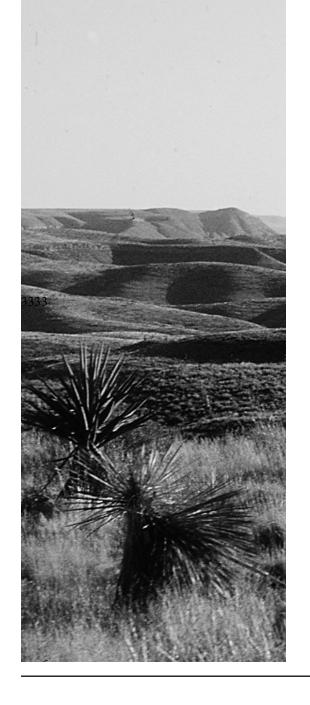
### McGregor Range, New Mexico Land Withdrawal Renewal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

Volume II Public Comment and Response Document



**United States Army**May 1999



### McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

### Volume II Public Comment and Response Document

### **Prepared for:**

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On November 6, 1998, the U.S. Department of the Army (DA) issued the *Draft McGregor Range, New Mexico Land Withdrawal Renewal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement* (LEIS) (also referred to as the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS*) for review by the states of New Mexico and Texas, Indian tribes, local governments, other federal agencies, private organizations, and the general public. As with the scoping meetings, hearing notification letters were sent in English and Spanish. The formal comment period lasted 95 days, ending on February 9, 1999.

As part of the comment process, the Army held public hearings in Alamogordo and Las Cruces, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas, to discuss the *Draft McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal LEIS*. Nearly 70 people attended the hearing in Alamogordo; 14 in Las Cruces; and five in El Paso. The Army received 397 comments from the hearings and through letters and e-mail.

Volume II of this LEIS, the *Public Comment and Response Document*, contains three chapters and one appendix. Chapter 1.0 contains this introduction and summarizes the methodology used to resolve the comments. Chapter 2.0 provides a summary of the issues and comments received. Chapter 3.0 contains the full text of the public comments on the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS* that raise issues, ask questions, or recommend changes to the text of the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS*, as well as all three public hearing transcripts. This chapter also contains the Army's responses to the public comments and describes how the comments affected the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS*. Appendix A contains the full text of the public comments on the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS* that state a preference for a specific alternative. The comment letters are separated based on which alternative is supported.

### Methodology

The Army reviewed all comments on the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS*. Many of the comments required that the text of the final LEIS be corrected, clarified, or otherwise revised. Each comment was reviewed for content and relevance to the environmental analyses and data contained in the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS*, and addressed accordingly.

Spoken comments at public hearings were recorded by a court reporter and a verbatim transcript was produced. The written comments and transcripts were reviewed and individual comments and questions were identified. Each comment and question identified is addressed in Chapter 3.0 and Appendix A of this volume. The responses indicate whether or not the text of the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS* was revised because of the comment.

Many commentors provided comments supporting specific alternatives discussed in the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS*. The Army acknowledged and will consider these comments, but these comments did not result in changes to the text of the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS*.

Some comments raised topics that are not pertinent to the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS*. In those cases, the Army answered the questions or addressed the concerns; but no change to the text was made.

### 2.0 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

### 2.1 ISSUES

The Army received comments regarding the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS* from 15 federal agencies, Native American groups, state agencies, local agencies, and private citizens and organizations. The full text of these comments and the Army's response are presented in Chapter 3.0.

Public comments on the *Draft McGregor Range LEIS* raised four topics of broad interest or concern. These topics, categorized as "Issues," are:

- Legislation should be included in the congressional withdrawal decision for the restriction of military actions on Otero Mesa and the Sacramento Mountains foothills, and the environmental protection of this area;
- The length of the withdrawal period;
- Increased public access to McGregor Range; and
- Guarantee of access for recreation, mineral leasing, and oil and gas exploration.

### 2.1.1 Legislation

Several comments requested that legislation for specific activities on Otero Mesa and the Sacramento Mountains foothills be included in the withdrawal action. These legislation requests included designating Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as a Wilderness Area; and designating Otero Mesa as a National Conservation Area (NCA); restricting the types of military missions that would be allowable on Otero Mesa and the Sacramento Mountains foothills; recognizing and providing for the long-term use of lands by the cattle growers; and allowing mineral leasing, and gas and oil exploration on areas of McGregor Range.

The request for the designation of Culp Canyon as a Wilderness Area and Otero Mesa as a NCA is addressed in the LEIS under Alternative 6. The Army's proposed training area use refinements to its *Real* Property Master Plan (RPMP) discussed in Section 2.1.1, restricts the types of military activities in each training area. Long-term use and practices that have sustained cattle growers and other land uses on McGregor Range have been recognized in the legislation regarding the current withdrawal (Public Law [PL] 99-606, Military Lands Withdrawal Act [MLWA]) in that Section 3, Management of Withdrawn Lands, provides for grazing, protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat, control of predatory and other animals, recreation, and the suppression of brush and range fires. The MLWA also provides that all nonmilitary uses of withdrawn land are subject to such conditions and restrictions as necessary to permit the military use of such lands and protect public safety. The Army proposal for withdrawn land under each alternative incorporates the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) McGregor Range Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) that resulted from PL 99-606. In this manner, these uses are explicitly proposed for the forthcoming legislation. In addition, under the McGregor Range RMPA and the 1990 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Army and the BLM, there are provisions for 5-year reviews of the possibility of opening a portion of McGregor Range to locatable mineral exploration and development. Portions of McGregor Range are open to oil and gas and geothermal leasing, and for saleable materials disposal. Therefore, additional legislative authority for minerals leasing is not required.

### 2.1.2 Length of the Withdrawal Period

Several commentors stated concern regarding the renewal of the withdrawal for 50 years. The comments stated that 50 years is too long a timeframe for the Army to predict its training and testing needs.

The Army employs various planning cycles for different aspects of its mission. For example, the Army uses a 6-year programming cycle for operational activities with facility planning over a 20-year horizon. Doctrinal and equipment life-cycle planning can extend over a period of 40 years or more. The proposed 50-year withdrawal period encompasses each of these periods and enables long-term national security plans to rely on a stable land resource.

Different (shorter or longer) withdrawal periods would not substantially change the environmental impacts of a land allocation decision. Continuing stewardship and compliance activities would be required regardless of duration. Public and/or agency participation in ongoing environmental management activities on McGregor Range is assured through existing laws, regulations, and policies as listed in Table 1.6-1. The Army is committed to continuing public participation under the *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* as major new actions that could significantly affect the environment are proposed for the installation. The McGregor Range RMPA, jointly prepared by the BLM and the Army provides for continuing public participation. The annual *Resource Management Plan (RMP)* update informs the public of the progress made in implementing the RMPA. The Army's *Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)* and *Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP)* contain provisions for agency coordination and revision as necessary every 5 years. Together, these regulatory requirements, policies, and procedures will ensure opportunities for both public and agency input into the future.

### 2.1.3 Public Access

Many comments requested that the public have increased access to areas on McGregor Range for such activities as recreation, grazing, mineral leasing, and oil and gas exploration. The current use of some areas as an impact area would be considered incompatible with the public's expressed desire for access to the area. Additionally, during firing exercises (FIREX) and field training exercises (FTXs), access to some or all areas of the range are restricted to protect public safety. However, as stated in Section 2.1.1, the current withdrawal (PL 99-606), Section 3, *Management of Withdrawn Lands*, provides for grazing, protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat, control of predatory and other animals, recreation, and the suppression of brush and range fires.

### 2.1.4 Protection of Otero Mesa and the Sacramento Mountain Foothills

Several commentors stated that because of the uniqueness of Otero Mesa and the Sacramento Mountains foothills, these valuable areas must be protected. Although military activities in these areas may continue under some of the withdrawal alternatives, the Army has and will continue to take precautions to minimize impacts to the areas, and complies with environmental regulations and laws. In addition, nonmilitary activities on Otero Mesa and the Sacramento Mountains foothills are co-managed with the BLM in accordance with the RMPA.

### 2.2 GENERAL COMMENTS

Many commentors provided statements in support of a specific alternative. There are 179 comments that support Alternative 1, the renewal of the McGregor Range land withdrawal. There are six comments that support Alternative 3, the partial withdrawal of McGregor Range and the return of 180,000 acres to the

public domain. There are four comments in support of Alternative 4, the partial withdrawal of McGregor Range and the return of 244,000 acres to the public domain. There are three comments in support of Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative. Thirteen comments state support for Alternative 6, designation of Culp Canyon as a Wilderness Area, and the Otero Mesa and Sacramento Mountains foothills as an NCA. The full text of the letters that provide only support for a specific alternative are provided in Appendix A.

### Federal Government United States Environmental Protection Agency



### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

FEB 1 860

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andrew Vliet
Program Manager
McGregor Renewal
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss
P.O. Box 6020
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas has completed its review of the Department of the Army (DOA) legislative Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the renewal of the withdrawal of public lands at McGregor Range for military purposes.

This DEIS has been prepared in support of an application by the United States (U.S.) Army to renew the withdrawal of McGregor Range which is critical to our nation's military readiness. The Military Lands Withdrawal Act (MLWA) provides that the Army may seek renewal of the McGregor Range withdrawal. In connection with the application for renewal, the MLWA specifies that the Secretary of the Army will publish a DEIS, consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), if there is a continuing requirement for military use of this range. Since this action is a proposal for legislation, the Army and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have mutually agreed to use the DEIS process, pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1506.8, to comply with the requiremente of Public Law (PL) 99-606. This EiS is being prepared in cooperation with BLM and local government. Therefore, pursuant to the EIS process, the Army has decided to prepare a Final EIS, and a Notice of Availability of the Final EIS will be published in the Federal Register. However, there will not be a Record of Decision (ROD) because the decision to renew the withdrawal is made by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by the President.

McGregor Range, located in Otero County, New Mexico, has supported the military mission of the U.S. Army at Fort Bliss from the 1940s to the present. McGregor Range is comprised of public lands, which are lands owned by the Federal Government and administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI) through BLM pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPM4) (PL 94-579) and other public land laws. At McGregor Range, the

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public lands have been withdrawn from the provisions of various public land laws for military use. Public lands comprising the range were subsequently withdrawn through Public Land Order (PLO) 1470 in1957 for a period of twenty years. At that time, the public lands were interspersed with private ranch holdings that were purchased by the Army and are now owned in fee by the Army. Portions of McGregor Range were first leased by ranchers to the Army during the 1940s. The PLO withdrawing McGregor Range expired in 1977, but the legislation required by the Engle Act of 1958 (43 United States Code [USC] 155) to continue the withdrawal was not passed until 1986 when Congress enacted the PL 99-606. Throughout the intervening period, the Army continued its mission on McGregor Range. PL 99-606 renewed the withdrawal for a period of 15 years, through 2001.

We now offer the following coments for your consideration and in preparation of the Final EIS. These comments are offered to strengthened the Final EIS and to assist Congress in the legislative renewal process.

### Comments:

EPA recognizes and appreciates the critical role which the McGregor Range plays in the Army's mission. Fort Bliss administers, trains and deploys active duty U.S. Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserves, and other service personnel and units. Periodic exercises involve units from other installations, and from other services and allied nations. Units are organized, trained, and equipped for national emergency or crisis and overseas deployment. However, we also acknowledge the need for the Department of Defense and the Army to manage the lands withdrawn for military purposes in a environmentally sensitive manner. The potential and realized impacts of human intervention in an area requires management procedures that adapt to changing conditions, evolving regulations, and new information obtained from monitoring and other sources. Regular coordination with other agencies and the public is one means to help achieve and effective adaptive management strategy. However within the framework of the 50 year renewal, it is unclear how this can be effectively achieved. Without regular disclosure of the scope of activities taking place and public would be precluded from actively participating in protecting the environment on the range.

Six alternatives have been identified of analysis in the DEIS. These include options for renewal of the withdrawal for all, part, or none of the existing withdrawal land area. The Army proposes to apply for a renewal of the lands currently comprising the MacGregor Range (Alternative 1) for a 50 year period form 2001 to 2051. We are concerned that the proposed 50 year withdrawal period could effectively eliminate public involvement in future environmental decision making on the Range. Based on the potential for long-term and significant impact within the recommended withdrawal of 50 years, we believe that an alternative with a shorter renewal period, preferably ten years, be evaluated in the Final EIS.

EPA rates the Draft EIS as EC-2, (Environmental Concerns and Need for Additional Information.) We propose that an alternative with a shorter, preferably ten years, be evaluated in

1. The Army employs various planning cycles for different aspects of its mission. For example, the Army uses a 6-year programming cycle for operational activities with facility planning over a 20-year horizon. Doctrinal and equipment life cycle planning can extend over a period of 40 years or more. The proposed 50-year withdrawal period encompasses each of these periods and enables long-term national security plans to rely on a stable land resource.

Different (shorter or longer) withdrawal periods would not substantially change the environmental impacts of a land allocation decision. Continuing stewardship and compliance activities would be required regardless of duration. Public and/or agency participation in ongoing environmental management activities on McGregor Range is assured through existing laws, regulations, and policies as listed in Table 1.6-1. The Army is committed to continuing public participation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as major new actions that could significantly affect the environment are proposed for the installation. The McGregor Range Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA), jointly prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Army provides for continuing public participation. The annual Resource Management Plan (RMP) update informs the public of the progress made in implementing the RMPA. The Army's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) contain provisions for agency coordination and revision as necessary every 5 years. Together, these regulatory requirements, policies, and procedures will ensure opportunities for both public and agency input into the future.

 A shorter withdrawal period would not substantially change the environmental impacts of the proposal. Continuing stewardship and compliance activities would be required regardless of the duration of the withdrawal.

### Federal Government United States Environmental Protection Agency

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the EIS. Our classification will be published in the <u>Federal Register</u> according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the DEIS. We request that you send our office two (2) copies of the Final EIS at the same time that it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, EPA, 401 M Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Lawrence, Chief

Office of Planning and Coordination

Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior



### United States Department of the Interior

JAN 30 BECTO

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Post Office Box 649
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

January 28, 1999

ER 98/700

Dr. Andrew Vliet
Program Manager, McGregor Renewal
U. S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss
P. O. Box 6020
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) has reviewed the Draft McGregor Range, New Mexico Land Withdrawal Renewal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LDEIS), United States Army, October 1998. In this regard, the following comments are provided for your consideration.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

A network for monitoring  $PM_{10}$  emissions similar to the one at Ft. Irwin should be established on the Range. This network would provide useful current baseline data. If the Heavy Division Training Center (HDTC) is developed with its greater potential for dust production, these baseline data can provide the information needed to measure the effects of any mitigation efforts.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has worked with Fort Bliss to develop five prescoping alternatives. Public input provided an additional reasonable alternative to designate the Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills as a National Conservation Area (NCA). The designation of Otero Mesa and the Foothills as an NCA would provide much needed long-term protection while still allowing for traditional uses. This alternative was considered in the LDEIS, however, only in conjunction with Alternatives 3, 4, or 5. Alternative 6 should be considered in conjunction with all alternatives. A NCA can be compatible with military use, particularly if the area is used mainly as it is now, as a buffer zone and field training exercise area.

For alternatives 2 thru 6, where relinquishment of the withdrawal is envisioned, analysis is based on the premise the Army will retain their fee-owned in-holdings. The range of alternatives should consider the equally viable scenario in which Army fee-owned in-holdings

- 3. The Army will consider your suggestion relative to opportunities for use of the installations' capabilities to support new missions and relative to its current and future funding constraints.
- 4. Under Alternatives 1 and 2, the Army has the responsibility to close the area when public safety is potentially endangered. Should the area be designated a National Conservation Area (NCA), the current use as a buffer zone and field training exercise (FTX) area would be incompatible with the public's expressed desire for access to the area.
- The Army has continuing training requirements that can be met through the use of its fee-owned lands. Management of the Army fee-owned lands is proposed to continue under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the BLM, therefore, no significant environmental impacts are expected relative to fee-owned lands under any scenario including a congressional decision to transfer the lands. The Army proposes to provide water to support the activities under the existing MOU with the BLM under each alternative.

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cont.

would be Congressionally transferred to BLM along with water rights sufficient to support grazing and wildlife uses. On lands returned to public ownership, a water right sufficient to support the existing grazing operation and wildlife must be conveyed to BLM.

In order to accurately assess the impacts of each alternative addressed in the LDEIS, BLM requested that Fort Bliss develop a scenario for each alternative that describes military uses likely to occur under that alternative. Future military missions on Fort Bliss are being addressed in the Mission and Master Plan EIS (MMPEIS), which is incorporated to a certain extent into the Withdrawal LDEIS. However, the alternatives in the LDEIS do not clearly delineate the types of military uses which would be allowed to take place or, conversely, the types of uses which would be restricted from occurring on the Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills. This must be remedied in the final document and carried through to legislation.

Alternative 3 is most compatible with the resource values and public use interests. Under Alternative 3, Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills would be returned to public land status and would be available for unrestricted public use. If Congress selects another alternative, rewithdrawn land on the Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills must be available for public use. Because of the uniqueness of Otero Mesa and the Foothills, this valuable area must be protected. Hard military use such as track vehicles and other heavy military equipment would unduly harm the area's unique values and should never be considered as an option. This area must not be allowed to become contaminated with unexploded ordnance. The area off the Otero Mesa, known as the "Tularosa Basin," must be utilized as the primarily military use area. The withdrawal legislation must restrict the types of military missions which would be allowable on the Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills.

The U.S. Air Force has issued their record of decision to establish a bombing range on Otero Mesa. This LDEIS does not contain a discussion of this situation or how it affects Congress' decision-making latitude. This LDEIS must contain a description of how the two DOD agencies will share use of the range and how that combined use will affect public access and use and other natural resource values.

BLM also requested that the LDEIS alternatives address the utilization of the adjacent White Sands Missile Range for some of the military activities that cannot be accommodated entirely within the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range. More efficient utilization of the White Sands/McGregor Range complex is necessary. This is not addressed in the LDEIS directly, nor indirectly through incorporation of the MMPEIS, which also does not address the utilization of other military ranges to accommodate mission requirements.

- 6. Alternative 1 of the *Draft McGregor Range Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS)* is based upon the mission capabilities of McGregor Range. The installation is in the process of refining its facility planning in the training complex including McGregor Range. Military uses are illustrated on Figure 2.1-1 relative to specific training areas and described in Table 2.1-1. The uses include Surface Impact, surface danger zone (SDZ)/Safety Footprint, Onroad Vehicle Maneuver, Controlled Access FTX, Dismounted Training, Aircraft Operations, Conservation, and Public Access. Off-road use of tracked vehicles is limited to Training Area (TA) 8 in the southern portion of the Tularosa Basin.
- 7. Congress could direct through legislation that the Tularosa Basin be utilized as the primary military use area on McGregor Range and place limits on military use of the Otero Mesa. Additionally, Congress may select other periods of withdrawal or transfer jurisdiction of specified areas from the Secretary of Interior to the Secretary of the Army. These land management options would not affect the environmental impacts of the land allocation decision before Congress.
- 8. The Record of Decision (ROD) for the *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Proposed Expansion of German Air Force (GAF) Operations at Holloman Air Force Base (AFB), New Mexico*, states that training activities on the tactical target complex will require that portions of the areas south of New Mexico Highway 506 be closed to the public for approximately 60 hours per week. The MOU between the BLM and the U.S. Air Force (USAF) provides that routine public access to the USAF tactical target complex will be from 1:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday at 9:00 p.m. Use by the USAF would generally be Monday through Friday morning. The scheduling for the target complex, as well as for Army training, will be controlled by the Fort Bliss Range Scheduling Office in a manner that generally allows the

Continued on Next Page

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The LDEIS indicates management will continue as per the BLM's Resource Management Plan for the area and in accordance with the 1990 Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and Army. This also must be carried through from the LDEIS into proposed legislation. It should be given the weight of law to ensure continued public access and natural resource management by the BLM. Incorporation of the MOU into the legislation would clearly delineate management responsibility.

11

Each alternative assumes a withdrawal term of 50 years. Justification for such a protracted withdrawal is not included in this LDEIS, but should be provided. The withdrawal term should be commensurate with the foreseeable uses of the Range. Fort Bliss' MMPEIS indicates the military planning horizon is usually 20 years. If there is a withdrawal renewal, it should be commensurate with the military's planning horizon.

12

This document attempts to consider the impact that return of presently withdrawn lands to the public domain would have on land use management under the public land laws. This reaches beyond the decision scope of the LDEIS and requires speculation on the part of DOD as to how Congress will act and how DOI would manage the resources. Attempting to perform such analysis in this document is inappropriate. In the event portions of McGregor Range are not rewithdrawn, DOI will proceed with the actual planning, public participation, and environmental analysis which would result in land use decisions.

13

The LDEIS also attempts impact analysis of how the BLM may authorize grazing on lands returned to the public domain. This is speculative and not appropriate. It is not relevant to the decision to be made and distracts the reader from the primary issue. The grazing authorization system would be the current bid system and/or one prescribed by Congressional guidance. Analysis beyond this general scenario is beyond the purpose and scope of the LDEIS. Grazing authorization is outside of the jurisdiction of the DOD and would be administered by the DOI, BLM. BLM would authorize grazing under the legal mechanisms available, following appropriate additional planning and environmental analysis. As such, grazing should be approached consistent with the approach taken in the LDEIS concerning NCA analysis:

"The establishment of an NCA by Congress is outside the jurisdiction of the DoD and would be administered by the DOI. This LEIS, the purpose of which is to address the application for military withdrawal, does not address the impacts of wilderness and NCA designation in detail."

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

14

Pages ES-12 and 1-3: Wording has been included concerning the spatial requirements of a concept or plan referred to as "Army force XXI and Army after next." There is no explanation

### 8. Continued

USAF use of the target complex and Army use of the training areas. Concurrent use is planned to meet most of the demand of both missions.

- 9. Under Department of Defense (DoD) policy for the use of major range and test facilities such as White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), evaluation of routine use for training such as conducted at McGregor Range is not permitted. Joint use is hindered by the different missions and associated scheduling philosophies. There are different installation support requirements and different operating tempos.
- 10. The agency comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 11. The Army employs various planning cycles for different aspects of its mission. For example, the Army uses a 6-year programming cycle for operational activities with facility planning over a 20-year horizon. Doctrinal and equipment life-cycle planning can extend over a period of 40 years or more. The proposed 50-year withdrawal period encompasses each of these periods and enables long-term national security plans to rely on a stable land resource.
- 12. The LEIS presents the possible conflicts between the proposed action and alternatives and the objectives of federal, regional, state, and local land use plans, policies, and controls for the area concerned (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1502.16 [C]). The potential conflicts that arise from adopting other than Alternative 1 are discussed in Section 2.2.3. That congressional designation of the current method of grazing administration as specified in the RMPA would serve to solidify the legal aspects of the issue was recognized in this discussion. The agency comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

### Continued

- 13. The LEIS presents the possible conflicts between the proposed action and alternatives and the objectives of federal, regional, state, and local land use plans, policies, and controls for the area concerned (40 CFR Part 1502.16 [C]). The potential conflicts that arise from adopting other than Alternative 1 are discussed in Section 2.2.3. That congressional designation of the current method of grazing administration as specified in the RMPA would serve to solidify the legal aspects of the issue was recognized in this discussion. The agency comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 14. The following text has been added to Section 1.2 and the terms defined in the glossary. "The Army has a long history of developing innovative approaches to future warfighting challenges. The future Army Force XXI and its follow-on, Army-After-Next, is being designed with organizations and capabilities that will allow it to be rapidly tailored, strategically deployable, and effectively employable in joint and multinational operations. Army Force XXI provides rapid and effective response to the changing situations and local conditions. Mission planning and rehearsal will be conducted simultaneously with the build-up of decisive forces, as automated systems and simulations, capable of operating from ships and aircraft, provide the capability to plan, coordinate, and war game possible courses of action while forces are en route. Vastly improved capabilities of longrange missiles with smart submunitions, precision weapons delivered throughout the battlespace, and attack helicopters capable of operations deep within enemy forces, integrated with an air campaign, are critical to ensuring that national objectives are met. Army Force XXI operations must be fully integrated as the land force commander draws from a suite of complementary capabilities of the other services, our

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### 14 cont.

of what "Army force XXI" or "Army after next" are. If these topics are brought up, especially as a reason for needing certain attention, they should be explained and described.

15

Page 2-1, 2.0: Include launch facility in TA 10 in the list of "Future training needs could affect the level of use . . ."

16

Page 2-12, Table 2.1-4: Additional FTX sites are listed among the efforts with NEPA Documentation On-Going or Completed. Is there an ongoing environmental assessment of the proposed FTX sites other than the MMPEIS? The FTX should be listed as one of the activities "Under Consideration." On page 2-13, it is stated the 13.5 square miles are being "evaluated in separate NEPA documentation..." Is this other than the MMPEIS? These relationships must be described in detail in order to facilitate public understanding.

17

Page 3.1-3, 3.1.1.2: Omit or reword the last two sentences of this section: "As required under AR 200-3 . . . . These plans will apply ecosystem management and biodiversity principals, and comparative property significance criteria, respectively, to prioritize Army management actions on McGregor Range." This is incorrect. The MMPEIS correctly states: "On McGregor Range, the INRMP applies to Army fee-owned land and managing impact of military missions on withdrawn public land, as specified in the BLM/Army MOU (Appendix D). The BLM retains management for public access uses on withdrawn and Army fee-owned land as enumerated in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), PL 99-606, and the McGregor Range RMPA (BLM, 1990)." (Page 5.2-6 section 5.2.1.2 of the MMPEIS.)

18

Page 3.1-5, Figure 3.1-1: Label the ATACM impact area in TA 25, and depict the proposed launch facility in TA 10. This will assist with impact analysis.

19

Page 3.1-6, 3.1.2.2: Add to the U.S. Border Patrol paragraph a description of their drag roads and fully assess the impacts resultant from this operation.

20

Page 3.1-7, 3.1.2.2, Water Use: Poor placement of last sentence implies the residents of Oro Grande are obtaining water from earthen tanks.

21

Page 3.1-19, 3.1.3.2, Grazing: Change to Phillips 1998. In the final, use the exact number on the grazing permit: 1,725 head of sheep.

22

Page 3.1-22, 3.1.4, Land Use Compatibility: Should include a discussion of and subsequent analysis of resultant impacts from the bombing range on Otero Mesa.

23

Page 3.2-1, 3.2: In the paragraph reading "The ROI considered . . .", clarify whether the analysis region of influence for airspace includes the airspace to be used in conjunction with the USAF bombing range on Otero Mesa.

### 14. Continued

allies, and other government and nongovernment organizations. The training and test activities conducted on McGregor Range are critical to achieving the expectations set for Army Force XXI and its follow-on in the preparedness planning the Army-After-Next."

- 15. The text will be modified as follows: "...helicopter training complex, establishment of a launch facility for a tactical ballistic missile (TBM) target for Patriot training, and..."
- An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared by Fort Bliss for any additional FTX sites on McGregor Range, should Alternative 2 or 3 of the Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan Programmatic EIS (PEIS) be adopted.
- 17. The text has been revised as recommended.
- 18. The potential Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) impact area in TA 25 is depicted as a small circle with the horizontal hatching designating an impact area and its envisioned size. The specific location of a potential launch facility in TA 10 for Patriot targets is undetermined at this time.
- The text has been revised to include appropriate available information from the Construction of Drag Roads Near the U.S. Highway 54 Border Control Checkpoint, Otero County, New Mexico Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated 8/18/93.
- 20. The sentences within the paragraph have been reorganized.
- The text has been revised as recommended.
- 22. The land use for the USAF tactical target complex is summarized in Section 4.1.1.2, subsections Military Use and Nonmilitary Use. Additional information on land use effects relative to the tactical target complex is presented in Chapter 4, Section 4.3, Land Use of the Proposed Expansion of GAF Operations at Holloman AFB, New Mexico EIS prepared by the USAF in April 1998.

Page 3.3-1, 3.3.1: Include Border Patrol Drag Roads. The drag roads were established in approximately 1995 near the 506 and 54 intersection. See *Hart, Jeanie (Aug 1994) Arch Survey for US Border Patrol Drag Roads, Prepared for the US Army Corp of Eng, JTF6, Ft. Bliss, TX*. According to that report, 586 acres were surveyed on McGregor Range.

**25** 

Page 3.8-14, 3.8.3.4, Northern Aplomado Falcon: Omit the parenthetical statement "(e.g. grassland habitat converted to shrubland due to livestock grazing.)" This statement makes a sweeping generalization about the effects of livestock grazing without acknowledging that the causes of vegetation change are often very complex and controversial.

26

Page 3.9-3, 3.9.3: Historic Landscapes are appropriate for inclusion in this section. They are a class of cultural resources on McGregor Range along with Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological and Architectural Resources.

27

Page 3.9-8, 3.9.4.3: The information in this section is incomplete. Replace "BLM has conducted preliminary research..." with the following wording and cite Hart 1997: "The Bureau of Land Management recently completed a rural historic landscape National Register evaluation for a landscape based on Oliver Lee's historic sphere of influence (Hart 1997). The potential boundary of the historic landscape encompasses McGregor Range."

Hart, Jeanie (November 1997) A Cultural Resources Inventory of Particular Fence Lines, Pipelines, and Trap Fences on McGregor Range, and Rural Historic Landscape Nation Register Evaluation. U.S.D.I. BLM Cultural Report 030-97-65.

28

Page 3.12-2, 3.12.1, Noise: Add information about the overall noise anticipated from the use of the Otero Mesa target complex.

29

Page 4.1-1, 4.1: Considering the "effect that return of lands to the public domain would have on land use management under the public land laws" reaches beyond the decision scope of this document and requires speculation on the part of DOD as to how DOI would manage the resources. It is our opinion that attempting to perform such analysis in this document is inappropriate. In the event portions of McGregor Range are not rewithdrawn, DOI will proceed with the actual planning, public participation, and environmental analysis which would result in land use decisions.

30

Page 4.1-3, 4.1.1.2: Add wording in parenthesis: "See Access and Realty and Livestock Grazing below."

31I

Page 4.1-3, 4.1.1.2, Access and Realty: Include information on restricted access up to 60 hours per week south of 506 on the Mesa due to the USAF target complex.

**32** 

Page 4.1-6, 4.1.2.1, BLM: Reword: "BLM will continue to use the existing RMPA...."

Strike "Alternatively." The CRMP is a document tiered to the RMP, not a substitute plan.

Continued

23. The Region of Influence (ROI) (Figure 3.2-1) considered for the McGregor Range LEIS is the airspace that is affected by training activities on McGregor Range and Doña Ana Range–North Training Areas and aviation activities at the Biggs Army Air Field (AAF).

- 24. Reference to Border Patrol drag roads has been included in the text.
- 25. The parenthetical information has been deleted.
- 26. Historic landscapes are defined as a type of cultural resource in Section 3.9.1 and the potential for historic military and rural landscapes on McGregor Range is discussed in Section 3.9.4.3. Currently, both a rural and military historic landscape are being reviewed, there are no designated historic landscapes on McGregor Range.
- 27. The text has been revised as recommended.
- 28. Section 3.12 describes noise in the existing environment of McGregor Range. Information regarding the overall noise level anticipated from the use of the Otero Mesa tactical target complex is found in Section 4.12.1 of the LEIS and in the USAF's *Proposed Expansion of GAF Operations at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Final EIS* dated April 1998.
- 29. The agency comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 30. The text has been revised as recommended.
- 31. The last sentence in the paragraph states, "Use of the GAF target complex is expected to reduce access of 60,000 acres on Otero Mesa for up to 60 hours per week." No text change is required.
- 32. The text has been revised as recommended.

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- Page 4.1-7 and 4.1-8, 4.1.2.2, Livestock Grazing: Most of this analysis is beyond the scope of this document and should be deleted for the reasons stated above.
- Page 4.1-8, line 44: Add wording on beneficial results of management actions including fire: "Specific actions are not defined, but are likely to benefit grazing, soil cover, watershed, and wildlife habitat."
- Page 4.1-11, 4.1.3.2, Livestock Grazing: Most of this analysis is beyond the scope of this document and should be deleted for the reasons stated above.
- 36 4.1-18, 4.1.6.2, line 2: Add wording and reword: "Other traditional uses of the land, such as grazing, will also be included. The NCA has the potential to be managed as a grazing management showcase."
- Page 4.5-2, Table 4.5-1, Predicted Soil Loss: The units for the soil loss are unclear. However, if the units of the Fuller equation (Appendix H) are tons/acre/year, then the predicted wind erosion for the Pintura-Doña Ana complex, the predominant soil type for the off-road area (TA8), is 143 tons/acre/year on the maximum disturbed areas. This is more than 28 times the sustainability value of 5 tons/acre/year for the soil type. With these amounts, soil loss needs to be included in Section 4.5.9, Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources.
- Page 4.5-9, Section 4.5.7.2, Soils: Coppice dunes, which show up as vegetative elements in remote sensing monitoring, are actually signs of extreme desertification and loss of soil productivity. Mention should be made of the impact on soils of coppice dune areas on the Range.
  - Page 4.6-2, Roving Sands Field Training Exercises: Data are needed to substantiate the conclusion that fugitive dust (PM<sub>10</sub>) emissions are localized and of a short-term duration. PM<sub>10</sub> dust travels great distances under certain wind conditions. The city of El Paso, south of the Base, is a moderate nonattainment area for PM<sub>10</sub> emissions and the prevailing wind direction for five months of the year is from the north, possibly adding emissions from the McGregor Range to the city of El Paso area.

39

41

- Page 4.6-3, Heavy Division Training Center: Data are needed to support comparisons between the fugitive dust data at Ft. Irwin and any fugitive dust emissions at the envisioned HDTC at McGregor Range. The soil surfaces, wind regimes, and vegetation are totally different for the two areas. Therefore, the conclusion of "insignificant air quality impacts" based on Ft. Irwin data is not sufficient.
  - Page 4.6-5, Section 4.6.8, Mitigation: The assumption that the impact of dust production only occurs during training exercises is limited. The loss of vegetative cover (Figure G-3) and the continual disturbance of the soils cause the surface to become more vulnerable to PM<sub>10</sub> dust

- 33. The LEIS presents the possible conflicts between the proposed action and alternatives and the objectives of federal, regional, state, and local land use plans, policies. controls for the area concerned and (40 CFR Part 1502.16 [C]). The potential conflicts that arise from adopting other than Alternative 1 are discussed in Section 2.2.3. That congressional designation of the current method of grazing administration as specified in the RMPA would serve to solidify the legal aspects of the issue was recognized in this discussion. The agency comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 34. The text has been revised as recommended.
- 35. The LEIS presents the possible conflicts between the proposed action and alternatives and the objectives of federal, regional, state, and local land use plans, policies, and controls for the area concerned (40 CFR Part 1502.16 [C]). The potential conflicts that arise from adopting other than Alternative 1 are discussed in Section 2.2.3.
- 36. The text has been revised as recommended.
- 37. The units for soil loss (tons/acre/year) have been added to the footnotes of Table 4.5-1. The undisturbed scenario assumes current conditions with little disturbance to vegetation or soil from military or nonmilitary actions. The moderate impact scenario assumes a 50 percent reduction in vegetative cover and 50 percent disturbance to the soil surface from military or nonmilitary activities. The maximum impact assumes 100 percent removal of vegetation and 100 percent disturbance to the soil surface from military or nonmilitary activities. The Fort Bliss comprehensive monitoring program described in Section 4.8.7.1 illustrates that from the 1986 image to the 1996 image, reductions in vegetative cover from all natural and noninduced sources were in the lower range of the moderate soil disturbance

### 37. Continued

category. The soil loss from wind on undisturbed land in the Pintura-Doña Ana complex, the predominant soil type for the off-road area (TA 8), under undisturbed conditions is 21.73 tons/acre/year or over 4 times the acceptable soil loss. Under moderate use assumptions, wind erosion could increase this to 54.7 tons/acre/year or 2.5 times the natural loss on undisturbed lands. Section 4.5.9 was modified to read "The impact of military activity has exposed soils in TA 8 to increased gully erosion and irretrievable loss of soil by wind. These impacts would likely continue regardless of which withdrawal configuration alternative is selected. By following installation management practices and avoiding highly erodible soils, these impacts can be minimized."

- 38. Soils in the coppice dunes area of the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range are discussed in Section 3.5.2 while impacts are discussed in Section 4.5.2.
- 39. More detailed air quality evaluations supporting this conclusion may be found in the Final PEIS for the Joint Training Exercise Roving Sands at Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico and White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, published in February 1994, and the Supplemental EA for Joint Training Exercise Roving Sands 97, published in February 1997.
- 40. The potential for air quality effects resulting from activities of a Heavy Division Training Center would be evaluated in additional NEPA documentation on the proposal to establish a center. Most of the activities associated with the capability of the Fort Bliss Training Complex to support potential activities such as a Heavy Division Training Center would occur outside of McGregor Range since the capabilities on this withdrawn land occur primarily in TA 8, Meyer Range, and the McGregor Range Camp. The discussion was presented in a programmatic sense using the best available data to illustrate potential use of Fort Bliss capabilities that could effect the use of McGregor Range.

41 production (and wind erosion) whenever the wind blows. Mitigation for fugitive dust cont. production should be addressed in each project-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. 42 Page 4.8-19, 4.8.5, lines 13-14: Omit sentence "If grazing were instituted . . ." This statement conflicts with an earlier more realistic statement indicating cattle grazing could be restricted due to UXO contamination. Page 4.8-23, Table 4.8-4: The conclusion to be drawn from the text is that pending further 43 study, the effect of grazing on Aplomado falcon potential habitat should be "unknown" rather than "negative," 44 Page 4.9-24, line 25: Omit "Management responsibility for archaeological resources on the returned lands would be assumed by the BLM." BLM already has management responsibility for cultural resources as per the FLPMA. Appendix G, Page G-8, Section G.5, Comprehensive Landscape Monitoring: Overall, the description of the use of remotely sensed satellite image data to monitor vegetation and land impact changes in the Fort Bliss area is sound. The following are some comments and suggestions on the monitoring method: The Advance Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) data, with less than 1 km 45 resolution, is more of a global tool-as is mentioned-and therefore not as useful for monitoring such a localize area, even on a daily basis. A reference on the methodology of using AVHRR data for soil moisture mapping is needed because there is not yet a known good satellite image tool to do this on a regional or local scale. Normalized vegetation index type products usually do not work well in low vegetation 46 density desert environments (as stated on page G-11). Using calibrated visible bands to do some of the vegetation change detection, as described in Chavez and MacKinnon, reference following, should prove to be more successful. 47 The use of two Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) images (1986 vs 1996) to generate a

preliminary change image map is a good start, but it is unclear how often a TM image

will be used to monitor changes in the area. At least one or two per year (seasonally

spaced) would provide the best monitoring results.

### Continued

- 41. The Army agrees with the agency comment and is committed to continuing evaluation under NEPA as major new actions that could significantly affect the environment are proposed for the withdrawn area.
- 42. The sentence has been deleted as recommended.
- 43. Results of existing studies indicate that grazing may have resulted in a reduced capacity for the Otero Mesa grasslands to support breeding Aplomado falcon (see Section 3.8.3.4). In addition, grazing may have been a factor that lead to the extirpation of this species from the United States (see Section D.4.4 in Appendix D). Therefore, the table was not changed, although a footnote was added indicating that the assessment of the impacts of grazing on potential Aplomado falcon habitat on Fort Bliss are preliminary.
- 44. The text has been revised to read "...would be solely by the BLM."
- 45. The Army will consider the agency suggestion in the future development of the monitoring system as funding resources permit.
- 46. The Army will consider the agency suggestion in the future development of the monitoring system as funding resources permit.
- 47. The Army agrees with the agency comment. The following qualifications may be found in Section 4.8.7.1. "The results from this analysis must be interpreted with some qualifications. The model was generated from plot data in grassland and desert shrub communities where vegetation cover ranged from 15 percent to 53 percent of the total covered area. Extrapolation of the model to other vegetation

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior

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The methodology presented for change detection is to classify the TM images into land cover types for the given date and then to use these results to do the change detection. This method could result in errors in the classification process of each date (usually less than 90 percent classification accuracy for desert vegetation), showing up as changes on the ground. Using the actual calibrated images to do change detection and then using these results as a guide for detailed field investigations could be a better monitoring method.

### References:

Chavez, Pat S., Jr., and MacKinnon, David J., Automatic detection of vegetation changes in the Southwestern United States using remotely sensed images, Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing, Vol. 60, No. 5, May 1994, pp. 571-583.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this LDEIS. We trust the above comments will be of assistance as you prepare subsequent documentation.

Sincerely

Glenn B. Sekavec

Regional Environmental Officer

### 47. Continued

types or to vegetation cover outside of the range of the model cannot be evaluated for accuracy. Therefore, comparisons made in other vegetation types or outside of the model's range should be viewed as preliminary comparisons. The images used in the analysis represent a snapshot view of conditions for 2 days 10 years apart, and do not represent trends in vegetation cover. The number of observations over time correlates to the reliability of the trend analysis."

