National Park Service
575-479-6124 x210*

Posted by:

Marie Frias Sauter
marie_frias@nps.gov
575-479-6124

Comment #5:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 2:07PM

I would like to do a Powerpoint presentation lasting less than 10 minutes on the City of Truth or Consequences polluting the Rio Grande with waste & contaminants from their City yard.

Posted by:

Sophia Peron
jazzinn.peron@gmail.com
5758940528

Comment #6:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 2:07PM

I was unable to locate the survey indicated on your "Get Involved" page, so I will comment on the process here. Southern NM is predicted by climatologists to experience one of the most severe droughts on the planet (we are just on the brink of that now) & will likely be essentially barren within 50 years. Conserving water NOW is the only way humans will be able to live in NM in the future. Water use & preventing water abuses should be your bedrock on which the Land Use Plan builds.

Posted by:

Robyn Richards
aTruePro@gmail.com
505-506-9571

Comment #7:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 2:07PM

the single most important issue in the area is water. No plans should go forward unless plans for a rational water use/water supply system is in place. The military bases have their well developed policies and practices for energy use and water supply and use, but the non-military organizations in the area, the state and county and municipal partners are diffused and conflicting when it comes to water policy. Some order must be put in place before any joint land use can be discussed.

Posted by:

Max Yeh
maxyeh@windstream.net
575-895-3300

Comment #8:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 2:08PM

None of your 'plans\' will mean anything if you do not address the issue of water first.

Posted by:

Raymond L. Madson
RaymondLMadson@aol.com
575 524 2174

Comment #9:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 2:08PM

Land use in this region cannot at all be discussed without introducing serious discussion of the overuse of water. The issue is not drought but perennial overuse and thus overdevelopment in a desert climate. Without a resolution or an attempted resolution of this problem, the discussion of land use is futile. The issue of water is itself not addressable without considering the climate changes already apparent which will bring on a reduction of water, longer hot seasons, more forest fires and insect invasions, etc. If this discussion as any use, it is to focus all the partners' attention on this issue. The process can be a catalyst if the planners take heed.

Posted by:

Max Yeh
maxyeh@windstream.net
575-895-3300

Comment #10:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 2:09PM

Dear Sir and Madam

my name is Georg Himmeroeder.

Because I am living here for almost 14 years now and being a pilot, I became representative for the New Mexico Pilots Association for the Municipal Airport Alamogordo.

The New Mexico Pilots Association (NMPA) began in 1984/1985 and is the Voice of General Aviation to New Mexico's 5,000 pilots. NMPA's Mission is promoting general aviation and aviation safety, pilot camaraderie, and preserving airfields and airspace. Our back country committee is dedicated to increasing aviation access to back country airstrips and recreational areas by partnering with government and public service groups.

In this function I got knowledge about the \"Joint Land Use Study\".

I am afraid, that General Aviation in the Tularosa Basin and the surrounding areas will be affected by the plans to restructure the airspace over the basin.

Because of that and in the interest of our 5000 members I friendly ask you to be informed about any date for a public meeting/hearing or any issue affecting the General Aviation or the airspace in the Tularosa Basin and surrounding areas.

Thank you very much in advance!

Sincerely

*Georg Himmeroeder
Representative Alamogordo
New Mexico Pilots Association*

Posted by:

Georg Himmeroeder
himmeroedair@gmx.us
575-430-7739

Comment #11:

Posted on Jun 12, 2013 / 2:09PM

Is it still possible to take the land use survey? On your \"Get Involved\" web page, it says \"You can also provide feedback by completing the survey below\" but I can't find a link to the survey on that page. thank you.

Posted by:

Marion M. Fisher
mmfisher5954@yahoo.com
575-652-1158

Comment #12:

Posted on Jun 21, 2013 / 8:16AM

This is a test comment

Posted by:

Matt Kirkland
matt@brandnewbox.com
6192079476

Comment #13:

Posted on Jul 11, 2013 / 3:41PM

fIAKzo <http://www.c1dOvW6eef5JOp8ApWjKQy5RO5mLafkc.com>

Posted by:

matt
barny182@hotmail.com
matt

Comment #14:

Posted on Sep 29, 2013 / 5:39AM

I already potesd before I saw this, but I asked a question of the dads. My husband probably won't come on here, but I'd like to be able to give him current dad's feedback on some things. Does this sound like it would fit the not-quite-yet-formed rules?