48. The monitoring program that uses National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) LANDSAT Thematic Imagery is under development and will be used to monitor the entire landscape of Fort Bliss at high spatial resolution to capture variability in land cover on training areas. Validation will occur through the on the ground use of Land Condition Trend Analysis (LCTA) and other field investigations /observations. This capability will allow positioning of monitoring plots to provide an accurate sample of impacts on the training landscape. Additional post sampling analysis using plot data, monitoring data, and Geographic Information System (GIS) themes will allow analysts to map the extent and impact of training activities on a landscape scale. The analysis presented in the LEIS reflects the early stages of the process being implemented at Fort Bliss to evaluate cumulative impacts of military training, grazing, and natural events on training lands.

### **Federal Government** United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management



### United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office 1474 Rodeo Road P. O. Box 27115 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115

IN REPLY REFER TO: 1780 (930)

December 04, 1998

Dr. Andrew Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

The New Mexico Resource Advisory Council, during it's meeting on November 20, 1998, discussed and approved the enclosed letter (Enclosure 1). The letter concerns the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for the McGregor Range, New Mexico Land Withdrawal Renewal, October 1998, prepared by the United States Army. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Acting Deputy State Director Division of Resource Planning, Use and Protection

2 Enclosures 1- Letter (4 pp) 2- cc List

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

990 1 4 RECT

Dr. Andrew Vliet
Program Manager, McGregor Renewal
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss
P.O. Box 6020
Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

The New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC) is a 15 member New Mexico citizens advisory council appointed to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), New Mexico State Office. In previous correspondence to you dated January 9, 1998, we provided scoping comments for review and consideration during preparation of the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) for the renewal of the McGregor Range military withdrawal.

We recommended the Army consider six alternatives in the LEIS: Five boundary alternatives and a sixth alternative to establish a National Conservation Area (NCA) for the Otero Mesa and Foothills. During this process, we have been disappointed in the actions and methods of the military in this process and selection of the proposed action. By making a case only for the proposed action, the military has devalued the other alternatives, public support for those alternatives and the entire process.

Regardless of which alternative is chosen, we wish to emphasize the importance of continued public access to public land. People have a right to use public land, and this right must not be hampered.

The RAC's guiding tenets for McGregor Range were first articulated in a letter dated August 5, 1997, in response to the Air Force's proposal to establish a bombing range on Otero Mesa:

- The public has historically used Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills for multiple-use.
   Otero Mesa holds some of New Mexico's finest examples of native grasslands and finest antelope herds.
- 2. The area west of Otero Mesa, known as the "Tularosa Basin" is an appropriate location for the continued military use including a bombing range. This area is currently used as an impact area for military munitions for Fort Bliss.

49. Based on recommendations received from the public through the NEPA scoping process, the McGregor Range LEIS analyzes five boundary alternatives and a sixth alternative to establish a NCA for Otero Mesa and the Sacramento Mountain foothills. As required by NEPA, the environmental impacts of each alternative were presented in comparative form with substantial treatment of each alternative.

Enclosure 1-1

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

These two tenets continue to guide RAC positions for McGregor Range issues. Concerning the withdrawal renewal, the RAC supports Alternative 3, which would return the area known as "Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills" to non-withdrawn public land status. The area west of the Otero Mesa, known as the "Tularosa Basin" portion of McGregor Range, would continue to be withdrawn for military use. The Otero Mesa and Mountains Foothills have traditionally been used for Army troop training and as an impact buffer area. The Otero Mesa is not an appropriate location for the Air Force's bombing range or any future hard military use or impact areas. By contrast, the Tularosa Basin is much better suited for such use as it historically has been an impact area with unexploded ordnance and closed to public use.

It is our understanding that the Withdrawal renewal decision will be made by Congress. As such, the RAC asserts that for whatever alternative selected by Congress, the resultant legislation must ensure the historic use pattern of McGregor Range, including guaranteed substantive public use and protection of the natural landscape of the Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills.

The LEIS states that all re-withdrawn lands would continue under management as per the White Sands Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). To ensure this happens, the essential parts of the RMP and MOU should be incorporated into renewal legislation. The legislation should clearly delineate management responsibility as per the RMP and MOU. The legislation should use the RMP and MOU as a template, and should address Land Use; Minerals; Soil, Water, and Air; Vegetation; Livestock Grazing; Wildlife; Recreation; Visual Resources; Wildemess; Cultural Resources; and Fire Management.

In addition, part of the military responsibility is to act as good land stewards. Part of that responsibility is to cleanup debris as a result of military activity. It is imperative that such items be cleaned up as it occurs rather than waiting for years of accumulation. The military should develop a 15-year aggressive cleanup plan for McGregor Range.

Enclosure 1-2

- 50. The Army's proposed action, described in Section 2.1, allows for the continuation of the substantive public use of the range, subject to risks to public safety and national security requirements.
- 51. The Army's proposed action would continue management under the White Sands Resource Area RMP as amended for McGregor Range for the 50 years to provide a stable land base for military training and planning. However, Congress could reinforce this proposed action through legislation that the existing MOU govern the future management of McGregor Range. Congress could further specify other periods of withdrawal and allowable activities on different portions of McGregor Range. For example, Congress could specify a 35-year period of withdrawal and that the Tularosa Basin be utilized as the primary military use area on McGregor Range, and place limits on military use of the Otero Mesa.
- 52. The Army has an on-going evaluation of the ordnance and explosive hazards on McGregor Range and will continue with studies and pursue clean-up actions to the extent resources are available.

As described in Section 3.13.3, an archive search report documented areas of potential ordnance and explosive hazards. Additional physical surveys are being conducted to evaluate the extent of the potential ordnance and explosive hazards. Potential hazards to public safety associated with the granting of public access in portions of McGregor Range such as the Tularosa Basin may preclude return of this area to the public domain necessitating transfer of that land to the Secretary of the Army for future clean-up.

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### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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We are concerned about the 50-year withdrawal renewal timeframe proposed by the Army, and believe that is too long. The current withdrawal was for 15 years. Extending the withdrawal for over three times that duration is excessive. The withdrawal certainly should not exceed the foreseeable uses by the military. The draft Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement indicates the military planning horizon is usually 20 years, but that even the period beyond 6 years is highly speculative. If there is a withdrawal renewal, it should be for 15 years.

In summary, the RAC supports Alternative 3 because it unequivocally ensures continued public use of the Otero Mesa/Mountain Foothills while providing the Army with an exclusive use area to fulfill its training mission requirements. If Congress selects a different alternative, the legislation should be specific and used as a mechanism to fulfill these objectives and delineate management responsibilities.

### Sincerely,

Approved on 11/20/98 at the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico by all current members present as follows:

### Group 1\*

Nancy Clopton

Joseph Quintana

Joe Romero

**Buddy Shaw** 

Marvin Lee Watts

### Group 2\*\*

Gregory Green

Phillenore Howard

Bob Nordstrum

Sanford Schemnitz

Steve West

### Group 3\*\*\*

Danny Charlie

Celestino Gachupin

Kenneth Heil

Dan Lopez

53. The Army employs various planning cycles for different aspects of its mission. For example, the Army uses a 6-year programming cycle for operational activities with facility planning over a 20-year horizon. Doctrinal and equipment life-cycle planning can extend over a period of 40 years or more. The proposed 50-year withdrawal period encompasses each of these periods and enables long-term national security plans to rely on a stable land resource.

Different (shorter or longer) withdrawal periods would not substantially change the environmental impacts of a land allocation decision. Continuing stewardship and compliance activities would be required regardless of duration. Public and/or agency participation in ongoing environmental management activities on McGregor Range is assured through existing laws, regulations, and policies as listed in Table 1.6-1. The Army is committed to continuing public participation under NEPA as major new actions that could significantly affect the environment are proposed for the installation. The McGregor Range RMPA, jointly prepared by the BLM and the Army provides for continuing public participation. The annual RMP update informs the public of the progress made in implementing the RMPA. The Army's INRMP and ICRMP contain provisions for agency coordination and revision as necessary every 5 years. Together, these regulatory requirements, policies, and procedures will ensure opportunities for both public and agency input into the future.

Enclosure 1-3

3-1

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

### \* Group 1.

Holder of Federal grazing permit/lease, transportation/rights of way, developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle user, commercial recreation activity, commercial timber industry, energy/mineral development;

### \*\* Group 2.

national/regional environmental organization, resource conservation group, dispersed recreational activity, archeological or historical interest, national/regional wild horse/burro groups; and

### \*\*\* Group 3.

holder of state/county/local elected office, State agency employee in field of natural resource/land/water, Indian tribes, academicians of natural resource/science, public-at-large.

Enclosure 1-4

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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		Enclosure 2-1

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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San Juan Pueblo, NM 87566	San Juan Pueblo, NM 87566	Taos, NM 87571	
Sali Juan Fuculo, 19191 6/300	Jan Juan Fuculo, (4141 67300	1405, 14141 07371	
Jeannette Wallace	Judy Vanderstar Russell	Patsy Trujillo Knauer	
NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	NM House Representatives	
1913 Spruce	4104 La Colorada Ct.	Box 15532	
Los Alamos, NM 87544	Rio Rancho, NM 87124	Santa Fe, NM 87506	
Ben Lagan	Max Coll	Luciano "Lucky" Varela	
NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	
Rt. 1 Box 102	Rt. 9, Box 72-F	1709 Callejon Zenaida	
Santa Fe, NM 87501	Santa Fe, NM 87505	Santa Fe, NM 87501	
Don Tripp	Rhonda King	Gloria C. Vaughn	
NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	
Box 1369	Box 103	503 16 <sup>th</sup> St.	
Socorro, NM 87801	Stanley, NM 87056	Alamogordo, NM 88310	
Delores C. Wright	Terry T. Marquardt	Joe M. Stell	
NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	
150 West Lisa	903 New York Ave.	22 Colwell Ranch Rd.	
Chaparral, NM 88021	Alamogordo, NM 88310	Carlsbad, NM 88220	
John A. Heaton	W.C. "Dub" Williams	Daniel R. Foley	
NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	
102 S. Canyon	HC66, Box 10	806 Deborah Drive	
Carlsbad, NM 88220	Glencoe, NM 88324	Roswell, NM 88201	
Dara A. Dana	David M. Parsons	Lisa L. Lutz	
NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	NM House of Representatives	
6574 Cherokee Rd.	607 Golondrina	1620 Borealis Ave. SE	
Dexter, NM 88230	Roswell, NM 88201	Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
•		Earliance 2-2	
		EXC.R.S.S. Z=Z	

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Enclosure 2-3

Oonald L. Whitaker NM House of Representatives Box 556	Stevan E. Pierce NM House of Representatives 2009 N. McKinley	Mario Urioste NM House of Representatives 2105 E. Brady
Eunice, NM 88231	Hobbs, NM 88240	Clovis, NM 88101
Anna Marie Crook NM House of Representatives 1041 Fairway	James Roger Madalena NM House of Representatives Box 255	Earlene Roberts NM House of Representatives Box 39
Clovis, NM 88101	Jemez Pueblo, NM 87024	Lovington, NM 88260
Bopbbie K. Mallory NM House of Representatives 10228 St. Highway 104 Fucumeari, NM 88401	Jose R. Abeyta NM House of Representatives Box 147 Wagon Mound. NM 87752	W. Ken Martinez NM House of Representatives Box 10 Grants, NM 87020
Richard D. Vigil NM House of Representatives Box 456 Ribera, NM 87560	Honorable Kathleen McGinty Council on Environmental Quality 722 Jackson Place, NW Washington, DC 20503	Henorable Gary Johnson Governor of New Mexico 417 State Capitol Santa Fe, NM 87503
Forn Udall Ph. 982-7078 Fax 982-6185 Due to recent elections, address is not available.	Honorable Pete Domenici U.S. Senator SH-328 Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510-3101	Honorable Jeff Bingaman U.S. Senator SH-703 Hart Seante Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510-3102
Honorable Joe Skeen U.S. House of Representatives 2302 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510-3102	Honorable Heather Wilson U.S. House of Representatives 226 Cannon Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510-3101	

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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Lt. Governor	NM State Senator	NM State Senator
417 State Capitol	Box 96]	1123 Santa Rita St.
Santa Fe, NM 87503	Roswell, NM 88202	Silver City, NM 88061
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Drawer Z	4108 Asper Ct. NE	500 Raynolds Ave.
Albuquerque, NM 87103	Mark L. Boitano NM State Senator 4108 Asper Ct. NE Albuquerque, NM 87111	Las Vegas, NM 87701
- 1 - 1	and a profit of the same	million m. monic
Joseph J. Carraro	Carlos R. Cisneros	William F. Davis
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Albuquerque NM 97114	Carlos R. Cisneros NM State Senator Box 1129 Questa, NM 87556	Albuquerque, NM 87103
Albuquetque, Mm 0/114	Ancoral but 01220	Production Mi 01103
Dianna J. Duran	Pauline B. Eisenstadt NM State Senator Box 658 Corrales, NM 87048	Dede Feldman
NM State Senator	NM State Senator	NM State Senator
909 Eighth Street	Box 658	1821 Meadowview Dr. NW
Tularosa, NM 88352	Corrales, NM 87048	Albuquerque, NM 87104
Joseph A. Fidel	Mary Jane M. Garcia	Ramsev L. Gorham
NM State Senator	NM State Senator	NM State Senator
Box 968	Box 22	805 Salamanca NW
Grants, NM 87020	Mary Jane M. Garcia NM State Senator Box 22 Dona Ana, NM 88032	Albuquerque, NM 87107
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NM State Senator	NM State Senator	NM State Senator
Box 10	1515 Monterey	2106 W. University Dri
San Jose, NM 87565	Gloria Howes NM State Senator 1515 Monterey Gallup, NM 87301	Portales, NM 88130
Minchle R Tonnings	Don Widd	Paymond T Kysar
NM State Senator	NM State Senator	NM State Senator
Box 1797	Box 1358	300 W. Arrington, 100
Roswell, NM 88202	Don Kidd NM State Senator Box 1358 Carlsbad, NM 88221	Farmington, NM 87401
g11 # T - 11	Tinda M. Torra-	Batrick H Ivons
Carroll H. Leavell	nu State Sepator	NM State Senator
nm State Senator	Linda M. Lopez NM State Senator 9132 Suncrest SW Albuquerque, NM 87121	Tma Rt. Box 26
Tal NM 88252	Albuquerque, NM 87121	Cuervo, NM 88417
001, MM 00252		
Fernando R. Macias	Roman M. Maes III NM State Senator 402 Graham Avenue Santa Fe, NM 87501	Phillip J. Maloof
NM State Senator	NM State Senator	NM State Senator
Box 1155	402 Granam Avenue	Albuquerque NM 07107
mesilla, NM 88046	samud re, NM 0/5VI	Albudderdne, MH 0/10/
Billy J. McKibben	Cisco McSorley NM State Senator 401 Tulane NE Albuquerque, NM 87106	Cynthia Nava
NM State Senator	NM State Senator	NM State Senator
505 East Alto	401 Tulane NE	3002 Broadmoor
Hobbs, NM 88240	Albuquerque, NM 87106	
		Enclosed 2-4

### Federal Government United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

illiam H. Payne M State Senator ox 14823 lbuquerque, NM 87191	John Pinto NM State Senator Box 163 Tohatchi, NM 87325	Leonard Lee Rawson NM State Senator Box 996 Las Cruces, NM 88004
hannon Robinson M State Senator 16 Indiana SE lbuquerque, NM 87108	Arthur H. Rodarte NM State Senator Box 132 Ojo Caliente, NM 87549	
ichard M. Romero M State Senator 07 Silver SW lbuquerque, NM 87102	Michael S. Sanchez NM State Senator 03 Bunton Road Belen, NM 87002	John Arthur Smith NM State Senator Box 998 Deming, NM 88031
.L. Stockard M State Senator ox 1364 loomfield, NM 87413	Leonard Tsosie NM State Senator Box 1003 Crownpoint, NM 87313	L. Skip Vernon NM State Senator Box 3827 Albuquerque, NM 87110
ue F. Wilson M State Senator 12 Sagebrush Ct. SE lbuquerque, NM 87123		
• • •		
		Enclosure 2-5



### DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE WASHINGTON DC

Office Of The Assistant Secretary

5 FE3 1592

MEMORANDUM FOR DASA(ESOH)

FROM: SAF/MIQ

SUBJECT: Air Force Comments on McGregor Range LEIS

We have reviewed the draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statements (LEIS) on renewal of the withdrawal of McGregor Range. This range is vital to USAF and German Ar Force (GAF) training and combat readiness.

Based on our review of the document, it appears that alternatives three through six have significant adverse impacts to the USAF and GAF, as Otera Mesa (located within McGregor Range) would return to the public. However, the LEIS does not adequately reflect these potential impacts.

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the GAF SIS identifies Otera Mesa as the site for construction of a new target complex for air-to-ground training. Otera Mesa will support the tactical training for a total of 42 GAF Tornado aircraft, a politically and economically important initiative. Returning Otera Mesa to the public will seriously impact our training, combat readiness, and German/US relations. Our detailed comments are attached.

If you have any questions on our comments, my point of contact is Maj Jim Mills, DSN: 227-7548; e-mail: James W. Mills@pentagon.af.col.

THOMAS WILL MCCALL,
Deputy Assistant Secretary
of the Air Force
(Environment, Safety and
Occupational Health)

Attachments: Detailed Comments 54. Table ES-3 illustrates that under Alternatives 3 through 6, the capability for training that requires air-to-ground surface impact areas is totally eliminated; therefore, the mission could not be accomplished. This loss would totally eliminate the benefits to the USAF and GAF expressed in the purpose and need section of the USAF's *Proposed Expansion of GAF at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Final EIS,* dated April 1998. As stated in the LEIS Section 1.5.3, *Other Environmental Analyses and Decisions Relevant to the Action,* the USAF EIS was incorporated by reference into this LEIS. Details of the operational and environmental impacts of the LEIS Alternatives 3 through 6 may be found in the USAF document.

### AIR FORCE COMMENTS

### ON

### MCGREGOR RANGE LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (LEIS)

- 1. General comment: The LEIS does not list any permanent German personnel assigned to Fort Bliss. The German Air Force (GAF) has three detachments that have been in place at Fort Bliss for several decades. The first is the German Armed Forces Command for USA/Canada. This unit is commanded by a GAF Brigadier General The second unit is the GAF missile school. The third is the GAF partiot Office. The total number of GAF personnel permanently assigned to Fort Bliss is 240. The LEIS only refers to forcign contingents performing temporary duty at Fort Bliss.
- Page 2-1, line 40. Replace "...the USAF is proposing to expand GAF operations at HAFB, New Mexico." with "...the USAF is expanding GAF operations at HAFB, New Mexico."
- Page 2-12, Table 2.1-4, First Bullet. Delete bullet and replace with, "Construction of a tactical target complex on Otero Mesa."
- 4. Page 4-3, line 38-39. This section states that military activities at HAFB have the potential for causing cumulative effects on McGregor Range without referencing the reasoning. Recommend deleting the statement unless a clear explanation can be provided.
  - 5. Page 4.6-2, lines 38-42. This is an obsolete paragraph. We are expanding the GAF operations at Holloman. We suggest the paragraph be replaced with: "USAF Expansion of GAF Operations at HAFB. The expansion of GAF operations at HAFB, NM, through the beddown of an additional 30 Tornado aircraft, is one of the most significant future mission activities with a potential to impact air quality at McGregor Range. The expansion includes the establishment of a new air-to-ground tactical target complex on McGregor Range to be used for training by USAF and GAF aircraws."
- 60 6. Page 4.12-1, lines 44-45. Delete first sentence. We are already expanding GAF operations at Holloman.
- 61 7. Page 6-1, line 9. Shouldn't the USAF be listed in this section?
- 8. Page ES-7, lines 12-13. The initial statement of this paragraph is somewhat incomplete, in that not only would Alternative 1 allow the Army to continue its current air defense training, it would also allow the USAF and GAF to continue the military training associated with the new target complex (NTC) to be constructed on West Otera Mesa.

Capt Cabala/ILEVP/604-0565/5 Jan 99

- 55. These units are included in the total *Army Stationing and Installations Plan (ASIP)* data presented in Table 1.2-2. The LEIS pertains to the McGregor Range portion of Fort Bliss. The discussion of unit stationing at Fort Bliss Section 1.2.2.1 was limited to those units that typically perform much of their mission on McGregor Range. All units, both U.S. and allied, stationed at Fort Bliss, or elsewhere, that use McGregor Range on an infrequent basis were considered in the total training use of McGregor Range.
- 56. The text has been changed to read, "...the USAF is expanding GAF operations at Holloman AFB (HAFB), New Mexico."
- 57. The first bullet has been revised as "Construction of an air-to-ground tactical target complex."
- 58. The text was revised to read: "Military activities at HAFB, other than the USAF construction of a new air-to-ground tactical target complex, such as the deactivation of units such as the 435<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron that reduced flight operations over McGregor Range, have the potential to contribute to the cumulative effects on McGregor Range."
- 59. The text has been revised as requested.
- 60. The first sentence has been deleted as requested.
- 61. The U.S. Department of the Air Force has been added to the list of agencies notified or contacted.
- 62. The sentence has been revised to read, "...the full renewal of the withdrawn land would allow the U.S. Army to continue its current air defense mission, allow continued military training for other U.S. services and allied forces, and would provide flexibility."

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- **63**
- 9. Page ES-7 lines 36-37. The statement "Alternatives 1, 2, 3,4, and 6 would not affect airspace use or management in the Region of Influence (ROI)" does not appear to be correct with respect to airspace use. If Alternatives 3, 4, 5, or 6 were selected, the USAF and GAF would not have access to West Otera Mesa, would not be able to build the NTC, and would be prohibited from training on the Mesa.

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10. Page ES-12 Military Mission Consequences. This discussion totally ignores the military mission consequences of the proposed action and alternatives on the USAF and GAF. We recognize this is an Army range and environmental analysis; nevertheless, the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives apply to all military users of the range. The document should accurately and completely reflect those impacts. This comment applies not only to the Executive Summary, but to the entire document.

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11. Page 1-9 and 1-10. Reference to joint training and allied units using the range is made, but no mention of USAF and GAF use of the NTC and West Otera Mesa is made. Although the NTC is yet to be built, its development will occur in the near future; such omissions do not present an accurate picture of the use of the range.

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12. Page 4.1-7, para 4.1.2.2. No mention is made of the USAF and GAF use of the West Otera Mesa in this discussion. The concern is that an incomplete and inaccurate description is presented.

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13. Page 4.1-10, para 4.1-3.2. (also para 4.1.4.2. - 4.1.6.2.) All the "Effects on Land Use and Land Users of McGregor Range" paragraphs in chapter 4 need to give an accurate portrayal of the real impacts to the USAF and GAF. Simply stating that operations by the USAF on Otera Mesa would not occur does not provide the decision-maker the real impact.

68

14. Page 4.1-19, para 4.1.7., Cumulative Impacts, Lines 20-22. This sentence is inaccurate. For alternatives 3-6, it would appear the effect on land use and land users would be substantially different than under alternative 1 or 2. The USAF and GAF training missions (land users of McGregor Range) would be substantially curtailed, for example, under alternatives 3-6, and under alternatives 5 and 6, land use would be drastically different than under any of the other alternatives for virtually any land user. This sentence does not agree with table 2-7-2.

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15. Pages 4.2-1 and 4.2-2, para 4.2.2. - 4.2.6. (Airspace — Alternatives 3-6). The comments in each of these discussions (that the alternative would not affect airspace use) appears to be inaccurate, as the USAF and GAF use of the airspace would be drastically curtailed if the USAF and GAF could not use the NTC on the Otero Mesa.

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16. Page 4.2-2, para 4.2-7, Cumulative-Impacts, lines 35-39. The Taiwanese Air Force Training Program at Holloman AFB was deactivated several years ago, so this information is outdated, and should be removed.

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17. Pages 6-2 - 6-5, para 6.4, Persons Consulted. This list appears to be missing USAF contacts made. Surely more than one telephone call to an Air Force contractor was made (Mr. William Wuest).

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Capt Cabala/ILEVP/604-0565/5 Jan 99

- 63. The text has been revised to read, "Alternatives 1 and 2 would not affect airspace use or management in the ROI. Alternatives 3, 4, and 6 would not affect airspace use or management in the ROI. However, the return of Otero Mesa and other areas of the existing McGregor Range to the public domain would preclude development of the USAF tactical target complex on Otero Mesa, potentially reducing the level of activity within Restricted Area 5103."
- 64. Table ES-3 illustrates that under Alternatives 3 through 6, the capability for training that requires air-to-ground surface impact areas is totally eliminated, therefore the mission could not be accomplished. This loss would totally eliminate the benefits to the USAF and GAF expressed in the purpose and need section of the USAF's *Proposed Expansion of GAF Operations at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Final EIS,* dated April 1998. As stated in the LEIS Section 1.5.3, *Other Environmental Analyses and Decisions Relevant to the Action,* the USAF EIS was incorporated by reference into this LEIS. The operational and environmental impacts of the LEIS Alternatives 3 through 6 may be found in the resource area discussions in Chapter 4 of the LEIS.
- 65. While the Army's principal requirement for McGregor Range is to support Air Defense Artillery (ADA) missile training, other activities such as the USAF tactical target complex are discussed throughout the document. Table ES-3 in the Executive Summary illustrates the capability for training that requires air-to-ground surface impact areas such as the Otero Mesa site. This refers to the USAF target complex. As stated in the LEIS Section 1.5.3, Other Environmental Analyses and Decisions Relevant to the Action, the USAF EIS was incorporated by reference into this LEIS. In general, the tactical target complex is discussed under each resource evaluation of Alternative 1 in this LEIS. However, details of the operational and environmental impacts of the tactical target complex may be found in the USAF document.

### Continued

- 66. This section describes differences in military use for Alternative 2 from those described for Alternative 1. The tactical target complex is discussed briefly in Section 4.1.1.2. Under Section 4.1.2.2, the tactical target complex is considered one of the potential expanded missions.
- 67. As stated in the LEIS Section 1.5.3, Other Environmental Analyses and Decisions Relevant to the Action, the USAF EIS was incorporated by reference into this LEIS. In general, the tactical target complex is discussed under each resource evaluation of Alternative 1 in this LEIS. However, details of the operational and environmental impacts of the tactical target complex may be found in the USAF document.
- 68. Curtailment of the Army's Patriot training mission as well as the USAF and GAF training missions (land users of McGregor Range) would occur under Alternatives 3 through 6. These are addressed under each alternative as direct impacts. Section 4.1.7 addresses cumulative impacts that add to these direct impacts from activities other than the Army missions on McGregor Range. In this context, no additional impacts are expected to occur.
- 69. Section 4.2.2, Alternative 2, discusses airspace use and management under conditions that still allow USAF construction of the tactical target complex. Section 4.2.3, Alternative 3, addresses the reduced level of activity from returning the Otero Mesa to the public domain. Section 4.2.4, Alternative 4, includes a statement that incorporates the effects of Alternative 3. Section 4.2.5, Alternative 5, recognizes that while air activity would remain, air-to-ground activity would cease. Section 4.2.6 recognizes that the establishment of an NCA could also contain undetermined changes that affect airspace use and management.
- 70. The text has been revised as recommended.
- 71. Mr. William Wuest was not listed as a person contacted in Section 6.4. *Persons Consulted* records were reviewed and additional USAF persons contacted were added as appropriate.

From: Andreoli, Robert

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 1999 7:46 AM

To: 'Vliet

Subject: FW: Response to McGregor Land Withdrawal LEIS

Andy- This is our only comment. Bob

 Reference: MCGREGOR RANGE, NEW MEXICO LAND WITHDRAWAL RENEWAL LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (LEIS); Section 4.13, Safety; Subparagraph 4.13.1 Alternative 1; Second paragraph page 4.13-2.

With regard to the statement made, Reference paragraph 1above, the need to comment on the ATACMS firing, from Ft. Wingate, NM is pertinent with regard to establishing an ATACMS impact area on McGregor Range, NM. However, since WSMR is the lead range for conducting ATACMS firings from Ft. Winagte, NM, and has the responsibility for ensuring the safety of the public for overflights from Ft. Wingate, NM, your comment regarding major safety concerns, is inappropriate and irrelevant. To quote from the Reference paragraph 1 above "One initiative by WSMR with the potential to create major safety concerns, involves the proposal to launch an ATACMS from Fort Wingate, New Mexico, to impact on McGregor Range." ATACMS firings from Ft. Wingate, NM were addressed in the WSMR Extended Range EIS and approved by a Record of Decision(ROD), 1994. ATACMS safety issues were appropriately addressed in this EIS, and since, ATACMS has safety and successfully conducted firings from Ft. Wingate, NM onto WSMR. Please note that the WSMR Extended Range EIS ROD, ATACMS safety approval, and safe conduct of an ATACMS firing from Ft. Wingate, NM, all occurred prior to the publication of your LEIS.

72. The existing text has been replaced with the following text. "An initiative by WSMR with safety implications involves the proposal to launch an ATACMS from Fort Wingate, New Mexico, to impact on McGregor Range. WSMR currently conducts such launches that terminate in impact areas on WSMR. The safety implications of these activities were assessed in the *Theater Missile Defense Extended Test Range EIS* completed in November 1994. When the launch occurs, coordination is effected with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), landowners potentially impacted are notified, and some residents are evacuated."

### Native Americans Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe



JAN 3 0 RECTA

an Juan de Guadalupe

Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe P.O. Box 16243 Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

26 January 1999

Vicki Hamilton U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center & Fort Bliss, Directorate of the Environment, Attn: ATZC-DOE-C (PEIS) Building 516 B, Pleasonton Road, Fort Bliss, Texas 79916-6812

RE: (A). Fort Bliss Mission & Master Plan, Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement(DRAFT)

Dr. Andrew Vliet, DPhil Program Manager, McGregor Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center & Fort Bliss Atn: P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

RE: (B). McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal, Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (DRAFT)

ENCLOSURES: (a). Bureau of Indian Affairs Acknowledgement cases

(b), Cultural/Historical Assessment of the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Tribe by Nick Houser, Cultural Anthropologist

Dear Ms Hamilton and Dr. Vliet:

## **Native Americans** Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe

The Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe, Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe, P.O. Box 16243, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004, hereby submits written comments to reference (A) and (B) Draft Environmental Impact Statements.

Where applicable, the Tribe expresses a common comment by referencing the appropriate section and/or paragraph of the applicable EIS document(s). Please note that the Tribal comments are limited only to the "DRAFT" EIS documents that have been submitted to the Tribe for review. All other documentation referenced in the EIS documents were not provided with the "DRAFT" Reports.

Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe comments:

A. Fort Bliss EIS, 4.9 Cultural Resources, and McGregor EIS, 3.9 Cultural Resources

For the record, the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe, submits the following commentary to correct and update EIS deficiences and omissions of the Cultural history and affiliation of this Tribe in New Mexico, Texas and the El Paso del norte geographical land areas.

1. The Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe, Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe officially filed a Petition for Federal Recognition with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in January 1, 1992. The Petition of the Tribe is under ready consideration by the Bureau and the Tribe is listed as number 8 on a Ready Status. ( see enclosure (a) ).

The people of the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe, Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe, Las Cruces, New Mexico are lineal descendants of the Piro Pueblos of Abo, Alamillo, Gran Quivira, Quarai, Senecu, Socorro and Tajique of the Salinas Pueblos of central New Mexico. Senecu del Sur and Socorro del Sur of the El Paso del Norte areas. Also, the Tribe is comprised of descendants from the Tiwa Pueblos of Isleta, New Mexico and Ysleta del Sur, Texas. In addition, the Tribe is comprised of descendants of the Manso (Athapaskan) Indians, who were the aboriginal inhabitants of the Mesilla Valley of southern New Mexico and who occupied the geographical areas from the Mimbres Valley to the Guadalupe mountains of Texas and into northern Mexico as encountered by the Spanish Explorer Coronado in 1540. The Organ Mountains are identified as the MANSO MOUNTAINS in earlier Spanish geographical maps and documents. The Manso people and descendants have used the Franklin and Organ Mountain ranges for sacred worship. Further, the Tribe claims official cultural affiliation to the Mimbres-Mogollon cultures and the Jornada-Mogollon cultures of which archaeological sites and burial grounds are evident in the Fort Bliss/McGregor/ White Sands/Holloman AFB Military complexes and National Park Service grounds. Pursuant to Public Law 101-601, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, (NAGPRA), the Tribe has filed claims of Cultural affiliation on the Human remain and associated funerary objects with; (1) Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, (2) Carlsbad Caverns National Park, (3) Guadalupe Mountains National Park, (4) White Sands National Monument, (5) Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, (6) Chamisal National Memorial, (7) San Diego Museum of Man. (8) Cibola National Forest and the same is applicable to Fort Bliss and McGregor.

## Native Americans Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe

The Tribe utilizes certain mountain sites inconjunction with permits from the Bureau of Land Management and other Federal jurisdictions. Also, the Tribe for ceremonial and religious uses obtains permits for use of plants, minerals and vegetation for seasonal religious and traditional Native American observances.

The Tribe requests that the two EIS documents be amended to reflect the Cultural affiliation of the Tribe to Fort Bliss and the McGregor Range, Further, the Tribe would appreciate copies of the inventories of Human remains and associated funerary objects and Archeaological studies. As a supplement to our comments, the Tribe submits enclosure (b), a Cultural/Historical Assessment of the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe by Nick Houser, Cultural Anthropologist.

## B. GENERAL COMMENTS:

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1 . VOLUME II, FORT BLISS EIS APPENDIX D. APPENDIX B., MCGREGOR TABLE 1.6-1.

Question: Upon reading both EIS's, and in particular concerning Archaeological, Cultural and Historical Resources, the REPORTS make references to consultation with Native American Tribes, however the Appendix does not contain any Memorandums of Agreements (MOA) or Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with any Native American Tribes?

McGregor EIS 3.9.4.2, pages 3.9-6,3.9-7 reflect the various Federal Acts, but how are they implemented without MOAs or MOUs with the applicable Tribes??

VOLUME II, FORT BLISS EIS, APPENDIX B., 4.7 WATER RESOURCES

QUESTION: RE: B.3.7 and 4.7 Water Resources. In Isleta Pueblo V. City of Albuquerque, certain purity standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act were adjudicated by the 9th Circuit Court. Is Fort Bliss, Mcgregor and other city entities pumping and/or discharging water into the aquifers and River basin effected by these standards??

The Tribe wishes to thank Fort Bliss and McGregor for affording us the opportunity to comment on the DRAFT Environmental Impact Statements.

Pursuant to Public Law 101-601 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the Fort Bliss and McGregor Ranges and requests bi-lateral cultural consultation on NAGPRA issues.

If additional information is required, please contact the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribal Office, P.O. Box 16243, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004, telephone (505)271-5012 or (505)647-5372.

Sincerely,

For the Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe:

Louis Roybal, Governor

73. Section 3.9.3.4 was revised to include the following. "None of the inventories conducted to date have identified Piro-Manso-Tiwa human remains or associated funerary objects."

- 74. Federal agency consultation with Native American tribes occurs under the auspice of the Executive Memorandum (29 April 1994) entitled, "Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments". Under this guidance, it is not necessary to have an existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), MOU, or other agreement document in place between the federal agency and the Native American tribe. However, MOUs are in development with the federally recognized tribes in the area.
- 75. Federal acts requiring consultation with Native American tribes are implemented through the NEPA process and U.S. Army Regulations (Department of the Army [DA] Pamphlet 200-4), which reference the federal acts and require compliance with those acts.

Native American tribes may also participate in consultation through the avenues of public scoping and public comment.

76. The Army has no discharging facilities on McGregor Range. The Army facilities at Fort Bliss do not pump/and or discharge water into aquifers and river basins affected by the adjudicated standards.

## **Native Americans** Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe

Friday, October 16, 1998

http://www.doi.gov/bia/0617stat.htm

Enclosure: (a)

- --- Biloxi, Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogees, Inc. (#56a) (Withdrew from the United Houma Nation, Inc. 9/6/95; responding to same Proposed Finding; comment period closed 5/12/1997)
- -- Point Au Chien Indian Tribe (#56b) (Withdrew from the United Houma Nation, Inc. 7/22/1996: responding to same Proposed finding; comment period closed 11/6/97)

## Final Determination Pending - 5

17616 United Houma Nation, Inc., LA (#56) (Active 5/20/91; proposed negative finding pub'd 12/22/94; comment period closed 11/13/96; respn to 3rd-party comments recv'd 2/4/97)

165 Yuchi Tribal Organization, OK (#121) (complete 4/23/93; proposed negative finding pub'd 10/24/95; comment period closed 4/22/96; comment period extended to 11/29/96; petitioner's respn to comments 5/5/97)

140 Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of MI (formerly, Gun Lake Village Band...) (#9a) (Active 12/24/96; proposed positive finding pub'd 7/16/97; comment period closed 1/12/98; 60 day period for petitioner to respond to third party comments period closed 3/13/98)

1517 Cowlitz Tribe of Indians, WA (#16) (Active 7/11/95; proposed positive finding pub'd 2/12/97; comment period closed 8/11/97; comment period extended to 11/17/97; 60 day period for petitioner to respond to third-party comments closed 1/16/98)

356 Duwamish Indian Tribe, WA (#25) (Active 5/1/92; proposed negative finding pub'd 6/28/96; comment period extended to 7/25/97; comment period extended to 12/22/97; comment period extended to 1/21/98; reply period closed 3/23/98)

## Petitioner Commenting on Proposed Finding - 2

836 Snohomish Tribe of Indians, WA (#12) (Active 1/7/81; proposed negative finding pub'd 4/11/83; edited staff notes provided 3/25/91; comment period reopened 12/1/91, extended indefinitely at petitioner's request pending resolution of Samish litigation; comment period reopened; comment period closed 4/12/98; comment period extended to

9/11/98)

1,566 Chinook Indian Tribe/Chinook Nation, WA (#57) (Active 1/28/94; proposed negative finding pub'd 8/22/97; comment period closed 12/22/97; comment period extended to 06/15/98; comment period extended to 7/30/98)

## PETITIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(as of June 17, 1998, continued) **READY STATUS** 

## Ready, Waiting for Active Consideration - 12

Petitioners have corrected deficiencies and/or stated their petition should be considered "ready" for active

## Native Americans Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe

Friday October 16, 1998

http://www.doi.gov/bia/0617stat.htm

consideration. Priority among "ready" petitions is based on the date the petition is determined "ready" by the Branch of Acknowledgment and Research (BAR).

## Ready DateName of Petitioner

10/26/95 Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Inc., MI (#101) (09/12/1985; doc'n recv'd 9/40/95; TA ltr 4/5/95; respn 10/26/95; complete)

1/17/96 St. Francis/Sokoki Band of Abenakis of VT (#68) (OD ltr 6/14/83; "ready" 8/1/86; petitioner says "not ready" 9/18/90; complete 1/17/96)

2/12/96 Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, CA (#84a) (doc'n recv'd 2/24/88; OD ltr 1/25/90; respn recv'd 9/24/93, complete; removed from "ready" list 05/19/95; respn recv'd 9/28/95)

2/14/96 Mashpee Wampanoag, MA (#15) (doc'n recv'd 8/16/90; OD ltr 7/30/91; respn recv'd 1/24/96; ready 2/14/96)

2/28/96 Brothertown Indians of Wisconsin, WI (#67) (4/15/80; doc'n recv'd 2/13/96; ready 2/28/96)

5/23/96 Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, CA (#84b) (withdrew from #84a 12/17/94; formal letter of intent 3/8/96; doc'n recv'd 3/8/96; TA Itr 5/15/96; respn recv'd 5/23/96)

7/30/96 Tolowa Nation, CA (#85) (1/31/83; doc'n recv'd 5/12/86; OD ltr 4/6/88; respn recv'd 8/22/95 and 11/22/95; limited TA ltr 5/16/96; respn recv'd 7/30/96)

5/29/97 Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe (formerly Tiwa Indian Tribe), NM (#5) (1/18/71; doc'n recv'd 3/24/92; OD ltr 8/25/93; respn recv'd 1/10/97)

6/2/97 Schaghticoke Indian Tribe, CT (#79) (12/14/81; doc'n recv'd 12/7/94; TA ltr 6/5/95; respn recv'd 4/16/1997)

10/6/97 Meherrin Tribe, NC (#119b); partial doc'n recv'd 9/11/95; TA ltr 3/15/96; respn recv'd 8/22/97)

1/16/98 Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (#82) (formerly American Indian Council of Mariposa County aka Yosemite), CA (4/24/82; doc'n recv'd 4/19/84; OD ltr 5/1/85; respn 12/12/86; 2nd OD ltr 4/11/88; respn 1/26/95; respn 1/16/98)

3/26/98 Muwekma Indian Tribe, CA [formerly Ohlone/Coastanoan Muwekma Tribe] (#111) (5/9/89; doc'n recv'd 10/1/95; BIA letter re: previous recognition 5/24/96; TA ltr 10/10/96; respn recv'd 111/14/96 and 3/28/97; TA ltr 6/30/97; partial respn recv'd 1/16/98; add'l doc'n recv'd 6/10/98)

## IN POST-FINAL DECISION APPEAL PROCESS

## In Post-Final Decision Appeal Process - 3

## Before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) - 3

82 Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe, CT (#81) (negative final determination pub'd 9/26/96; eff 12/26/96; petitioner requested reconsideration from IBIA 12/26/96; decision affirmed by IBIA subject to supplemental proceeding 6/10/98)

313 Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, WA (#20) (positive final determination pub'd 8/29/97; eff. 11/28/97; Tulalip Tribes requested reconsideration from IBIA 11/26/97)

c4000 MOWA Band of Choctaw, AL (#86) (negative final determination pub'd 12/24/97; eff 3/24/98; petitioner requested reconsideration from IBIA 3/23/98)

## PETITIONS RESOLVED

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## Native Americans Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe

Enclosure: (b)

To: Mr. Andrew J. Royhal

Coordinator, Piro Manso Tiwa Indian Tribe (Las Cruces, New Mexico)

Subject: Cultural/Historical Assessment of the PMT Indian Tribe

From: Nick Houser, Research Consultant, Cultural Anthropologist/Historian

Date: January 24,1996

Dear Mr. Roybal:

It is a pleasure to serve as a consultant to the PMT and coordinate my research activities with the Tribal Council and with Dr. Howard Campbell (UTEP). I hereby provide a statement which is an assessment concerning the cultural and historical relationship of the PMT as a distinct Native American Tribe and the ancestral relationships to other Indian communities of Southern New Mexico and the El Paso District (particularly Ysleta, Senecii and El Paso del Norte).