Posted by:

Danu
annm@bainbridge.net

I already potesd before I saw this, but I asked a question of the dads. My husband probably won't come on here, but I'd like to be able to give him current dad's feedback on some things. Does this sound like it would fit the not-quite-yet-formed rules?

Comment #15:

Posted on Oct 05, 2013 / 12:14PM

How do I post my letter with detailed comments regarding joint land use of Sierra County?

Posted by:

Rhonda Brittan
5758947070

Comment #16:

Posted on Nov 13, 2013 / 12:07PM

Please add me to the contact list for all information pertaining to the JLUS.

Thank you.

Posted by:

Carol Miller
carolmiller@newmexico.com

Comment #17:

Posted on Nov 18, 2013 / 10:23PM

I4sxCv <http://www.MHyzKpN7h4ERauvS72jUbdI0HeKxuZom.com>

Posted by:

horny
normy273@hotmail.com
horny

Comment #18:

Posted on Dec 16, 2013 / 8:04AM

*How can I read the articles that have been written?
I am the City Planner for Sunland Park, NM*

Posted by:

Ricardo Dominguez

re.dominguez73@yahoo.com
915-433-4054

Comment #19:

Posted on Jan 10, 2014 / 7:24AM

When will the draft recommendations be available to the public ? What are the dates for public comment concerning the draft recommendations?

Please send a copy of the draft recommendations to Ellen Kazor

PO Box 436

Weed, NM 88354

Thank you.

Posted by:

Ellen Kazor

songdog@pvtnetworks.net

575-687-2512

Comment #20:

Posted on Jan 14, 2014 / 3:08PM

Hello, I am a professional social media business manager, obviously.

By building more than 10,000 real people profile endorsements using Facebook LIKES to your business page. This tell Google that your website is relative and authentic to what you do.

IT WILL BE POSTED RIGHT ON YOUR PAGE FOR ALL VISITORS TO SEE HOW MANY -(people) Facebook LIKES !you have, via Facebook, by real FB counter button.

Click on to see how you can do this in you free time or no time

<http://www.businesswebmonkey.com/buy-facebook-likes.php>

We can help you also with build 10,000 Twitter Followers in 7 days, or 100,000 YouTube visits, to your YouTube video or channel, build 20,000 Google +1, from your peers about your business. Best offer G+1 building in 7 days

You can get help building 100,000 Facebook LIKES in 7 days. Likes Mean visitors endorse your Fan Page or website.

How do you think Justin Bieber(singer) get his first 1,000,000 followers before his first album? His producers bought the followers for him?

I have something to offer that might interest you. www.businesswebmonkey.com/buy-facebook-likes.php

*By placing more than 10,000 endorsements using Facebook LIKES. This tell Google that your website is relative and authentic to what you do.
IT WILL BE POSTED RIGHT ON YOUR WEBSITE FOR ALL VISITORS TO SEE HOW MANY -(people) Facebook LIKES you have, via Facebook, by real FB counter button.*

These indicators (Facebook LIKES) will be visible on your website. If you have not installed Facebook Like count button on your website - I can help you install it!

After my work is finished, the Facebook LIKES Count Button will confirm a high ranking of your site, which will be noticed and appreciated by your visitors, and they will also be able to recommend your site to their friends on these social network.

The cost of the service is very low compared to the obvious gains, just the credibility you will gain alone. I work without pre-payment. Payment is carried out after all the work is done.

You pay and all Facebook LIKES are placed.

Please let me know if you are interested.

If this does not interest you, I'm sorry to have bothered you! Have a good day!

Unsubscribe here <http://www.businesswebmonkey.com/buy-facebook-likes.php>

*Sincerely,
Facebook LIKES Provider*

Posted by:

Karen

donoghue.karen1976@yahoo.com

888-233-0877



P.O. Box 982
El Paso, Texas
79960-0982

November 5, 2014

Liz Drake, AICP
AECOM
1420 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 500
San Diego, California 92101
lizdrake@aecom.com

Daniel Hortert, AICP
Doña Ana County Community Development
845 N. Motel Blvd
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88007
danielho@donaanacounty.org

Re: Southern New Mexico | El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study

Dear Ms. Drake and Mr. Hortert:

The El Paso Electric Company (EPE) serves approximately 400,000 customers within its 10,000 square mile service territory in west Texas and south central New Mexico, a service area that overlaps significantly with the study area addressed in the October 3, 2014 draft of the Southern New Mexico - El Paso, Texas Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). EPE supports the JLUS initiative to create long-term planning partnerships that recognize the region's natural, cultural, and recreational resources; growth opportunities; and the value of its military training and testing environments.

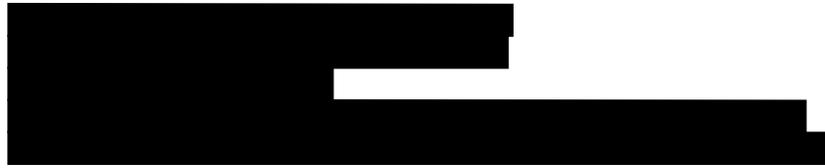
Numerous foundational action items identified in the JLUS are immediately affected by, and have an effect on EPE operations, both within and beyond the boundaries of the subject military installations. Consequently, EPE is particularly interested in the proposed JLUS implementation body. Specifically, EPE concurs with the JLUS in recognizing the potential value associated with efforts to: collaborate on planning for energy development opportunities; map regional energy development opportunities; promote interagency consultation on land use; establish a notification process for vertical structures; and promote an integrated regional water planning process.

EPE has successfully partnered with the Department of Defense, hopes to continue those successes moving forward, and would welcome the opportunity to participate in the implementation of JLUS recommendations. The JLUS efforts to promote compatible growth are to be commended and EPE looks forward to an active role in furthering those efforts.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jessica Christianson
Principal Environmental Scientist



Commissioner Flores,

I had an opportunity to review the JLUS response to Mr. Bell's questions (Mr. Bell represents the Weed Community, as well as a wider area of rural Otero County).

As with all JLUS correspondence that I've seen, the reply from your JLUS "team" was long on platitudes and short on facts or specific answers to Mr. Bell's questions. I'll not dwell further on the dis-ingeniousness (means "liars") of this "study" and its members.

One query back to Mr. Bell was in the form of a challenge from the so called "Technical Committee". They challenged Mr. Bell to furnish any studies that suggest that children and specifically babies can have convulsions when exposed to either sonic booms, or in the case of the study I am providing you, low altitude high speed, sudden onset noise, military flight.

Perhaps the so called "Technical Committee" should spend less time with their friendly Department of Defense advisers and more time in independent research? Perhaps they should learn to use Google? It is not difficult, even their secretaries could do it.

This poor dumb cowboy found a lot of research by various European organizations concerning military aircraft noise. Please note that there is no advantage to the USAF making this information available. They own the aircraft that cause the noise here and they conduct any and all studies. They control all results. However, Professor Ising published studies in Germany (I believe he did some USAF studies before this "convulsion" study. That study was the end of his USAF work - please feel free to correct me). The German people were so concerned that they largely banned the German Air Force from low level flights. By the way guess where the Germans went to fly low and fast? Yes, right here in Pinon / Weed, - but don't worry they never fly that way over Alamogordo so the Commissioners and their children are safe.

My favorite study is by Professor Ising. The Ising study is titled "Exposure and Effect Indicators of Environmental Noise". A link to this study is:

www.dfld.de/Downloads/IsingPaper.pdf

I've attached a copy so you don't have to find it.

A quote from this German Study states:

" Interviews with exposed people revealed that the sudden and extremely intensive noise of fast and low direct overflights were esteemed as unbearable since they caused shock reactions and inner ear pain in adults and children and in a number of cases convulsions followed by long and intensive crying in babies. "

This is not the only available study. Lots of different opinions and data. Please learn to use Google. The USAF has been careful NOT to study this area nor publish ANY negative results. Mission first don't ya know.

I guess that the elite "Technical" committee must have missed this?? Ignorance and patronization from JLUS has no bounds. Rather than challenge Mr. Bell why not work Google, and read the available information, and offer an informed response? My guess it is easier to blow him off - saves the Google work.

If you feel like informing the so called "technical" committee (I encourage you to do so) please include this e-mail in its entirety. If they are enlightened they can not say that babies are not at risk. No one supports hurting babies, even a few rural babies.

By the way please don't play ignorant when someone broaches the possibility that sudden onset noise can harm babies. It can. Even rural babies deserve consideration and excellence in analyzing available data and in the political process. The above link provides enlightenment and removes excuses. JLUS members apparently care not a wit about rural babies, rural children or the rural economy nor about input from rural land owners.