I have reviewed much of the documentary materials which you and other tribal members have developed as well as those by contract consultants. I am impressed with the depth of research and the analysis and interpretation. I have attempted to augment information from my research as necessary only in thought errar and the analysis. I have additional knowledge and can contribute to your research endeavors. For example, I have introduced you and Mr. Campbell to Natividad Camargo, the late Manso descendant of San Lorenzo (Cd. Juárez, Mexico). I have also included additional references to the Mansos of the El Paso and the Piros of Senecú del Sur (Cd. Juárez). I am also aware of the historical interactions and relationships between Ysleta Pueblo and the Indians of the Las Cruces area (i.e., PMT).

Please find enclosed a (1) "Chronology of Significant Events - Piro, Manso, Tiwa"; (2) "Manso Research Bibliography" (emphasis upon the Manso ancestry of the PMT); (3) 1784 Ysleta Census; (4) 1784 Senecti Census; (5) 1787 Ysleta Census; (6) 1787 Senecti Census; (8) 1792 Ysleta Baptisms; and (9) 1841 Ysleta and Senecti Tribal Leaders List. I have other census materials which are not included but I believe your files may contain that information. I read the well researched report by Reynolds and Taylor and realized that some of the surnames that pertain to PMT Indians were not traced to Senecti or Ysleta. Many of these Indian surnames are obvious Manso Indian earnes and are mentioned in the archival reports and pertain to the pueblos of Chamizal, San José, Barrial, Alamo Grande, San Lorenzo and Pueblito.

I have an extensive background in cultural anthropology and history, particularly related to the Piro, Manso and Tigua Indians of the El Paso area. I have devoted more than 6 years of concentrated study of these groups and have been involved in this research, from time to time, since 1966. I have a BA in History, MA in Anthropology and a MPH in Health Education. I have worked with Native American communities in the United States and Latin America for over 20 years.

I wrote a chapter in the Handbook of North American Indians (Volume 9) published by the Smuthsonian Institution which concerned the Tigua Indians of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (El Paso, Texas) but also mentioned the Piro and Manso relationships as well as the Indian community of Tortugas (Las Cruces, New Mexico). I have offered my testimony as an expert witness before the US Senate (Indian Affairs Committee) as well as before the State Legislative Committee (Austin, Texas). I have worked on several claims cases (Ysleta del Sur, and Tonto Apache). I have more than 25 years of experience working with Indian communities in the American Southwest (primarily Arizona, Texas, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and California).

I have been engaged in research in the Ciudad Juarez area and worked with the descendants of the Mano and Piro Indians in that vicinity - La Colonia Sau José (Manso) and Senecui del Sur (Piro). I have an extensive experience in working with Spanish and English documents (deed records, reports, civil and church records) and an a cultural anthropologist have conducted research throughout the El Paso, Cd. Juarez and Las Cruces areas.

1

## Native Americans Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe

I believe that I am well qualified as cultural anthropologist and historian, who has been involved in extensive research in this region, to comment on the Manso Tiwa Tribe (PMT). They are the only tribal entity that formally recognizes (as their name implies) their tribal ancestry to the primary indigenous peoples of this region the Manso, the Piro and the Tigua. They represent not only the survivors or descendants of these groups but a living legacy that today still is vital and alive and practices the age old traditions of the three groups. This is unlike, the descendants in Cd. Juarez who acknowledge their Piro and Manso heritage but have lost their cultural identity and tribal government and no longer can be considered as Native Americans.

I believe that the PMT ancestry to the Las Cruces area predates the period of contact with non-indians. The Las Cruces region was Manos aboriginal territory which extended from Presidio. Texas north to the Gila River in New Mexico. The PMT are a Native American tribal group who have coalesced from three major triba groups in order to survive. This was not a merging of tribes but was a gradual process of intermarriage between local tribal groups. Even the Tigua of Ysleta del Sur reflect this intermarriage pattern although they have retained their Tigua identity. This continuity of identity and tribal character has survived despite repeated attacks to destroy this identity that is documented through over a period four hundred years. These attacks have taken on many forms that include the following: missionization programs, confiscation of tribal lands, enforcement by law which denied the right to practice native religion, war and military actions against the native people, slavery, forced labor and peonage, forced removal from homelands, denial of traditional resources, and subjugation to alien diseases (epidemics). The PMT have also Suma ancestry, although less pronounced.

The cultural identity of the PMT is obvious to any competent social scientist or historian. Commencing with my first visit to the Las Cruces area in 1966, I became aware that there were two distinct groups who considered themselves "Indians" and that a split was occurring between these two peoples. The first group were often called the "The Tigua" and possessed an ancestry that included not only the Tigua (of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo) but the Piro of Senecti del Sur and Mansos of Cd. Juarez. In Cd. Juarez I found families (as well as documents and photographs) of Mansos and Piros who were related to the PMT of Las Cruces, New Mexico. I also witnessed the interaction between the PMT families and those of the Tigua of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo. This interaction involved common cultural and family associations and involvement in tribal and religious observances at either location. Tigua oral history mentioned relocation of family members to Las Cruces and the acquisition of almagre mineral face paint pigment from the Las Cruces people.

I have examined the PMT genealogical records which clearly demonstrate the tribal ancestry to the Manso, Tigua and Piro groups of the El Paso district. In fact, I have submitted newly discovered information concerning PMT history (several the Juárez archives that contain names of tribal members from the Piro Pueblo of Senecú and the Manso barrios of Barrial and San José). I have also introduced PMT members to Manso descendants in Cd. Juárez.

The PMT are a Native American tribal entity who have genealogical and cultural roots to the three base cultures. The PMT are an active tribe that represents a long historical tradition of self governance that has been recognized by the US Government (BIA Indian School, Indian Scouts for the US Army), State of New Mexico (New Mexico militia), and the governments of Mexico (tribal lands and rights) and Spain (tribal lands and rights). This legacy is expressed in the tribal government, community and family life and in ceremonial and religious observances. The tenacious cultural strength of the PMT is the major factor in their survival as a viable Native American tribe.

## Native Americans Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe

The Organ Mountains in Spanish times were referred to as Sierra de los Mansos. Spanish records mention that Manso inhabiting the Las Cruces region, especially the Organ Mountains. On several occasions, Spanish government officials entered that region to parley for peace with the Mansos or conducted war expeditions to annihilate the Mansos. The Piro and Tigua ancestry of the PMT is also derived from the Saline Pueblos east of Socorro, New Mexico. This is a shared ancestry with the people of Ysleta del Sur. The Federal Government (Park Service) has recognized this ancestry as evidence in the re-internment of human remains that were stored at the Arizona State University (Tempe). The Saline Pueblos were abandoned during the 1670's as result of continued drought and depredations by hostile Indian groups.

The Mansos were the original Indian group in the El Paso area. The Piro and Tigua arrived with the 1680 Pueblo Revolt as refugees (some arrived by force and other voluntarity). There were already (in 1659) some Piro families in the Manso settlement at the Pass of the North who provided assistance to the first franciscan missionary, Fray García de San Francisco y Zuñiga. There were some Pueblo Indians from New Mexico (Tiwas, Piros, Tanos, Tewas) living at El Paso del Norte, prior to the Pueblo Revolt. At this early time (1659-1680), this was intermarriage between the Mansos and other Pueblo Indian peoples.

The PMT represent are Pueblo Indian. It is well documented that the Tigua and Piro were Pueblo Indian. Also, the evidence is over whelming that the Manso were Pueblo Indian as well. Mexican and American records refer to the Manso as Pueblo Indians. This was also established by Adolph Bandelier who visited the Las Cruces and El Paso del Norte regions (Cd. Juárez) and noted the cultural commonalities of the Manso with the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico. These associations included clans and tribal government.

The first recorded land transaction in the El Paso area involved the purchase of a tract of land near the Manso mission of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe from the Manso Indians by the Spanish government (Governor Antonio Otermín) in order to establish the headquarters of the government of the province of New Mexico. The original mission built by the Manso Indians still stands today (the only El Paso Mission intact) and the old civil building behind the church stands on the land which the governor purchased from the Indians.

Despite the atrocities committed by the Spanish Government on the Manso, Tigua and Piro peoples, that government was more tolerant and protected Indian rights (especially land) than did the Mexican and American governments. In fact, the three groups maintained their sovereignty and land during the two hundred year period of Spanish rule.

The sacredness of the mountains is common among Pueblo Indians (and other Native Americans). This long tradition among the PMT is evidenced in the historical record pertaining to the Las Cruces area (Organ Mountains) and among the Tigua, Piro and Manso pueblos of the El Paso district. I have included old newspaper references to the Manso and their ceremonies that related to Cerro de la Bola (Juárez Mountains). The Manso Indians of El Paso del Norte made frequent pilgrimages to the mountains and the historical record demonstrates that these activities involved other feasts in addition to the Guadalupe Feast Day. In fact, Mexican authorities attempted to terminate these mountain vigils by force.

The patron of the Manso Mission in El Paso del Norte was Old Lady of Guadalupe. This recognition continued with the establishment of Tortugas who has the same patron. PMT members traditionally have shrines to Guadalupe in their homes and the main feast was held in mid december on Guadlaupe Day (Dec. 12).

I certainly concur with the analysis of Dr. Howard Campbell concerning modern PMT cultural life and community interaction which is very viable and is representative of a long tradition that has existed in the Las Cruces area for some one hundred years and can be traced to its Piro, Manso and Tiwa antecedents. I have attended two tribal meetings and have observed the self government process and the spirituality and sense of community that characterizes each gathering. The latter involves prayer, cleansing and reverence for mother earth. Evidence of tribal government and community interaction is well documented from the 1950's to the present (oral history, newspaper articles, tribal minutes and documents and graphically recorded family photograph albums).

3

## **Native Americans** Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe

The Piro Manso Tigua Tribe are as the name implies are descendants from the Piro (mainly Senecui del Sur in Cd. Juárez, Mexico), Manso (El Paso del Norte or modern day Cd. Juárez, Mexico, and the Las Cruces region of New Mexico) and the Tigua (Ysieta del Sur, Texas). The PMT also acknowledge to be descendants of the Tigua and Tompiro Indians of the Gran Quivira or Saline Pueblos to the northeast. In this sense, so are the Tigua of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of whom the PMT are also related. The Tigua Saline ancestry is primarily from Quari Pueblo and the Piro (or Tompiro) is from Abo Pueblo.

The PMT have legitimate claim to the territory in southern New Mexico, especially within the Las Cruces area and Organ Mountains, which is documented in the historical and anthropological literature. This claim is through the Manso Indians who traditionally occupied the riverain region and adjacent plains and mountains from southern New Mexico to Presidio, Texas. The Organ Mountains were historically (in the Spanish period) known as the Sierra de los Mansos. Their claim to the Las Cruces area is logical and it is possible that the Manso bands may have continually hunted and gathered in this region, and from time to time lived in this region during the period from 1659 (founding of El Paso del Norte and the Manso Mission of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe). It is likely, that during periods of threat from hostile Indians (Apaches and Comanches), the Manso retreated to the El Paso del Norte area.

The ancient tradition of lighting fires on the mountains in mid December is from the Manso Indians of El Paso del Norte. This tradition is well established in the historical literature. It may originate from the lighting of fires on the night of the feast of Guadalupe and is documented in the historical literature concerning Tortugas Pueblo in Las Cruces. This practice appears to originate from the mid-winter solstice as celebrated by the PMT.

The PMT are the only Native American group that formally recognize their Piro, Manso and Tigua heritage. In this sense, they are survivors of the Manso and Piro who are now extinct as a tribal entity. Their historic association with the Virgin of Guadalupe is from the Manso Indians of El Paso del Norte.

It is this researcher's opinion, based on the historical record and from oral history, that the Manso practiced some agriculture but relied heavily on a hunting and gathering economy and exploited the Río Grande area from Presidio to southern New Mexico and may have extended as far north as the Gila River. At the time of contact with the White Man, culturally, they were probably Pueblo Indians but no longer lived in sedentary pueblos as did their relatives to the North (Piro and Tigua Indians).

I wish to thank the PMT Indian Tribe for their cooperation and interest in supporting my research and collaboration with Dr. Campbell.

Sincerely, July Lause
Nicholas P. Houser

## Native Americans Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe

Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Re	onowal	··
McGregor Range Land Withdrawai Re Draft Legislative Environmental Impact S		
Thank you for your input		
	DATE January 1999	
PLEASE PRINT	DATE	
Tribal letter comments enclosed.		_
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Louis Roybal, Governor, Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe,	Pueblo of San Juan de Guada	 alupe
NAME:		-
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 16243  CITY: Las Cruces,		-
CITY: Las Cruces,  STATE, ZIP CODE New Mexico 88004		_
PHONE NUMBER (505) 647-5372		_
Area Code		_
Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number		
Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FE		
Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and I	Fort Bliss	
ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments P.O. Box 6020	)	
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.i	mil	

## State Government State of New Mexico Environment Department



GARY E. JOHNSON

GOVERNOR

## State of New Mexico ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Harold Runnels Building 1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110 Telephone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836



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PETER MAGGIORE
Secretary

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andrew Vliet, Program Manager McGregor Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

RE: MCGREGOR RANGE, NEW MEXICO LAND WITHDRAWAL RENEWAL DRAFT LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT; UNITED STATES ARMY, OCTOBER 1998.

This transmits New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) staff comments concerning the above-referenced Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (DLEIS).

### WATER QUALITY

Many activities described in this DLEIS meet the definition of industrial activity as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). USEPA requires National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage for all storm water discharges associated with industrial activity from these sites. Among other things, this permit requires that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be prepared for each site and that appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) be installed and maintained until all storm water discharges associated with industrial activity are eliminated, and the sites are finally stabilized by vegetation, or equivalent stabilization measures have been employed.

### AIR QUALITY

The project is in an area that is currently in attainment for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). During potential road upgrades and improvements, care should be taken to minimize dust emissions. Emissions during training activities are expected to be short term and spread over a large area. These emissions would largely come from mobile sources. The DLEIS determines that emissions would be widely dispersed and would not cause a significant impact.

77. To date, Fort Bliss has not identified any discharges into arroyo-riparian drainages, nor to unclassified tributaries, which might drain into playa lakes. Storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been and continue to be implemented at all Fort Bliss facilities, including the ten Fort Bliss industrial facilities, which occur in New Mexico. These BMPs will preclude storm water impacts, and are described in the Fort Bliss Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Fort Bliss continues to monitor storm water discharges from its industrial areas, and is pursuing the development and execution of various storm water-related projects. These actions demonstrate that Fort Bliss has resolved to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Storm Water regulations.

77

## State Government State of New Mexico Environment Department

Dr. Andrew Vliet January 26, 1999 Page 2

**78** 

Government military activities such as those described in the DLEIS are generally exempt from permitting requirements in the State of New Mexico, "to the extent that such activities: a. Do not result in visible emissions entering publicly accessible areas; and b. Are not subject to a NSPS or NESHAP" [20 NMAC 2.72.202.A.5]. NSPS is a New Source Performance Standard; NESHAP means National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants. The Army should ascertain that these activities are indeed exempt from state permitting requirements.

## HAZARDOUS/RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

**79** 

The Department's Hazardous and Radioactive Material Bureau (HRMB) currently regulates the disposal and environmental remediation of five (5) locals within McGregor Range. They include the following:

- 1. McGregor "Rubble Pit" (Landfill No. 13)
- 2. McGregor Range Oxidation Pond
- McGregor Camp Fire Training Area
- McGregor Range former Drum Storage Area
- 5. McGregor Range Open Detonation unit

(Permitted for Hazardous Waste Treatment Disposal)

We should note that any alternative use of these properties will require coordination with the HRMB.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this document, please let us know if you have any questions on the above.

Sincerely,

Gedi Cibas, Ph.D.

Environmental Impact Review Coordinator

NMED File No. 1218ER

78. The text in Section 3.6.3 has been modified to point out the Army's on-going program to evaluate each activity for compliance with New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).

79. The text has been revised to include a discussion of the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED), Hazardous and Radioactive Material Bureau (HRMB) regulated sites and to note that any alternative use of these properties will require coordination with the HRMB.

3-40

## **Local Government Otero County**



JAN 07 RECT

1000 NEW YORK AVENUE, ROOM 101 ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310-6935

Mr. Andy Vliet, Commander U. S. Army Air Defense Center ATTN: ATZ-C-CSA Ft. Bliss, Texas 79916

Re: Copy of letter supporting McGregor Range Land Withdrawal

Dear Mr. Vliet:

Enclosed is a copy of one of the letters we sent out in support of the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal,

If you have any questions or need further information, please call me at (505) 437-7427.

Richard L. Zierlein/ Otero County Commission

RLZ/kmd

enclosure (1)

## Local Government Otero County

1-21-86 10:05am From-OTERO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION +5054376542 T-010 P.03/03 F-206

**COUNTY OF OTERO** 

January 7, 1999

1000 NEW YORK AVENUE, ROOM 101 / LAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310-6935

Chamber of Commerce Mr. Ed Brabson, President 1301 N. White Sands Blvd. Alamogordo, NM 88310

Dear Mr. Brabson:

The Board of County Commissioners in Otero County are making an official statement of continued withdrawal of McGregor Range, with the Army's proposed action, which renews for a period of 50 years beginning in 2001 McGregor Range's boundaries as they are today.

We fully support the withdrawa for continued military use. Further, we have requested cooperating agency status to assist in the withdrawal process of such use.

The installations are critical components of our economy and valuable to national defense. They are also a vital asset to Alamogardo.

Otero County fully supports Ho Ioman Air Force Base, Fort Bliss, and White Sands Missile Range.

BOARD OF COLINTY COMMISSIONERS

RONNY RARDIN, Chairman

CHARD L. ZIERLEIN, Vice Chairman

TIMOTHY MCGINN, Member

10:24am From-OTERO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

T-078 P.02/03 F-338



FEB 9 \_ RECO

COUNTY OF OTERO

1:00 NEW YORK AVENUE, ROOM 101 ALFMOGURIOD, NEW MEXICO 88310-6935

February 4, 1999

Dr. Andrew Vliet, Dphil Program Manager-McGregor Ren :wal P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79916

> Re: McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Dr. Vilet:

Previously, the floard of County Commissioners have written and expressed our preference for Option I as set forth in the above eferenced document. Nevertheless, we would like to express the following additional comments:

We are concerned hat the document does not adequately recognize or assess the impacts on potential Private Property Rights that may exist in the area. As you are aware, at least one Federal Court has 'ecognized Property Rights in permits, water rights, and improvements put on rangelands by various permittees.

The long-term use and practices that have sustained cattle growers and other land use s on the Range should be explicitly recognized and provided for in the legislation that implements the Withdrawal

The processes that have resulted in this document as well as a number of other p anning efforts by the military establishment, the BLM, Forest 5 ervice and other Federal agencies have been fragmented to date.

- 80. Section 3.7.1 summarizes the surface water rights as described in the *McGregor Range Water Requirements and Resources Assessment* dated October 1998. Additional material from this document to include Table 6-1, *Surface Water Rights Associated with McGregor Range*, and the discussion of groundwater rights was included in the text of Sections 3.7.1 and 3.7.2 of the final LEIS. This new table describes 17 surface water rights held by the federal government, communities, and private individuals and organizations.
- 81. Long-term use and practices that have sustained cattle growers and other land uses on McGregor Range have been recognized in the legislation regarding the current withdrawal (PL 99-606) in that Section 3, *Management of Withdrawn Lands*, provides for grazing, protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat, control of predatory and other animals, recreation, and the suppression of brush and range fires. The Act also provides that all nonmilitary uses of withdrawn land is subject to such conditions and restrictions as necessary to permit the military use of such lands. The Army proposal for withdrawn land under each alternative incorporates the BLM's McGregor Range RMPA that resulted from PL 99-606. In this manner, these uses are explicitly proposed for the forthcoming legislation.
- 82. Federal government planning is specific to each department and as a result, is often unknown to other departments. In this LEIS, the Army has included as many actions of federal, state, and local governments, as well as local organizations as could be identified. Those actions with sufficient available information were included in the cumulative effects discussion in Chapter 4 of the LEIS.

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## **Local Government Otero County**

02-09-99 10:24am From-OTERO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION +5054376542 T-078 P.03/03 F-338 Page 2 Dr. Andrew Vliet, DPhil February 4, 1999 831 An effort should b: made to plan the entire south west area as a unified whole so it at local citizens can be adequately informed as to the entirety o'the impacts they are likely to suffer from. We believe that NIPA requires such an approach. 841 As co-managers of the area, the BLM and military should be very careful to ensure that all statutory requirements are fulfilled in planning for the at a especially in determining the effect those decisions will have on Otero County. The County should be included in any NIPA or FLPMA processes occurring with respect BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OTERO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO Ronny Rardin, Chairman Timothy D. McGinn, Member

- 83. The Army appreciates Otero County's comment and considered it during preparation of the final LEIS. It has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review. However, evaluation of the entire southwest as a whole is beyond the scope of the NEPA requirement relative to the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal.
- 84. The Army appreciates Otero County's involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. The Army will continue to include Otero County in its development of actions subject to public or agency coordination or review under NEPA or the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

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## Peg Briney 1406 Highlard Rood Roswell NM 88201

JAN 2 9 BECTO

January 25, 1999

ATTN: ATZC-CSA
Mr. Andrew J. Vliet, DPhil
McGregor Range
Military Land Withdrawal
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss
P.O. Box 6020
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Mr. Vliet:

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the draft LEIS regarding the McGregor Range.

I opt for alternative number 6 of the draft document which suggests that Culp Canyon be designated as a wilderness area by the U.S. Congress and the irreplaceable Otero Mesa plus the foothills of the Sacramentos be designated as a National Conservation area!

The many reasons for the above suggestions have been offered by the BLM, by the Sportsman from several counties and by the Ranchers who seem to have an agreement with the Sierra Club!

I comprehend why the U.S. must rent our bases to foreign governments - save US \$,, but for the fox telling the hen, "Sit quietly while I have you for lunch," is a little much!

As I understand, the German Air Force refuses to fly on Sundays, also Holloman is close to Bliss where other German nationals are stationed - thus facilitating a shuttle for those who wish to fly to Germany.

Previously, I stated that I would like to see the utilization rate data for existing Bombing, Fighter planes bases, ranges, not only of the Air Force, but also of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

The U.S. Military must recognize that the Population of the US and the world is increasing while the land mass is not (if it is, it is by incremental amounts).

Therefore, better utilization of existing military areas must be made - Lands such as the Otero Mesa and surrounding areas must be returned to full public utilization.

Peg Breney

Peg Briney National Director-at-Large Izaak Walton League of America

85. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

86. Existing and proposed airspace utilization relative to the *Proposed Expansion of GAF Operations at Holloman AFB, New Mexico*, is presented in Chapter 2 of the EIS evaluating that action. It was prepared by the USAF in April 1998. The Army utilization rates for the McGregor Range airspace are described in Section 3.2 of the LEIS.

WILLIAM F. BRINEY, M.D., F.A.C.S. COL AUS (RET) 1406 HIGHLAND ROAD . ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO 88201 625 1089 623-1244 2Fef-99 On anay Vluet Program Manager. FE8 4 700 M. Gregor Range Silitary hand Withdrawal Peneval U.S. army ain Defense artilley Center and Ft Bliss attn: ATZC-CSA PO BOX 6020 Ft Bliss, Texas 79906 Dear Sir: By this writing I wish to comment for your review on the issue of the Mc Gregor Range hand Withdrowal Renewal. The McGregoz registative Environ-mental Frapad Statement offers six atternatives. afternative one - the army's proposed action-provides no opportunities to cloved the problem of degradation of the unique environmentally poluble area and is therefore insuitable atternative five - the no-action alternative is equally unsuitable as it would block essential military ground operation in the area. afternative two is unsuitable as it would senew the withdrawol of Otero Nesa, The area which has great environmental value. atternatives three and four have value as offering apportunities to protect these environmentally volvable areas but

87. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the Final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

- 88. Your comment was considered during preparation of the Final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 89. The Army's proposed action continues the current public access and BLM co-management of McGregor Range.
- 90. The Army employs various planning cycles for different aspects of its mission. For example, the Army uses a 6-year programming cycle for operational activities with facility planning over a 20-year horizon. Doctrinal and equipment life-cycle planning can extend over a period of 40 years or more. The proposed 50-year withdrawal period encompasses each of these periods and enables long-term national security plans to rely on a stable land resource.

Different (shorter or longer) withdrawal periods would not substantially change the environmental impacts of a land allocation decision. Continuing stewardship and compliance activities would be required regardless of duration. Public and/or agency participation in ongoing environmental management activities on McGregor Range is assured through existing laws, regulations, and policies as listed in Table 1.6-1. The Army is committed to continuing public participation under NEPA as major new actions that could significantly affect the environment are proposed for the installation. The McGregor Range RMPA, jointly prepared by the BLM and the Army provides for continuing public participation. The annual RMP update informs the public of the progress made in implementing the RMPA. The Army's INRMP and ICRMP contain provisions for agency coordination and revision as necessary every 5 years.

Continued on Next Page

90. Continued
Together, these regulatory requirements, policies, and procedures will ensure opportunities for both public and agency input into the future.

## McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Comment and Response Document

## 91 |

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BURLINGTON RESOURCES FEB 1 1 FECT.

MID-CONTINENT DIVISION
February 4, 1999
VIA: E-MAIL

mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

Dr. Andy Vliet, DPhil Program Manager, McGregor Renewal U. S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center & Fort Bliss Attn: PO. Box 6020

Re: Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal

Dear Mr. Vliet:

Ft. Bliss, Texas 79906

Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company ("BR") appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS). We participated in the public scoping via letter dated January 8, 1998.

BR is the largest independent (non-integrated) oil and gas exploration and production company in the United States in terms of total domestic proved equivalent reserves. Those reserves were estimated to be equivalent to 8.0 trillion cubic feet of natural gas (TCFE) on December 31, 1998. We are the lessee of approximately ten- percent of the federal leases held by production and operate approximately ten percent of all wells located on federal oil and gas leases. BR currently has interest in the Bennett Ranch Unit, a recent commercial discovery east of McGregor Range and nominated for leasing over 200,000 acres in Otero County in early 1998. Therefore we are extremely interested in how oil and gas resources and associated activities will be managed by this LEIS.

Based upon preliminary geologic understanding of the McGregor Range, BR believes this area to have potential for oil and gas exploration and production. More subsurface evaluation of this area, such as seismic activity and/or wildcat drilling, is needed before further conclusive information can be determined. At a minimum BR believes that the McGregor Range, currently the areas open for multiple use, should be available for leasing.

The following are issues and concerns that we believe should be considered prior to the publication of the Final LEIS:

- As stated in our "scoping" letter, BR seeks understanding of why the 271,000 acres, currently designated for non-military co-use, does not provide for mineral exploration. The LEIS, <u>Section 3.1.2.2 Nonmilitary Use</u>, states, "about 100,00 acres are open for oil and gas, and geothermal leasing......" Moreover, this issue, our question, was not addressed in <u>Section 1.5.2.2 Issues Identified in Scoping</u>, page 1-15 in the LEIS.
- Sec 2.1.2 Nonmilitary Uses of Withdrawn Land (under Alternative 1, page2-13): This
  section does not provide for mineral leasing, however does provide for other multiple uses.

3300 N. "A" St., Bldg. 6, 79705-5406, P.O. Box 51810, Midland, Texas 79710-1810, Telephone 915-688-6800

91. We agree that more subsurface evaluation of McGregor Range is needed to better evaluate the potential for oil and gas production. As stated in the *Energy and Minerals* subsection (page 3.1-6) in Section 3.1.2.2 in the *Land Use* chapter, about 100,000 acres of the range currently are open for oil and gas leasing, subject to Army approval. No revisions to the text are necessary.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

- 92. This issue was added to Section 1.5.2.2, *Issues Identified in Scoping.* The RMPA and the Proposed RMPA, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range*, that are referenced in the Section 1.5.3, specifically address issues relative to leasable and locatable minerals. The decision to open only 100,000 acres due to suitability for leasable minerals was discussed in those documents.
- 93. A reference has been added to the end of the first paragraph in Section 2.1.2, as follows: "Exploration and development of mineral resources are managed by the BLM in accordance with the White Sands RMP as amended."

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BR suggests that mineral leasing be considered in this section or a justification as to why it is not. The development of mineral resources is an integral part of multiple use management programs providing the benefits of increased domestic supplies of oil and gas along with substantial federal revenues from lease and production sales.

- ◆ The discussion on oil and gas in <u>Section 3.5 Earth Resources</u>, tends to be vague and lacking current science. It would be beneficial to add the number of wells per township or number of wells per square miles to the first paragraph on page 3.5-9 for clarification and understanding. The second paragraph tends to be speculative and opinionated; not factual. It should make mention of the recent discovery located on Otero Mesa. The third paragraph is speculative as well; it would be difficult to determine reservoir capacity based upon what little exploration activity has occurred in the past. This paragraph also mentions that there have been no formal requests for exploration on McGregor Range; however there has been "informal" interest—a seismic spec shoot.
- Section 4.10 Socio-economics: Socioeconomic considerations and benefits from oil and gas activities were not considered in the LEIS; "Preliminary investigations indicate low to moderate potential for oil and gas resources, and petroleum exploration and development on the range appears unlikely." BR believes that socio-economics relating to petroleum exploration and development be discussed in this section. Oil and gas exploration and development would clearly be beneficial to the local economy of Otero County. Under the current management plan, McGregor Range military employees tend to live in El Paso. Otero County does not significantly benefit from this arrangement.
- Under the current McGregor Range Management Plan, mineral leasing is addressed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the New Mexico BLM and the U.S. Department of the Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss. (See Appendix Λ in the draft LEIS.) BR believes that legislation should be considered to address mineral leasing. Legislation may be the vehicle for the MOU so that it extends through, and is not affected by the expiration of the McGregor Range LEIS. This method would also eliminate military discretion when addressing leasing matters. However, the BLM must ensure their management practices are in accordance with their multiple use mandate.
- While BR appreciates the military's need for the lands within the McGregor Range, BR supports alternatives that would allow oil and gas activity along with other multiple uses. Examples of energy exploration and development operations taking place on military ranges are numerous including: China Lake Naval Base in California and Ft. Chaffe in Arkansas.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal LEIS. Please contact me at (915) 688-9042 if you have any questions in regards to our comments or to oil and gas exploration and development operations.

Eileen D. Dey

Regulatory Compliance Supervisor

McGregor Range LEIS Comments

February 4, 1998 Page 2 of 2

- 94. The information on oil and gas exploration in the Tularosa Basin in Section 3.5, Earth Resources, is a general summary and is not intended to go into specific detail. The information was summarized from the *Minerals and Energy* Resource Assessment of the McGregor Range, August 1998, prepared for the withdrawal application. Additional information from this study is provided in Appendix C of the LEIS. However, Section 3.5.1 discusses energy resources such as oil and gas and Figure 3.5-1 shows the locations and depths of oil test wells in the McGregor Range area. The information in Section 3.5.1 was obtained from the most recent appraisals available. Obviously, when and if significant discoveries are made in the basin, the appraisals will require revision. The recent discovery on Otero Mesa, east of McGregor Range is discussed in the section and was mentioned previously in Section 3.1.2.2. We have no information on the "seismic spec shoot," but the paragraph on page 3.5-9 notes the expression of "informal" interest in future exploration by oil companies. No revisions to the text are necessary.
- 95. Data necessary to evaluate the socioeconomic effects of oil and gas development on McGregor Range was not available during the development of this LEIS. Information required for such an analysis includes the number of employees that would be committed to the effort, where they would reside, what their wage scale would be, when the exploration and development would take place, the amount of the oil and gas to be placed on the market, the expected market price, and the costs associated with the exploration and drilling. The geotechnical probability of the occurrence of developable deposits was discussed in Section 3.5 as summarized from the minerals and energy study (U.S. Army, 1998g) prepared for the withdrawal application.

Continued on Next Page

## Continued

- 96. As discussed in Section 3.1.2.2, McGregor Range is closed to locatable minerals. Under the McGregor Range RMPA and the 1990 MOU between the Army and the BLM, there are provisions for 5-year reviews of the possibility of opening a portion of McGregor Range to locatable mineral exploration and development. Portions of McGregor Range are open to oil and gas and geothermal leasing and for saleable materials disposal. Additional legislative authority for minerals leasing is not required.
- 97. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

,	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement			
Thank you for your input NOV 1 2 REC				
PLEASE PRI	NT DATE_	November 9, 1998		
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NAME:				
ADDRESS:	Marjorie F. Graham 2915 Federal Ave. El Paso, TX 79930			
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98. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. However, specific information regarding the proposal for widening U.S. Highway 54 along McGregor Range was not available during the preparation of this report.

-	Written Comment Sheet	IAN	2 3 BEC
	McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal	UAN	
	Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement		
	Thank you for your input		
PLEASE	PRINT DATE ( - \	8.9	9
	Rather than express thoughts over sections of the various 6 alternatives, I will just like to give a review. I have been involved in several Federal DLEIS and found this one not much different to previous ones reviewed. There are always some controversies, politics, and often threatening of whatever is recommended.	an overall han	•
	One section is noted with specific comments only		
	My observations of this particular LEIS was one which I wish I had had the time and commitmed review more closely. An on-site review of some of the areas being considered for a return to the domain would have been nice as well. I believe that many of us would have found an on-site remore informative. Maybe I missed the offer for a tour since I live in Carlsbad, NM.	e public	h
	Alternative 1 probably is the most sensible option but Alternative #6, where Congress could the Otero Mesa and Sacramento Mountain foothills as a National Conservation Area and Culp the wilderness area is a most intriguing idea. I would like to study this alternative in more detail if considered.	Canyon as	a
	I have serious concerns about turning any previously "protected lands being "returned to or put domain. I find few peoples willing to "take care" of what is given to them.	into publi	c
	Section 4.8 Biological resources - Often, our protected lands, especially those on military reservanique "islands" of biodiversity. The United States Government should access any changes of Military lands are often an untouched and unique ecological system.		:
	Concerns about fire hazards seem trivial at best. Accidental fires produced by humans have litt compared to what nature has to offer. It is seen regularly that prescribed burns do much to buil environment. Animals will survive as will the diversity of other biological specimens.		CF
	End of my comments for this LEIS. Although I have indicated that I do not wish to receive a cifinal LEIS, I would be most interested in being kept informed of all future develops of the McClange Land Withdrawal Renewal process.	iregor	
NAME:	Patricia L. Jablonsky 604 Southern Sky		
ADDRESS	5: 604 Southern Sky		
CITY:	Carlabad		
STATE, ZI	PCODE New Merico, 88220		
PHONE N	UMBER (505) 887-6668		
Please	e check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Feder	al Express	Delivery)
No.	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999		
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager		
	U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)		
	P.O. Box 6020		

Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil 99. The Army's proposal would continue the record of sound environmental stewardship established over the past 40 years.

JAN 2 8 RECTO Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal

Thank you for your input

DATE /\_ 22-99

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Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement
ALTERNATIVES 1- 6	No MENTION OF GERMAN BOMBINGRANGE
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33%	AND/OR OTHER FIRINGS, THUS ELIMINATING
	Need FOR MILITARY USE OF MEGREGOR
	RANGE

Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

\*\* \*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*

NAME: ANNA J MILLICAN

ADDRESS: PO BOX 87

HIGH ROLLS NM STATE, ZIP CODE 88325

PHONE NUMBER ( 505 ) 682 - 3066

Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)

### PLEASE HAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

- 100. The Army's principal requirement for McGregor Range is to support ADA training, and other activities such as the USAF tactical target complex are discussed throughout the document. Table ES-3 in the Executive Summary illustrates the capability for training that requires air-to-ground surface impact areas as the Otero Mesa site. This refers to the USAF target complex. As stated in the LEIS Section 1.5.3. Other Environmental Analyses and Decisions Relevant to the Action, the USAF EIS was incorporated by reference into this LEIS. In general, the tactical target complex is discussed under each resource evaluation of Alternative 1 in this LEIS. Details of the operational and environmental impacts of the tactical target complex may be found in the USAF document. The tactical target complex is shown on Figure 2.1-1.
- 101. The alternatives of this LEIS include renewing the withdrawal in its current configuration or withdrawing a different amount of land. Although the No Action Alternative would allow retirees and others more access to the range, it is unlikely that any of the alternatives presented to Congress will generate activities that significantly affect retirement living in the region.
- 102. Under DoD policy for the use of major range and test facilities such as WSMR, evaluation of routine use for training such as conducted at McGregor Range is not permitted.

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	some folks lift in the militar
	and for government who can.
	be trusted what a refreshing
	change that would be.

## **NEW MEXICO NATURAL HISTORY INSTITUTE**

A Nonprofit Corporation 1750 Camino Corrales Santa Fe, New Mexico 87605-7502

5 February 1999

McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Renewal U. S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

### Dear MRMLWR:

It's a big book and it's taken a long time to get through it. Clearly written, with much valuable information.

103

However, some of the information is hard to believe. In particular in Table ES-1 on consequences of the six alternatives for army operations, effects seem exaggerated. From our understanding of where operations are carried out or where, it appears, they could easily be relocated, a loss of 89 to 100% of the Patriot program and of 89 to 100% of the McGregor Launch Complex under Alternative 6 seems completely unrealistic. Just shift the targets a bit to the west.

104

One military mission is environmentally unacceptable and deserves to lose 100% under all alternatives: the proposed USAF tactical target on Otero Mesa. That kind of pressure—especially including aircraft noise—would be extremely damaging to wildlife and to the fine habitat of the Mesa.

105

We favor Alternative 6, perhaps modified as discussed in the next paragraph. Our reasons for choosing 6 are (1) it protects the most valuable natural resources of the McGregor Range without destroying too much of the military usefulness of the Range; (2) it would bring some balance between the military's very extensive land-holdings in south-central New Mexico and the public's right to use public lands; (3) it would create Culp Canyon Wilderness, which is the right designation for those out-of-the-way foothills lands; and (4) it would preclude the use of Otero Mesa as an aircraft target range—a terrible idea.

106

It is unfortunate that most of the fee-owned land would be excluded from McGregor Range under Alternative 6. To meet this problem we propose exchange of those lands for BLM lands in the western part of the Range. We do not think that natural-resource values in Training Units 10, 11, and the western half of 12 are as high as values to the east, and we think that retention of those areas in the Range would not much damage the public interest. Were that done, the fee-owned lands could be blocked up in those units by exchange with BLM.

Floge/S. Peterson Secretary

- 103. For safety purposes, it is necessary to keep the SDZs within the Range boundaries. Therefore, a simple shift to the west is not feasible.
- 104. Aircraft noise and other potential impacts from development of the tactical target complex was presented in the Final EIS, Proposed Expansion of GAF Operations at HAFB, New Mexico, April 1998.
- 105. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 106. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.



EL PASO REGIONAL GROUP

800.S. PIEDRAS ST. • EL PASO, TEXAS 79905 • (915) 532-9645 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9191 • El Paso, Texas 79983

February 8, 1999

FEB 9 RECTO

Dr. Andrew Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Re: McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Dr. Vliet:

The El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club has a long-standing interest in McGregor Range and resource-management issues involving the Range. We offer these comments on the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for renewal of the land withdrawal for the Range.

- One concern we have is with the length of the withdrawal. We believe 50 years is too long. The Draft Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan has a 20-year planning horizon. The withdrawal should match this time frame, and we ask that the alternative of a 20-year withdrawal be evaluated.
- (p. ES-14, lines 4-14) We request that the measures found in the MOU and RMPA and alluded to here be sent to Congress for inclusion, as mandated actions, in the withdrawal legislation.
- 3. (p. 2-2, lines 11-13) If the Forest Service lands within McGregor Range are used under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Forest Service rather than being withdrawn, why can't other areas, such as Otero Mesa, be used under similar MOUs? The Alternatives section should discuss this option for the lands that would not be withdrawn under Alternatives 2, 3 and 4.