I thank Mr. Bell for trying to work with you despite the obvious lack of interest by the JLUS "team".

Sincerely,

Walt

Walt Coffman



October 31, 2014

Lynn Post
PO Box 161
Cloudcroft, NM 88317-0161

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Message: It has been proposed that the Military use the Lincoln National Forest. They have plenty of land to use on the bases and White Sands. Not only will their equipment destroy the public land, it will decrease our property values. The other factor is that it will wipe out the wild life. We as residents we do not want the military using the National Forest it belongs to us the public. The other issue how do we know they will stay within the national forest? They might kill our animals, (cows, deer, elk, chickens, turkeys, etc, The other factor as you well know is that tourist come great distances, to hike, fish, hunt, and camp. That would be impossible if the Military is allowed to use the National Forest!



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
White Sands National Monument
P.O. Box 1086
Holloman AFB, NM 88330
(575)479-6124



IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3815(WHSA)

November 7, 2014

Daniel Hortert
Dona Ana County Government
Las Cruces, NM

Dear Mr. Daniel Hortert,

The National Park Service (NPS) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and strategy during the public comment period.

Under the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 (16 USC Ch. 1- 4), the National Park Service (NPS) is charged with the stewardship of some of our nation's greatest treasures including premier historic sites and natural areas of incredible beauty and ecological importance. As one of over 400 NPS units, White Sands National Monument (NM) was established by Presidential Proclamation #2025 on January 18, 1933 to preserve the world's largest gypsum dune field and to provide public access for 'scenic, scientific and educational interest'.

White Sands NM participated in the Installation Complex Encroachment Management Action Plan (ICEMAP) public outreach by Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) and is pleased to have another opportunity to work collaboratively with the Department of Defense partners, with a variety of federal, state and local agencies and communities in the Southern NM, Tularosa Basin, and west Texas areas. The JLUS process will provide a venue for engagement and allow for agency to agency concerns to be recognized and addressed. It is our understanding that the JLUS process provides strategies to address encroachment issues ranging in scope from local to national that may impact missions of the three military installations in the JLUS area and vice versa.

The National Park Service asks to be included with the JLUS partners and entities in development and implementation of each of the Compatibility Factors as described in the draft Compatibility Strategy Menu. In addition, we ask to be included in all appropriate correspondence and to have White Sands National Monument depicted geographically on all maps and graphics related to JLUS strategies and public outreach.

As White Sands NM is located in the center of the JLUS study area in the Tularosa Basin between White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB, we find it critical to the success of

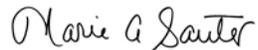


our own mission to be seated at this public table and engage in an active conversation with the military partners and our adjacent community.

We appreciate a cooperative and collaborative relationship with the Department of Defense and the local communities. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the JLUS process within Southern New Mexico.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at (575)479-6124 ext. 210.

With regards,



Marie Frias Sauter
Superintendent

Cc: Laura Joss, Deputy Regional Director, Chief of Staff, Intermountain Region, National Park Service

Tammy Whittington, Associate Regional Director, Resource Stewardship and Science, Intermountain Region, National Park Service

Glenn Fulfer, Superintendent, Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, National Park Service

Theresa Ely, Soundscapes and Night Skies Coordinator, Natural Resources Program, Intermountain Region, National Park Service

David Bustos, Chief of Resources Management, White Sands National Monument, National Park Service

John D. Bell
PO Box 515
Weed, NM 88354

Dear Ms. Drake, and All members of the JLUS Technical and Policy committees,

Fifteen minutes will not allow us the time to adequately address all of our questions and concerns so we will put them in writing and request a written detailed response to each of them. We will have time to touch on a few high points during our discussion time today.

DOD has spent a substantial amount of money to do this JLUS Study! Why? What results does DOD want from this Study? How will your actions affect the people living in rural areas of Otero County?

1. How will the military's use of our property and / or airspace impact the safety, health, and welfare of our rural citizens?? Will your actions have a negative on the health, hearing, of our children, ourselves, and / or our pets and livestock?
2. How will the implementation of the JLUS study affect my private property rights?
3. Do you plan to increase the number of sorties flying over our homes, land, livestock, and wildlife? In one of your earlier discussions you talked about the impact of loud noises on spotted owls during nesting season. What about the rest of us?
4. We have experienced the shock and awe during the supersonic booms and it is detrimental to all of us, our health and safety. It literally shakes the ground and our homes and scares the hell out of us. What concessions will the military make to prevent future disruptions?
5. Are you planning to fly low, hot, and fast over our properties. What minimum height do you anticipate that planes / drones will fly over us?
6. What economic impact will your future use have on our homes, ranches, and livestock?
7. How do you plan to compensate us for our inconveniences? Will health care be provided for rural citizens whose experience health problems due military activities?
8. When the Air Force uses White Sands or McGregor Missile Ranges they are required to pay a fees to rent them. Why should the military use our airspace for free? The larger communities get economic benefits from the Military's involvement in their towns. What will be done to compensate the smaller rural communities, individual ranchers, and other property owners?

Our citizens are very patriotic and very supportive of the military but during the past 50 to 60 years our families have had their homes and ranches taken away by the military. Please recognize that many of our rural citizens and their families no longer trust the Military because they have been burned before. The military promised to use White Sands area ranches for only a few years and then return the lands back to the ranchers. When they took the lands they did not pay the ranches for the full value of the land and improvements.

We realize that JLUS does not directly address these issues but after this study is complete, how will the military impact our lives? What will this lead to? Does this Study set up actions between the Military and the County governments through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) or other agreements?? What is the next step? Does the military plan to try to restrict our rights to set up wind towers, wind mills, or radio towers on our private land? Do they plan to scramble our GPS or radio frequencies?

Many people who purchased land here in the Southern Sacramento Mountains chose this area due to the quite peaceful lifestyle-not to endure super-sonic booms and aircraft noises. We do not want to be used as guinea pigs while pilots practice "Shock and Awe" flying methods. Have any of you ever endured the Focused Sonic Booms in a mountainous terrain where the sound does not dissipate into the distance but is intensified in a mountain valley. It shakes your home and the ground around you? It's like have a bomb go off near your home. It is extremely frightening to you, your family, pets, horses, and livestock. It has been reported to cause hearing damage and even convulsions.

Our citizens don't want to endure low flying drones either spying on us or flying hot, low, and fast. How much risk will we face due to a drone crashing and starting a wild -land fire here in the Forest. Will our Volunteer or professional fire fighters be able to find the fire if the GPS has been scrambled or communicate if their radio frequencies have been distorted? How will our safety and quality of life be affected?

We have numerous observatories in our area. These are very precise instruments and are sensitive to the aftermath of low, fast flying aircraft. What will the flight rules be after JLUS has been implemented? What is the minimum height above ground level they will be allowed to fly?

We have multiple Church, Scout, and quality of life camps or retreats in the area where people come to get away from the hustle, bustle, and noise of city life. They sell the opportunity to get away for a quite less stressful time in the lives of their clients. They offer peaceful quite settings, solitude, and the chance to get away from it all. These opportunities are stolen by military training routes over our airspace.

Alamogordo and the Cities get funding or economic benefits for their agreement to have the Military in their communities. What do we who live in the rural area get other than the negative impacts as a result of the military expansion into our quality of life? We want our concerns to be heard and addressed. We don't want another round of the military taking our private property rights and ignoring our way of life.

The bottom line is that we don't want to be shafted as a result of this study or the aftermath of the military's future plans for our area. The military has to pay to use the airspace on White Sands and McGregor missile ranges so they sell their air time to the German, Japan, and other military forces. But, when they fly over our homes and lands, they fly for free. What benefits will we receive from the use of our airspace?

I realize that this is a lot to ask but the JLUS Committees has yet to consider our concerns in their Study. What is to prevent the military from stealing our private property rights and life style?

Thank you for meeting with us. We are looking forward to receiving replies to our concerns.

John D. Bell Chair of the Otero County JLUS committee and
President of the Weed Community Association and Safe Skies Committee

Dear Mr. Bell and Otero Advisory Group Members,

Thank you for your ongoing interest and participation in the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). You submitted a detailed set of questions to the Policy Committee in June and have corresponded previously with the JLUS Technical Committee. Committee members have collaborated to develop the enclosed responses (shown in bold, italics text) to your questions. We hope that this written response as well as your continued dialogue with representatives of participating JLUS partners provides helpful insight into the process and intended study outcomes.

We encourage you to remain actively involved in the JLUS as we near release of the draft document (targeted for late August or early September). Liz Drake anticipates conducting a community meeting in Weed in conjunction with the review of the draft report. Please do not hesitate to contact Pamela Heltner at 575-437-7427 or at pheltner@co.otero.nm.us if you have any questions.