Also, we note that the MOU between the Forest Service and Fort Bliss is dated 1971. The 1988 Master Agreement between the Department of

"To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Earth."

107. The Army employs various planning cycles for different aspects of its mission. For example, the Army uses a 6-year programming cycle for operational activities with facility planning over a 20-year horizon. Doctrinal and equipment life-cycle planning can extend over a period of 40 years or more. The proposed 50-year withdrawal period encompasses each of these periods and enables long-term national security plans to rely on a stable land resource.

Different (shorter or longer) withdrawal periods would not substantially change the environmental impacts of a land allocation decision. Continuing stewardship and compliance activities would be required regardless of duration. Public and/or agency participation in ongoing environmental management activities on McGregor Range is assured through existing laws, regulations, and policies as listed in Table 1.6-1. The Army is committed to continuing public participation under NEPA as major new actions that could significantly affect the environment are proposed for the installation. The McGregor Range RMPA, jointly prepared by the BLM and the Army provides for continuing public participation. The annual RMP update informs the public of the progress made in implementing the RMPA. The Army's INRMP and ICRMP contain provisions for agency coordination and revision as necessary every 5 years. Together, these regulatory requirements, policies, and procedures will ensure opportunities for both public and agency input into the future.

- 108. The MOU that is incorporated in the RMPA is presented in Appendix A of the LEIS. This document is a part of the case file information that will support the legislation.
- 109. The FLPMA [43 CFR 1702(j)] states the purpose of a withdrawal is to limit activities in order to maintain other public values or to reserve the area for a particular public purpose or program. Minimizing public safety risks from military training and testing activities requires reserving McGregor Range from settlement, sale, location, or entry. It

Continued on Next Page

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109

Dr. Andrew Vliet February 8, 1999 Page 2

109 cont.

Defense and the Department of Agriculture concerning use of National Forest System lands for military activity (pp. A-35 to A-38) would appear to supersede the 1971 MOU. The 1988 Master Agreement requires that the Department of Defense seek special use authorizations for military training activities on National Forest System lands (Sec. V). Further, it stipulates that those training activities are actions that require a NEPA analysis (Sec. III.B). Has the Army complied with these requirements in its training activities on Lincoln National Forest lands? We request discussion of these points; it would help clear up any misunderstandings we may have.

110

4. (pp. 2-4, 2-5; Figure 2.1-1, Table 2.1-1) This figure and table appear to indicate that Training Area 10 is closed to public access. Our membership has historically been granted access to this area, which has some of the most appealing scenery on McGregor Range. Will it now be off limits to the public? We would strongly oppose such a closure. Please clarify the access status of these lands.

111

- (p. 2-10, lines 41-42; p. 3.1-12, lines 41-50; p. 4.1-5, lines 16-17) The analysis of recreational use of McGregor Range is flawed and misleading. For several reasons, the draft EIS underestimates the level of recreational interest in the Range:
  - Up until last summer, public access to entire training areas was denied any time even a single Fort Bliss individual or contract employee was conducting activities in any part of a training area. This policy included weekends, the time when the public would most likely seek access.
  - This restrictive policy was changed last summer to allow greater public access, but the data used for the EIS analysis were collected under the old policy. Those data thus do not reflect current or future conditions.
  - Members of the public who were denied access under the old policy were not always recorded as seeking access. Our members, on being denied access, have specifically asked the Fort Bliss staffer taking their call at the check-in number if Fort Bliss is supposed to log in the request. The response has always been, no, they don't do that.
  - The process for obtaining access permits is difficult and cumbersome.
     It discourages the public from seeking permits. The Range
     Enforcement Office is an hour's drive from many parts of El Paso. It
     is closed on weekends, forcing many individuals to use vacation time
     if they want to get a permit.

## 109. Continued

is incumbent upon the federal government to control public access to hazardous areas through withdrawal or transfer.

Military activities in the Lincoln National Forest were described in the Army's EIS for the Land Use Withdrawal McGregor Range Fort Bliss, Texas, August 1977. Present military activities are described in the *Draft Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan PEIS*, July 1998.

- 110. Figure 2.1-1 has a diagonal line hatch pattern to denote areas of public access. TA 10 is included in the portion of McGregor Range that the Army proposes for continuing public access.
- 111. As recognized in the comment, the policy restrictions on public access have been modified during the development of this LEIS. The Army has considered the comments received throughout the public involvement process. The data required to estimate future public use that would allow quantitative evaluation in the final LEIS are not available. All persons are required to coordinate access and use with the Range Commander (through the Range Scheduling Office) to ensure safety and to avoid interference with military missions. This procedure applies to government employees. contractors, and the public at large. Current access procedures allow concurrent use of some areas for a military mission or Army and BLM maintenance and resource survey activities, with public recreational use. Members of the public can obtain annual recreation access permits from either the Army or BLM. The Army is currently considering procedures that would be automated to the degree possible to facilitate public access while maintaining public safety.

Dr. Andrew Vliet February 8, 1999 Page 3

111 cont.

It would seem the number of people desiring access could be much higher than the number actually granted access. The EIS should be corrected to reflect this. We request that a clear access policy be stated in the EIS and in the withdrawal legislation, so access will not be subject to change with each new commander.

Finally, though the EIS covers a 50-year time frame, it does not take into account the inevitable increase in outdoor-recreational interest that will accompany population growth in the Southwest during this period. We request that the Environmental Consequences section be revised to indicate this expected increase in recreational interest.

112

(p. 2-13, lines 40-42) In our comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan, we noted that, ultimately, the Army and the BLM are going to have to choose between training or grazing on Otero Mesa. The grassland ecosystem does not have the capacity to sustain both activities. The McGregor Withdrawal EIS must discuss this issue and arrive at a decision on whether the Army will commit to a policy of not training in areas where grazing is occurring on black grama grasslands.

113

(p. 2-15, lines 4-8) As discussed in comment 5 above, the current policy for obtaining access permits actively discourages the public from getting permits. Why make people go all the way to McGregor Range? Why can't the Fort Bliss post issue permits? In the computer age, one would think this would be simple.

Also, why can't permit holders bring a friend when they visit the Range? Current policy prohibits a permit holder from, for example, bringing an outof-town weekend guest on the Range for a hike. Why can't the permit cover a limited number of accompanied guests?

We request that these issues be addressed in the EIS. We are very concerned about the current overly restrictive permit policy.

114

(p. 2-21, lines 46-51) Since some of our members work on White Sands Missile Range, we are aware that, during Roving Sands, participants in that exercise use areas all the way from Fort Bliss to the north end of White Sands, near Socorro, New Mexico. It is not at all clear to us how the loss of Otero Mesa, a small area relative to the huge area used in Roving Sands, would significantly affect training. Please explain. Also, could not this area be used under agreement with the BLM, since it is only used once a year?

- 112. The two activities mentioned (grazing and training) are compatible actions and have co-existed on Otero Mesa since 1966. This area is considered by many to be in excellent environmental condition after almost 34 years of co-use. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 113. The Army is currently considering procedures that would be automated to the degree possible to facilitate public access while maintaining public safety. The request for accompanied guests is being considered by the Range Commander.
- 114. Section 1.2.2.3 discusses other mission activities on McGregor Range in addition to the annual Roving Sands Joint Training Exercise (JTX). The principal mission that requires the Otero Mesa for on-going military training is the air defense training mission, in particular, the Patriot training. Figure 2.1-2 illustrates a full range of Patriot training scenarios that can be accomplished with the present land withdrawal. Figures 2.2-2 through 2.4-2 illustrate how the loss of Otero Mesa, even though it is a small area relative to the area used for Roving Sands, would significantly affect training for this critical mission.

The FLPMA [43 CFR 1702(j)] states the purpose of a withdrawal is to limit activities in order to maintain other public values or to reserve the area for a particular public purpose or program. Minimizing public safety risks from military training and testing activities requires reserving McGregor Range from settlement, sale, location, or entry. It is incumbent upon the federal government to control public access to hazardous areas through withdrawal or transfer.

115

 (p. 3.8-12, lines 36-38) The public's ability to evaluate the adequacy of the impact analysis is compromised by the absence of information from the biological assessment. The final EIS needs to provide full details of Section 7 consultations.

116

 (p. 4.8-39, lines 1-4) We strongly disagree with the statement that no mitigation measures are required. Mitigation is absolutely necessary, especially in light of the proposed increase in use of the black grama grasslands.

117

Further, we understand Fort Bliss is a Training and Doctrine Command post, but all training is done by Forces Command units. Apparently for this reason, Training and Doctrine Command will not fund any monitoring or mitigation of training impacts created by Forces units. This incredible catch-22 is a major impediment to sound resource management on McGregor Range.

1181

We also understand environmental funds can be, and are at times, diverted for non-environmental projects. For these reasons, we request that the following mitigation measures be discussed in the EIS and submitted to Congress with the EIS:

- a. The withdrawal legislation should commit to a yearly appropriation of environmental funds for impact monitoring and mitigation to make up for the lack of Training and Doctrine Command funds available for this purpose.
- Congress should stipulate clearly that these funds could be used only for the above-stated purpose.
- c. The withdrawal legislation should guarantee that the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and the Integrated Training Area Management program for Fort Bliss will be funded until expiration of the withdrawal.
- d. The withdrawal should be limited to a 20-year period.
- A public oversight or participation process should be established so the public can be brought into the environmental compliance process, become aware of compliance issues, and assist, if appropriate, in their resolution.

- 115. Fort Bliss has been consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) since 1997. The *Threatened and Endangered Species* section of *Affected Environment* (Section 3.8) explains the habitat for listed species that occur, and describes their status. Section 4.8 provides potential impacts on sensitive species of renewing the withdrawal under each of the configuration alternatives.
- 116. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 117. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 118. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

3-6

Dr. Andrew Vilet February 8, 1999 Page 5  1. The black grama grasslands should be protected through a commitment to allow either grazing or training, but not both, in any given gram grassland rea. The grasslands below the meas that are designated nationally significant should be set aside from ground disturbance, since these are among the last ungrazed grama grasslands.  Thank you for this opportunity to comment.  Very truly yours,  Laurence Gibson Chairman		
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Very truly yours,  Laurence Gibson		
Laurence Gibson		
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Chairman		
	Chairman	

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## Wildlife Management Institute

Len H. Carpenter, Field Representative
4015 Cheney Drive \* Fort Collins, Colorado 80526
Phone (970) 223-1099 \* Fax (970) 204-1998
E-Mail - explant@intersenroma. Jenc & Verinet, Com

ROLLIN D. SPARROWE President LONNIE L. WILLIAMSON Vice-President RICHARD E. McCABE

February 3, 1999

McGregor Range Withdrawal, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, ATTN: ATZC-CSA, PO Box 6020, Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Mr. Vliet:

I am the Southwest Field Representative for the Wildlife Management Institute. The Institute is a private, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization founded in 1911 and dedicated to the restoration, conservation, and sound management of natural resources, especially wildlife, in North America. I have the following comments on the DLEIS for the military withdrawal on McGregor Range, New Mexico.

Overall, the DLEIS is well organized and prepared. It presents a thorough coverage of the issues and provides for a nice range of alternatives. A key finding in the report is the fact that vegetation cover of all major habitat types on the McGregor Range decreased from 1986 to 1996 (Figure G-3; Tables G-5 & G-6). Most of these decreases are more than 10%. This finding should concern all responsible for the long-term stability of this landscape. The disturbing thing is that cover of both shrub lands and grasslands decreased. I can only conclude that this means that there is more bare ground that is absent of any vegetative cover. If this is true, this is a frightening occurrence and suggests that overall land management strategies need to change. In my professional opinion the authors of the FDEIS do not address this finding adequately in the report. The FLEIS should address this finding and thoroughly explore the ramifications.

Given the long-term threat to the overall ecological well-being of this landscape under current management practices it seems that now is the time to make the land use changes suggested in the alternatives. Since the land withdrawal that will occur in this action is long term (50 years) it is critical that alternatives that provide for the protection of key ecological resources are done now. Therefore it seems that either alternative 2 or 3 should be seriously considered if indeed there is serious interest in the environmental impacts of the proposed action. Obviously, alternative 5 or 6

119. The limitations of the methodology used to derive the quantitative results was expressly noted in the LEIS, Section 4.8.7.1. "The images used in the analysis represent a snapshot view of conditions for 2 days 10 years apart, and do not represent trends in vegetation cover. The number of observations over time correlates to the reliability of the trend analysis." This caveat being said, the resources being devoted to development of this monitoring program is an indication of the Army's concern for the long-term stability of this landscape not only from a natural resource management perspective but also from the requirement to have quality training lands available to support the mission.

120. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

Washington, DC Office: 1101 14th Street, NW • Suite 801 • Washington, DC 20005 • Phone (202) 371-1808 • FAX (202) 408-5059

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3-6

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal LEIS

- 2

would be the best choice for the long-term ecological welfare of the lands in question. Now is the time to protect these valuable natural landscapes and allow opportunity for the American people to enjoy them. However, given the adverse impacts of these alternatives on the military mission it is highly doubtful these alternatives will receive much attention from the Army. The LFEIS should discuss the tradeoffs, benefits, and adverse impacts of each alternative on the long term welfare of the land and on the military mission. As a reader and reviewer I could only wish that the adverse impacts of each alternative on the environment could be as thoroughly and dramatically graphed as were the impacts of each alternative on the military mission in Table ES-1 on page ES-13. Please consider such an approach for the LFEIS.

Finally, in discussions on impacts on wildlife species, especially impacts on amphibians and reptiles and on other sensitive species I find the LDEIS inadequately relays the probable negative impacts of continuing existing land use strategies. Loss of vegetative cover, impacts of mancaused fires, and over all environmental degradation all spell doom for many of these species in a large portion of the land withdrawal. Given the large costs to the taxpayers of this nation when animals become endangered it seems that the negative impacts of the proposed alternatives need to be elucidated better in the LFEIS. Citizens of this country should better understand some of the long-term ecological and financial costs of land management decisions.

Thanks for the opportunity for comment. I request that my concerns and suggestions be considered as the LFEIS is prepared.

Sincerely,

Con H. Carpenter

Len H. Carpenter

cc:

R. Sparrowe

wmi\let\mcgregor2

- 121. The Army believes the LEIS has disclosed the potential benefits and adverse impacts of each of the alternative amounts of land that Congress could withdraw for military use. Impacts specific to current or future individual missions and locations have been or will be analyzed in project-specific NEPA documentation. Ways to improve the communication of effects on the environmental resources was considered for the final LEIS.
- 122. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

## **HEYCO**



## **HARVEY E. YATES COMPANY**

PETROLEUM PRODUCERS

P.O. BOX 1933 ONE SUNWEST CENTRE

505 / 823-6601 FAX 505 / 622-4221

February 8, 1999

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO 88202-1933

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Dr. Andy Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Range Renewal U. S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center @ Ft. Bliss

P. O. Box 6020 Ft. Bliss, Texas 79906

McGregor Range

Land Withdrawal/Renewal Draft LEIS

Dear Dr. Vliet:

Harvey E. Yates Company (HEYCO) appreciates being able to provide comments for the McGregor Range Withdrawal renewal process. HEYCO is a small, privately owned independent oil and gas operator and producer located in Roswell, New Mexico with current production over 3,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day from over 200 wells. As part of the Yates family of companies, HEYCO has experience in all phases of Oil and Gas operations going back more than 70 years. HEYCO is currently the operator of the Bennett Ranch Federal Unit on which a recent significant gas discovery was made just east of the McGregor Range.

HEYCO is interested in any process under which the McGregor Range lands and the Orogrande Basin would be opened up to oil and gas exploration and operations. Our understanding of the Orogrande Basin leads us to believe that this area has significant potential for oil and oas production from similar hydrocarbon traps and reservoirs as found at Bennett Ranch and the Permian Basin general. HEYCO believes that it is in the region's best interest to facilitate a more thorough subsurface evaluation of this area by way of multiple use and leasing that includes extractive minerals and oil and gas operations.

The following comments and statements reflect concerns that should be addressed prior to the Final

DLEIS

pa.#. /line#. Comment

CS-1/15-29, ES-1/31-32

The Army's Application is for a 50-year period. No explanation or supporting statement(s) is given here for this time frame, and none of the alternatives are set out for a different time frame. Comment: 50 yrs. is too long a period of withdrawal. REASONS: Technology evolvement is and should be on a faster pace than every 50 yrs.; no connection between the current renewal process and a future process: 50 yrs. greatly exceeds working lifetime of all investigators involved (the last renewal period was for 15 yrs).

**124** 

MOU with USFS has no dates for expiration listed. Will it continue unchanged if USFS lands continue to be withdrawn? No statement is given here.

ES-1/44-47

MOU with BLM expires in 2001 unless canceled or renewed. What is proposed by the Army, cancellation or renewal? If renewal, will responsibilities and mission remain the same? No statement is given here.

ES-2/15-16 126

WSMR uses the Fort Bliss Training Complex (McGregor Range) for limited tests, Is this occasional use. or otherwise? What %? Is the converse true as well? Does Ft. Bliss use WSMR for limited tests? 123. The Army employs various planning cycles for different aspects of its mission. For example, the Army uses a 6-year programming cycle for operational activities with facility planning over a 20-year horizon. Doctrinal and equipment life-cycle planning can extend over a period of 40 years or The proposed 50-year withdrawal period more. encompasses each of these periods and enables long-term national security plans to rely on a stable land resource.

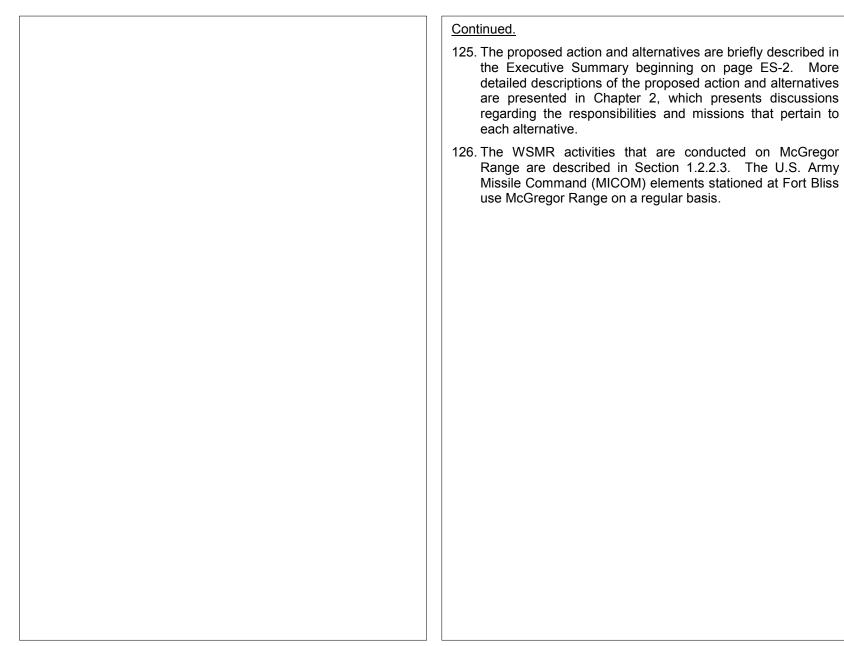
Different (shorter or longer) withdrawal periods would not substantially change the environmental impacts of a land allocation decision. Continuing stewardship and compliance activities would be required regardless of duration. Public and/or agency participation in ongoing environmental management activities on McGregor Range is assured through existing laws, regulations, and policies as listed in Table 1.6-1. The Army is committed to continuing public participation under NEPA as major new actions that could significantly affect the environment are proposed for the installation. The McGregor Range RMPA, jointly prepared by the BLM and the Army provides for continuing public participation. The annual RMP update informs the public of the progress made in implementing the RMPA. The Army's INRMP and ICRMP contain provisions for agency coordination and revision as necessary every 5 years. Together, these regulatory requirements, policies, and procedures will ensure opportunities for both public and agency input into the future.

124. McGregor Range includes 18,004 acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands, which are used by the Army in accordance with a MOU between the USFS and the DA. Fort Bliss. The 18,004 acres of USFS lands are not part of the withdrawal renewal. The USFS lands will continue to be used by the Army under the existing MOU. The following sentence has been added to the text. "The 18.004 acres of USFS are not included in this withdrawal renewal."

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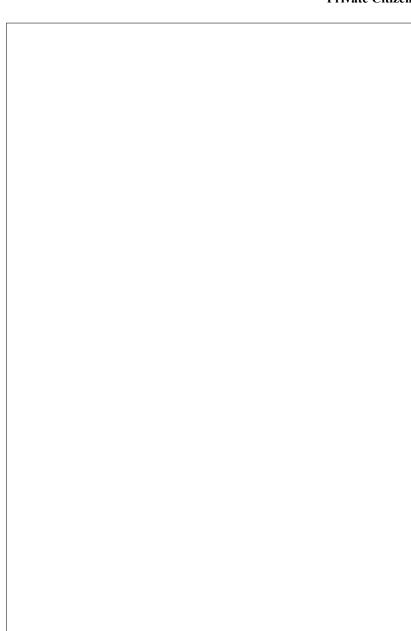


Dr. Andy Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Range Renewal February 8, 1999 Page 2 126 Cont. What %? Can that use be expanded? 127 Military uses of McGregor Lands are defined in two Ft. Bliss Documents. The documents are not in the Appendix, nor referenced to publicly locatable source. 128 Under Alternatives 2, 3, & 4, nothing is mentioned as to changes that impact any Army training procedures listed here. Why not? Are there really no current impacts involved? Also nothing is mentioned of Army costs (cleanup or otherwise) to make the change. 129 Alternative 5 (total return of McGregor Range to public domain) brings up for the first time the subject of land exchange. Maintaining the infrastructure around McGregor Range Camp, McGregor ASP, and Meyer Range seems to be of prime importance to the ARMY even if McGregor Range goes away. The idea of swapping fee-owned holdings for public domain lands, upon which the Army would have sole control as proposed here, seems to be beneficial even if Alternative 5 is not supported. Fee-owned holdings in the Sacramento Foothills most likely would have greater assessed value due to better fresh water rights and therefore could be swapped for a greater (disproportionate) amount of acreage on the Tularosa Basin desert floor flatiands. ES-6/19-23 130 McGregor installation facilities that would be relocated elsewhere are mentioned here but no listing is given of viable alternative locations or consolidation sites for such facilities, and cost or cost savings ES-6/28-40 131 Culp Canyon WSA has been hanging around for a long time. The Army/BLM should either get it designated as a Wilderness, put it back into multiple use status public domain land, or just drop the designation. Alternative 6, the creation of an NCA (what is involved in this designation--is this lust another non-legislative land withdrawal for an undefined length of time and non-specific environmental reasons?) has no explanation given here. ES-7/12-17 132 Ongoing environmental effects from mission activities and non-military activities would continue. Are there no ongoing cleanup and restoration activities that go on as well? FS-7/26-27 133 Ground troop maneuvering would no longer occur on lands returned to the public domain. This statement is not explained. Does the army already know that the BLM will not grant permits for activities on lands returned to public domain? ES-7/41-45 134 Restricted Area airspace could be reconfigured to change the vertical & lateral boundaries and procedures (MOA?). Why are no proposals for change listed with the various alternatives or explained Under alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5, periodic closures of NM Highway 506 would be reduced or eliminated, 135 which would be a beneficial impact. Yes, in fact, if alternatives 2, 3, or 6 are chosen, this road and right of way should be relocated and improved to connect from existing roads near Canon Eduardo Negro to NM 506 on top of Otero Mesa. Additional roads in Otero County and Hudspeth County, TX, should also be improved and paved giving the public access to an alternative route from Alamogordo to El Paso around the Ft. Bliss Military Reservations and WSMR. If Alternative 4 or 5 are chosen the existing road

should be improved and paved as part of the return of lands to the public domain.

- 127. The referenced documents are the *Training Area Development Concept (TADC)* and the *Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan PEIS*. The following libraries received copies of these documents: El Paso Public Library; Irving Schwartz Public Library; Westside Branch Library; Branigan Memorial Library; Dell City Library; Alamogordo Library; New Mexico State University, Bramson Library; New Mexico State University, Roswell Library; University of Texas at El Paso Library; Cloudcroft Library.
- 128. The Executive Summary briefly describes the proposed action and alternatives, but does not discuss the resulting impacts. Table 2.7-1 in Chapter 2 summarizes the Comparison of Alternatives by Resource and Potential Impacts. Detailed discussions of the impacts resulting from the actions are presented in Chapter 4. Cost analyses to implement the proposed action and alternatives are not typically part of the NEPA process.
- 129. As discussed in Section 2.5, *Alternative 5 No Action*, the Army fee-owned in-holdings within the lands returned to the public domain would be exchanged for public lands in TAs 8 and 32, to maintain essential infrastructure around McGregor Range Camp, the McGregor Ammunition Supply Point (ASP), and the Meyer Range Complex. Under the other five alternatives, the lands surrounding this infrastructure would remain withdrawn for military purposes, therefore, land exchanges would not be required.
- 130. Viable alternative locations for these facilities are not known at this time. However, it is known that should Alternative 5 be implemented, these ranges would no longer be useable for military purposes. Cost analyses of implementing the alternatives are not typically part of the NEPA process.
- 131. A detailed discussion of the Culp Canyon WSA and NCA designation are provided in Section 2.6. As stated in Section 2.6, these designations would be concurrent with or follow congressional action on the Army's application for renewal of the land withdrawal.

Continued on Next Page



## Continued

- 132. Military and nonmilitary activities, including restoration and remediation of contaminated areas, would continue under Alternative 1. A discussion of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) is presented in Section 3.14.3.1.
- 133. The FLPMA [43 CFR 1702(j)] states the purpose of a withdrawal is to limit activities in order to maintain other public values or to reserve the area for a particular public purpose or program. Minimizing public safety risks from military training and testing activities requires reserving McGregor Range from settlement, sale, location, or entry. It is incumbent upon the federal government to control public access to hazardous areas through withdrawal or transfer.
- 134. As discussed in Section 2.5, *Alternative 5 No Action*, restricted airspace above the land area could continue to be used for some aircraft training by Army aviation and USAF units within the region. Section 4.2.5 discusses changes to Restricted Area airspace that could occur should all air-to-ground and ground-to-air activities be discontinued. Any of these airspace actions would follow congressional action on the McGregor Range LEIS and would be evaluated under a separate NEPA process.
- 135. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

Dr. Andy Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Range Renewal February 8, 1999 Page 3

## ES-8/17-21

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### Earth Resources

"There would be no impacts to geological resources under any alternative, since the management practices of the current White Sands RRMP, as amended by the McGregor Range RMPA, are assumed to continue on all withdrawn, Army fee owned, and public domain lands with the current boundaries of McGregor Range." Statement is not true!! This should read... There would be no <u>additional</u> impacts to geological resources....The area, county and country are already impacted by the withdrawal of over a million acres of potentially productive hydrocarbon basin, and the economic impact such activities would generate.

## ES-8/29-33

This is another statement that currently conducted or planned military exercises could not be held on lands turned over to the public domain. How so, could the Army not apply for activity permits just like everyone else?

### ES-9/24-26

Water rights from the Sacramento River (which just barely crosses a corner of the Range) and Carrizo Springs (not on McGregor Range) should be transferred to the BLM or the USFS under Alternatives 1-8 not just 5 & 6. The BLM also should not be using diverted water to create <u>unnatural</u> habitat for the sake of native species survival or species reintroduction, and it shouldn't be in the grazing rights to the highest bidder business either, unless it is going to do so everywhere. Additional stockpiled Military water rights along the Sacramento Mtn., front and south of Alamogordo and not within McGregor Range, which are not mentioned in the LEIS, should also be given or sold back to the public domain.

## S-10/3-5

There is no map summarizing the location, extent and types of Cultural Resources on McGregor Range here. What is the distribution of these resources?

## ES-10/26-29

The Socioeconomics associated with the military, Fort Bliss, and the implementation of any of the proposed alternatives is significant, but where does nearly all of the money go? It goes to the Texas economy, not to New Mexico, where all of McGregor Range and more than 2/3 of Ft. Bliss's training areas are located. Continued use of McGregor Range and Dona Ana Range by the Army calls for a more significant benefit to the economy of New Mexico. Why doesn't the Army have a permanent cantonment of troops at Sacramento City (abandoned), or at the north end of the Range?

Why is there no mention of possible economic impacts or benefits from oil and gas exploration and operations here? (See attached Document 1)

## ES-10/30-31

Should read.... Additional **possibly significant** impacts can be expected from changes in the manner in which the natural resources of McGregor Range are utilized. Geco-Prakla (Schlumberger) has already proposed (10/98) a 540 mile speculative 2-D seismic survey that would cover a large portion of McGregor Range (This survey has subsequently been revised (2/99) to cover only the area of current access in the northeast comer of the Range. (See attachment 2). This proposed expenditure of approximately \$2,000,000 could kick off a major exploratory effort in the region if it goes forward.

## ES-10/45-48

Can it be assumed that this means the Army can and will completely clean up all metal, spent armor and unexploded ordnance under Alternative 5 to a level where they assume no future liability will occur? No cost is set out anywhere for remediation and restoration.

## ES11/3-5

The noise impacts resulting from the approved USAF target complex and the possible helicopter training range are not known or not estimated, just assumed to be insignificant. Are the land use compatibility

- 136. The LEIS compares the existing conditions on McGregor Range to the conditions that would exist if the alternatives were implemented. Implementation of the alternatives would not change the conditions of the existing geological resources. Therefore, no impacts would occur.
- 137. The FLPMA [43 CFR 1702(j)] states the purpose of a withdrawal is to limit activities in order to maintain other public values or to reserve the area for a particular public purpose or program. Minimizing public safety risks from military training and testing activities requires reserving McGregor Range from settlement, sale, location, or entry. It is incumbent upon the federal government to control public access to hazardous areas through withdrawal or transfer.
- 138. The Army water rights on the Sacramento River and Carrisa Springs pertain to the diversions for the McGregor Range pipeline systems, primarily for livestock, although the stated use is for preservation of wildlife. This system, originally constructed by ranchers, has been in place since the turn of the century, and, in all probability, will continue to be tied to McGregor Range, which is what the LEIS says here. However, any decisions or determinations regarding those rights will be up to the New Mexico State Engineer, not the military; nor is it the intent of the LEIS to suggest to the BLM how to conduct their business. We are not aware of any "additional stockpiled military water rights... not within McGregor Range," nor was any reference to such found in the State Engineer's files. No revisions to the text are necessary.
- 139. A more detailed discussion of the extent and types of cultural resources on McGregor Range is presented in Section 3.9 and Appendix E. In accordance with the *National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)* and common practices to protect these resources, a map summarizing their location has not been provided.

Continued on Next Page

- 140. The Army cantonment facilities have been concentrated at Fort Bliss proper and the three range camps: McGregor, Doña Ana, and Orogrande which is in the north of the Doña Ana Range–North Training Areas. While principally for supporting troops when they undergo field training, these camps have a small cadre of personnel stationed at them. All three of these range camps are in New Mexico. Section 3.5 discusses the probable level of energy resources on McGregor Range. The employment of the mining sector (including oils and gas) is presented in Table 3.10-4 while the earnings of this sector are shown in Table 3.10-7. The secondary employment attributable to this sector of the three-county economy is also presented in Table 3.10-6.
- 141. It is not known that the impacts would be significant. Therefore, no revisions to the text are necessary.
- 142. As stated in Section 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4, the Secretary of the Army would prepare a written determination concerning the contamination of the returned lands with explosive, toxic, or other hazardous substances. The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, would decide what decontamination, if necessary, is economically feasible given different potential future use and relative risk. Alternatively, the Secretary of the Interior could decide not to accept certain areas due to future liability, thereby necessitating transfer to the Army. Cost analyses of cleanup are not typically part of the NEPA process.
- 143. The noise impacts resulting from the approved USAF tactical target complex and the possible helicopter training range are discussed in Section 4.12.1. The land use compatibility guidelines are set for human activities. The guidelines were issued by the Federal Interagency Committee on Noise (FICON), which is composed of representatives from the DoD, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), EPA, and the Veterans Administration. A brief discussion of land use compatibility is presented in Appendix F, Section F.1.3.

Dr. Andy Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Range Renewal February 8, 1999 143 guidelines set for human activities or wildlife activities? Cont. 144 Scheduling prevents incompatible range-use conflicts. This statement should be true for all uses of McGregor Range (including Oil and Gas Exploratory and Production type activities), in areas where dismounted maneuvers can be conducted. Alternative 5, Ground and explosive safety risks will remain low. Low is not the same as non-existent. Is 145 the Army going to reclaim all of the acreage or not, under this alternative. 146 Do Army procedures and applicable hazardous material laws and regulations differ? 147 The Army does use hazardous chemicals, but there is no statement here as whether they use hazardous chemical weapons at McGregor Range. Principal Military mission at McGregor Range is air defense, weapons, and equipment operation and 148 training. McGregor is an Army base and shouldn't be used for basic Air Force training. No mention here of giving a portion of the Range to the Air Force for a new target complex for their training. ES-12/3-25 Conceptual forces (Army force XXI and Army after next) should be explained or dropped from 149 Figure ES-1 Table ES-1 150 It is hard to believe that On-Road Vehicle Maneuvers, Control Access FTX sites and use, and Dismounted Training would be up to 100% affected by alternatives 2-6. On-road vehicular and dismounted maneuvers could easily be conducted with permits and scheduling, and the Army should be able to permit an FTX site just like the Oil and Gas Industry would permit a drilling pad or location. Does the Military already know that the BLM will not permit such activities, or are they just reluctant to be in position where they're at the whims and time delays of another government agency? ES-14/6-7 151 1990 MOU implements a means to support environmental preservation and maintenance operations to the degree funding for the appropriate agency allows. The Army is making projections for greatly increased activity and therefore funding levels at McGregor Range continuing over a 50-year period. How accurate can this be given the USA political system and **Budget projections?** 152 There is no map in this section or Section 2 similar to 2.1.2 showing current use of the Range for comparison purposes in relation to proposed/projected usage (Alternative 1) or usage under the various

Alternatives. (Figure 2.1.2 shows potential, at least 1 potential new target surface danger zone)

Tables 2.1-2&3 Level of Military Use Criteria and Training Category(s) by Training Area. There is nothing like putting vague and misleading numbers to work!!! The table contains 28 Training Areas with Current Average Level of Use and Projected Training Level of Use. Putting numbers to the levels as in Table 2.1-2, the proposed and projected level of use for McGregor Rance is expected to increase by 38% and be

Section 2.0

153

- 144. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 145. The Army has an on-going evaluation of the ordnance and explosive hazards on McGregor Range, and will continue with studies and pursue clean-up actions to the extent resources are available. Potential hazards to public safety associated with the granting of public access in portions of McGregor Range, such as in the Tularosa Basin, may preclude return of this area to the public domain, necessitating transfer of that land to the Secretary of the Army for future clean-up. The text will be modified to reflect this circumstance.
- 146. The Army complies with all federal, state, and local hazardous materials laws and regulations. In some instances, Army procedures are more conservative than the federal, state, or local regulations.
- 147. The types and uses of hazardous chemicals used on McGregor Range are discussed in Section 3.14.1. McGregor Range is not used for the testing or training of chemical munitions.
- 148. The principal military mission on McGregor Range is training. Air defense training conducted at McGregor Range is essential to the nation's security. Portions of McGregor Range, such as the Class C Bombing Range, are currently used for other service training. The use of the USAF tactical target complex on Otero Mesa is discussed in Section 2.1.1 and shown on Figure 2.1-1.
- 149. Explanations were added to Section 1.2 and the glossary.
- 150. The FLPMA [43 CFR 1702(j)] states the purpose of a withdrawal is to limit activities in order to maintain other public values or to reserve the area for a particular public purpose or program. Minimizing public safety risks from military training and testing activities requires reserving

Continued on Next Page

## 150. Continued

McGregor Range from settlement, sale, location, or entry. It is incumbent upon the federal government to control public access to hazardous areas through withdrawal or transfer.

Military activities in the Lincoln National Forest were described in the Army's EIS for the Land Use Withdrawal, McGregor Range Fort Bliss, Texas, August 1977. Present military activities are described in the draft Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan PEIS, July 1998.

151. The Army employs various planning cycles for different aspects of its mission. For example, the Army uses a 6-year programming cycle for operational activities with facility planning over a 20-year horizon. Doctrinal and equipment life cycle planning can extend over a period of 40 years or more. The proposed 50-year withdrawal period encompasses each of these periods and enables long-term national security plans to rely on a stable land resource.

Reasonable capabilities of McGregor Range to support requirements for future training were described in Alternative 1. The capabilities to support the possible future activities other than those with completed or on-going NEPA documentation shown on Table 2.1-4 may or may not become actual missions performed on McGregor Range and are not projected as such. They are discussed in consideration of the Army's long-range planning objectives and full disclosure of these potential uses of withdrawn land.

152. Under Alternative 1, the withdrawal of McGregor Range would be renewed under the same conditions as provided in PL 99-606. The boundaries of the range would remain the same, as would current and projected activities. Figure 2.1-2 represents existing target flight areas and SDZs as well as the SDZ required to use a tactical ballistic missile as a target for Patriot training, should the Army propose do so in the future. Figure 2.1-1 illustrates the military land use potential

Continued on Next Page

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

# **Private Citizens/Organizations**

152. Continued
for each training area on McGregor Range. This potential is consistent throughout each alternative as the action and alternatives evaluated relate to the withdrawal configuration.
153. The potential use is based upon the capabilities of McGregor Range. The uses considered are conceptual and may or may not occur, dependent upon the needs of the Army in the future.

Dr. Andy Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Range Renewal February 8, 1999 Page 5

**153** Cont.

sustained for 50 years. I guess we expect to be fighting or policing more conflicts than current levels, or consolidating our troops at Ft Bliss. If this is the case the Army needs to permanently withdraw and solely manage this land with no BLM restrictions or oversight.

154

Table 2.1-4 Future Activities on McGregor Range—in progress, Geothermal Resource exploration in Southern McGregor Range. The Army at Ft. Bliss is already in the energy exploration business, drilling test holes, conducting geophysical surveys, and planning to set up energy production facilities. It looks like the Army is doing, or going to do, everything that they don't want a private O&G business to do. What happens if the Army finds natural gas, CO2 or liquid hydrocarbons? Is a national government owned oil company formed? Methane is stable at temperatures of greater than 500 degrees. Geothermal Resources and part of the reservoir at Bennett Ranch (a Tertiary Syenite Sill) both owe their origins to igneous activity. Finding the two together may not be that unlikely. Also, why not set up a wind farm for electrical generation as well? The Rim of Otero Mesa should be an excellent place for the army to set up wind turbines to take advantage of the moderately strong sustained winds that buffet the area.

155

2-13/39-46

Oil and gas operations and other extractive operations are not mentioned in this section, but grazing will continue on 271,000 acres of withdrawn lands, of which, about 100,000 acres of that are available currently for Oil and Gas leasing. Why the omission and disparity? Oil and Gas operations require similar man-hours of maintenance activity and have been conducted and have coexisted with the military for many years at Ft. Chaffee in Arkansas.

156

2-34

Table 2.71 Comparison of Alternatives by Resource and Potential Impacts

Alternative 1 Column

Military use of McGregor Range is projected to increase dramatically, as stated above by the Army, yet none of the comparison items reflect this. Alternative 1 is not continued military use, but projected increased military use. As proposed, some of these impacts, although possibly slight in nature, should read:

Decrease in non-military land uses Increased noise Increased noise Increased noise Increased road closures and delays Greater visual impairment Increased aircraft detours Increased utility consumption Increased waste generation Increased water consumption Increased water consumption Increased explosive safety risk Increased eventual reclamation cost

157

158

2-3

Table 2.7-1 Comparison of Alternatives by Resource and Potential Impacts

Earth Resources

A continued erroneous assumption that Oil and Gas operations and mineral leasing are not compatible in any manner on all lands not currently designated by RMPA for Alternative 1 ( $\sim$ 100,000 Acres only)

2-37

Table 2.7-1 Comparison of Alternatives by Resource and Potential Impacts

No change or only minor change in socioeconomic effects is reported from increased or decreased military employment and purchases even if nearly all of McGregor Range is returned to the Public. Why should anyone in New Mexico be in favor of continued use based on economics? No changes are noted for any non-military activities (Oil and Gas Operations, Extractive Minerals Production, Grazing, Geothermal, Wind Farm Energy Production and Contracted Reclamation of Military Missile and Bombino

- 154. Geothermal resources in southern McGregor Range are being explored, and installation of a geothermal binary generation and desalination plant is under consideration as an alternative energy source for the installation under the Army's geothermal energy program. It is also being considered as a potential source of water for the McGregor Range Camp following desalination.
- 155. The following text has been added to Section 2.1.2, "Should oil and gas exploration occur on McGregor Range lands that are available for oil and gas leasing, the activities would be managed by the BLM in accordance with the White Sands RMP (BLM, 1986a)."
- 156. This table presents the results of the impact analyses that were conducted for each resource and alternative. No change to the text is required. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final EIS.