DOD has spent a substantial amount of money to do this JLUS Study! Why? What results does DOD want from this Study? How will your actions affect the people living in rural areas of Otero County?

The purpose of the JLUS is to find ways for the DoD to be better neighbors and reduce negative impacts in the region, while also identifying ways to improve communication on future land use developments to prevent unintentional/avoidable negative impacts to the sustainment of existing military training capabilities in the region

1. How will the military's use of our property and / or airspace impact the safety, health, and welfare of our rural citizens? Will your actions have a negative on the health, hearing, of our children, ourselves, and / or our pets and livestock?

The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) is not to intended to create any specific change in military mission use of airspace/ground space (i.e. support additional mission beddown, etc.). It is not a preliminary fact-finding study, nor is there any underlying hidden agenda that would result in negative impacts on any residents of the study area (to include rural residents of Otero County).

–The attached scientific studies regard impacts of military-generated noise (primarily aircraft noise) on humans and livestock represent the currently available body of knowledge on the topic.

2. How will the implementation of the JLUS study affect my private property rights?

The JLUS implementation will be accomplished through traditional democratic processes (i.e. elected county/city governments will choose which, if any, JLUS recommendations to adopt).

3. Do you plan to increase the number of sorties flying over our homes, land, livestock, and wildlife? In one of your earlier discussions you talked about the impact of loud noises on spotted owls during nesting season. What about the rest of us?

No mission changes are tied to the JLUS. This statement does not, however, preclude future mission changes to be considered, but those actions would not be impacted in any way by the JLUS outcomes/recommendations. For most major mission changes, the normal NEPA process would need to be followed allowing public input in the analysis. One of the outcomes of this JLUS will be INCREASED notification and communication procedures with citizens that may have an interest in providing input in the NEPA process

4. We have experienced the shock and awe during the supersonic booms and it is detrimental to all of us, our health and safety. It literally shakes the ground and our homes and scares the hell out of us. What concessions will the military make to prevent future disruptions?

A likely JLUS outcome/recommendation is to continue to develop and strengthen processes aimed at maximizing use of airspace over military-controlled land and prioritizing scheduling of said airspaces for potentially disturbing/disruptive missions before scheduling use of airspaces above private property.

5. Are you planning to fly low, hot, and fast over our properties. What minimum height do you anticipate that planes / drones will fly over us?

JLUS will not impact current or future uses of airspace other than deconfliction strategies referenced in response #4.

6. What economic impact will your future use have on our homes, ranches, and livestock?

JLUS outcomes/recommendation are intended to create a more symbiotic relationship between military missions and private properties. However, since JLUS is not a basing/beddown tool it is impossible to predict the economic impact of JLUS recommendations on the region. Unlike a basing-related NEPA action, JLUS is not based on a decision to place 'X number of people and aircraft at Y location, driving the creation of Z jobs'.

7. How do you plan to compensate us for our inconveniences? Will health care be provided for rural citizens whose experience health problems due military activities?

JLUS does not have provisions to compensation for inconvenience. Instead, the intent of JLUS is to minimize inconvenience while simultaneously protecting mission viability into the future.

8. When the Air Force uses White Sands or McGregor Missile Ranges they are required to pay a fees to rent them. Why should the military use our airspace for free? The larger communities get economic benefits from the Military's involvement in their towns. What will be done to compensate the smaller rural communities, individual ranchers, and other property owners?

The AF does not pay fees to use White Sands or McGregor Range. The Army cannot charge the Air Force for use of airspace. However, there are airspace use priorities for the restricted airspaces controlled by WSMR. Since WSMR's mission is rooted in testing, it is accepted practice that some outside entities pay for use of restricted airspace in order to conduct testing of new weapons systems or other technology. As such, there are times when a block of airspace is not available for USAF use because it has been "purchased" by an outside entity. Hopefully, this explains the situation more clearly. It should also shed some light on the importance of the processes outlined in response #4.

9. Our citizens are very patriotic and very supportive of the military but during the past 50 to 60 years our families have had their homes and ranches taken away by the military. Please recognize that many of our rural citizens and their families no longer trust the Military because they have been burned before. The military promised to use White Sands area ranches for only a few years and then return the lands back to the ranchers. When they took the lands they did not pay the ranches for the full value of the land and improvements. We realize that JLUS does not directly address these issues but after this study is complete, how will the military impact our lives? What will this lead to? Does this Study set up actions between the Military and the County governments through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) or other agreements?? What is the next step? Does the military plan to try to restrict our rights to set up wind towers, wind mills, or radio towers on our private land? Do they plan to scramble our GPS or radio frequencies?