- 157. Oil and gas operations on designated areas of McGregor Range are managed by the BLM in accordance with the White Sands RMP.
- 158. The analyses of the socioeconomic impacts of the alternatives indicate that Alternatives 1 through 4 would not have an economic impact on the area because military employment and purchases would not change significantly. Under Alternative 5, there would be a minor impact due to reduced military employment and purchases.

Dr. Andy Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Range Renewal February 8, 1999 158 Ranges) which might take place on the Range after the area has contracted. These changes could be Cont. 3.0 159 Affected Environment (Baseline 1996) A second Baseline for Environment issue should be pre-McGregor Range. Early low-level photography and pre-WWII documents should be used to establish this longer-term look at Affected Environment. 160 3.1 Land Use 3.1-1/40-41 Army has annual rights to (and diverts) about 110,000 gpd of water from the Sacramento River and Carrizo Springs for preservation of fish and wildlife. The U. S. Army should not be creating unnatural habitat anywhere. Is it in the fish farming business? Is it running a Game Preserve for profit? 161 Rights-of-way, such as would be needed for Oil and Gas Operations, have been granted in the past, and currently exist in areas off-limits to extractive operations. Approval of ROW's therefore, should not be a significant problem in most areas. 3.1-4/47-48 FTX areas have undergone environmental evaluation and clearance. There is no mention here of any 162 archeological surveying. Why not? Are these sites disturbed to the point where they need to be reseeded with the proscribed BLM plant mixture? 3.1-5 163 Figure 3.1-1 Why is the buffer zone to the USAF Tactical Target Complex so huge in comparison to the McGregor Class C Bombing Range (which has no buffer zone marked at all on the map)? The Army is projecting a large increase in oversized (greater than 0.4 sq. mi.) FTX sites on Otero Mesa and along Highway 54. Why? No explanation is with the figure. 164 ROW's are not required for infrastructure constructed by the Army within McGregor Range. Does this mean the Army has exempted itself from having to conduct archeological surveys and environmental assessments as required by BLM operations elsewhere? Why? 3.1-7/20 - 3.1-11/48 165 The U. S. Army and Bureau of Land Management are in the Livestock Business as detailed here. This should be left solely to the local ranchers or the area should be completely withdrawn. Do the out-of-state grazing contractor put their animals in quarantine to reduce the risk of non-native plant species introduction or weed wash the hauling trailers. 3.1-11/50 - 3.1-12/1 166 Diverting water to wildlife via a pipeline system that diverts water from the Sacramento River is not ensuring the natural abundance and diversity of wildlife. 3.1-13/38 - 3.1-14/10 167 Special Management Areas ACEC's and WSA's should be very temporary designations limited by a set time frame. The ARMY/BLM should be required to get these areas approved as Wilderness Areas, National Grasslands or other such legislatively approved designations. 168 3.1-19/35 - 3.1-20/3 General statements about the viability of livestock operations (not needed), all lead to the observation

- 159. The NEPA process for the LEIS analyzes the environmental impacts to the existing environment resulting from implementation of the current withdrawal configuration and alternatives to the amount of land withdrawn. The environment has already been altered from its original or pre-McGregor Range state. The description of the existing environment represents the cumulative effects from all actions, natural and man-made up until 1996.
- 160. The Army water rights on the Sacramento River and Carrisa Springs pertain to the diversions for preservation of fish and wildlife and additionally is used to support livestock grazing. The McGregor Range pipeline system, originally constructed by ranchers, has been in place since the turn of the century, and is used to support natural resource management responsibilities of the Army and the natural resource and nonmilitary activity management responsibilities of the BLM as specified in the 1990 MOU between the two agencies.
- 161. The referenced section describes existing rights-of-way (ROWs). Access and ROWs are further described along with the existing procedures affecting energy and mineral development may be found in Section 3.1.2.2. Should oil and gas operations occur in the future, they would be managed by the BLM subject to the Army's concern for the compatibility of military missions and public safety.
- 162. The environmental evaluation and clearance process includes the conduct of archeological surveys. Roving Sands FTX sites are rotated to minimize the disturbance to areas and to prevent the disturbance of the area to a point that it is unable to recover naturally.
- 163. The buffer zone to the USAF tactical target complex is required to ensure safety during the use of inert/subscale munitions whereas only inert munitions are used on the McGregor Class C Bombing Range.

The potential increase in the number of FTX sites on Otero Mesa and along U.S. Highway 54 is discussed in Section

Continued on Next Page



## 163. Continued

- 2.1.1 and Table 2.1-4. Figure 2.1-4 illustrates the areas on McGregor Range that meet the physical and operational requirements for controlled access FTX sites.
- 164. Although ROWs are not required for infrastructure constructed by the Army on McGregor Range, the Army must comply with NEPA and other environmental regulations that require environmental assessments and studies.
- 165. Grazing on McGregor Range is managed by the BLM. BLM procedures that affect grazing on McGregor Range may be found in the McGregor Range RMPA (BLM, 1990).
- 166. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS.
- 167. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS.
- 168. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS.

BLM

business or the environmentalists

Dr. Andy Vliet

that small (morn & pop) ranching operations are not economic. It appears the U.S. Government wants each family unit today to work 2 jobs in the city/metroplex to get by, leaving the range land for big

3.1-20/5-12

168

Cont.

Minerals

The statements "Some oil and gas potential exists in Otero County." and "These reserves may become more economically viable for production, depending on market conditions" need to be reworded, and expanded. Why is there not more detail here about past mining in the Jarilla Mountains, quarrying, and recent Oil and Gas activities in Otero County and the surrounding geological province (ROI)? For an evaluation covering the next 50 yrs. this information is important. (See attachment 3)

,24,960.00	acres under NM Federal Leases	
7000,480.00	acres under suspended Federal Leases	
166,080.00	acres under NM State Lease	
84,480.00	acres unleased State Leases	
6,351.49	acres under Fee Leases (N.M.)	
440,640.00	acres under TX ULS Leases	
400	line miles of 2D seismic shot in TX	
5	line miles of 2D seismic shot in NM	
540	line miles of 2D seismic proposed in NM	
25	square miles of 3D seismic proposed in NM	
1	well drilled in TX	
1	discovery well drilled in NM with additional wells delayed by	

\$7,000,000.00 Estimated Industry expenditures in the area (ROI) since 1996.

3.1-22/32-41 Aesthetics and Visual Resources

Are all buildings on Federal Land painted with the recommended BLM color to match the environment?

171 3.4 Utilitie

170

172

173

174

3.4-1/8-Water Supply

Water Supply details are given here about pipelines, delivery capacities and water use. Do each of the major water pipelines have an established ROW? Have archeological surveys been done?

3.4-2/14-Wastewater Treatment

Are the wastewater ponds on McGregor Range netted to protect migratory and resident birds? During July-September brief, heavy rainstorms frequently cause localized flooding. Are the Army installations at McGregor Range all in compliance with storm water waste run-off statues?

3.4-2/45 Energy

A gas transmission pipeline (2") with distribution system is already in place at McGregor Range Camp similar to that which any Oil and Gas Operation would need to build.

3.4-3/1-9

Commercial telephone services originate off Range. Is there an existing buried or above ground ROW? Do DSN trunk lines and any newly-constructed fiber optic cables have an approved ROW (Arch'd and ES).

3.5 Earth Resources

3.5

Figure 3.5-1 Mineral and Energy Resources in the McGregor Range Area of Texas and New Mexico need better research. Many oil and gas wells are missing in Texas. Numerous water-test wells are missing from the recognized geothermal area.

- 169. The text in the *Land Use* section was modified to add a cross reference as follows: "Additional information regarding mineral and energy resources is provided in Section 3.5, *Earth Resources*, and Appendix C."
- 170. The referenced section is describing the feature categories of aesthetic and visual resources. A description of the existing aesthetics and visual resources is presented in Section 3.1.5.1 and 3.1.5.2. All the buildings are not painted a specific color, but rather are maintained to fit the cultural landscape and remain as unobtrusive as is practical.
- 171. The McGregor Range pipelines date from the early 1900s, prior to requirements for ROWs and archeological surveys. However, about 30 percent of the range has been surveyed for cultural resources as discussed in Section 3.9.
- 172. The sewage treatment lagoons on McGregor Range are not netted to protect birds. In fact, the lagoon at McGregor Range Camp has become a miniature wildlife refuge, abounding in birds. Range facilities are in compliance.
- 173. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final EIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 174. However, as stated in Section 3.1.2.2, ROWs are not required for infrastructure constructed by the Army within McGregor Range, such as telephone or utility distribution lines. Yes, ROWs are granted for commercial telephone or utility lines originating off-range that enter onto the range.
- 175. Four wells in Texas, 6 to 10 miles from the McGregor Range boundary, were not included on the figure. Since completion of the Draft LEIS, the geothermal test wells have been located by the Global Positioning System (GPS). The wells will be added to Fig. 3.5-1.

3-7

Dr. Andy Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Range Renewal February 8, 1999

176

Table 3.5-1. Mining Districts in the Vicinity of McGregor Range

This listing of mining districts with descriptions gives some production values. Are these referenced in current dollars? Are there any reserve figures to go along with the production values you have quoted?

177

3.5-4/45

Oil and Gas

The Army lists the important factors for an area to have commercial oil and gas production: the presence and volume of source rocks; the degree of maturation of the source rocks; the availability of reservoir rocks; and the availability of stratigraphic or structural features to trap the migrating oil and gas, but goes on with practically no detail about each of these factors. The NM Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources has provided the Army with information concerning the presence and maturation of source rocks on the Range. This information should be combined with lab geochemistry to get hydrocarbon vields and an estimate of the amount of hydrocarbons that could be or have been generated in the area.

178

Tularosa Basin should not be used here in reference to Paleozoic rocks. The proper term is Orogrande Basin. The Tularosa Basin refers to a Tertiary age fault-bounded valley, which only somewhat coincides with the older aeology.

179

3.5-9/2

To the oil and gas industry the number of wells drilled in the Tularosa valley would hardly be called numerous. No statements are made here about the actual number of wells drilled or well density. No statements are made concerning the dates many of these were drilled and the level of petroleum technology that existed at that time. Many dry or non-commercial wells have been drilled in other basins or plays (such as the Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt) before an initial discovery changed thinking and opened up a large producing province.

180

3.5-9/16-18

The statement presented here is misleading; the Otero Mesa-Diablo Plateau is not entirely underlain by the flanks and core of the Pedernal Uplift and source rocks are abundant in some areas.

181

3.5-9/20-26 Statements presented here are probably correct in an overall vague sense. Large pre-Tertiary single reservoir hydrocarbon traps would have poor preservation due to Tertiary destructive processes, However, smaller traps such as fluvial-deltaic sandstones and carbonate phylloid algal mounds could easily be intact. Those same destructive processes could have also created secondary migration traps, new reservoirs such as igneous sills, or jumpstarted the hydrocarbon source rocks ("the kitchen") into generating oil and natural gas. Hydrocarbons do exist in similar settings to the Tularosa Valley (Railroad Valley, Nevada) and Otero Mesa. The commercial gas discovery at Bennett Ranch and new technology may just now be leading the industry into opening up many new fields in the Orogrande Basin. As for the size ranges given by the Army here, this is just speculation. Will there only ever be one commercial gas well in the Basin? It could be equally likely that quite a few 1-10 MMBO/10-60BCFG fields could exist under McGregor Range.

182

3.8-11/1 Hueco Mountains

Why is there no Raptor paragraph here as with the other areas?

183

3.9-3/23 Historic Architectural Resources

There is no listing here for the 21 historic resources mentioned. Is the 100-yr. old water pipeline and earthen dam system on Otero Mesa considered part of these resources?

4.1-2/29

- 176. The production values in the table are shown in actual dollars, a common practice, rather than in current dollars. Reserve figures were not available.
- 177. Collection and analysis of data as recommended are beyond the scope of the LEIS and the *Mineral and Energy Resource* Assessment (U.S. Army, 1998g), prepared by Mariah and Associates and the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, for the application to renew the McGregor Range land withdrawal.
- 178. The comment is technically correct, but the use of "Tularosa" Basin" is not incorrect. The Tularosa Basin (or Tularosa Valley) is a formally recognized geographic feature having surface expression, in addition to being a geologic structural feature. The Orogrande basin is not recognized as a geographic feature, although it is a geologic structural feature. In order not to confuse a mostly nontechnical audience, "Tularosa Basin" will be retained as a geographic location, but the sentence will be reworded to read. "Paleozoic source and reservoir rocks underlie the Tularosa Basin...."
- 179. "Numerous...wells" will be replaced with "several." information on oil and gas exploration in the Tularosa Basin in the LEIS is a general summary and does not go into specific detail. The information was obtained from the most recent appraisals available.
- 180. The comment is unclear. The referenced statement neither says nor infers that the Otero Mesa-Diablo Plateau is entirely underlain by the flanks and core of the Pedernal uplift. As for the abundance of source rocks, there does appear to be disagreement in opinion between LEIS sources (Black, 1975; King and Harder, 1985) and the reviewer.
- 181. The comment is valid for the referenced part of the paragraph: however the second half of the paragraph does acknowledge the possible presence of smaller reservoirs and the optimism generated by recent exploration.

Continued on Next Page

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

# **Private Citizens/Organizations**

## Continued

- 182. A discussion of raptors in the Hueco Mountains has been added to the text.
- 183. Most of the 21 historic resources are identified and discussed in Appendix E, *Cultural Resources*, of the LEIS. The water pipelines and dirt tanks on McGregor Range probably are not considered historical architectural resources because the original pipelines have been rebuilt and expanded several times. Some of the older tanks may still exist in their original form, although most have been rebuilt or are destroyed.

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184

The Otero County Comprehensive Land Use Policy Plan mentioned here is of what status and importance? Will it be adopted? When?

185

Earth Resources at the USAF tactical target complex on Otero Mesa will be **significantly** impacted. This is not stressed **enough** anywhere in the text. The Military will be sculpting the land with blades and buildozers before bombing, strafing and exploding the relatively virgin 8+ sq. mi, area.

186

4.5-8/39-40
A general statement is given here that as the amount of restricted land increases so does the adverse impact to the availability of energy and mineral resources. The Orogrande Basin encompasses roughly 11,000 sq. miles in southern New Mexico and far West Texas. Over 4,000 sq. miles of those same acres are currently restricted to any kind of oil and gas exploration by the Federal government. If the U.S.A. wants to maintain a domestic hydrocarbon industry and production over the next 50 years areas like McGregor Range must be opened up and investigated.

187

188

The above comments are HEYCO's abbreviated thoughts on the Draft McGregor Range LEIS, due to the fact HEYCO received the draft document on October 26, 1998 and had approximately 68 business days (106 total days less 30 days made up of weekends and an estimated 8 days for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years holidays) between the date of receipt and February 9, 1999 to review over 600+ pages of information that surely took the staff of McGregor Range several years to compile. This time frame is not sufficient for an independent oil and gas producer with limited staff, such as HEYCO, to give sufficient and comprehensive comments to such an important issue as the McGregor Range Renewal. HEYCO would have certainly appreciated more sufficient time for its staff to make personal visits to Fort Bliss to gain knowledge of critical information needed to use toward its review of the Draft LEIS, as well as the time needed to research public information for all aspects of McGregor Range and Otero County in general. There are several documents mentioned in the Draft LEIS that are not included in the Draft and are not available to industry without a trip to Fort Bliss, Texas. In any event, HEYCO will be anxiously waiting for the Final LEIS to arrive. Thank you for your cooperation and immediate attention to this response. If you have any questions concerning this response, please call Steve Yates, Vice President, Gordon Yahney, Geologist, or me at 505/623-6601.

Very truly yours,

Vernon D. Dyer, CPL #3174

GKY:VDD/dlm Enclosures

McGregorLeis.doc/A:orogrande

- 184. This first *Draft Otero County Comprehensive Plan* (March 1998) is currently being reviewed by the State of New Mexico. Following approval by the State, the Plan will be finalized by the county planning commission and the citizen working group. Then the County Commission will vote on adopting the Plan. Once adopted, the Plan would reflect the county's official policy and recommended use of lands within its boundary (excluding municipalities). The Plan would provide a basis for evaluating the effects of proposed activities on the public lands relative to the county's goals for land use and development. Public lands would continue to be managed by their appropriate state and federal land management and environmental laws.
- 185. The potential environmental impacts resulting from the USAF tactical target complex on Otero Mesa are summarized in Section 4.5.1.2. More detailed evaluation is presented in the Final EIS, Proposed Expansion of German Air Force Operations at HAFB, New Mexico.
- 186. Thank you for your comment.
- 187. The NEPA requires a 45-day minimum comment period for a Draft EIS.
- 188. Several of the documents referenced in the LEIS such as the *Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment of the McGregor Range* (U.S. Army, 1998g), the *McGregor Range Water Requirements and Resources Assessment* (U.S. Army, 1998f), the *McGregor Range Land Use Study* (U. S. Army, 1998e), the *McGregor Range Economic Report* (U.S. Army, 1998m), the *Fort Bliss TADC* (U.S. Army, 1998d), the *Fort Bliss INRMP* (U.S. Army, 1998b), the *Fort Bliss ICRMP* (U.S. Army, 1998c), and the *Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan PEIS* (U.S. Army, 1998a), were provided to the following libraries: El Paso Public Library; Irving Schwartz Public Library; Westside Branch Library; Branigan Memorial Library; Dell City Library; Alamogordo Library; New Mexico

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# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

# **Private Citizens/Organizations**

# 188. Continued State University, Bramson Library; New Mexico State University, Roswell Library; University of Texas at El Paso Library; Cloudcroft Library. In addition, other documents referenced in the LEIS have been provided to various area libraries by the agencies that prepared them such as the USAF.

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   STATE OF NEW MEXICO
                                            COUNTY OF OTERO
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   IN THE MATTER OF THE SCOPING MEETING
    CONCERNING McGREGOR RANGE, MILITARY LAND)
   WITHDRAWAL DRAFT LEGISLATIVE
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   ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
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         BE IT REMEMBERED that on January 12, 1999, at 6:30 PM at
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    the ALAMOGORDO CIVIC CENTER, 800 East First Street, Alamogordo,
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   New Mexico, a public meeting was held before RON RUFFENACH,
   Public Affairs Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the
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   following transcript was produced by R. JAN WIMBERLY, a Court
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   Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of New
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   Mexico.
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# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

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MR. RUFFENACH: Let me begin by welcoming everyone this evening. This is a public hearing on the McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement. My name's Ron Ruffenach and I will be facilitating this evening's meeting.

This hearing is being held in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, and the regulations that are published by the Council on Environmental Quality. The purpose of this hearing is to receive your comments about the adequacy of the environmental analysis and the environmental impacts associated with the proposals that were studied in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement, or DLEIS.

Before proceeding with the overview briefings this evening, I would like to explain my role. I do work for the U.S. Army. I have had no involvement in the development of this document, however, my role this evening is simply to facilitate this meeting and to have a fair, ordinarily and impartial hearing, and more importantly, to provide everyone who would like to speak an opportunity to do so.

This hearing will be conducted in two parts. The first part will begin with a brief presentation by the Army and the Bureau of Land Management. Dr. Andy Vliet and Mr. Tim Sanders will discuss the findings of the DLEIS and the importance of your participation at this hearing, whether by

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providing oral or written comments tonight, or by simply
listening to our presentations and providing your comments
later.

The second part of the hearing takes up the remainder of the evening. This will be your time to come up to the microphone and present your comments on the draft document. In order to accommodate everyone who would like to speak, we will limit individual comments to five minutes. Elected officials and their representatives will have ten minutes. The time limits are necessary so that everyone who wants to speak will have an opportunity to do so. If you didn't sign up to speak when you first arrived this evening at the registration table, you can do so during the short break that we will take following the presentations. The speaker cards can be found at the registration table.

However, if you do not wish to speak, we encourage you to submit your comments in writing and we will give more information on that later, as to when the comment period ends and where you can mail those comments. Comment forms, there's a table here to my right where you can get those comment sheets and it has an address on there where you can mail those back to us. We'll be talking more about that later on in the evening.

We will take, again, a short break between the presentations and the actual comment period, so that if you have any questions that you want to get clarified from any of

the speakers, you can do so at that time. I would like to now introduce our presenters. Dr. Andy Vliet, the program manager for the McGregor Range Renewal and Mr. Tim Sanders is the interagency coordinator for the BLM Las Cruces field office.

Also with us we have a court reporter this evening because the proceedings for this evening's meetings are documented and do in fact become part of the final record. With that, I will turn the meeting over to Dr. Andy Vliet with the presentation on the Draft LEIS. If I could please have the lights down.

DR. VLIET: Thanks, Ron. As he said, my name is Andy Vliet, I'm the program manager for the McGregor Range Renewal. I'm the guy behind the mailings that you may have been getting. And I've been fortunate to meet with a lot of you in circumstance less formal, maybe over coffee or something like that here in town.

Tonight I'm going to briefly discuss the results of the Environmental Impact Analysis that we've undertaken over the past year. But before I get into that, I'd like to take a minute and go over a little bit of background on the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal process, of which this Draft LEIS is a part.

The Military Land Withdrawal Act of 1986 authorized the use of McGregor Range for military purposes through the year 2001, and requires, among other things, preparation of an

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1 Environmental Impact Statement to address the effects of continuing the withdrawal, in this case for 50 years until 2051, if there is a continuing need for the range.

The Army believes that there is a continuing need for the military training and testing activities that take place on this range, and has filed an application for extension of the withdrawal. The application includes several studies and reports in addition to the LEIS. These studies and reports are submitted to the Department of the Interior and comprise the case file for renewal of the land withdrawal.

That information, including proposed legislation prepared by the Army and BLM, has been transmitted to Congress for legislative action prior to November 2001. Congress makes a decision, through its legislation, on the future of McGregor Range. The Draft LEIS serves as a tool to evaluate environmental effects of renewing the existing military land withdrawal and the alternatives.

So with that as background, I'd like to provide you with a summary of the findings of our Environmental Impact Analysis for the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range. We examined six alternatives, including our proposed action to renew the withdrawal that currently exists and the no action alternative, to let the withdrawal expire and the land return to the public domain, that are currently subject to the Military Lands Withdrawal Act.

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We also did an analysis of environment impacts of four other alternatives to the proposed action, including one that was proposed during scoping. Each alternative describes different portions of McGregor that Congress could renew and what lands could return to the public domain.

The Army has been conducting studies to identify potential contamination on McGregor Range. Prior to the return of currently withdrawn land under any alternative, the Secretary of the Army would need to prepare a report on lands that may be contaminated with explosive, toxic or other hazardous substances, and then decide, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior, what level of cleanup is feasible given different future uses and relative risks.

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Following this decision, the Army would continue with studies and pursue cleanup actions at McGregor Range to the extent resources are available. The LEIS alternatives are compared to the existing or baseline environment in 14 broad categories of environmental resources, including land use, water resources, biological resources, noise, cultural resources and socioeconomics. Here's a summary highlighting the main findings of our environmental analysis for each of the six alternatives.

Under Alternative 1, the proposed action, Congress would renew the McGregor Range land withdrawal under the same conditions as provided for in Public Law 99-606. McGregor

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Range currently encompasses approximately 697,472 acres of land, 608,000 of which are withdrawn under Public Law. The Army owns 71,000 acres in fee and uses 18,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land as a safety buffer for ground training. This additional acreage is not included in the withdrawal but would continue to be used through an agreement with the Forest Service. There would be no change for the McGregor Range boundary under the proposed action.

If Alternative 1 is chosen, impacts to environmental resources will not change significantly from current conditions, but there could be a slight increase in water demand on public supplies in El Paso if use of McGregor Range Camp increases during the renewal period. Land management would continue as present, including continuation of nonmilitary land uses and the beneficial effects of the regional economy.

Operationally, military activities would continue and could expand in the future as additional training needs arise. Any potential new military uses of McGregor Range would require additional project-specific environmental analysis.

Under Alternative 2, McGregor Range, the renewal of McGregor Range would only include the Tularosa Basin and Otero Mesa portions of McGregor Range. This is about 698,000 acres of public land. Under this alternative, the land returned to the public domain would total about 40,000 acres, it includes

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Selection of this alternative would result in an increase in public access to the Sacramento Mountain Foothills area for nonmilitary users. There would be no significant impacts to resources, such as biological resources or to public safety. Impacts to military operations would include a 33% reduction in Patriot Missile training scenarios, a reduction in military ground activities in the Sacramento Mountain Foothills. Training on Army owned land would continue.

Under Alternative 3, the withdrawal would include approximately 429,000 acres of public land. This is in the Tularosa Basin of McGregor Range. The area returned to the public domain, about 180,000 acres, would include public land on Otero Mesa and in the Sacramento Mountain Foothills portion of McGregor Range. Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area and the McGregor Black Grama Grassland Area of Critical Environmental concern would be returned.

The withdrawn area of McGregor Range would encompass areas within the Tularosa Basin and the escarpment of Otero Mesa. Army owned property within the lands returned to the public domain would be retained by the Army for specialized training.

If Alternative 3 is selected, military activity on Otero Mesa would be reduced. The tactical target complex for Holloman Air Force Base would no longer be used, resulting in less aircraft noise for residents north and east of Otero Mesa. The airspace over McGregor Range would continue to be used for military aircraft training, however. Public access to the returned areas would increase and there would be fewer road closures of New Mexico Highway 506. There would be no significant impact to other resources.

Operationally, the military would have an 89% reduction in its Patriot Missile training scenario. There would be a reduction in field training exercise sites, on-road vehicle maneuver areas, and a reduction in ground training activities in the Sacramento Mountain Foothills and on Otero Mesa. Training on Army owned land would continue.

Alternative 4 would renew the withdrawal of about 365,000 acres for continued military use. This includes the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range south of New Mexico Highway 506. This alternative would not renew the withdrawal of any portion of McGregor Range north of New Mexico Highway 506 or on the Otero Mesa.

The lands returned to the public domain, about 244,000 acres, are comprised of all the existing leased cattle grazing units in currently withdrawn land, the Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area, and McGregor Black Grama Grassland Area

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of Critical Environmental Concern. The portion of grazing unit 2 south of New Mexico Highway 506 would be exchanged for the area between New Mexico Highway 506 and grazing unit three.

Army owned property within the lands returned to the public domain would be retained for specialized training.

Environmental impacts would be the same as under Alternative 3, but there would be no closures of New Mexico Highway 506 for military reasons. There would be a reduction in aircraft noise because the land north of Highway 506 that currently has a bombing range would be returned to the public domain and the military use would cease. The tactical target complex for Holloman Air Force Base on Otero Mesa would also cease to be used. However, military aircraft training in the airspace over McGregor Range would continue.

From a military operational standpoint, impacts on Patriot Missile training would be the same as under Alternative 3. There would be no military ground operations on public lands on Otero Mesa and north of New Mexico Highway 506, but training could continue on Army owned land within those areas.

Under Alternative 5, the no action alternative, there would be no renewal of any portion of withdrawn lands on McGregor Range. All currently withdrawn lands would return to the public domain. Army owned parcels surrounded by public land would be exchanged for public lands in the southern part of McGregor Range to retain training capabilities and essential

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There would be no further military use of the land returned to the public domain. Restricted airspace above the land area would continue to be used for aircraft training by military units in the region. In addition to the environmental impacts that would occur if Alternative 4 were selected, there could be increased soil erosion in the Tularosa Basin portion of the range from cleanup activities and grazing under the No Action Alternative.

However, erosion from military activities would be less and there would be a reduction in noise associated with military activities. Unless public access to portions of Tularosa Basin is restricted prior to cleanup, there could be increased safety risks. A minor economic impact would result from the decrease in military employment and purchases.

Operationally, the military would continue aircraft training in the airspace above McGregor, but there would be no military ground operations except at the south end of the range.

Alternative 6 was developed using public comments submitted during scoping. It was suggested that Congress designate the Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area as a Wilderness

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area. In addition, it was suggested that Congress designate the Otero Mesa and Sacramento Mountain Foothills, including in-holdings owned by the Army, as a National Conservation Area. The affected Army owned in-holdings would be exchanged for other public lands within McGregor Range.

This alternative would require future Congressional action, separate from the Army's proposed renewal of the military land withdrawal, and could alter management practices associated with the area included in the National Conservation Area. Existing grazing would continue to be available for multiple uses, to the extent that these areas have productive value. The land would be managed in accordance with public land laws and Congressional specifications for the National Conservation Area.

The area, as envisioned, could be designated along with Alternatives 3, 4 or 5. Environmental impacts would be the same as those that would occur if Alternative 3, 4 or 5 were selected, plus some changes to land use designations would be required. Military operational impacts would be the same as those under Alternative 3, 4 or 5, except that no military training would occur within the National Conservation Area.

To sum up, the Draft LEIS did not identify any significant environmental impacts with any of the alternatives compared to current conditions. Operationally, the renewal is needed to meet our nation's training requirements now and into

the future. As I mentioned earlier, the Congressional decision for the Army's proposal will be, in effect, the record of decision for the LEIS.

Comments we receive tonight will be used to prepare the final LEIS, which is scheduled for completion by August of this year. While the Military Lands Withdrawal Act only required a draft document, we have chosen to complete a final LEIS which considers public comment on the draft. The final LEIS will be distributed to local libraries, individuals, 10 agencies, local government and organizations. All of your comments on the Draft LEIS will be considered for the Final LEIS.

Again, thank you for your time and coming out tonight and I'll be followed by Mr. Tim Sanders from the BLM.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you, Andy. My name is Tim Sanders, I'm the assistant field manager for the Las Cruces office of the BLM. I would like to talk to you tonight about the Bureau of Land Managment's involvement in the McGregor Range EIS. McGregor Range is a part of the public lands and is administered jointly by the Las Cruces Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior and the U.S. Army, Fort Bliss.

The BLM manages McGregor Range much like the adjacent public land, providing for such uses as public access, hunting and livestock grazing. The BLM is a cooperating agency in the

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McGregor Range offers an assortment of spectacular natural resources. McGregor Range contains three distinct regions. Going from the lower elevation to the higher, we have the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range, we also have the Otero Mesa portion and the Mountain Foothills. The area of McGregor Range known as Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills contain some of New Mexico's most spectacular cultural, recreational, livestock, wildlife and biological resources.

Otero Mesa and the Foothills contains a nationally recognized wilderness study area, the Culp Canyon Wilderness Study area, a black grama grassland area of critical environmental concern and extensive deer and antelope herds. The area also provides an important grazing resource and is one of the few military withdrawals where the public is allowed access. As a co-manager of McGregor Range, the BLM has focused its management on the protection and the enhancement of these valuable public resources.

The Bureau of Land Management worked with Fort Bliss to develop the EIS alternatives that were presented to you tonight. Alternative 3, which would return Otero Mesa and the Foothills to public land status is the alternative that is most compatible with resource values and public use interests of the

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Under Alternative 3, Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills would be returned to public land status and would be available for unrestricted public uses. Congress will ultimately select the boundary for McGregor Range Withdrawal. Congress may very well select an alternative other than Alternative 3. If this occurs, five major items should be included in whichever alternative Congress ultimately selects. I would like to go over those five major items with you tonight.

The first of the five is that because of the uniqueness of Otero Mesa and the Foothills, the alternative selected must protect this valuable area.

Second, if an alternative rewithdrawing Otero Mesa and the Foothills is selected, the alternative must restrict the types of military missions which would be allowable on the Otero Mesa and the Foothills.

Third, the existing 1990 Memorandum of Understanding that exists between the BLM and the Army should be incorporated into whatever alternative is selected. This would ensure public access and continued natural resource management by the Bureau of Land Management. Incorporation of the 1990 OMU would 23 | clearly delineate management responsibility on the range, and would address allowable land and mineral uses, wildlife and cultural resource protection measures and livestock grazing

practices.

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Fourth, the selected alternative must ensure continued public access to the range.

And lastly, the withdrawal term should be commensurate with the foreseeable uses of the Range. The Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan EIS indicates the military planning horizon is usually 20-years. If there is a withdrawal renewal, we believe it should be commensurate with the military's own 20-year planning horizon.

I would like to conclude tonight by saying the public, BLM and the Army have had a long relationship on McGregor Range. This is a critical moment in determining the fate of over one-half million acres of land in southern New Mexico. It is crucial that the BLM and Army work at the local level with the public's input and support to craft an alternative which will protect the public use and the natural resources of McGregor Range. Thank you very much.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, Tim. And thank you all for your attention. We realize that this is a very complicated process and we welcome questions to clarify information and to provide additional information during a short term break that we're going to take before we start the public comment period.

Once again, when we do return from that short break, we will begin with elected officials, followed by those who

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1 registered in the order that they so indicated on those cards when you came in. I will remind you, however though, that the informal discussions that take place during the break and following the meeting will not be documented by the court reporter. So therefore, if you have something that you really want included in the official record and you want considered in comments on the draft document, you can provide those again during the comment period at the mike or we strongly encourage those to be provided to us in writing. And again, you can do so by getting the address and the information from the comment table here to my right.

Oral comments are no less important than the written ones, so if you're not comfortable speaking in front of others, you can submit those, like I said, to us in writing. If you have brought written comments, you can turn those in this evening to me and I will make sure that they get incorporated in the document. If you want to mail in a comment, the mailing address is on the fact sheets that are at the different stations. Again, the comment period ends February 9th, 1999. Again, all those comments and all the proceedings from this evening's meeting and two follow-on meetings tomorrow night in Las Cruces and Thursday night in El Paso will become part of the final document.

And right now I'd like to limit our break, initially we were scheduled for a 15-minute break, I'd like to limit that

1 to 10 minutes, if that's all right with everybody. I have 7:00 o'clock straight up, on the clock in the back of the room and we'll reconvene at ten after, thank you.

(Recess was taken.)

MR. RUFFENACH: I'd like to begin the comment period again for this evening. So far we have had nine people who have expressed an interest to speak. Once we go through those nine cards, I will do a call out in case there's anybody in the audience who would like to make a comment. The comments will be taken at this microphone here in the center aisle. And when you come to that microphone, we ask that you speak very clearly, stating your name and your address, so that that can be documented by the court reporter.

During your comments we will give you a sign, the lady sitting here in the front seat will show you a sign indicating you have 30 seconds left. At that time, we'd ask that you begin to draw your comments to a conclusion. And at the end of five minutes, she will hold up another sign, asking that you please stop.

Again, please restrict your comments to the document that we're talking about, the Draft LEIS. Our first speaker this evening is the Honorable Don Carroll, who is the Mayor of the City of Alamogordo.

MAYOR: CARROLL: Thank you. First I'd like to welcome you to Alamogordo and thank you for holding this public

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1 hearing here this evening. McGregor Range is vitally important
2 to our community and we appreciate the opportunity to have our
3 community give their input for the continued withdrawal.

I would like to speak on behalf of the continued withdrawal under Alternative 1. The City Commission recently passed a resolution supporting Alternative 1 for the withdrawal and I'll give you a copy of that. We feel that Alternative 1, which keeps it as it is today, is a workable plan, it gives maximum flexibility to the military to continue the testing and training that they do and will allow future testing and training missions.

The current situation is a partnership with the public and with BLM and that has worked well in the past and we are confident that it will continue to work that way in the future. So I would again say that the City Commission of the City of Alamogordo is in support of Alternative 1.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Our next speaker is Bill Hornback.

MR. HORNBACK: I would like to hold for a minute

20 or two.

MR. RUFFENACH: I'm sorry, sir.

MR. HORNBACK: I'd like to hold off for a minute

or two.

MR. RUFFENACH: Our next speaker is George

Bussing. Mr. Bussing? Our next speaker is Mr. Bill Burt.

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189. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

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MR. BURT: Thank you very much. My name, again is Bill Burt, I live here in Alamogordo and I'm the chairman of the Committee of 50 for Alamogordo. And I'd like to go on 4 record saying that the Committee of 50 is in favor of Alternative 1 for the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range.

Just like the Mayor commented, the cooperation between the BLM and the Army has been there for several years. With its continued use, continued withdrawal, we see that continuing on. And we at the Committee of 50 would again like to support Alternative 1 for the continued withdrawal.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, Mr. Burt. Our next speaker is Mr. Ray Quick.

MR. QUICK: I'm Ray Quick, I spent the first few years of my life out on McGregor Range. The Army, most of the fences and stuff, me and my dad built up in Culp Canyon and stuff. The only -- I work for BLM, I work on their windmills. With this Alternative 1, nobody has mentioned the German Air Force coming in. With the range closed down where BLM can't take care of the water, the Army doesn't care.

It's been in the past, I suppose I've been working for BLM about 20 years when they called me. Whenever the range is closed, the Army does not care if deer are out water, if cows are out water, it makes no difference to the Army. And it's not going to make any difference to these 50 in Alamogordo, or the banks, they're not going to be hurting.

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190. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

191. The potential impacts resulting from GAF operations on McGregor Range are summarized in Chapter 4 of the LEIS and presented in more detail in the Final EIS, Proposed Expansion of GAF Operations at HAFB, New Mexico. Under Alternative 1, the BLM will continue to co-manage McGregor Range, and will continue to have access to maintain the water pipelines, tanks and other improvements.

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What's going to be hurting if the German Air Force moves out there, you're not mentioning that. In all of this, you're not mentioning that.

There's going to be a bumper zone around there where BLM taps into the water. I was hoping more people would talk before I said anything, but I know what's going to happen I've seen deer starving. When they took McGregor Range, then before BLM took over and the ranchers, you know, they kicked the ranchers out, the water all went dry. Deer was standing out there starving, nobody cared.

When BLM took over, BLM is doing a very good job.

They're keeping water in. If you extend it where they can't work on pipeline for five days a week during the daytime, if water goes down, your deer is going to starve, your cattle are going to starve and there won't be anything.

In this other alternative to make it a wilderness area, without somebody maintaining the pipeline there is no water on McGregor, except for mud tanks. You give five years without cattle watering in the mud tank, a mud tank goes dry, it won't hold. There will be no deer. There will be no antelope in the center of it, they will have to go elsewhere to get water.

BLM is doing a good job, they're keeping everything going good, but if you make it to where they can't get in there at any time except on the weekends, that's not enough time. A

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cow in the summertime or a deer can die within a week. And the
Army does not care. The Army does not care that a well is down
and stock is out of water. They have a man on 506 and they
won't let me go through anytime.

That's just about all I have to say, except BLM is doing a good job and I don't think you should let the German Air Force use it. I was in the Air Force, I have nothing against the American military. I do have something against training foreign troops on our soil. And I think you've probably got some more people that's going to say something about that. But you guys are not mentioning what's going on.

Now, I think you're going to get what you want, this is not going to make any difference. We're just here because you have to do this. And you're going to do what you want to do, but a few of us are going to protest. Thank you.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, Mr. Quick. Our next speaker is Colleen Van Winkle.

MS. VAN WINKLE: Hi, I'm Colleen Van Winkle and I'm with the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce and the Otero County Economic Development Council at 1301 North White Sands Boulevard here in Alamogordo. And on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Directors of Otero County Economic Development, we are for Alternative No. 1, the continued use of McGregor Range for both the public and the military. Thank you.

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192. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

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 $\label{eq:mr.RUFFENACH: Thank you. Our next speaker is} \\ \text{Doug Sandifer.}$ 

MR. SANDIFER: Doug Sandifer, 240 Hamilton, just speaking for myself, not an organization or anything.

Basically a hunter. I like Alternative 4 for the simple fact that Highway 506 will not be closed, that area north of there would be open to hunting and any other activity and the range would stay south of that. There would be no disruption of the public functions in that area, hunting or otherwise. That's basically what I'd like to say. Thank you.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, sir. Our next speaker is Mr. Ed Buck.

MR. BUCK: My name is Ed Buck, I'm an attorney at law here, 1701 10th Street. Life long resident of this county, who worked on a ranch out on the mesa. I would like to thank you for the hearing. I'd like to thank you for the fairness of considering different alternatives. I would like to ask you to keep fairness in mind.

I think that this county has other interests than just commercial, but we do want to see our economy prosper.

And I see prosperity here through the German activity, which I do not see as a threat to our security of our country. They've been in El Paso a long time, we've had troops over there and they seem to be law abiding citizens here. I think they can contribute to our economy.

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193. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review. Page 25

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However, I would like to point out that if it might seem to some government agency that if the government just pays for land down there in the mesa, then no one should care. And if the government agency feels that way, they do not understand the people in this county. Because that area is some of the finest grazing country and wildlife country in the State of New Mexico and possibly this entire region. It is something

And we wonder, we raise a reasonable question about why you must use some of the finest grazing land to bomb on, when there is other barren land that is not that unique. We

raise that reasonable question.

The other thing I, as an individual, would like to know, which of these alternatives allow the Patriot exercises, which do not and which of these alternatives allow the German Air Force and which do not. .I haven't seen that tonight and I haven't been involved in all of these meetings.

There's another point that I would like to raise that always has concerned me. The McGregor Range activity withdraws 600,000 acres from our county, from our tax base. It involves our wildlife. It involves military uses, during these big military exercises, of our highway with a lot of heavy military equipment. And it has a major effect on our county but we do not get much of the economic benefit of it.

The Army stations all their troops in El Paso. They

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- 194. The ROD for the Final EIS, Proposed Expansion of GAF Operations at HAFB, New Mexico, describes rationale for the decision to place the tactical target complex on the Otero Mesa portion of McGregor Range. The MOA between the USAF and the BLM describes the agencies' commitment to public access, grazing management, cultural resources, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), the Culp Canyon WSA, and fire management. These documents are provided in Appendix A of the LEIS.
- 195. Chapter 2. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives. describes the activities that would or would not be included in each alternative.

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do all their procurement in El Paso. They do their
construction contracting with contractors in Texas. And they
station their troops down there and we get nothing. We would
like to know if the New Mexico communities will get some of the
economic impact if we give you 600,000 acres of our county.
The military, I'm speaking, I'm saying you and I don't mean to
make it personal. I'm saying the government is taking this
acreage from our tax base and it affects other things and we
would like to get some of the economic impact.

The other thing that I've noticed over the years about economic -- about environmental studies that have been done for these military establishments is that very seldom do we get a study and the report and a commitment from the government about what will happen if you withdraw and leave us. We don't see that in these environmental studies and we would like to ask for that. Thank you.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, sir. I'll return to Mr. Hornback. Are you prepared, sir?

MR. HORNBACK: My name is Bill Hornback, retired military. I know some of the actions work day to day, but I seem to have a problem with what's going on today. Some of the information incorporated within your EIS is flawed and not complete and many half truths. Procedures concerning human dimensions have not been realized within it. Legalities are not fully complied with. Citizens are frustrated, fed up,

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- 196. The potential socioeconomic impacts resulting from the alternatives are presented in Section 4.10. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
- 197. Under Alternative 5, *No Action*, the withdrawal of 608,385 acres of currently withdrawn land on McGregor Range would not be renewed. There would be no further military use of the land returned to the public domain. With a decreased training capability, it is likely that a smaller number of military units and personnel will spend time at Fort Bliss. It is highly probable that decreased support will be required. Such support would include the procurement of fewer goods and services, mostly from the local economy. Additional information regarding the socioeconomic impacts of implementing Alternative 5 are presented in Section 4.10.5.

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tired of being force fed by bureaucrats.

Alternative 4 is the only option that should be supported. I choose this option in hopes of reducing foreign military presence in New Mexico. We do not need money that bad. Thank you.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, sir. Our final speaker who registered early to speak is A.R. Torres.

MR. TORRES: Good evening, my name is Al Torres or A.R. Torres. And I'm here mainly to advise whoever wants to contact me, to contact me, I know about the ranges. I was the territorial maintenance on McGregor Range, Fort Bliss, agent supervisor. I was on those ranges for over 30 years, I know how they were used. I know exactly how they were used, every inch of them. I know where it's dangerous, I know where it isn't.

We had over 1600 miles of roads and fences maintained. And right now you people may get something back, Otero County may get something back, but they are not going to get as much as they think. Alternative 4, if they get it, 20 | they're lucky and I agree with it. We move north of 506, define 506. There are two of them, define them, remove them, give them to the public domain, not to wilderness.

If you give them to wilderness you're only making the boundaries, the bordering properties rich. Timberon, Bug Scuffle, Circle Cross, they become richer. Turn it back to the

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198. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

public. The Army can maintain better security in the McGregor Range by separating with 506 and the boundary that cuts across to the Hammond Ranch. I know where they are, I know every inch of it and I would like to see that done. Thank you. Anybody who wants to contact me, they can do it. Thank you.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, Mr. Torres. Again, that was our final speaker who registered to speak, I will now ask if there's anyone in the audience who would like to make a comment, they may do so. Please raise your hand, so I can call you in some orderly fashion. Sir? Please again, it's important, since we do not have a card for you, to state your name and your address.

MR. GOSLIN: My name is Clarence R. Goslin, Box 1083 Alamogordo. I am very much in again, they have never mentioned the Air Force needing the bombing range out there. If our troops need the ground out there to train on, it is fine. For the Germans, I say no. And this 50 party went around helping them. If they've got any grandkids, they better go to thinking, instead of thinking about the dollar and go to thinking about their grandkids because they're going to be fighting them again.

I don't think that they out to be allowed whatsoever. I think that they ought to allow the people go out there and hunt or do whatever they like, graze their livestock out there, county gets all the tax. That's all.

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MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, sir. Anyone else?

Not seeing any other hands or anyone interested in speaking -excuse me, sir. Please, I'm sorry.

MR. YAHNEY: My name is Gordon Yahney and I'm a geologist with Harvey Yates Company. I live in Roswell, New Mexico. I'm involved in the oil and gas industry. I was partially or directly responsible for a gas discovery that's been made a couple of miles west of Alamo Mountain, which is, oh, 10 or 15 miles east of McGregor Range along the south border of the state line.

I guess I'm here as a proponent for multiple use for McGregor Range that includes oil and gas exploration. I think that the oil and gas reserve estimates that were part of the LEIS were grossly understated. And that, you know, I really wouldn't be here unless I thought that there was more oil and gas potential out there and more reserves to be found.

I think oil and gas activities are not incompatible with the McGregor Range activities, and that any alternative that is picked by the Congress or whatever should include oil and gas exploration activities as part of that legislation. And that's basically my statement.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you very much, sir.

Appreciate it. Anyone else? Yes, ma'am.

MS. MILLICAN: My husband just said you're going to talk? You don't know what you're talking about. I'm Janie

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199. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Oil and gas reserve estimates on McGregor Range are discussed in Section 3.5.

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#### Page 30

1 | Millican, I live in High Rolls.

MR. RUFFENACH: Closer to the microphone.

MS. MILLICAN: Closer to the mike, okay. I live up in High Rolls and one of my concerns is that I would like to see either 3 or 4, where the Otero Mesa is not used as a bombing range or have the planes fly over. And it's purely selfish, we moved up to the mountains in order to have quiet and when the planes come over the top of us in Haynes Canyon, we've had some blasts where they break the sound barrier that knocked dishes out of the counters and so on.

And I think that we need to take more into consideration, that there's ranchers out there who are raising their children and the noise factor, because I agree with people I hear, that we have not mentioned Otero as a bombing range and yet it seems like that's what we're working towards. To give this, if we go with No. 1, then that gives the military the right to go ahead and use that as the Otero bombing range. And if they do, it will impact upon the lives of the people. And I personally feel the government has way too much public land under their control.

So my opinion is that we do need to take some of that back for our use. There's a whale of a lot of territory out there that it seems to me like they could find someplace for the German Army to drop their bombs and do their training without getting into this beautiful Otero Mesa and the other

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200. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

## Public Hearing Transcripts Alamogordo, New Mexico

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area up there. Thank you.

MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, ma'am. I'll do a last call and then if I put my head down, I'll see another arm go up. With that, that concludes our comment period for this evening. Again, the address on the screen is most important for those of you who wish to continue to provide us input on the Draft LEIS. Also I would encourage you this evening to take advantage of a number of the people who are here, who are involved in the writing of that document.

Again, your discussions, if you want them to be part of the permanent record, those informal discussions will not be part of that public record. But I will ask the court reporter to stay on for a few minutes following our meeting and if you'd like to go up and present a comment to her directly, you may do so. However, we really do encourage you to put your comments in writing. You can use the forms provided on the table. And again, the comment period closes February 9th.

On behalf of the Army and BLM, thank you for spending time with us this evening and thank you for providing your comments.

(Hearing adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.)

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# **Public Hearing Transcripts** Alamogordo, New Mexico

Page 32 1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) 2 Reporter's Certificate 3 OTERO ) COUNTY OF 4 5 I, R. JAN WIMBERLY, CCR No. 13 within and for the State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached Transcript of Proceedings of the Public Meeting held January 12th, 1999, at 6:30 o'clock P.M., was reported by me, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the 10 meeting, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability. 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 DAMA'S REPORTING SERVICE P.O. Box 2022, Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

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           MCGREGOR RANGE MILITARY LAND WITHDRAWAL
      DRAFT LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
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                  Hearing January 13, 1999
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                           6:30 p.m
                       Las Cruces Hilton
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                   Las Cruces, New Mexico
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    PARTICIPANTS:
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          Ron Ruffenach, Moderator
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          Andy Vliet, Program Manager, McGregor Range
                       Renewal
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          Tim Sanders, Bureau of Land Management
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          Col. Jeff Gault, Chief of Staff, Fort Bliss
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           ELSIE R. PORTER, CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
               LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 523-8233
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MR. RUFFENACH: Let me begin by welcoming you here this evening. This is a public hearing on the McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement. My name is Ron Ruffenach, and I will be facilitating this evening's meeting. This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the National, NEPA, and the regulations that are published by the Council on Environmental Quality. 11 The purpose of this hearing is to receive your comments about the adequacy of the environmental 12 analysis, the environmental impact associated with 13 the proposals that were studied in the Draft 15 Legislative Environmental Impact Statement, or 16 Before proceeding with the opening briefings, I 17 18 would like to explain my role. I do work for the U.S. Army; however, I have had no involvement in the 19 development of this document. My role here this evening is simply to make sure we have a fair, orderly and impartial hearing, and that everyone who 23 wishes to speak has opportunity to do so. 24 This hearing will be conducted in two parts.

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The first part will begin with a brief presentation

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by the Army and the Bureau of Land Management. Dr.

Andy Vliet and Mr. Tim Sanders will discuss the findings of the DLEIS and the importance of your

participation in this hearing, whether by providing oral or written comments tonight or simply by

listening this evening and providing your comments

later.

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The second part of the hearing will take up the remainder of the evening. This will be your time to come up to the microphone and present your comments

on the draft document. In order to accommodate

everyone who wishes to speak, we will limit

individual comments to five minutes. Elected

officials and their representatives will have 10

minutes. The time limits are necessary so that

16 everyone wanting to speak will have the opportunity

17 to do so. And also, we are conducting this meeting

in the exact same format and fashion that we

conducted the last one last evening in Alamogordo

20 and the one tomorrow night in El Paso.

When you signed in this evening, you were asked

whether or not you'd like to speak, and we will

provide everyone, even though you may not have

indicated on the card, an opportunity to do so at

the end of the meeting. You can also provide your

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comments to us in writing. And there is a comment
    table in the left-hand corner of the room in the
    back, my left, where you can take that comment sheet
    and provide your comments. You can leave those here
   this evening or, again, you can mail then in to the
   address on that sheet. And we'll have the address
   posted on screen later this evening, and we'll talk
   a little bit more about the time the comment period
    ends.
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       I'd like to now introduce our presenters. Dr.
   Andy Vliet is the program manager for the McGregor
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   Range, New Mexico. And Mr. Tim Sanders is
   interagency coordinator in the BLM Las Cruces field
   office. Also sitting up here this evening is Col.
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   Jeff Gault, who is the chief of staff at Fort
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   Bliss.
       You'll also notice in the front of the room
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   there is a court reporter. The comments made this
1.8
   evening and the complete documentation of this
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   meeting are going to be handled by the court
   reporter, and they will in fact become part of the
   permanent record. So with that, let me turn it over
23
   to Dr. Andy Vliet.
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                  DR. VLIET: Hi, my name is Dr. Andy
  Vliet, and I'm the program manager for the McGregor
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Range Renewal. I've had a chance previously to visit with you, and it's kind of good to see you all again.

Tonight, I'm going to briefly discuss the results of the environmental impact analysis that we have undertaken over the past year. But before I get into that, I'd like to take a minute to go over a little bit of background on the McGregor Range land withdrawal process of which this draft LEIS is a part.

The Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1986 authorized the use of McGregor Range for military purposes through the year 2001 and requires, among other things, preparation of an environmental impact statement to address the effects of continuing the withdrawal, in this case for 50 years, until 2051, if there is a continuing need for McGregor Range.

The Army believes that there is a continuing need for the military training and testing activities that take place on the range and has filed an application for extension of the withdrawal. The application includes several studies and reports in addition to the LEIS. These studies and reports are submitted to the Department of Interior and comprise a case file for renewal of

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the land withdrawal. That information, including proposed legislation prepared by the Army and the BLM, is transmitted to Congress for legislative action prior to November 2001.

Congress makes this decision through legislation on the future of McGregor Range. The draft LEIS serves as a tool to evaluate the environmental effects of renewing the existing military land withdrawal and reasonable alternatives. So with that as background, I'd like to provide you with a summary of the findings of our environmental impact analysis for the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range.

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We examined six alternatives, including our proposed action to renew the withdrawal as it currently exists, and the no-action alternative to let the withdrawal expire and return to the public domain lands that are currently subject to the Military Lands Withdrawal Act.

We also did an analysis of environmental impacts of four other alternatives to the proposed action, including one that was proposed during scoping.

Each alternative describes different portions of McGregor that Congress could renew and what lands would be returned to the public domain. The Army

has been conducting studies to identify potential contamination on McGregor Range. Prior to the return of the currently withdrawn land under any alternative, the Secretary of the Army would prepare a report on lands contaminated with explosive, toxic or other hazardous substances and then decide, along with the Secretary of Interior, what clean-up is feasible given different future uses and relative risks. Following this decision, the Army would continue 10 its studies and pursue cleanup actions on McGregor 12 Range to the degree that resources are available. The LEIS alternatives are compared to the existing or baseline environment in 14 broad categories of environmental resources, including: Land use, water resources, biological resources, noise, cultural 16 17 resources, and socioeconomics. 18 Here is a summary highlighting the minimum findings of our environmental analysis for each of 19 20 the six alternatives: 21 Under alternative one, the proposed action--which would renew the McGregor Range land 22 withdrawal under the same conditions as provided in public law 99-606. McGregor Range currently encompasses approximately 698,000 acres of which

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8 608,000 acres are withdrawn under public law. The Army owns 71,000 acres. And in addition, the Army uses 18,000 acres of U.S. Forest land as a safety buffer for ground training. This additional acreage is not included in the withdrawal, but would continue to be used through an agreement with the Forest Service. There would be no change to McGregor Range boundaries under the proposed action. If alternative one is chosen, impacts to environmental resources will not change 11 significantly from current conditions, but there 12 could be a slight increase in water demands and public supplies in El Paso if the use of McGregor Range cap increases during the renewal period. Land management would continue as present, including continuation of nonmilitary land uses and 17 the beneficial effects on the regional economy. Operationally, the military's activities would continue and could expand in the future as additional training needs arise. Any potential new military uses at McGregor Range would require additional project specific environmental analysis. Under alternative two--which would renew the withdrawal of the Tularosa Basin and Otero Mesa

portions of McGregor Range for continued military

use. This is approximately 670,000 acres of public

land.

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Under this alternative, the land returned to the public domain would total about 40,000 acres, and includes the Sacramento Mountain Foothill portions of McGregor Range and public lands in the Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

The Army would retain fee-owned lands within the area returned to public domain for specialized training. Selection of this alternative would 12 result in an increase in public access to the Sacramento Mountains Foothills area for nonmilitary uses. There would be no significant impact to 15 resources, such as biological resources or to public 16 safety.

scenarios and reduction in military ground activities in the Sacramento Mountain Foothills. Training on Army-owned land would continue. Alternative three would renew the withdrawal of approximately 429,000 acres of public lands for continued military use. This is in the Tularosa 25 Basin portion of McGregor Range. The area returned

Impact to military operations would include a

33-percent reduction in Patriot Missile training

The withdrawn area of McGregor Range would encompass areas within the Tularosa Basin and the escarpment of the Otero Mesa. Army-owned property within the lands returned to the public domain would be retained for specialized military training.

critical environmental concern.

If alternative three is selected, military activity on Otero Mesa would be reduced and the tactical target complex supporting Holloman Air Force Base would no longer be used, resulting in less aircraft noise for residents north and east of Otero Mesa. The airspace over McGregor Range would continue to be used for military aircraft training.

Public access of the returned areas would increase, and there would be fewer closures of New Mexico Highway 506. There would be no significant impacts to other resources.

Operationally, the military would have an 89-percent reduction in its Patriot Missile training 25 scenarios. There would be a reduction in field

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Again, training on Army-owned lands would continue.

Under alternative four, which would renew the withdrawal of 365,000 acres of land for continued military use. This includes the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range south of New Mexico Highway 506.

This alternative would not renew the withdrawal of any portion of McGregor Range north of New Mexico Highway 506 or on the Otero Mesa. The lands returned to the public domain, about 244,000 acres, are comprised of all the existing leased cattle grazing units in currently withdrawn lands, the Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area, and the McGregor Black Grama Grasslands area, a critical area of concern.

A portion of grazing unit two south of New Mexico Highway 506 would be exchanged for an area between New Mexico Highway 506 and grazing unit three. Army-owned property within the lands returned to the public domain would be retained for 25 specialized training.

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Environmental impacts would be the same as under alternative three, but there would be no closures of New Mexico Highway 506 for military reasons. There would be a reduction in aircraft noise, because the lands north of Highway 506 that currently are used as a target complex would be returned to the public domain, and military uses would cease.

The tactical target complex for Holloman Air
Force Base on Otero Mesa would also cease to be
used; however, military aircraft training in the
airspace over McGregor Range would continue. From a
military operational standpoint, the impact on
Patriot Missile training would be the same as under
alternative three. There would be no military
ground operations on public lands on Otero Mesa and
north of New Mexico Highway 506, but training would
continue on Army-owned lands within those areas.

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Alternative five is the no-action alternative and would not renew any portion of withdrawn lands on McGregor Range. All currently withdrawn lands would return to the public domain.

Army-owned parcels surrounded by public lands would be exchanged for public lands in the southern part of McGregor Range through retained training capability and essential infrastructure around

McGregor base camp, the McGregor Ammunition Supply
Point, and the Meyer Range Complex. The
installation facilities on McGregor Range that would
have to be relocated elsewhere include the Orogrande
Range, the SHORAD Range, and the McGregor Range
Firing Complex.

There would be no further military use of the land returned to the public domain. Restricted airspace above the land areas would continue to be used for aircraft training by military units within the region.

In addition to the environmental impacts that would occur if alternative four were selected, there could be increased soil erosion in the Tularosa Basin portion of the range from cleanup activities and grazing under the no-action alternative.

However, erosion from military activities would be less, and there would be a reduction in noise associated with military activities.

Unless public access to portions of Tularosa

Basin is restricted prior to clean-up, there could

be increased safety risks.

Minor economic impacts would result from the decreased military employment and purchases.

Operationally, the military would continue

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Alternative six was developed using public comments submitted during scoping. It was suggested that Congress designate the Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area as a wilderness area. In addition, it was suggested that Congress designate the Otero Mesa and Sacramento Mountains Foothills, including in-holdings owned by the Army, as a national conservation area. The affected Army-owned in-holdings would be exchanged for other public lands elsewhere within McGregor Range.

This alternative would require further

Congressional action separate from the Army's

proposed renewal of the military land withdrawal and

could alter management practices associated with the

area included in the national conservation area.

The existing grazing area would continue to be available for multiple uses to the extent that these areas have productive value. The lands would be managed in accordance with public land laws and Congressional specifications for a national conservation area.

The area, as envisioned, could be designated

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along with alternatives three, four and five. The environmental impact would be the same as those found in alternatives three, four and five, plus some changes to land use designations may be required.

Military operational impacts would be the same as those under alternatives three, four and five, except no military training would occur within the national conservation area.

To sum up, the draft LEIS did not identify any significant environmental impacts for any of the alternatives compared to current conditions.

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Operationally, the renewal is needed to meet our nation's training requirements now and into the future. As I mentioned earlier, a Congressional decision on the Army's proposal will be, in effect, the record of decision.

Comments we receive tonight will be used to prepare the final LEIS which is scheduled for completion by August of 1999. While the Military Lands Withdrawal Act only required a draft document, the Army has chosen to complete a final LEIS which considers public comments on the draft LEIS.

The final LEIS will be distributed to local libraries, individuals, agencies, local governments

and organizations. All of your comments on the draft LEIS will be considered for the final one.

Again, thank you for your time in coming out tonight. I'll be followed by Tim Sanders from the BLM.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you, Andy.

I appreciate the opportunity to be able to speak with you tonight. My name is Tim Sanders. I'm the assistant Field Office Manager for the Las Cruces Field Office of BLM.

I would like to speak to you tonight about the BLM's involvement in the McGregor Range EIS.

McGregor Range is a part of the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Army, Fort Bliss.

The BLM manages McGregor Range much like adjacent public lands, providing for such uses as public access, hunting and livestock grazing.

The BLM is a cooperating agency in the McGregor
withdrawal project. In this capacity, the BLM has
reviewed the draft EIS and provided input for the
development of the withdrawal EIS.

McGregor Range offers an assortment of spectacular natural resources. McGregor Range contains three distinct regions. Going from the

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The area of McGregor Range known as Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills contain some of New Mexico's most spectacular cultural, recreational, livestock, wildlife and biological resources. Otero Mesa and the foothills contain a nationally recognized wilderness study area, a Black Grama Grassland Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and extensive deer and antelope herds.

The area also provides an important grazing resource, and is one of the few military withdrawals where public access continues to be allowed.

As co-manager of McGregor Range, the BLM has focused its management on the protection and enhancement of McGregor Range's valuable public resources. The BLM worked with Ft. Bliss to develop the EIS alternatives.

Alternative three is the most compatible with the resource values and public use interests of the BLM. Under alternative three, Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills would be returned to public land status and would be available for unrestricted

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   public use.
       Congress will ultimately select the boundaries
   for the McGregor Range withdrawal. Congress may
   very well select an alternative other than
   alternative three. If this occurs, there are five
   major items that should be addressed in whichever
   alternative is ultimately selected.
       I would like to go over these five items with
   you.
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       Number one, because of the uniqueness of Otero
   Mesa and the Foothills, the alternative selected
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   must protect this valuable area.
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       Second, if an alternative withdrawing Otero Mesa
   and the Foothills is selected, the alternative must
   restrict the types of military uses which would be
   allowed on Otero Mesa and in the Mountain
   Foothills.
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       Third, the existing 1990 memorandum of
   understanding between the BLM and the Army should be
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   incorporated into the alternative. This would
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   ensure continued public access and continued natural
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   resource management by the BLM. Incorporation of
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   the MOU would clearly delineate management
   responsibility and would address allowable land and
   mineral uses, wildlife and cultural resource
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protection measures, and livestock grazing practices.

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Fourth, the selected alternative must ensure continued public access.

Lastly, the withdrawal term should be commensurate with the foreseeable uses at McGregor Range. Fort Bliss' own mission and master plan indicates the military planning horizon is usually 20 years. If there is a withdrawal renewal, it should be commensurate with the military's own 20-year planning horizon.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that the public, the BLM, and the Army have had a long relationship on McGregor Range. This is a critical moment in determining the fate of over one-half million acres of land in southern New Mexico. It is crucial that the BLM and Army work at the local level with the public's input and support to craft an alternative which will protect public use and also protect the natural resources which occur on McGregor Range.

Thank you very much.

thank you all for your attention. We realize this
is a very complicated process, so we are going to
take about a 10-minute break at this point in time

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MR. RUFFENACH: Thank you, Tim. And

so that those of you who have expressed an interest to speak can have some discussions or get some points clarified with the presenters this evening. Before we do that, I'd like to just once again go over a few of the items related to the comment period. Again, our focus is to listen to your comments on the draft document; so, therefore, we would like your comments this evening to pretty much focus on the document itself. 10 If you want to make oral comments, again you can do so, and we will be calling folks up to the 12 microphone in the order in which they registered. Once again, if you are shy of standing up to the microphone, you can provide your comments in writing, and we will be taking these comments through February 9th. And I think there is a slide at the end of the presentations this evening that has the address on it. But I also think the 19 handouts that are around the room also reinforce 20 that. 21 Again the speakers this evening will be asked to limit their comments to five minutes. And again we ask that if you are going to plan on commenting, and you haven't done so, will you please fill out a card. Currently, we have five people who have

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Oral comments are no more or less important than the written ones. And again, all of these comments will be incorporated into the final document.

At this point in time, I'd like to go ahead and take about a 10-minute break, and I'll call everyone back in about one minute before we're ready to begin, and then we'll have the comment period. Thank you.

(A recess was taken.)

MR. RUFFENBACH: As I said before the 12 break, we have five speakers who have indicated an interest in speaking this evening. And again, we will ask that you limit your comments to five

My associate here in the front will give you a 30-second warning sign. We'd ask you to try to draw your comments to conclusion, begin drawing your comments to conclusion at that time. Again, we are conducting these meetings in a format, a similar format at each of the three locations. So in the interest of being consistent, we've allowed five minutes at the other locations, and we will do that again tomorrow evening in El Paso.

As we said earlier, also, the meeting is in fact

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   being documented by the court reporter, and she
   asked that you please come to the microphone and
   speak clearly, because this will, in fact, be your
   official input document.
       We'd like to ask you to restate your name and
   address and, again, please try to limit your
   comments to the draft LEIS document.
       Our first speaker this evening is Marianne
   Thaeler.
                  MS. THAELER: My name is Marianne
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   Thaeler. I live at 2015 Huntington Drive, Las
   Cruces, New Mexico, 88011. I am an Affected
   Interest on the 14 grazing units of McGregor Range,
   and I am here representing myself.
       It is time to stop the long, bitter and historic
  battle between the military and the citizens of
   southern New Mexico over acquisition of lands for
   military purposes which began during the World War
   II era. Some acquisitions were made by adverse
   condemnation; therefore, it is ironic and
   insensitive to the history of McGregor Range for the
   German and Japanese militaries to both desire to use
   the area, one flying into the path of the other.
       The one and only way to put things right is to
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   support the DLEIS alternative number six. This
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201. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review. NCA designation would take Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills off the market. I say "off the market," because the military solicits customers and tenants for its ranges. Foreign governments and multinational forces can choose from those sites which are said to be available. Cost is the major factor.

Presently, the German Air Force wants to use

Otero Mesa grasslands to construct a bombing range
tactical target complex. Japan wants to continue to
use the Otero Mesa grasslands as the buffer zone for
live Patriot missile training. The U.S. Army wants
to use the grasslands for Patriot missile training.

While the public presently uses the area for its historic uses--grazing, hunting and recreation--and desires to continue to do so. There are alternative sites for military activities, but they cost more to use.

Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills, with its
Culp Canyon Wilderness area, qualifies as a national

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conservation area because it is unique: It is a

National Historic Landscape with national historic

and archeological sites. It has vast grasslands and

mountain ecosystems. It has unique populations of

plants and animals, including eagles, fox, prairie

dog towns, aplomado falcons, and unique cacti and

tall yucca.

It has unique topography. Otero Mesa is 1200

feet above the Tularosa Basin floor. The Mountain

Foothills rise above the mesa and provide

13 It has grazing units with no resident ranchers,
14 and thus can be managed for the best interest of the
15 natural resources. It is presently managed for
16 historic uses--grazing, hunting and recreation.

It can be and should be managed as a showcase

for the historic custom and culture of southern New

spectacular views of two states -- Texas and New

Mexico, an historic landscape where ranchers fought the military, where their homes, corrals, wells and cisterns, and gravesites still exist.

The unique tall yucca habitat, which is the nesting habitat for the endangered aplomado falcon, is presently used as a buffer zone for live Patriot

Missile training. Every time a missile lands, it

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202. Comment considered.

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causes a hot range fire. Hot fires are caused by burning propellants; cold fires are naturally caused by lightening fires. But on the ground, it is easy to see the difference. These fires need to be stopped. The buffer zone should be eliminated.

There are alternative sites for the training.

Hunting seasons are regulated by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, which also regulates hunting on the DOD-personnel-only hunting area.

Pronghorn herds are uniquely large and docile, and

muzzle-loaded guns and bows and arrows.

The Culp Canyon Wilderness Study area was not initially recommended for wilderness status solely because of the temporary withdrawal under BLM/U.S. Army Fort Bliss joint management. This temporary withdrawal of Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills areas of McGregor Range should not be renewed, and Congress should act to permanently resolve public versus military conflicts.

hunts are limited to the use of antique

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For these reasons, the LEIS includes alternative number six, the designation by Congress of the Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills NCA, and designation of Culp Canyon WSA as wilderness.

I strongly support alternative number 6. I do

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not object to the continued use by the military of
   the portion of McGregor Range which is in the
   Tularosa Basin as long as the activities no longer
   impact Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills. Thank
   you.
                  MR. RUFFENBACH: Thank you very
    much. Our next speaker is Noel Cooley.
                  MR. COOLEY: My name is Noel Cooley.
    My address is 935 Delta Drive, Las Cruces, New
   Mexico, 88001. I am a member of Dona Ana County
   Associated Sportsmen, but I am here tonight tonight
   to speak on my own behalf.
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       I support alternative four. And I support it
   for only 20 years. I think a 50-year withdrawal is
   too long, and the military doesn't plan that far
   ahead anyhow. So I support it for 20 years,
   alternative four. Thank you.
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                  MR. RUFFENBACH: Thank you very much,
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   sir. Our next speaker is Jim Bates.
                  MR. BATES: My name is Jim Bates. I
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   live at 2977 Sundance Circle, Las Cruces, New
   Mexico, 88001. And I am here representing the
   Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen, and I have a
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   prepared statement to read on their behalf.
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       The Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen represent
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203. The Army employs various planning cycles for different aspects of its mission. For example, the Army uses a 6-year programming cycle for operational activities with facility planning over a 20-year horizon. Doctrinal and equipment life-cycle planning can extend over a period of 40 years or more. The proposed 50-year withdrawal period encompasses each of these periods and enables long-term national security plans to rely on a stable land resource.

Different (shorter or longer) withdrawal periods would not substantially change the environmental impacts of a land allocation decision. Continuing stewardship and compliance activities would be required regardless of duration. Public and/or agency participation in ongoing environmental management activities on McGregor Range is assured through existing laws, regulations, and policies as listed in Table 1.6-1. The Army is committed to continuing public participation under NEPA as major new actions that could significantly affect the environment are proposed for the installation. The McGregor Range RMPA, jointly prepared by the BLM and the Army provides for continuing public participation. The annual RMP update informs the public of the progress made in implementing the RMPA. The Army's INRMP and ICRMP contain provisions for agency coordination and revision as necessary every 5 years. Together, these regulatory requirements, policies, and procedures will ensure opportunities for both public and agency input into the future.

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approximately 1,500 outdoors-oriented men and women
   in the Las Cruces area. We support alternative
   three for the proposed withdrawal. It is our
    position that there are adequate areas in the
   Tularosa Basin to carry out military objectives,
   including the proposed bombing range. However,
   recognizing the past history of the McGregor Range,
   we feel that the chance of the military returning
   the Otero Mesa south of the Sacramento Foothills
   portion of the range to public ownership is remote.
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       Therefore, our secondary position on this issue
   is that assuming the Otero Mesa and Sacramento
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   Foothills area is again withdrawn, that the military
   be required under the agreement to act cooperatively
   with the Bureau of Land Management and the New
   Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the Forest
   Service to ensure that this portion of the range is
   not degraded or contaminated.
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       Further, our organization strongly feels that
   public access to the range for recreational
   purposes, including hunting, should be quaranteed as
   part of the withdrawal. Under no circumstances
   should any military activity be allowed which would
   preclude the use of this area by the public. All
   such activity should be confined to areas west of
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204. Thank you for being involved in the public participation process. The Army will consider your comment. Many military activities that occur on McGregor Range prevent the concurrent use of the land for public recreation. There are safety issues that would occur should military training and testing occur in areas that are open for recreational purposes.

205. Alternative 1, the Army's proposed action, would continue to provide public access to McGregor Range consistent with public safety, the military mission, and the BLM management of nonmilitary activities.

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the escarpment which are already degraded and off
   limits to the public.
       Finally, it should be noted that at some point
   in the future, however distant, this area, as well
   as all other military installations will be used for
   other purposes. It should be a matter of policy
   that the military, or any other contaminating entity
   be required to clean up their mess as it occurs
   rather than let these areas be ongoing dumping
   grounds for potentially highly dangerous materials
   and explosives. We must not jeopardize the
   well-being of future generations and their quality
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   of life because of our own present
   shortsightedness.
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                  MR. RUFFENBACH: Thank you, Mr.
   Bates. Our next speaker is Tony Popp.
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                  MR. POPP: My name is Tony Popp. I
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   live at 455 El Prado in Las Cruces, New Mexico,
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   88005. I am president of the Dona Ana County
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   Associated Sportsmen. I want to thank you for the
   opportunity to make comments concerning the McGregor
   Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Legislative
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   Environmental Impact Statement.
       You have heard from me before and should not be
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   surprised by my comments. The first comment I would
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like to make is that I am pleased to see that the
   alternatives do not include the actual permanent
   transfer of lands to military use. This assures
   that the public will have another chance to have
   unrestricted access to the area in question in the
   future.
       The members of the group I represent are
   concerned with two aspects of the renewal. The
   first is that we would like to maintain the
   integrity of land that makes up McGregor Range. And
   second, we would like to maintain and, in fact,
   increase public access to the range. In light of
   these concerns, we would like to support the
   no-action alternative.
       This may not be reasonable, since it would
   severely restrict Ft. Bliss in accomplishing its
   military training missions. As we all know, the
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   Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range cannot be
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   used by the public because of the presence of
   unexploded ordnance.
       The possibility of this area being rehabilitated
   to the extent of allowing public use is very low.
   Even if it could be done, the price is prohibitive.
   We do not want the rest of McGregor Range to become
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like the Tularosa Basin. The alternatives presented

206. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

do not suggest that the rest of the range will be used this extensively; however, the plan is to increase the use of the other areas of the range.

The protection of the Otero Mesa and Sacramento
Foothills portions of McGregor Range are of primary
interest to the group. Any additional use by the
military increases the possibility of long-lasting
damage to the habitat in these portions of the
range; therefore, the Dona Ana County Associated
Sportsmen would support alternatives three through
six. Any of these alternatives would ensure no
damage to areas of primary concern and would allow
access to the public, since the areas would be
returned to unrestricted public use.

If either alternative one or alternative two is selected, there are some things that still can be done to protect habitat and ensure access by the public. First of all, the area must be co-managed by the military and BLM.

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The BLM has done a great job in managing the area for public use. In particular, the grazing management practices provide an excellent example of how all grazing allotments could be managed.

Second, access by the public must be assured.

While I must commend the military in its efforts to

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documents.

comments.

including Silver City, Alamogordo, and T or C. And I am also representing the Rio Grande Chapter of the

assure access, the amount of access is usually determined by the sitting commander. These access

Thank you for allowing me to present these

MR. RUFFENBACH: Thank you, Mr.

MS. BLEVINS: My name is Cheryl

issues should be addressed in, and access quaranteed, in the legislative withdrawal

Popp. Our next speaker is Cheryl Blevins.

Blevins. P. O. Box 443, Mesilla, New Mexico,
88046. And I'm here representing the Southern New
Mexico Group of the Sierra Club, which includes

Sierra Club, which includes the whole state of New

18 Mexico, as well as West Texas.

We would like to express our support for Otero

Mesa and the Sacramento Mountains Foothills as a

national conservation area and also for Culp Canyon
as a wilderness area, alternative six.

Otero Mesa rises 1200 feet above the floor of the Tularosa Basin. The foothills in the Sacramento

25 Mountains rise above the basin. Culp Canyon is a

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207. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

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wilderness study area in the Sacramento Foothills.
       Otero Mesa and the Mountain Foothills is
   presently managed jointly by the BLM and the U.S.
   Army, Ft. Bliss, until the year 2001. The BLM
   manages Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills for
   multiple uses -- wildlife, recreation, grazing, and
 7 hunting. The U.S. Army uses portions of the area
   occasionally for multinational force training and as
   a buffer zone for live-fire missile training. These
10 military training programs expire with the temporary
11 withdrawal of McGregor Range in the year 2001.
       Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills are recognized
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13 as an historic landscape under the rules of the New
14 Mexico State Historic Preservation Offices, with
15 designation to the National Registry of Historic
16 Places. This historic landscape includes 10
17 historic homesites an over 100 prehistoric sites.
  The area is being evaluated by the Mescalero and
19 Tiqua Indians for potential historic sacred sites.
       Alternative six in the legislative EIS, the
21 rewithdrawal of McGregor Range for 50 years, would
22 have Congress designate Otero Mesa and Mountain
23 Foothills as a national conservation area and Culp
24 Canyon as a BLM wilderness area.
        We support alternative six. The German Air
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33 Force wants it for a bombing range complex. The Army wants it for missile training. Alternative sites for these activities exist. We think Congressional designation of Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills as a national conservation area, and Culp Canyon as a BLM wilderness area is very important and needed. Thank you. MR. RUFFENBACH: Thank you very much. That concludes the speakers who have registered 10 this evening. Is there anyone at this point in time that did not register that would like to make a 12 comment? 13 14 Once again, I'll allow five minutes on these comments? Anyone? Not seeing anyone, again, that concludes the formal portion of the meeting; however, a member of the BLM paneled, and Fort Bliss folks are here this evening, and will be more than 18 19 happy to answer any questions you might have. Just a reminder, though, that those questions and the 20 exchange of information does not become part of the 21 permanent records; so, therefore, we again encourage 22 you to provide your comments to us in writing By February 9th to the address listed up there. 24 25 Or again, you can FAX us to the number listed on

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   the thing. Thank you for taking the time out of
   your very busy schedules to be with us this
   evening. Thank you, for coming.
                  (Formal meeting adjourned at 7:26
5
   p.m.)
                  (Following statement dictated to the
                   court reporter at the end of the
                   formal comment section.)
                  MR. HAKKILA: My name is Mark
   Hakkila, 1750 Boston Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico,
11 88001. I'm representing myself. And I support
   alternative five or no-action alternative. I
   believe that the Army loses site of American freedom
   and what it is. And to me, American freedom is the
   ability for me, as an American, to go use public
   land. And this is important public land. It has a
   lot of recreational values to it that the Army
   doesn't manage and in fact destroys. And I think
   it's important to keep this land available for the
   American public. That's the basis of American
   freedom for me and for a lot of future generations.
   That's it.
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208. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

35 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE I, ELSIE R. PORTER, do hereby certify that I was a Certified Court Reporter for the State of New Mexico on January 13, 1999. I further certify that the preceding 34 pages represent a true and correct transcript of the public hearing held on that date, to the best of my knowledge and ability. 11 12 Elsie Porter 13 14 Elsie R. Porter, NM CCR #61 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 ELSIE R. PORTER, CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 523-8233

### Doña Ana County Associated Sportsmen, Inc. Written Follow-up to Support Spoken Comments at Las Cruces Public Hearing



### Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen, Inc.

P. O. Box 1417 Las Cruces, N. M. 88001

Dedicated to The Conservation of Soils, Forests, Waters, Wildlife, and All Natural Resources

Affiliated with NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE FEDERATION

January 13, 1999

McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Madam/Sir:

I want to thank for the opportunity to testify concerning the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement. You have heard from me before and should not be surprised by my comments.

The first comment I would like to make is that I am pleased to see that the alternatives do not include the actual permanent transfers of land to military use. This assures that the public will have another chance to have unrestricted access to the area in question in the future.

The members of the group I represent are concerned with two aspects of the renewal. The first is that we would like to maintain the integrity of land that makes up McGregor Range and second we would like to maintain and, in fact, increase public access to the Range. In light of these concerns we would like to support the No Action Alternative. This may not be a reasonable alternative since it would severely restricts Fort Bliss in accomplishing its military training missions.

As we all know the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range cannot be used by the public because of the presence of unexploded ordinance. The possibility of this area being rehabilitated to the extent of allowing public use is very low. Even if it could be done the price is prohibitive. We do not want the rest of McGregor Range to become like the Tularosa Basin. The alternatives presented do not suggest that the rest of the Range will be used this extensively. However the plan is to increase the use of the other areas of the Range.

The protection of the Otero Mesa and Sacramento Foothills portions of McGregor Range are of primary interest to the group. Any additional use by the military increases the possibility of long lasting damage to the habitat in these portions of the Range. Therefore, the Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen would support alternatives three through six. Any of these alternatives would ensure no damage to the areas of primary concern and would allow access to the public since the areas would be returned to unrestricted public use.

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### Doña Ana County Associated Sportsmen, Inc. Written Follow-up to Support Spoken Comments at Las Cruces Public Hearing

If either Alternative one or Alternative two is selected, there are some things that still can be done to protect habitat and ensure access by the public. First of all the area must be co-managed by the military and BLM. The BLM has done a great job in managing the area for public use. In particular the grazing management practices provide an excellent example of how all grazing allotments could be managed.

Second, access by the public must be assured. While I must commend the military in its efforts to assure access, the amount of access is usually determined by the sitting commander. These access issues should be addressed in, and access guaranteed, in legislative withdrawal documents.

Thank you for allowing me to present these comments for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tony Popp, President

Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen, Inc.

P.O. Box 1417

Las Cruces, NM 88004

### Marianne Thaeler Written Follow-up to Support Spoken Comments at Las Cruces Public Hearing

TESTIMONY McGREGOR RANGE LEIS HEARING Hilton Hotel, Las Cruces, New Mexico January 13, 1999, 6:30 PM

My name is Marianne Thaeler.