The expectation following completion of the JLUS Report is that local governing bodies of all types (cities, counties, states, etc.) would select the recommendations applicable for use in their specific jurisdiction and adopt them through their existing policy development process (city/county ordinance, etc.) Likewise, federal entities will select recommendations each deem viable for investment. By no means, would a DoD entity gain the right to control private property rights through JLUS implementation. Wind towers over 200', for example, are already regulated by FAA, who can consult with the DoD to assess impacts on military missions, but the DoD does not currently have the power to approve/deny developments nor would they after JLUS implementation. Instead, JLUS recommendations involving vertical airspace obstructions are much more likely to include a notification process by which the military learns of construction of towers between 75' and 200' during the planning phase and can avoid them during flight rather than "discovering" them in flight.

10. Many people who purchased land here in the Southern Sacramento Mountains chose this area due to the quite peaceful lifestyle—not to endure super-sonic booms and aircraft noises. We do not want to be used as guinea pigs while pilots practice “Shock and Awe” flying methods. Have any of you ever endured the Focused Sonic Booms in a mountainous terrain where the sound does not dissipate into the distance but is intensified in a mountain valley. It shakes your home and the ground around you? It’s like have a bomb go off near your home. It is extremely frightening to you, your family, pets, horses, and livestock. It has been reported to cause hearing damage and even convulsions.

Yes, many of the individuals involved in the JLUS –TC have witnessed focused sonic booms in the mountains. Please refer to the provided scientific studies. Please provide any studies you may have showing a relationship between aircraft noise and convulsions so the Technical Committee can review them as they are not aware of such a connection.

11. Our citizens don’t want to endure low flying drones either spying on us or flying hot, low, and fast. How much risk will we face due to a drone crashing and starting a wild – land fire here in the Forest. Will our Volunteer or professional fire fighters be able to find the fire if the GPS has been scrambled or communicate if their radio frequencies have been distorted? How will our safety and quality of life be affected?

Aside from scheduling processes outlined in response #4, JLUS will not impact flight patterns. The JLUS report will likely include a recommendation to further investigate and flesh out impacts of GPS jamming on emergency services within the study area.

12. We have numerous observatories in our area. These are very precise instruments and are sensitive to the aftermath of low, fast flying aircraft. What will the flight rules be after JLUS has been implemented? What is the minimum height above ground level they will be allowed to fly?

Aside from scheduling processes outlined in response #4, JLUS will not impact flight patterns. That said, the JLUS report will likely contain a recommendation related to improving communication/action related to the Dark Skies initiative specifically aimed at reducing the impact of the DoD on observatories

13. We have multiple Church, Scout, and quality of life camps or retreats in the area where people come to get away from the hustle, bustle, and noise of city life. They sell the opportunity to get away for a quite less stressful time in the lives of their clients. They offer peaceful quite settings, solitude, and the chance to get away from it all. These opportunities are stolen by military training routes over our airspace.

Alamogordo and the Cities get funding or economic benefits for their agreement to have the Military in their communities. What do we who live in the rural area get other than the negative impacts as a result of the military expansion into our quality of life? We want our concerns to be heard and addressed. We don't want another round of the military taking our private property rights and ignoring our way of life.

The purpose of the JLUS is to find ways for the DoD to be better neighbors and reduce negative impacts in the region, while also identifying ways to improve communication on future land use developments to prevent unintentional/avoidable negative impacts to the sustainment of existing military training capabilities in the region. The intent is also to improve/increase communications within the region.

Hi Liz,

I just sent via snmjointlanduse.com, comments regarding Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument's request to engage in the JLUS process as a National Park Service stakeholder.

My primary concern is to have the opportunity to share with the JLUS partners and committees information regarding the Monument's Gran Quivira unit which is located in Socorro County. Such materials would include map location data along with pertinent historical/archeological information and a strong message for the continued need to protect and preserve the site.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Glenn

Glenn M. Fulfer
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Hi Liz,

Judy Ackerman met you last week at the JLUS project meeting in El Paso Texas. She mentioned that you were eager for community public participation in this project. The Frontera Land Alliance (Frontera) is the local land trust in the region. You can learn more about our efforts at: www.Fronteralandalliance.org

We are working with the National Park Service on a smaller scale project. We are working to obtain all the GIS database layers for the Franklin Mountains in TX and Organ Mountains in NM to assist with our conservation efforts, the white paper is attached. Also we are working to conserve Castner Range, Fort Bliss, El Paso Texas. Details on this specific project can be found here: <http://fronteralandalliance.org/castner/>

If you need anything from Frontera, or would like our participation at meetings, please let me know we are happy to participate.