I am an Affected Interest on the 14 grazing units of McGregor Range.

I am here representing myself.

It is time to stop the long and bitter historic battles between the military and the citizens of southern New Mexico over acquisition of lands for military purposes which began during the WWII era. Some acquisitions were made by adverse condemnation. Therefore, it is ironic and insensitive to the history of McGregor Range for the German and Japanese militaries to both desire to use the area - one flying into the path of the other.

The one and only way to put things right is to support the LEIS Alternative #6.

This Alternative allows Congress to designate the Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills (which includes Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area) as a National Conservation Area with its Culp Canyon WSA as BLM Wilderness.

NCA designation would take Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills "OFF THE MARKET."

I say "off the market" because the military solicits customers and tenants for ranges. Foreign governments and multi-national forces can choose from those sites which are said to be available. COST IS THE MAJOR FACTOR.. Presently, the German AF wants to use Otero Mesa grasslands to construct a bombing range tactical target complex, Japan wants to continue to use the Otero Mesa grasslands as a buffer zone for live PATRIOT missile training, and the US Army wants to use the grasslands for PATRIOT missile training. While the public presently uses the area for historic uses - grazing, hunting and recreation, and desires to continue to do so.

There are alternative sites for military activities, but they cost more to use.

### Marianne Thaeler Written Follow-up to Support Spoken Comments at Las Cruces Public Hearing

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Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills with its Culp Canyon Wildness area qualifies as a National Conservation Area, because it is unique:

- it is a National Historic Landscape with National Historic and Archeologic Sites.
- it has vast grasslands and mountain ecosystems.
- it has unique populations of plants and animals, eagles, fox, prairie dog towns, aplomado falcons, and unique cacti, and tall yucca.
- it has unique topography. Otero Mesa is 1200 feet above the Tularosa Basin floor. The Mountain Foothills are rise above the Mesa and provide spectacular views of two states, Texas and New Mexico.
- it has grazing units with no resident ranchers, and thus can be managed for the best interests of the natural resources.
- it is presently managed for historic uses grazing, hunting, and recreation.
- it can be, and should be, managed as a Show Case for the historic custom and culture of southern New Mexico, an historic landscape where ranchers fought the military, where there homes, corrals, wells and cisterns, and grave site still exist.

The unique tall yucca habitat, which is nesting habitat for the endangered aplomado falcon, is presently used for a buffer zone for live PATRIOT missile training. Every time a missile lands it causes a hot range fires. (Hot fires are caused by burning propellant, cold fires are naturally caused by lightning fires. On the ground it is easy to see the difference.) These fires need to be stopped. The buffer zone should be eliminated. There are alternative sites for the training.

Hunting seasons are regulated by the New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish,

### Marianne Thaeler Written Follow-up to Support Spoken Comments at Las Cruces Public Hearing

which also regulates hunting on the DOD PERSONELL ONLY hunting area. Pronghorn herds are uniquely large and docile, and hunts are limited to the use of antique mussel loaded guns and bow-and-arrow.

The Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area was not initially recommended for Wilderness status, solely because of the temporary withdrawal under BLM/US Army Ft. Bliss joint management. This temporary withdrawal of Otero Mesa and Mountains Foothills area of McGregor Range should not be

For these reasons, the LEIS includes Alternative #6, the designation by Congress of the Otero Mesa and Mountains Foothills NCA, and designation of the Culp Canyon WSA as Wilderness,

renewed and Congress should act to permanently resolve the public vs.

I strongly support Alternative #6.

I do not object to the continued use by the military of the portion of McGregor Range which is in the Tularosa Basin, as long as activities no longer impact Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills.

Thank you.

military conflicts.

nments at Las C				

1 2 3 4 5 PUBLIC HEARING 6 7 McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement 8 9 had on January 14, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. 10 at the Marriott Hotel-El Paso, 1600 Airway Boulevard 11 El Paso, Texas 79925. 12 13 14 15 RON RUFFENNACH, U. S. ARMY CHAIRMAN: 16 ANDY VLIET, McGregor Range Program Manager: 17 Land Renewal 18 TIM SANDERS, Las Cruces Appearing for BLM: 19 Colonel Jeff Gault, 20 Also Present: Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. 21 Court Reporter: Sharon Cardon 22 23 24 25 1 SHARON CARDON & COMPANY 1300 Bassett Tower, 303 Texas Avenue El Paso, Texas 79901 (915) 545-1410 FAX (915) 545-1469 ORIGINAL

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### **Public Hearing Transcripts** El Paso, Texas

MR. RUFFENNACH: If I can have everybody take their seat, we're going to begin.

Let me first begin by welcoming you here this evening to -- this is a public hearing on the McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement. My name is Ron Ruffennach and I will be facilitating this evening's meeting. This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA and the regulations that are published by the Council on Environmental Quality.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive your comments about the adequacy of the environmental analysis and the environmental impacts associated with the proposals that were studied in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement or DLEIS.

Before proceeding with the overview briefings this evening, I would like to explain my role tonight. I do work for the U. S. Army; however, I've had no involvement in the development of this document. My role is simply to ensure that we have a fair, orderly and impartial hearing and that all who desire to be heard have the opportunity to do so.

This hearing will be conducted in two parts. The first part will be briefings by the Army and the Bureau

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of Land Management. Dr. Andy Vliet and Mr. Tim Sanders will discuss the findings of the DLEIS and the importance of your participation at this hearing whether by providing oral or written comments tonight or simply listening to our presentation and providing your comments later.

The second part of the hearing takes up the remainder of the evening. This will be your time to come up to the microphone and present your comments on the draft document. In order to accommodate everyone who wishes to speak, we will limit individual comments to five minutes. Elected officials and representatives will have ten minutes. The time limits are necessary so that everyone wanting to speak will have an opportunity to do so. And at this point this time I think it's important to point out the fact that the format for this meeting this evening is being done the exact same way we've done the two previous evening meetings, the one in Alamogordo on Tuesday night and the one last evening in Las Cruces.

When you registered you were asked if you'd like to speak and we have those cards this evening and we'll take the speakers in the order in which they registered. However, if you do not want to speak this evening, you can also provide your comments to us in writing and we'll have a date up on the screen later on and an address

where you can mail your comments. There are comment sheets in the back of the room where you can actually take those with you, complete them and mail them in to us or provide your comments in any way you'd like to by a date that we'll tell you later.

Our presenters for this evening are Dr. Andy Vliet who is the program manager of the McGregor Range land renewal and Mr. Tim Sanders, who is the interagency coordinator for BLM in the Las Cruces field office. Also here this evening is Colonel Jeff Gault, who is the chief of staff at Fort Bliss. Following their presentations I will go over the procedures for the public comment period.

I'd like to now turn it over to Dr. Andy Vliet.

MR. VLIET: Thanks, Ron. I'm Dr. Andy Vliet. I'm the program manager and responsible for the preparation of the draft LEIS. Tonight I'm going to briefly discuss the results of the environmental impact analysis that we have undertaken over the past year, but before I get into that, I'd like to take a minute and go over a little bit of background of the McGregor Range land withdrawal process of which this draft LEIS is a part.

The Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1986 authorized the use of McGregor Range for military purposes through the year 2001 and requires among other

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The application includes several studies and reports in addition to the LEIS. These studies and reports are submitted to the Department of Interior and comprise the case file for renewal of the land withdrawal. That information, including proposed legislation prepared by the Army and the BLM, is then transmitted to Congress for legislative action prior to November 2001.

Congress makes the decision through legislation on the future of McGregor Range. The draft LEIS serves as a tool to evaluate environmental effects of renewing the existing military land withdrawal and reasonable alternatives. So with that as background, I'd like to provide to you a summary of the findings of our environmental impact analysis for the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range.

We examined six alternatives including our proposed

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withdrawal.

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action to renew the withdrawal as it currently exists and the no-action alternative, to let the withdrawal expire and return to the public domain of 608,000 acres of McGregor Range that are currently subject to the Military Lands Withdrawal Act. We also did an analysis of environmental impacts of four other alternatives to the proposed action including one that was proposed during scoping. Each alternative describes different portions of McGregor that Congress could renew and what lands would be returned to the public domain.

 The Army has been conducting studies to identify potential contamination of McGregor Range. Prior to the return of currently withdrawn land under any alternative, the Secretary of the Army would prepare a report on lands contaminated with explosive, toxic or other hazardous substances and then decide along with the Secretary of Interior what level of cleanup is feasible given different future uses and relative risks. Following this decision the Army would continue with studies and pursue cleanup actions at McGregor Range to the degree resources are available.

The LEIS alternatives are compared to the existing or baseline environment in 14 broad categories of environmental resources including land use, water resources, biological resources, noise, cultural

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resources and socioeconomics. Here's a summary highlighting the main findings of our environmental analysis for each of the six alternatives.

Under alternative one, the proposed action would renew the McGregor Range land withdrawal under the same conditions as provided in Public Law 99-606. McGregor Range currently encompasses approximately 697,000 acres; 608,000 acres are withdrawn under public law.

The Army owns 71,000 acres. In addition, the Army uses 18,000 acres of U. S. Forest Service land as a safety buffer and for ground training. This additional acreage is not included in the withdrawal but would continue to be used through an agreement with the Forest Service. There would be no change to the McGregor Range boundary under the proposed action.

If alternative one is chosen impacts to environmental resources would not change significantly from current conditions, but there could be a slight increase in water demand on public supplies in El Paso. If use of the McGregor Range camp increases during the renewal period, land management would continue as present including continuation of nonmilitary land uses and the beneficial effects on the regional economy.

Operationally the military's activities would continue and could expand in the future as additional

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Alternative two would renew the withdrawal of the Tularosa Basin and Otero Mesa portions of McGregor Range for continued military use. This is approximately six hundred -- correction -- 569,000 acres of public land. Under this alternative the land returned to the public domain would total about 40,000 acres and includes the Sacramento Mountains foothills portion of McGregor Range and the public land in the Culp Canyon Wilderness study area. The Army would retain fee-owned lands within the area returned to public domain for specialized training.

Selection of this alternative would result in an increase in public access to the Sacramento Mountain foothills area for nonmilitary users. There would be no significant impacts to resources such as biological resources or to public safety.

Impacts to military operations would include a 33 percent reduction in Patriot missile training scenarios and reduction in military ground activities in the Sacramento Mountain foothills. Training on Army-owned lands would continue.

Alternative three would renew the withdrawal of approximately 429,000 acres of public land for continued

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military use. This is in the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range. The area returned to the public domain, about 180,000 acres would include public land on the Otero Mesa and in the Sacramento Mountain foothills portions of McGregor Range, Culp Canyon Wilderness study area and the McGregor black grama grasslands area of critical environmental concern.

The withdrawn area of McGregor Range would encompass areas within the Tularosa Basin and the escarpment of Otero Mesa. Army-owned property within the lands returned to the public domain would be retained by the Army for training.

If alternative three is selected, military activity on Otero Mesa would be reduced and the tactical training complex proposed by the U. S. Air Force would no longer be used resulting in less aircraft noise for residents north and east of Otero Mesa. The air space over McGregor Range would continue to be used for military aircraft training, however.

Public access to the returned areas would increase and there would be fewer closures of New Mexico Highway 506. There would be no significant impacts to other resources.

Operationally the military would have an 89 percent reduction in its Patriot missile training scenarios.

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There would be a reduction in field training exercise sites, on-road vehicle maneuver areas and reduction in ground training activities in the Sacramento Mountain foothills and on the Otero Mesa. Training on Army-owned land would continue.

Alternative four would renew the withdrawal of about 365,000 acres for continued military use. This includes the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor range south of New Mexico Highway 506. This alternative would not renew the withdrawal of any portion of McGregor Range north of New Mexico Highway 506 or on Otero Mesa. The lands returned to the public domain, about 244,000 acres, are comprised of all the existing leased cattle grazing units in currently withdrawn lands, the Culp Canyon wilderness study area and the black -- McGregor black grama grassland area of critical environmental concern.

The portion of grazing unit two south of New Mexico Highway 506 would be exchanged for the area between New Mexico Highway 506 and grazing unit three. Army-owned property within the lands returned to the public domain would be retained for specialized training.

Environmental impacts would be the same as under alternative three, but there would be no closures of New Mexico Highway 506 for military reasons. There would be a reduction in aircraft noise because the land north of

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Highway 506 that currently has a bombing range would be returned to the public domain and military use would cease. The tactical target complex proposed by the Air Force on Otero Mesa would also cease to be used; however, military aircraft training in the air space over McGregor Range would continue.

From a military operational standpoint impacts on Patriot missile training would be the same as under alternative three. There would be no military ground operations on public lands on Otero Mesa north of New Mexico Highway 506. The training would continue on Army-owned lands within these areas.

Alternative five, the no-action alternative, would not renew any portion of withdrawn land on McGregor Range. All currently withdrawn lands would return to the public domain. Army-owned parcels surrounded by public land would be exchanged for public lands in the southern part of McGregor Range to retain training capability and essential infrastructure around the McGregor Range camp, the McGregor ammunition supply point and the Meyer Range complex.

The installation facilities on McGregor Range that would have to be relocated elsewhere include the Oro Grande Range, SHORAD Range and McGregor Range firing complex. There would be no further military use of the

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lands returned to the public domain. Restricted air space above the land area would continue to be used for aircraft training by the military units in the region.

In addition to the environmental impacts that would occur if alternative four were selected, there could be increased soil erosion in the Tularosa Basin portion of the range from cleanup activities and grazing under the no-action alternative; however, erosion from military activities would be less and there would be a reduction in noise associated with military activities.

Unless public access to portions of Tularosa Basin is restricted prior to cleanup there could be increased safety risks. A minor economic impact would result from the decrease in military employment and purchases.

Operationally the military would continue aircraft training in the air space above McGregor Range, but there would be no military ground operations except at the south end of the range.

Alternative six was developed using public comments submitted during scoping. It was suggested that Congress designate the Culp Canyon Wilderness study area as a wilderness area. In addition it was suggested that Congress could designate the Otero Mesa and Sacramento Mountains foothills including in-holdings owned by the Army as a national conservation area. The affected

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 This alternative would require further

Congressional action separate from the Army's proposed renewal of the military land withdrawal and could alter the management practices associated with the area included in the national conservation area. Existing grazing area would continue to be available for multiple uses to the extent that the areas have productive value.

The land would be managed in accordance with public land loss and Congressional specifications of the national conservation area. The area as envisioned could be designated along with alternatives three, four or five. Environmental impacts would be the same as those that would occur if alternatives three, four or five were selected plus some changes to land use designations would be required.

Military operational impacts would be the same as those under alternatives three, four and five except no military training would occur within the national conservation area.

To sum up, the draft LEIS did not identify any significant environmental impacts with any of the alternatives compared to current conditions.

Operationally the renewal is needed to meet our nation's

ie

 mentioned earlier the Congressional decision on the Army's proposal will be in effect the record of decision for the LEIS.

training requirements now and into the future, but as I

Comments we receive tonight will be used to prepare the final LEIS which is scheduled for completion by August 1999. While the Military Lands Withdrawal Act only required a draft document, the Army has chosen to complete a final LEIS that considers public comment on the draft LEIS. The final LEIS will be distributed to local libraries, individuals, agencies, local governments and organizations. All of your comments on the draft LEIS will be considered for the final.

Again, thank you for your time and attention and now Mr. Tim Sanders from the BLM will discuss their role.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you, Andy. My name is Tim
Sanders. I'm the assistant field manager for the Las
Cruces office of the Bureau of Land Management. I'd like
to talk to you tonight about BLM's involvement in the
McGregor Range LEIS.

McGregor Range is a part of the public lands and is administered jointly by the Las Cruces field office of Bureau of Land Management and the U. S. Army/Fort Bliss. The BLM manages McGregor Range much like the adjacent public land provided for such uses as public access,

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 hunting and livestock grazing.

The BLM is a cooperating agency in the McGregor withdrawal project. In this capacity we have reviewed draft documents and provided input for the development of the withdrawal LEIS.

McGregor Range offers a spectacular assortment of natural resources. McGregor Range contains three distinct regions. If I could withdraw your attention to the map to my right, going from the lower elevation to the higher, we have the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range, the Otero Mesa portion and the mountain foothills.

The area of McGregor Range known as Otero Mesa and the mountain foothills contains some of New Mexico's most spectacular cultural, recreational, livestock, wildlife and biological resources. Otero Mesa and the foothills contains a nationally recognized wilderness study area, the Culp Canyon Wilderness study area, a black grama and grassland area of critical environmental concern and extensive deer and antelope herds. The area also provides an important grazing resource and is one of the few military withdrawals where the public is allowed access.

As co-manager of McGregor Range the BLM has focused its management on the protection and the enhancement of

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the range's valuable public resources. The BLM worked with Fort Bliss to develop the EIS alternatives presented to you tonight. Alternative three is the most compatible with resource values and public use interest of the Bureau of Land Management. Under alternative three Otero Mesa and the mountain foothills would be returned to public land status and would be available for unrestricted public use.

Congress will ultimately decide which boundary to select for McGregor Range. Congress may very well select an alternative other than alternative three. If this were to occur there are five items that should be addressed in whichever alternative is ultimately selected by Congress.

These five items are, number one: Because of the uniqueness of Otero Mesa and the mountain foothills, the alternative selected must protect this valuable area.

Second, if an alternative withdrawing Otero Mesa and the foothills is selected, the alternative must restrict the types of military uses which would be allowable on Otero Mesa and the foothills.

Third, the existing 1990 memorandum of understanding between the BLM and the Army should be incorporated into the alternative. This would ensure continued public access and natural resource management

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by the BLM. Incorporation of the MOU would clearly delineate management responsibility and would address allowable lands and minerals uses on the range, wildlife and cultural protection measures and livestock grazing practices.

 Fourth, the selected alternative must ensure continued public access and, lastly, the withdrawal terms should be commensurate with the foreseeable uses of the range. The Fort Bliss mission master plan EIS indicates a military planning horizon of 20 years. If there is a withdrawal renewal, we believe it should be commensurate with the military's own 20-year planning horizon.

In closing, I would like to say that the public, BLM and the Army have had a long relationship on McGregor Range. This is a critical moment in determining the fate of over one-half million acres of land in southern New Mexico. It is crucial that the BLM and Army work at the local level with the public's input and support to craft an alternative which will protect the public use and the natural resources of McGregor Range.

Thank you very much.

MR. RUFFENNACH: Thank you, Tim. At this time we would normally take a break to allow our speakers to prepare or clarify any information or ask any questions that they have of the presenters. With your permission I

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24 25 have one speaker who has expressed an interest to speak this evening. I'd like to dispense with the break if that's okay with everyone and just proceed directly to the public comment period.

Once again oral comments taken are no more or less important than the written ones so again for those who are in the audience and they're not comfortable coming to the microphone to speak, we strongly encourage you to provide your written comments to the address that's shown on the screen. Those comments are required to be in by February 9th of this year so that they become part of the official record. You may have noticed that we do, in fact, have a court reporter here this evening who is documenting this meeting as it has been done at the other two locations that I mentioned to you earlier.

For those of you who are going to come to the microphone to speak we ask that you please state your name and your address and speak clearly so that the court reporter can, in fact, get our comments. Once again we will ask that you limit your comments to five minutes. Even though we only have one speaker we are trying to remain consistent in the way in which we conduct all these meetings allowing others at the two locations only five minutes as well.

So with that I will ask our first and only

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registered speaker at this point in time, Mr. Mark Bentley to come to the microphone.

I'm sorry, Mr. Bentley, the one in the center of the room.

MR. BENTLEY: I'm sorry. My name is Mark Bentley and my address is 695 Sagewood Drive, Chaparral, New Mexico, 880217418, and I was asked to represent the El Paso Archaeological Society and I would like to first mention what my credentials are so that some of the things I'll be mentioning it will be obvious that it isn't just top-of-the-hat sort of comments.

I just finished working out at the U. S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds on their range YEIS and out there at the Yuma Proving Ground. I was the senior archaeologist. I was in charge of field projects, NEPA documentation. I completed 19 projects in 22 months as well as being a core team leader for the range YEIS. I was in charge of the cultural resources out there as well as the socioeconomic analyses for Yuma and Yuma Proving Ground to see what its effect would be at various levels.

My experience out there lasted two-and-a-half years. Prior to that I lived in the El Paso region, and I'm probably one of the most knowledgeable people of the culture resources on McGregor Range. I worked out at Fort Bliss before there was an environmental office and

 professionally I've worked out in the field on many surveys. Some of the largest surveys conducted out there I worked out there as a crew chief.

I worked on the Anapra information for the Corps of Engineers, St. Louis district, for Fort Bliss, which is the Native American grazing Repatriation Act. I also worked on the National Register of Site Study for Fort Bliss and I also worked on the site file project, which was assessing all of the site projects -- all of the projects that were conducted on Fort Bliss including McGregor Range and compiling computerized data base. I worked on that for a year with three other people.

I started working out there in 1977 on the survey maneuver area 1 and 2, which is 198 square miles. I also participated in the McGregor Range survey which was conducted in 1978 by people from UT-Austin.

I've worked on the Paloe-Indian site excavation up in maneuver area 3. I worked in Dona Ana ranges, all the ranges 2, 3, 47, 49, 51, 52 surveying those, and as for McGregor Range, I've surveyed a 36-square-kilometer area north of the initial bombing range and I worked with the Air Force engineers from Holloman on the installation of that bombing range and we did have to move the location for the reason that I'll mention in a moment.

McGregor Range -- Approximately 25 percent of

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McGregor Range is comprised of alluvial fans and these are probably the most active geomorphological units of McGregor. And there's a zone, it's an interface between the alluvial fans and the desert floor and it's called a transition season and it's -- the lower gradients of the alluvial fan are the most critical because that's where -- if you're dealing with cultural resources because that's where the majority of the populations were living along doing agriculture out there. There are prehistoric reservoirs out there. I wrote up the Hot Well Pueblo Reservoir, which is in maneuver area 2 immediately south of McGregor less than a quarter of a mile and also worked on other pueblos out there and also used remote sensing in situations looking for additional pueblos out there in the course of my official responsibilities.

And the point that I would like to make is irregardless of which of these alternatives is chosen, the interface of these alluvial fans needs to be taken under consideration because the majority of the Native American remains are going to be found in -- in among those rooms of those pueblos, and the only other comment I'd like to make is that the El Paso Archaeological Society fully supports Fort Bliss' continued use of McGregor Range.

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209. The Army complies with the environmental laws and regulations that require archaeological surveys and environmental assessments of areas that may be disturbed by training and testing activities.

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Thank you very much.

MR. RUFFENNACH: Thank you, Mr. Bentley. Once again if I could have confirmation that no one else has registered to speak.

I'll ask now if anyone from the audience would like to come to the microphone and make a comment, they may do

Ma'am? And again please state your name and your address very clearly for us.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Sally Savage, 829 Cloudburst Drive, El Paso, Texas, 79912. I'm representing the Sierra Club of the El Paso regional group, and we'd like to go on record supporting alternative number 6. I guess the simplest way of stating it is we basically believe that this area has been stressed enough over the years and so therefore we support the action of turning it into a national conservation area. Thank you.

MR. RUFFENNACH: Thank you very much. Anyone else who would like to make a comment, please. At this time?

With no other comments from the floor, that will actually draw the meeting to a conclusion this evening. Once again a reminder that written comments can be made to the address on the screen through February 9th, and we would like on behalf of BLM and the U. S. Army to thank

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analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

210. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental

### Public Hearing Transcripts El Paso, Texas

you-all very much for coming this evening. There are officials from both of those agencies here who would be more than happy to stay behind and talk with you and ask -- answer any questions or provide you with any additional information. Again, thank you very much for coming. (Proceedings concluded.) SHARON CARDON & COMPANY 1300 Bassett Tower, 303 Texas Avenue El Paso, Texas 79901 (915) 545-1410 FAX (915) 545-1469

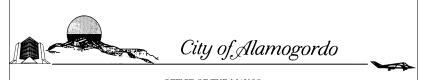
### Public Hearing Transcripts El Paso, Texas

1 STATE OF TEXAS ) ( 2 COUNTY OF EL PASO ) ( CERTIFICATE I, SHARON CARDON, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a true and correct transcription of the proceedings had in the above styled and numbered ECERTIFIED TO on this the 18 day of cause. 10 1999. 11 12 13 SHARON CARDON 14 CERTIFICATION NUMBER 1115 Expiration Date: 12/31/00 SHARON CARDON & COMPANY 15 1300 Bassett Tower 16 303 Texas Avenue El Paso, Texas 79901 17 Telephone: (915) 545-1410 FAX: (915) 545-1469 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 24 SHARON CARDON & COMPANY 1300 Bassett Tower, 303 Texas Avenue El Paso, Texas 79901 (915) 545-1410 FAX (915) 545-1469



McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document
APPENDIX A
LETTERS OF SUPPORT

### **Local Government City of Alamogordo**



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

1376 E. NINTH STREET ◆ ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310-5838 ◆ (505) 439-4205 FAX (505) 439-4396

JAN 8 BEC

January 5, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

Enclosed please find a copy of the City of Alamogordo's Resolution No. 1998-25 which reaffirms our support for the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range, and which supports Alternative 1 of the Legislative Environmental Impact Statement. Said Resolution was unanimously approved by the Commission at its Regular Meeting of December 22, 1998.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Ome J. E. Quall

Sincerely,

Donald E. Carroll

Mayor

Enclosure

211. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

>

### **Local Government City of Alamogordo**

JAN O BECT

### **RESOLUTION No. 1998-25**

### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MCGREGOR RANGE LAND WITHDRAWAL

WHEREAS, on December 23, 1997, the City Commission of Alamogordo, New Mexico passed Resolution No. 1997-28 supporting the reauthorization of the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico Withdrawal Renewal identifies six alternatives for the withdrawal; and

WHEREAS, five of the alternatives studies would severely limit or curtail the use of McGregor Range for military operations; and

WHEREAS, McGregor Range is vitally important to our nation's military training and test and evaluation capabilities, as well as to the long term stability of our area's military installations, including Holloman Air Force Base, White Sands Missile Range, and Fort Bliss; and

WHEREAS, only Alternative 1 will allow the continued use of McGregor Range as it currently exists; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO that we reaffirm our support for the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Alamogordo, New Mexico supports Alternative 1 of the Legislative Environmental Impact Statement.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 1998.

CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO a New Mexico municipal corporation

By: Acharle Carroll, Mayor

### Local Government City of Alamogordo

City of 1	namogor do
ATTEST:	
Angie J. Trujillo City Clerk	
APPROVED AS TO FORM:	
Rebecca W. Ehler, City Attorney	
2	

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### Local Government City of El Paso

				Mayo
Written Comment McGregor Range Land Witho Draft Legislative Environmental	lrawal Renewal	FEB	4	RECT
Thank you for you	r input			
PLEASE PRINT	DATEJanu	ary 26,	19	99
To: Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager				
I am in £ull support of McGregor Range. It is opera	ting well, and I resp	ectfull	.v	
recommend that it remain as is, without any changes.			1	
Thank you for your consideration.	***************************************			
The state of the s				
	1380.11.0			
A J >				
NAME: City Representative Barbara Peres				
ADDRESS: City of El Paso, Two Civic Center Plaza				
CITY: El Paso				
STATE, ZIP CODE <u>Texas</u> 79901				
PHONE NUMBER ( 915 ) 541-4182  Area Code				-
Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Pho	one Number Required for Federa	l Express I	Delive	ry)
Please Hand This Form In or Mail BE	FORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999			
Dr. Andy Vliet, Program				
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Cer ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS C				
P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79	•			
Email: mcgregor@emh10.bli				

212. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

### 213

### \_

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

January 12, 1999

JAN 1 5 IECO

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Beny SMITT George Abbott

214

FEB 4 RECTO

February 3, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O.Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defence and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

> Arturo Alvarez General Manager

214. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document



6400 Montana Ave. • El Paso, Tx. 79925 • Ph. (915) 772-4231 • Fax (915) 779-2918



### **EXPERT REFRIGERATION**

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. BOX 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

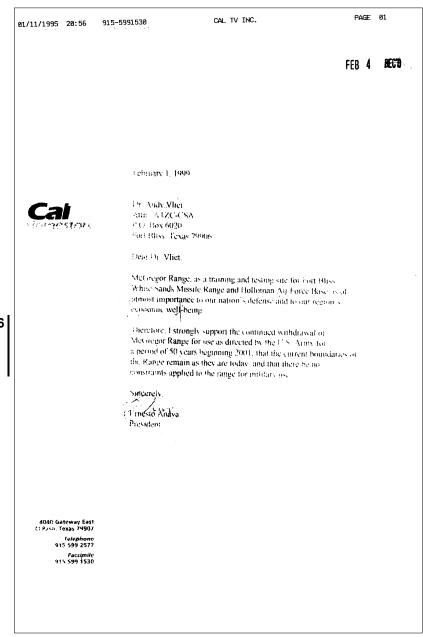
Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Jesse Alvarez

215. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

3631 WOOSTER LANE • (915) 598-1732 • P.O. BOX 371310 • EL PASO, TEXAS 79937 • FAX (915) 598-3169 MEMBERS AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**



216. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

217



JAN 2 9 RECT

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Viiet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Signature

EL PASO DIVISION

4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903 (915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409 217. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

FEB 4 RECE

February 3, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet ATTN: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Ft. Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Mr. Vliet:

218

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Thanking you for your immediate attention, I remain

Very truly yours,

218. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

110 North Campbell

El Paso, Texas 79901-2404

(915) 542-1961

Fax (915) 532-6144

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

		Written Comment Sheet JAN 2 3 FECT IcGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal It Legislative Environmental Impact Statement		
	Thank you for your input	DATE (200. 1499		
	PLEASE PRINT	DATE ACTION OF		
219	Comment Location in Document			
	(Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement		
		I support the Withdrausel		
		Renewal		
ı				
	NAME: Maria ARI	TE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE		
	ADDRESS: 2829 m	Intaria, Ste. B-100		
	CITY: E) Has 6	- C		
	STATE, ZIP CODE/	79503		
	PHONE NUMBER (915) Area Code	566-4066		
	Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)			
	PLEASE HA	AND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:		
	U.S. 1	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil		

JAN 1 5 BECTO

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

220

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted.

Bert Atkins

JAN 1 5 RECT

January 12, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

221

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

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I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted,

S. W. Atkins

221. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

>

### JAN 3 0 SECTO

### BORDER TOBACCO CO. INC/PARTY BOWL

215 E. YANDELL EL PASO, TX 79902 (915) 544-4860 FAX (915) 533-0791

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the United States Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001, that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today and there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Border Tobacco Co. Inc.

222. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

9158333969

AUSTIN

PAGE 01

### David M. Austin & Associates 6205 Pinehurst El Paso, Texas 79912

February 4, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 79906 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

### VIA FAX

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the Range for military use.

Sincerely

D-111/1-1-

223. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

FEB 8

AECT)

P. O. Box 1109 Alamogordo, NM 88311-1109 Phone: 505-585-6405 Cell: 505-439-9002 Fax: 505-588-6506 E-mail: kbass@wazoo.com

KENNETH L. BASS

February 3, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager US Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P O Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

224

I am one of the more than 600 members of the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Alamogordo Committee of Fifty. I am writing to express my support for the Alternative I (One) listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative I states that current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

It is my opinion, based on many discussions on this matter, that the vast majority of people in Otero County support this Alternative since it deals with the future of Holloman AFB, one of the major economic cornerstones of Alamogordo and Otero County.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpaver.

I join the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce is voicing my strong support for the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile range and Holloman AFB. These installations are not only critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region, but also serve as a vital element in our nations military defense system.

I would appreciate your support for Alternative 1 in which the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted.

Kenneth L. Bass Broadcast Consultant

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

From: BentleyMT

Sent: Saturday, December 12, 1998 10:13 AM

To: Dr. Vliet

Subject: McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Renewal

This document is submitted to affirm full support to Fort Bliss and particulary herein, its efforts to successfully complete the McGregor Range/Otero Mesa EIS.

I am familiar with many other Federal Governmental EIS's. After leaving Fort Bliss as an IPA through UT EI Paso in the Fall of 1995, I became an EIS core team leader at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG). I was responsible for both cultural resource and socio-economic analyses directly related to YPG's EIS. This included reviewing the working and problematic EIS's of other agencies. I also directly dealt with current native American issues from ten tribes living in Arizona and eight tribes living in California. I worked in direct coordination with the YPG JAG office, and one of those JAG lawyer associates is now at the Pentagon in the Environmental Department's Superfund Division.

Dr. Vliet, we first met in 1994 while I working at Fort Bliss. During that time, as Project Director I was in charge of the Fort Bliss National Register Site Evaluation and investigated Fort Bliss NAGPRA issues for the U.S.Army Corps of Engineers - St. Louis District (at the request of Mr. Bowman and Mr. Landreth). I also prepared the cultural resource assessment for Castner Range at the request of Mr. Bowman and conducted official JTF-6 related assignments on South McGregor Range.

I am familiar with all of McGregor Range, Otero Mesa, the southern Sacramento Mountains, and the Tularosa Basin/Hueco Bolson for I was assigned many cultural resource assignments in those regions. Some earlier assignments date back to the early 1970s. (That was before any environmental office existed and projects originated from the U.S.Army Corp. of Engineer Office Fort Worth and Albuquerque Districts - and the local implementation was facilitated through the Fort Bliss DEH.)

On official project assignments in North McGregor I surveyed large tracts and excavated prehistoric pueblo villages hidden in the alluvial fans. I assisted the U.S.Air Force engineers stationed out of Holloman in the survey, placement and construction of the 1st Air Force Bombing Range located in North McGregor. I completed many cultural resource surveys in the SHORAD Range and employed some of the 1st commercially available GPS equipment during those assignments. In the South McGregor area I conducted numerous archeological surveys, tests, and excavations. I prepared numerous documentation related to the largest recorded pueblo village known for the State of Texas. It lies immediately south across the state line in MA II from South McGregor and contains affiliated materials lightly extending northward into South McGregor.

For land management I hace extensive cadastral and remote sensing experience. I employ innovative, GPS equipment and techniques in tracking locational placement and creating X,Y,and Z cordinate maps from field information. In addition, I posses land management skills implementing GIS. Through my official project assignments I have discovered field applications that I never fully researched, but perhaps may be of real benefit to Federal Governmental agencies.

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

225

First and foremost the continued military mission of Fort Bliss and in this case particularly on McGregor Range, Otero Mesa must be maintained. If I may be of assistance let me know.

Sincerely, Mark T. Bentley Archeologist

695 Sagewood Drive Chaparral, New Mexico 88021-7418 phone: (505) 824-0005 e-mail: BentleyMT@aol.com

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
	Thank you for your input
	PLEASE PRINT DATE 2/2/99
	Mear Dr. Vliet,
226	I respectfully request that the Me Gregor Rouse Land De left as is for the west fifty years. We here in FI Paso support a strong National defense and the imperiod economic impact that FI. Bliss and its dedicated personnel provide for the FI Paso area.
ı	I shark you in advance for your consideration in this
	Respectfully
	flatt Div
	NAME: David L. Bobo
	ADDRESS: 5325 N. Startw # 26 A
	CITY: 757 1748 U STATE, ZIP CODE TX 7-9972
	PHONE NUMBER 9/5 334 - 0603 Area Code
	Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bilss ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020
	Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Emall: mogregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

02/01/1999 15:18

B PHILIP BOSWELL DDS

PAGE 01

FEB | ECT

B. Philip Boswell, D.D.S. 5929 Cramo Dr., Suite B • El Paso, TX 79912 • (928) 581-6688

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Port Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utimost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being?

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are foday; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Signature

B Phy Board D.D.S.

227. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review. McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

#9801 Carnegle\*El Paso, Taxas 79925\*(915)598-9100\*Ranch Headquarters\*(915) 821-8000\*

Transmittal No.JNB118:21099

February 10, 1999

Dr. Andy Vilet
Attn: ATZC-CSA
P.O. Box 6020
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vilet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constrains applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

BOWEN RANCH

many Bowen

### P & J INDUSTRIES, INC. - EL PASO

JAN 3 0 NECTO

INDUSTRIAL PLATING SPECIALIST

44 BUTTERFIELD CIRCLE • EL PASO, TEXAS 79906 TELEPHONE (915) 779-8777 FAX (915) 779-1919

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZA-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss Texas 79906

Dear Mr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the US Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Regards,

Bruce R Bradbury

February 2, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

P.O. BOX 27109 • EL PASO, TX 79926-7109

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S, Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Ben W. Bradford President / C.E.O.

Bon W. Bealfard

FEB 4 RECT

January 12, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

231

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Hauf Brusulus

Paul Brusuelas

232

Burroughs & Rhodes	JAN 2 5 <b>Rect</b>
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  906 VIRGINAA AVENUE	
POST OFFICE DRAWER 5008  ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO	F. RANDOLPH BURROUGHS  JEFFERSON R. RHODES
88311-5008	Area Code 506 434-1010 Fasimile Number (434-5805)

January 22, 1999

Dr. Andy Bliet Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center - Ft. Bliss

ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS COMMENTS)

P.O. Box 6020

Ft. Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Bliet::

I support Alternative One which would allow for the continued withdrawal of the McGregor Range.

F. RANDOLPH BURROUGHS

FRB:cd

(505) 437-6120

### Alamogordo Committee of Fifty P.O. Box 518 - Alamogordo, New Mexico 88311-0518 January 12, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet,

On behalf of the members of the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce Committee of Fifty, we are writing to express our support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

We understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. We want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the life-blood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

We, the Committee of Fifty have voiced our strong support for the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

We would appreciate your support for Alternative 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted.

Chairman Committee of Fifty

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

1 '99 14:50 FROM MI	THOFF ADVERTISING	PAGE.001
		FEB 1 RECTU
MIT	HOFF ADVERTISING INC	
4105 R	IO BRAVO STREET • EL PASO, TEXAS 79902-1090	
TELEPH	IONE 915 544-9400 + FAX 915 544-9426	
A SE RESIDER A STEE		
AX MESSAGE		February 1, 1999
		reducity 1, 1999
		- 美国国家 (基本) 医病毒的
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or. Andy Vliet		
ATTN: ATZC-CSA	and the second s	
P. O. Box 6020		그리지를 모르는 이 나를 보냈다.
ort Bliss, Texas 79906		
OILIMISS, TEXAS, 77700		
Dear Dr. Vliet:		
Jean 151. Vilot.		
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McGregor Range, as a training	and testing site for Fort Bliss, White S	ands Missile Range, and
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234

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet  1cGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal  1ct Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
Thank you for your input	DATE 1/12/98
PLEASE PRINT	
Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement
	Most of us in Alamagordo agree
	that this is a defense (Do)
	readiness issue and an Otera
	needs the withdrawn range to
	multinational training. Alamog
	needs the Army Air Force and
	German AF & Drung. & Charse the
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	and withdraw the varige
CONTINU	$\overline{}$
NAME: Veorge ADDRESS: 21 Cann	ne Valle Verde
CITY: A lamagore	10
STATE, ZIP CODE NY	8870
PHONE NUMBER ( SOS ) 4	134 6250
Please check if you would like to r	eceive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delive
PLEASE H	AND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:
U.S.	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906



FER 1 1 RECT

6801 Gateway Blvd. West • El Paso, Texas 79925 • 915/779-2900 • Fax 915/779-0600

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Ft. Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a trining and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U. S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely yours

Walter H. Buster General Manager Landry's Seafood House









### **Private Citizens/Organizations**



JAN 2 5 RECTO

20 Jan 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager US Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

Dom Dr. V

237

As a resident of Otero County, and a business owner in Alamogordo, NM, I wish to express my strong support for Alternative I as listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, NM, Land Withdrawal Renewal. It is my understanding that under this proposal, use and boundaries of the McGregor Range would remain the same as they have been historically.

This range and its proposed target complex will be of significant value to the overall combat readiness and training of the U.S. and German Air Forces. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for a significant portion of the development of this range provides major savings to the US taxpayer while providing a training environment of great benefit to our Air Force.

The three military bases of Ft. Bliss, White Sands, and Holloman AFB are major factors in the economy of El Paso, Las Cruces, and Alamogordo and to limit or reduce the use of McGregor Range will have a detrimental impact on us all.

You have my support for Alternative 1 for McGregor Range.

Richard A. Carroll
Colonel, USAF, (Ret)
Owner/Broker

237. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

2103 First Street • Alamogordo, NM 88310 Office: (505) 434-0800 Fax: (505) 434-0802 Toll Free: (800) 530-4567

A-3

### United Way of El Paso County



Executive Committee

Eduardo A. Rodriguez

January 28, 1999

Robert E. Rook Vice Chair

Dr. Frank Hoy Vice Chair

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020

Ismael Legarreta Vice Chair

Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Margarita Sanchez Secretary

Dear Dr. Vliet:

Steve Helbing Treasurer

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Martini DeGroat Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense Campaign Chair and to our region's economic well-being.

Donna Bentley Allocations Chair

Adolpho R. Telles Finance Chair

Hector Enriquez

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range military use.