Janae'

Janae' Reneaud Field

Executive Director

The Frontera Land Alliance

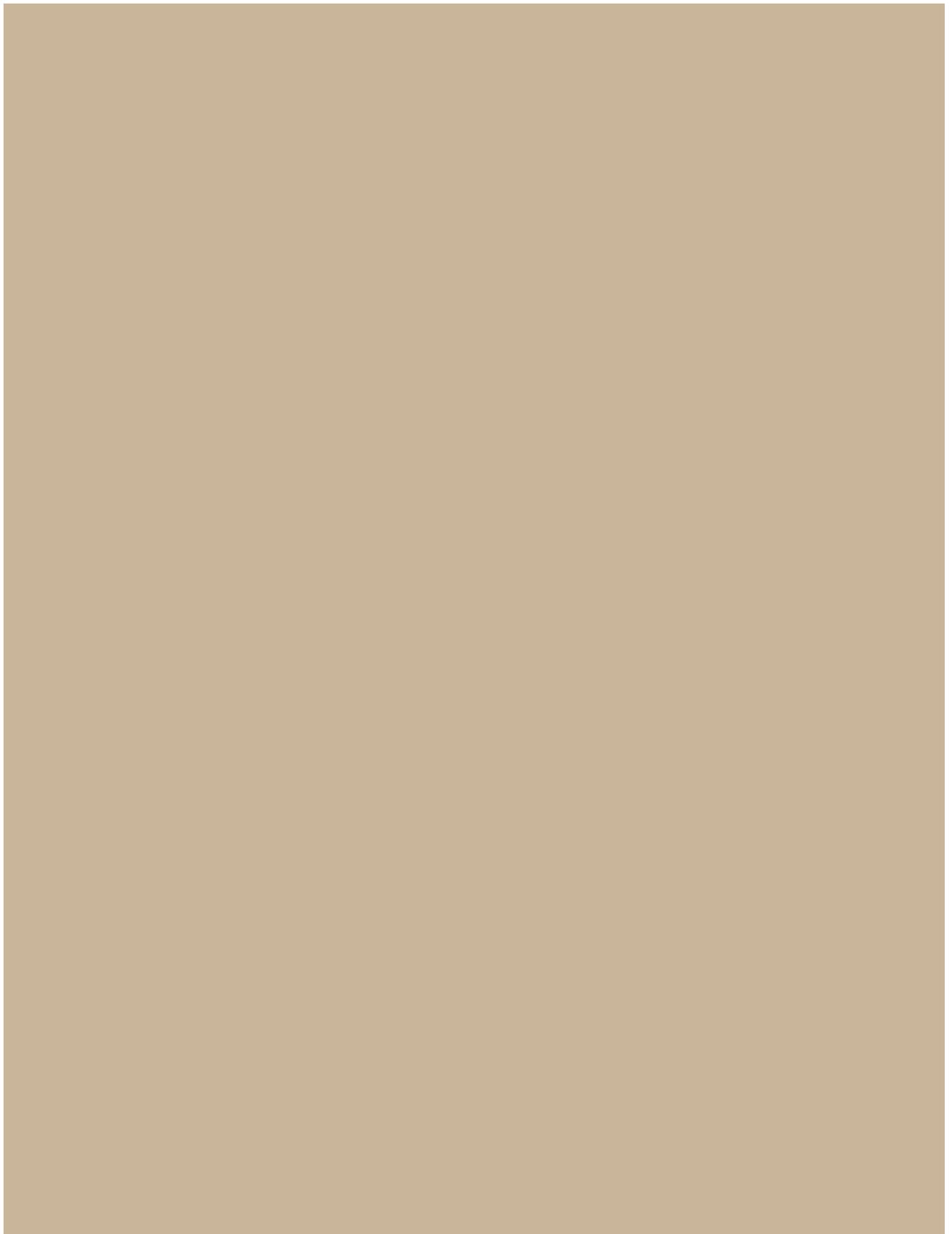
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