Planning Chair

Alicia R. Chacón

Sincerely,

238. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

P.O. BOX 3488 . 79923 . 1918 TEXAS . EL PASO, TEXAS . 79901 . (915) 533-2434 . (915) 532-2104 FAX

239

02/02/99 09:55 **2**002 **SIEMENS** FEB 2 RECTO February 1, 1999 Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Dear Dr. Vliet McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's well-Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range to use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001, that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use. Ruby Ciciretti Operations Manager

239. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc.

Distribution Products Division

1400 Henry Brennan Drive El Paso. TX 79936

Tel: (915) 857-4200

JAN 1 2 BECT

January 8, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center & Fort Bliss Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

We are writing to express our support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

McGregor Range is a vital resource to White Sands Missile Range, Ft. Bliss and Holloman Air Force Base. These installations, especially Holloman, are vital to our economy.

We would appreciate your support for Alternative 1 where the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same.

Sincerely,

Marcia A. Clark

240. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

240

241



3100 North Mesa, Suite B • El Paso, Texas 79902 • (915) 532-8900

FEB 3 RECTO

February 1, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued set-aside of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the Range for military use.

Sincerely,

Duane P. Coleman
Vice President





January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Contrad Conde

ENGINEERING/PLANNING/SURVEYING

VISTA HILLS BANK PLAZA  $\square$  1790 LEE TREVINO. SUITE 400 / EL PASO. TEXAS 79936/(915) 592-0283

More than hope, success.

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Carmen Contreras
President & CEO

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
	Thank you for your input
	PLEASE PRINT DATE 2-4-99
1	As a germanent resident of this City + State  I strongly recommend & Request that
	M'Gregger Range be Regt in the control
	r Management of FORT Bliss (US ARMY) For the
•	Please do not allow its control to go
	else where,
	NAME: Muni Contegras
	ADDRESS: 8/0) A/gepita Ct
	STATE, ZIP CODE TX, 79915
	PHONE NUMBER 9/5 859-9838 Area Code
	Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss Texas, 70906
	Fort Bilts, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

JAN 1 2 BECTO

January 12, 1999

Your Community Bank Since 1956

Department of the Army

Re: McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal

245

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. We want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I continue to have strong support for the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted,

President & CEO

Pete Cook

First National Bank In Alamogordo 414 10th Street / Post Office Box 9 / Alamogordo, New Mexico 88311-0009 / (505) 437-4880

### CRANFORD CONSULTING ASSOCIATES 5704 LOS CERRITOS EL PASO, TEXAS 79912

29 January 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

Therefore: I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning in the year 2001: that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Charles R Crarle VP Operations 246. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

246

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
	Thank you for your input
	PLEASE PRINT DATE 2-3-91
247	As a Resident Or Ellaso I know how wifel FT Blis is to the economic Survival or Et Biro. McGregon Range is an infortant part of the teaming mission for Et Bliss, And consequently must demain As A location for teaming.
	NAME: MARKITY CLOSS ADDRESS: 9385 VISCOUNT #2103
	CITY: E/CAD STATE, ZIP CODE TEXA 79925
	PHONE NUMBER (9/5) 590 - 8476  Area Code
	Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906
	Email: megregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
PLEASE PRINT	Thank you for your input  DATE 2-3-9P
I would OF Mag OF FT, BI ESSENTIAL ON MICGIE	like to see Fort bliss mintage Control regor lange for the next 50 years the mission iss is lital to our Mation's security, and it is that IT sliss Continue to openate their tecturing goe lange
NAME: PAC ADDRESS: 93	L CROSS 85 Viscont # 2/03
STATE, ZIP CODE PHONE NUMBER	Area Code
rease check if y	ou would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)  Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999  Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager  U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bllss  ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)  P.O. Box 6020  Fort Bllss, Texas 79906

249

### QUINTON E. DANIEL

1307 GREENWOOD LANE ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310 (505) 437-3854

JAN 1 2 BECT

January 12, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager McGregor Range P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Gentlemen:

I hereby state that I favor Alternative No. 1, regarding the McGregor land dispute.

Sincerely,

Juinton & Daniel

### FEB-01-99 13:48 FROM:BUCK ROGERS-TRAVEL MAIN ID:9157780361 PAGE 1/1 **Buck Rogers Travel** A World Travel Partners Affiliate FEB 1 RECTO February 1, 1999 Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906 Dear Dr. Vliet: McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being. 250 Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the US Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constrains applied to the range for military use. Sincerely, Richard E. Dayoub President

FFR 3 RECTO

February 1, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Andy:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being. It is a unique national asset.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001. The current boundaries of the Range must remain as they are today. In addition, the Army must be free to use the Range for military use as needed. The past has shown that the Army has done an outstanding job of maintaining the Range.

Sincerely

Charles de Wette President

cdw/js

251. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

251

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet JAN 2 3 EC McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal aft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement	
Thank you for your input	DATE 114199	
PLEASE PRINT	DATE	
Comment Location in Document		
(Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement	
	I Support the Withdrawal Kenewa	
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NAME: Soua 11.	Dera's	
ADDRESS: 2829 NO	Extana, Ste. B-100	
CITY: 95 Paso	,	
TV NAGADO		
STATE, ZIP CODE TO TO TO THE STATE OF THE ST		
THOMB NOMBBR	566.4066	
Area Code		
	receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Deli	
PLEASE I	HAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:	
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager	
U.S.	Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)	
	P.O. Box 6020	
	Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil	
	Eman. mcgregor@emnro.onss.army.mn	

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

President

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet FEB 3 FCT (CGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal t Legislative Environmental Impact Statement	
Thank you for your input	DATE 1-14-99	
PLEASE PRINT	DATE	
Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement	254. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range
	ET OPTION ONE WITH BRAWL	military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
NAME: BETHANY ADDRESS: UII MESCA CITY: ALAMOGORAO	ALERO #12	
STATE, ZIP CODE HM 8  PHONE NUMBER SOS 4  Area Code		
Please check if you would like to re	eceive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)	
· ·	AND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:	
U.S. A	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil	

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

254

Mrs. Doris Duggan
P.O. BOX 1522
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO

JAN 2 3 DECT

January 14, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

255

I wish to express my full support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal.

Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range. I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM.

The vast majority of people in Otero County support this project. Holloman Air Force Base is the lifeblood of our community.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Very truly yours,

Doris Duggan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Libby Proett. Chair Elect of the Board

Borry Flother Secretary/Treasurer

Kathleen Forema

V.P. Economic Devel

Tom Hutchinger

256

Matt Okon V.P. Membership Service

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Reese Carnou Tee Condition Richard Flamm Dave Lowry Jo Ann Ripley John Stowe Stacy Voss

Joseph A. Riedro President/CEO

Ex-Officin:

Larry Furrow, Chief

Legal Counsel:

Patsy Duraff Chair of the Board

Sincerely;

John Darden

**GREATER LAS CRUCES** 

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020

Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and Holloman Air Force Base, is of the utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce has always been and will continue to be a major supporter of the three (3) military bases mentioned above. The economies of El Paso, TX; Las Cruces, NM; Alamogordo, NM; and our surrounding communities depend a great deal upon these three (3) military bases.

The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning in 2001, that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter or our support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tom Hutchinson Vice President Government Relations Division

P.O. Drawer 519 · Las Cruces, New Mexico · USA · 88004-0519 Tel: (505) 524-1968 · Fax: (505) 527-5546 http://www.lascruces.org

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

January 12, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

257

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would

Mark Eaton

remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

### James D. Edge & Associates

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

4100 RIO BRAVO, SUITE 200 EL PASO, TEXAS 79902-1048

MEMBER AMERICAN INSTITUTE CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

(915) 532-2463 FAX (915) 533-5779

DIVISION FOR CPA FIRMS PRIVATE COMPANIES PRACTICE SECTION

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andv Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is vital to our nation's defense and to the West Texas and Southern New Mexico

I understand that some groups want the land used for other purposes. I personally am strongly opposed to using this land for any other purpose. I support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U. S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

James D. Edge

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MILLION MILLION AUGUST	GEORGE ERNST	BUSINESS: (915) 544-2940 PO, BOX 117 / 124 CASTELLANO.	RESIDENCE: (915) 584-4236 SUITE 202 / EL PASO, TEXAS 79941
<b>****</b>			FER 3 RECTO
February 1, 1999	9		1 EB 0 1 1 E0 0
Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CS.	<b>A</b>		
PO Box 6020			
		. Daniel Differ Wiking Coming Mi	seile Domes and
Holloman Air Fo	orce Base, is of utmost important		
		rawal of McGregor Range fo	r use as directed
by the U.S. Arm	y for a period of 50 years beginn	ing 2001; that the current bou	indaries of the
use.			
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Sincerely,			
grips.	7		
George Ernst			
			Registered Representative
			- Parable file Insurance and/or Individual Variable - Annally Products through - John Hancor, Maria Lie Insurance Company - P.O. 80: 111 - Burson, 64-01137 - 1800-962-9030
AALU			Michael Funds and other floating products through John Hypoods (Johnson, Inc.) P.O. Box 0114 101 Humington Avenue Boxton, MR 021599)14 1809225-7931
Association for Advanced Life Underwriting	Johnstand	COMPANIES	's subsidiary of John Hannock Mutual's de Insussione Company
	Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CS PO Box 6020 Ft. Bliss TX 79  Dear Dr. Vliet:  McGregor Rang Holloman Air F economic well b  Therefore, I stro by the U.S. Arm Range remain as use.  Sincerely,  George Ernst	February 1, 1999  Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Ft. Bliss TX 79906  Dear Dr. Vliet:  McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance economic well being.  Therefore, I strongly support the continued withd by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginn Range remain as they are today; and that there be use.  Sincerely,  George Ernst	February 1, 1999  Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Ft. Bliss TX 79906  Dear Dr. Vliet:  McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Mis Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and economic well being.  Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range fo by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current box Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the use.  Sincerely,  George Ernst  NATIONAL SALES LEADER  Amazine for Adamsel Let Underweing.

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**



7505B LOCKHEED, EL PASO, TX 79925

TELEPHONE: (915) 772-2700 TELEFAX: (915) 772-2250



FEB 5 REC

February 2, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

QUANTUM RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL INC.

James Rion Ervin
Vice President and Manager

Tactical Operations & Test Group

JRE:lvb

260. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

George E. Fettinger

JAN 1 5 RECO

ATTORNEY AT LAW
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
POST OFFICE DRAWER 628
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO —
88311-0628

— Telephone: (505) 437-6620 Facsimile: (505) 437-6629 E-mail: gef@totacc.com

January 13, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Very truly yours.

George E. Fettinge

GEF:ep

POST OFFICE DRAWER 628
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
88311-16628

JAN 1 7 DECT

January 14, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

262 Dear Dr. VI

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

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I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex. Very truly yours,

R. Velle Fettinger

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

_		
	Written Comment Sheet  McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal  Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement  Thank you for your input	
	PLEASE PRINT DATE February 2, 1999	
263	I support the retention of McGregor Range Land under the control of and use by 9t. Bliss for testing purcoses.  NAME: Alfred D. Fielder  ADDRESS: 1012½ Moodway Dr.  CITY: El Paso, TX 79925  STATE, ZIP CODE  PHONE NUMBER (915 ) 598-7272  Area Code  Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)  Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999  Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager  U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss  ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)  P.O. Box 6020  Fort Bliss, Texas 79906  Email: megregor@emillo.bliss. army.mil	263. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
	inegrigor Committeenissia my.mu	

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement Thank you for your input	
	PLEASE PRINT DATE February 2, 1999	
264	The continues use of McGregor Range Land for testing and training by Ft. Bliss units best serves and benefits our Military Mission.	264. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
	NAME:	

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	McGregor Range	Comment Sheet Land Withdrawal Renewal wironmental Impact Statement	DEC 18 MCD
	Thank y	ou for your input	
PLEASE PRINT		DATE Dec	2, 14, 98
done ther the sake life has the grass grazing l recover. for hunti their way fragilede hunting, Lets keep	There are not many plof the eccolgyit should not been as lush as it iss; the framma and a ceft little but a few deaf I see nothing wrong with ag and other outdoor passit would soon be overgreat terrain as they have there would soon be noth the status quo.	It is needed for the kind of lace where is enough space for be retained as is. The grass is for decades. I am old enoughte of other varieties were serr plants. It has taken all the the arraingments for limite stimes that are allowed. If the cased, dune buggies would be vere done in Southern Calif. And wing left to hunt.	or this. And for s and the other planigh to remember when is lush before over these years to differ a grazing, permits the cattlemen had tearing up the in with unrestreted.
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ADDRESS:			308
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PHONE NUMBER_(Area	Code		
Please check if you w	ould like to receive a copy of the	Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for I	Federal Express Delivery)
	Please Hand This Forn	n In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5. 1	999
	Dr. Andy VI U.S. Army Air Defens ATTN: ATZC P. Fort Bl	liet, Program Manager e Artillery Center and Fort Bliss -CSA (LEIS Comments) O. Box 6020 iss, Texas 79906 or@emh10.bliss.army.mil	

265. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

265

Richard G. Fleager Regional Vice President, West Texas (915) 680-8201

> FEB 5 ÆCD

February 2, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

266

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

RGF:vp

PEOPLE SERVING CUSTOMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT WITH COMMITMENT, LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION P.O. Box 31458 El Paso, Texas 79931-0458 Fax (915) 680-8292

Page 5 of 5

CHUCK FRENCH

FEB 4 MEEB

421 FREDERICK EL PASO, TEXAS 79905 OFFICE: (915) 772-4565 FAX: (915) 772-0967

### LETTER OF SUPPORT

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Signature

267

Chuck French Lin Pac Inc 421 Frederick El Paso, TX 79905

s:admin:armforce:mcgreg2.doc

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

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	Written Comment Sheet  McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement  Thank you for your input  PLEASE PRINT  DATE /-2 8-99	
268	MY REQUEST IS THAT MC GREGOR RANGE LAND STAY IN TACK FOR THE NEXT FIFTY XEARS THIS MEA IS VERY VITAL FOR THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF FT, BLIES AND THE WHITE SANDS MISSEE RANGE,	268. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
	NAME: CHESTER FULLER  ADDRESS: 30 4 T URN 5 TONE  CITY: EL PASOT  STATE, ZIP CODE TEXAS 799  PHONE NUMBER (95 54 5274  Area Code  Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)	
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999  Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager  U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss  ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)  P.O. Box 6020  Fort Bliss, Texas 79906  Email: mcgrcgor@emh10.bliss.army.mil	

JAN 1 5 BECTO

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

269

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted,

You Garland Kenneth Garland

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

From: FRANCIS P GAUTHIER [SMTP:gbgaut@juno.com] Sent: Monday, February 01, 1999 12:07 PM

Sent: Monday, February 01, 1999 12:07 PM
To: megregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil
Subject: McGregor Range Withdrawl

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager, ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)

Dear Dr. Vliet,

270

As a citizen of Otero County, NM, I want to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range. This range is vital to our national security and to the economy of Alamogordo and Otero County. I am also in favor of using the Otero Mesa area for construction of a bombing range for Holloman Air Force Base.

Sincerely, Gus Gauthier

99	09:19	AM

GERBER DISTRIBUTING

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Р.

JAN 2 8 BEC'D

Gerber Distributing Wonder Bread Hostess Cake 1148 Barranca Suite B El Paso TX 79935 Office (915) 590-3980 Fax (915) 590-3934

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Väet
Attn: ATZC-CSA
P.O.Bax 6020
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Viiet,

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of outmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, Astrongly support the continued withdrawed of Mc Gregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001: that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

William E. Gerber

271. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

271

272

Jops in Quality and Service

Laundry · Cleaners

FEB 3 RECTO

2631 WYOMING ST.

EL PASO. TEXAS

(915) 565-1407 FAX (915) 565-0625

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet,

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Respectfull

Howard Goldberg President

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
	Thank you for your input
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/	VONIO G GONZALES
CITY: FL PAGO	uluay
STATE, ZIP CODE TX  PHONE NUMBER (9/5)	79925 598-0912
Area Code  Please check if you would like	to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Deliver
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999
r	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager J.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss

TOTAL P.02

♥ 4172 N Mesa ♥ Ste. C ♥ El Paso ♥TX ♥ 79902 ♥ (915)532-2273 ♥ Fax: (915) 533-8631 ♥ ♥ 615 N Zaragosa ♥ El Paso ♥ TX ♥ 79907 ♥ (915) 860-7396 ♥ Fax: (915) 858-4279 ♥

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O.Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet,

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries for the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

274. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

review.

### **First Class Bus Lines**

FEB 5 TECT

February 02, 199

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn. ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

275

Isela Gonzalez
Operations Manager

275. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

720 S. Oregon • P.O. Box 1183 • El Paso, TX 79947 • Phone: (915) 532-4061 • Fax: (915) 532-1711

276

Fax Transmittal Form

6521 Grand Ridge Drive

G Paso, Texes 78912 Phone: 915-587-8458; 915-585-7263 Fax: 915-585-7265

To

From RAY GRAHAM

Name: Dr. Andy Viet Organization Name/Dept: ATZC-CSA

Organization Name/Dept: ATZC-CSA CC: Phone: 915-587-8456; 915-585-7263 Fax: 915-585-7265

Phone number: Fax number: 915-568-6643

Email: jnet@primenet.com

Date sent: 1 February 1999

☐ For Review
☐ Please Comment

Time sent: Number of pages including cover page: 1

☐ Please Reply

Mossage:

☐ Urgent

Dear Dr. Vilet,

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bilss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,
Ray Shahan

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

JAN 1 2 1988

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center & Fort Bliss Attn: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

January 12, 1999

277

I strongly support the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. This Alternative states that the boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same.

The range is a vital resource to the three installations of Ft. Bliss, Holloman AFB, and White Sands Missile Range. I believe that we need a strong national defense and these three installations have proven their value to this means.

Having served in the US Army I am much in favor of the national defense and training is so important on this range for all of our military services. Our economy depends on these installations.

John L. Green 1019 Canyon Road Alamogordo, NM 88310 505 437-4377

I would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS

# LOCO CREDIT UNION

JAN 1 2 BECT

BOX 1743 • 808 WASHINGTON ALAMOGORDO, NM 88311-1743 PHONE: 1-505-437-3110 • FAX: 1-505-437-5646 1-800-765-4130

TOOTS GREEN, CEO January 12, 1999

Dr. Andrew Vliet Program Manager, McGregor Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Wiet:

As Past President of the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce, I support the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environment Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

The target complex proposed for the Oero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman AFB and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer. This is very important to our economy.

I strongly support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. These strategic decisions further strengthen the reciprocal relationship between all the area military installations--the strategic defense triangle formed by Holloman AFB, WSMR, and Fort Bliss. These installations have proven their value to our national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

Sincerely

Deats

Toots Green, CEO

278. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.



Serving School Employees in the 10 Counties of Catron, DeBaca, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Otero, Socorro, Torrance, Union;
All Students in Otero County; Loving Teachers; All Retired School Employees

# Squash Blossom

822 N. WHITE SANDS BLVD. • ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310 (505) 437-8126

Cl.ff Hall
Jan 23, 1999

Drawly Vint Promorus army Delonse actus
At Bliss trais

Dear Dillit

I strongly support the Continued withdrawa of mc Gragor Range land.

the Economic Value derived by military
use For outweeps any other activity
this and might Provide.

Much of the land, that is used for Cattle is so Poor is grass and abused. I would like to See the dry desert areas closed to grazing.

I also Favor the other mesa target Complex.

Cr Mall

279. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

Martin Building, Suite 501 215 North Stanton Street El Paso, Texas 79901 (915) 545-1655 FAX (915) 545-1635 e-mail: bplwtx@bplw.com web page: bplw.com

### Officers

William L. Burns, AIA Ronald L. Peters, AIA, AICP Joseph D. Long, Emeritus, AIA, PE Bill J. Waters, AIA Charlie M. Otera, AIA

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Ronald Burstein, AIA, CCS Marie L. Costley Roger Easley, APA Carl W. Jordan, AIA John I. Manzanares, AIA Tyler M. Mason, AIA, CCS Michael J. Melichat, PE Maureen M. Walter, AIA, CCS Jason M. Weaver, PE January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA Post Office Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Bill J. Hammons, P.E.
Project Manager

BJH/klc

280. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.



A-7

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

281



FEB 4 FEETS

February 3, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Russell Hanson

281. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

1715 B Weston Brent, El Paso, Texas 79935 (915) 592-4111 Fax 591-8421



JAN 2 8 BECT

# YOUR Interpendent AGENT HINTEL YOU FIRST

### CHARLES, GARLAND AND HARRIS AGENCY

January 25, 1999

Dr. Andy Vleit
Program Manager
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss
Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)
P.O. Box 6020
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet,

On behalf of Charles, Garland and Harris Agency, we are writing to express our support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

We understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. We want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the life-blood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGrefor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastucture provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

We would appreciate your support for Alternative 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Harris

Charles, Garland & Harris Agency

282. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

P.O. BOX 370 • 816 TENTH STREET • ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88311 • (505) 437-6910 • FAX (505) 437-8187

### Vliet, Andrew

From: McGregor

Sent: Monday, January 18, 1999 11:50 AM

Vliet, Andrew

FW: McGregor Range Subject:

-----Original Message-----

From: GlassHartt@aol.com [SMTP:GlassHartt@aol.com]

Friday, January 15, 1999 6:19 PM Sent:

mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil To: McGregor Range Subject:

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Center

& Fort Bliss (Attn: ATZC-CSA)

P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Sir,

283

I am writing in regards to the current issue with Mc Gregor Range. I believe that the implementation of Alternative 1 would be in the best interest of both the Military and the land. The military control of the area restricts access to the land and therefore protects it from the abuses that many of the public areas in the country have sustained.

Sincerely,

Linda Hartt-Goggin 5620 Green Castle Rd El Paso, TX 79932

JAN 2 9 BECTO

# MONTE VISTA TOWNHOMES **CORPORATE SUITES** 1776 E. 1<sup>st</sup>. STREET ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310

January 27, 1999

Representative Joe Skeen 1065-B S. Main Street, Suite A Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Representative Skeen.

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that my constituents and I support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the life blood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the taxpayer.

As a Chamber member, I am voicing strong support for the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

284. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

# **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	_	
I would appreciate your support for Alternative 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.		
Sincerley, Sharon Haymes Property Manager/JKS Properties		
Chamber of Commerce (form letter submitted by CC)		



JAN 2 9 RECTO

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

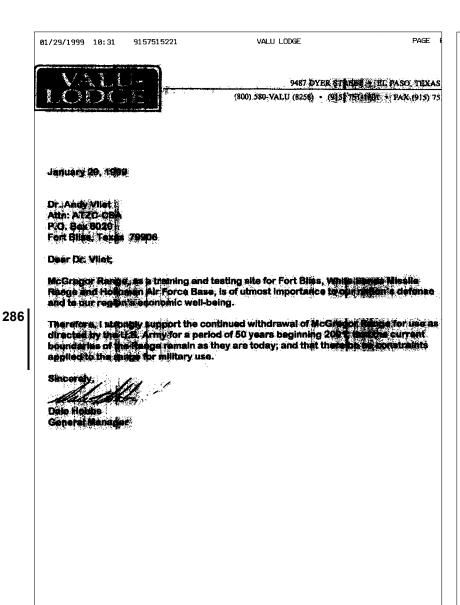
McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Fort Tyjin 1-27-89

EL PASO DIVISION

4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903 (915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409 285. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.



<del>É</del>ЕВ 9

Phelps Dodge Copper Products Company, PO Box 20000, El Paso, Texas 79998 Phelps Dodge Refining Corporation, PO Box 20001, El Paso, Texas 79998 (915) 775-8807 (915) 775-8327

John W. Holzenthaler Vice President & General Manager

February 4, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

review.



JAN 2 9 RECT

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

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Dak Heorien

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McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

EL PASO DIVISION

4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903 (915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409 Office Supplies and Equipment

314 NINTH STREET

ink weil

"Complete Office Planning"

ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310

TELEPHONE: (505) 437-7300

FAX: (505) 434-6888

Dear Sirs:

I am writing as a concerned community citizen, a person involved in a family business of over 42 years and a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board. Having been in this community for some time I can remember the late 1950's and early 1960's when the future of Holloman AFB was sometimes in question. This community and HAFB have survived several BRAC consideractions. Team Holloman is an important and vital part of this community. This community is also fortunate, at this time, to have the German Air Force here. Their future here as well as that of a healthy future of WSMR is important to this community. For all of the reasons listed in this letter it is IMPERATIVE that the withdrawal of the McGregor Bombing Range continue. This community is a friend to the farm and ranch community as well as environmentalists and are grateful to have them in this community. However, the Future for some of us is NOW and we want a Healthy future for Alamogordo and this "combined community". I URGE you to weigh the seriousness of the actions at hand and continue the complete withdrawal of the McGregor Bombing Range.

Sincerely,

Janice E. Jeter,VP
The Ink Well, Inc.

289. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

## **Private Citizens/Organizations**

Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement	
McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal	
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Thank you for your input	/
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NAME: FROM C. JOHNTICE	
ADDRESS: 508 CLEVINICIOT	
CITY: Q POSO	
STATE, ZIP CODE TX 79912	
PHONE NUMBER (9/5) 584 4520	
Area Code	
Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express D	Jelivery)
Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999	
Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)	
P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906	
Email: megregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil	

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

Jerry and Patricia Johnson P O Box 81 Alamogordo, NM 88311-0081 November 12, 1997 Tel: 505-434-37&7

JAN 1 7 RECTO

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attn.: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

291

We would like to urge adoption of Alternative One of the McGregor Range Withdrawal Renewal, for the following reasons:

- We believe that military preparedness and training is of utmost importance, and is the
  best way to reduce the chances of a future war. All of the other alternatives results in
  a decrease in testing of the Patriot Missile, which is an important element in defense.
- 2. All other alternatives (except alternative 2) would result in the loss of the Otero Mesa as a potential bomb target area for Holloman Air Force Base. The Air Force has chosen the Otero Mesa as the most optimum sight for the proposed bombing target site, and we support them in this. This bombing target site will allow Holloman to move forward with more training of the German Air Force personnel, and maybe with other allies in the future. We think that having allied military personnel train in this country helps strengthen our bonds as allies, and should be expanded at every reasonible opportunity.
- 3. The economy of the Alamogordo area needs the boost that will be provided by the influx of the additional German Air Force personnel, to offset the losses suffered recently by the transfer of personnel from Holloman to Arkansas and other locations.
- 4. The argument that the Otero Mesa provides some of the best hunting and recreational area is, in our opinion, a weak one, since there are thousands and thousands of acres of excellent hunting and recreation area in Otero and Lincoln Counties. Our national defense requirements are much more important than the desire for hunters to have more areas to hunt.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Johnson

February 2, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

CFJ/bjk

# **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet  McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal  Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement	
	Thank you for your input	
	PLEASE PRINT DATE <u>2-3-99</u>	
293	THE MISSION OF FT Bliss IS VITAL TO OUR Nation'S SECURITY, and IT IS ESSENTIAL that FT Bliss CONTINUE TO OPERATE THEIR TYRINING ON MC GregorRange. 45 2 10N9 Time Resident OF ELFHSOFF T Bliss, Istough ACCOMMEND THAT MC Gregon Range he retained by ET Bliss For at least the Next FIFTY years	293. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.
	NAME: Chester E. Jordan ADDRESS: 9/05 Rex CT.	
	CITY: LL DASO	
	STATE, ZIP CODE TEXES 19925	
	PHONE NUMBER (9/5) 591-0528  Area Code	
	Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)	
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999	
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@cmh10.bliss.army.mil	

## **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet				
	McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal				
	Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement				
	Thank you for your input				
	PLEASE PRINT DATE 2/3/99				
294	For the wellow of the Diti and its				
	Securety Font Blus should delinitely				
	- continue to operate training con Michigan				
	- Kange at least 50 years of beyond.				
	to do so etherwise),				
	NAME: Gan Jordan				
	ADDRESS 9/06 Rey Court				
	CITY: Ed. Paso				
	STATE, ZIP CODE OLIVAN 79925-5126				
	PHONE NUMBER 915 591 0528				
	Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)				
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999				
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss				
	ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)				
	P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906				
	Email: megregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil				

295

JAN-29-99 FRI 11:30 ISOMEDIX EL PASO FAX NO. 9158552860 P. 01/01



January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 79906 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nations defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the US Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and, that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely

Victor Kach General Manager 295. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

ISOMEDIX • VISTA del SOL INDUSTRIAL PARK, 1435 ISOMEDIX PLACE, EL PASO, TX 79936 • (915) 855-2001 • FAX (915) 857-3467

Sincerely.

Michelle L. Kaip Director of Sales

		Private Citizen
-04-1999 4:48PM FROM GEPCC CHAMBER FAX	(3 9155779916	P. 1
02/04/99 15:39 FAX 9155343024 CA	INOREAL BOTEL	<b>₫02</b>
- GAMINO R		
H. PASC	), TEXAS	
February 4, 1999	•	
Dr. Andy Vliet Ann: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906	en e	
Dear Dr. Vliet:		
McGregor Range, as a training and testing site and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost im region's economic well-being.	for Fort Bliss, White Samportance to our nation's de	ds Missile Range efense and to our
Therefore, I strongly support the continued we directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 5 boundaries of the Range remain as they are tod to the range for military use.	50 years beginning 2001;	that the current

**RECT** 

FEB 4

297



February 1, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Gatekeeper Property Management, Inc.

By: Eddie W. Karam, Treasurer

600 Sunland Park Drive, Building 1 Suite 200 El Paso, Texas 79912 (915) 584-1212 (fax) 585-1627 297. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

# Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal **Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement** Thank you for your input PLEASE PRINT **Comment Location in Document** (Include page and line numbers or broader information) Comment and Suggested Improvement Complete Bocument \*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\* NAME: John C. Karlsruher 79912 Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery) PLEASE HAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO: Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

298

299

Feb-04-99 09:03A T&T Staff Inc.

FEB 4 RECTO

P.01



NAPEC

5724 Trowbridge Dr. • El Paso, Texas 79925 Tel: (915) 771-0393 • Fax: (915) 771-0397 Toll Free: (800) 598-1647

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Biss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Viiet

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly, support the dontinued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Signature Jule R. Kutul

Website: www.ttstaff.com • E-Mail: info@ttstaff.com

BROKERS & DEVELOPERS OF INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE

FEB 3 BEC

February 2, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet ATTN: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. KELLER

JAK/smc

300. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.



SOCIETY OF INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE REALTORS



Serenity Outpatient Services, Inc.

FEB 3 RECTO

4625 Alabama El Paso, Texas 79930-2514 (915) 566-2000 FAX: (915) 566-2056 E-MAIL: sos@dzn.com

February 1, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet ATTN: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range should be preserved for use by Ft. Bliss, WSMR and Holloman Air Force Base. Preservation for military use is important to both our national defense and local economy.

I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the Army for a period of 50 years beginning in 20001. I believe that the current boundaries should remain constant and that no constraints be applied to the range for military use.

David J. Kruzich, Ph.D. President, SOS, Inc. 301. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

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302

eb-01-99 05:23P Western Tech Inst

9155326946

P.02



RECT

Quality Training For Industry

February 1, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range is a great location for a training and testing site Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base utilize quite often. It is a great asset to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

I strongly object to McGregor Range being used as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001. I do support that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military

President

MAILING ADDRESS • P.O. BOX 512361 • EL PASO, TEXAS 79951-0013 4710 ALABAMA STREET 1000 TEXAS AVENUE (915) 532-3737 (915) 566-9621 1-800-225-5984 1-800-522-2072 FAX (915) 532-6946 FAX (915) 565-9903

302. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

Phone: (915) 751 - 6483

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

As you know MacGregor Range, a training and testing site for Ft. Bliss, is essential and important to Ft. Bliss and the surrounding community.

If the government decides to use Mac Gregor Range for something other than military training, it would hurt  $\mathsf{Ft}$ . Bliss greatly as well as the economy of the community.

I ask that the range be used as it is today with no limits applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely

Amanda LeBarre Manager 303. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

1-97

Feb-02-99 03:49P Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc 915-545-5612

### MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER

425 North Kansas El Paso, TX 79901 800-347-3002 915-545-5610 915-545-5612 Fax

February 2, 1999

DAVID J. LEMASTER Senior Vice President Branch Manager Senior Consultant, ICS

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

DJL/idr

304. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

# 305

JAN 2 9 PECT

**Business Communications** 

2400 North Oregon Dr., Suite D El Paso, TX 79902

> Ph 915 533-1825 800 756-7518 Fax: 915 545-2535

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet P.O. Box 6020 Attn: ATZC-CSA

Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet,

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Snads Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawl of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001, that the current boundaries of the range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely, Onne B heutge Anne B. Leutze

305. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.



### PASO DEL MOLET AVIONICS, INC.

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZ-CSA P. O. BOX 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withGrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely.

Leo Lopez F. General Manager 306. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

BUS. SERVICES

ID:1-915-544-0325

FEB 05'99

13:06 No.011 P



February 1, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. BOX 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawl of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Respectfully

Fred Lowline

National Business Services, Inc. 1601 Magotlin El Paso, Icxas 799011735 915/5441271 FAX: 915/5440325 Catalog Sales Call Toll-Free: 1-800-777-7807 307. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

308



GEN. OFFICE AND PLANT: 4600 Ripley Dr. • El Paso, Texas 79922 MAILING ADDRESS: PO. Box 12310 • El Paso, Texas 79913 PHONE: 915-584-9491 • FAX: 915-584-9766

SALES WAREHOUSE: 2416 Comanche N.E. • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107 PHONE: 505-884-6909 • FAX: 505-880-1932

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range is an essential training and testing sit for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base. Not only is McGregor Range of extreme importance to our nation's defense, it is also an important factor in our region's economic vitality.

I strongly support the continuance of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U. S. Army for fifty years beginning in 2001. The boundaries of the Range should remain as they are today and no constraints must apply to the range for military use.

Dennis Lukehar Vice President 308. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

Paints • Lacquers • Adhesives • Metal and Wood Finishes • Corrosion Control Coatings
Textured Coatings • Roof Coatings • Restins • Solvents • Washes • Application Equipment
Decorative Architectural Coatings • Floor Coatings • U.S. Federal Specification Paints and Coatings

JAN 1 5 REC'D

Dear Dr. Vliet:

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Lynch

309. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.



JAN 2 9 RECTO

Technology & Communications Gateway, Inc.

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Olga M. Mapula President/CEO

OM/ec

4100 Rio Bravo Ste. 202 • El Paso, Texas 79902 915.532-1171 • Fax: 544-6840 www.tcg-ep.com

February 1, 1999

Dr. Any Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely.

Doug Matney
Chief Executive Officer

311. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

311

## **Private Citizens/Organizations**

JAN 2 S SECTO

TO: Office of THE PROGRAM MANAGER

FROM: BARBARA MC DONALD, 68 MCDONALD RD. ALAMOGORDO, NA 48310

PE: McGrecor PANGE MILITARY LAND WITHDRAWAL RENEWAL

312

I HIGHLY REJORNEND AND SUPPORT THE SECECTION OF ALTERNATIVE I, THE ARMY'S PROPOSED ACTION, WHICH RENEWS FOR A PERIOD OF GO YEARS BEGINNING IN 2001 McGREGOR RANGE'S BOUNDARIES AS THEY ARE TODAY

JAN 2 5 MECTO

THAT WE CAN HAVE A WEIL TRAINED

MILITARY, WITH MCCRECOR RANCE

BOUNDRIES AS THEY ARE TODAY.

SixceRIY Olif Mc Donald 68 Mc DONAID ROAD.

AlAMOGORDO, NM. 88310

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**



February 19, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Mr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our regions economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the United States Army for a period of 50 year beginning 20001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely

Mike Mendez-Flores Auction Manager El Paso Auto Auction 314. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

485 COATES DRIVE • EL PASO, TX 79932 • (915) 833-9333 • FAX (915) 833-9390



314

JAN 3 U SECO

### EXCEL STORAGE MARINA

7200 MOHAIR A EL PASO, TX 79934 (915) 821-0609

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

315

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the United States Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001, that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today and there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Excel Storage Marina

Welthe

315. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

MILES FLEASO ASSO

PAGE

PAVS

Mark T. Miles JAN 2

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss.TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet,

McGregor Range as a training and testing site for our armed forces personnel at Fort Bliss, Whate Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base is an irreplaceable requirement for our nation's defense

In addition these facilities are all major contributors to the economic well being of the El Paso Metropolitan Area and our neighboring southern New Mexico region.

The continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed and vitally needed by the United States Army, for a period of 50 years beginning in the year 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range must remain as they are today; and that there not be any constraints applied to the range for military use.

Limiting the current availability of White Sands Missile Range for military use will in my opinion constitute a serious threat to the National security and well being of the United States.

Sincerely,

7772

MTM/vp

5201 HANAWALT . P.O. BOX 3612 . EL PASO, TX 19923 . (515) 778-5929

316. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document



JAN 2 9 MECO

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss. Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

July Moms

317. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

**EL PASO DIVISION** 

4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903 (915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409

7170 WESTWIND DR. SUITE 105 EL PASO, TEXAS 79912-1726

FFB 4 MCO

February 2, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:



As a member of this community, I am writing this letter to express my concerns regarding the future of McGregor Range. McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

MOORE NORDELL KROEGER ARCHITECTS, INC.

Mervin Moore, AIA President

318. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

9 1 5 · 5 8 7 · 8 0 2 3 FAX 915 · 587 - 0 9 8 5

JAN 2 9 RECTO

January 27, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as training and testing site for Fort bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

800 Montana El Paso, TX 79902 © 915 • 533 • 9828 Fax 533 · 1357 emailart jr77@aol.com

W E S T 6409 N. Mesa El Paso, TX 79912

@ 915 · 581 · 5461

Sincerely,

President

E A S T 9300 Acer El Paso, TX 79925 © 915 · 594 · 1037

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JAN 2 9 RECT

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Walle WMorrer

EL PASO DIVISION

4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903
(915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409

320. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

'	JAN 29 '99 09:54	6.					P.1/1
	1707 Montana Avenu	e - El Paso	Texas 799	915/565	-7674 · Voice	Mail 565-7681 • F	ax 565-7687/7688
							JAN 2 9 DECT
			·,				()
						W.	<b>)</b>
	January 28, 199	)				RMPersonne	l, Inc.

Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 7990

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely

Ceci Miles Mulvihill President/CEO

Mrs. W. C. Myers

JAN 2 8 ECT

11 PINON CIRCLE LA LUZ, NEW MEXICO 88337

January 14, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I, as well as the majority of people in Otero County, would appreciate your support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range. Holloman AFB is the lifeblood of our community.

Mrs. W. C. Myers (Chazalieth a Myers)

FEB 8

# NAVA ENTERPRISES, INC.

JANUARY 26, 1999

DR. ANDY VILET ATTN: ATZC-CSA P.O.BOX 6020 FORT BLISS. TEXAS 79906

DEAR DR. VILET,

MC GREGOR RANGE, AS A TRAINING AND TESTING SITE FOR FORT BLISS, WHITE SANDS MISSLE RANGE, AND HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO OUR NATION'S DEFENSE AND TO OUR NATION'S DEFENSE AND TO OUR REGION'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

THEREFORE, I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CONTINUED WITHDRAWAL OF MCGREGOR RANGE FOR USE AS DIRECTED BY THE U.S. ARMY FOR A PERIOD OF 50 YEARS BEGINNING 2001; THAT THE CURRENT BOUNDARIES OF THE RANGE REMAIN AS THEY ARE TODAY; AND THAT THERE BE NO CONSTRAINTS APPLIED TO THE RANGE FOR MILITARY USE.

AVIER NAVA
PRESIDENT

GENERAL & MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

323. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

323

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

## Private Citizens/Organizations Robert Navarro & Associates Engineering, Inc.

ROBERT NAVARRO JULI & ASSOCIATES ENGINEERING, INC.

124 W. CASTELLAND DRIVE, SUITE 201
EL PASO, TEXAS 79912 RINAMING.000
[815 582-1406 FAX (815) 532-1406

FEB 3 \_ BECTO



February 1, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is not only of utmost importance to our nation's defense but also to our region's economic well-being.

I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

**ROBERT NAVARRO & ASSOCIATES** 

ENGINEERING, INC.

Robert Navarro, P.E.

Presiden

324. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

324

FEB 1 6 RECTO

COLDWELL BANKER []

SUDDERTH NELSON, INC.

820 SCENIC DRIVE, SUITE A ALAMOGORDO, NM 88310 BUS. (505) 437-1137 FAX (505) 437-2422

11 February, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet. Program Manager US Army Air Defense Artllery Center P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss. TX 79906

Attn: AT7C-CSA (Leis Comments)

Dear Dr. Andv Vliet.

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range. New Mexico. Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundries of McGregor Range will remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan. McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGreeor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the RIM. I want you as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the wast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the life-blood of our community. Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpaver.

I have voiced my strong support for the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss. White Sands Missle Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy. providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

An Independently Owned and Operated Member of Coldwell Banker Residential Affiliates, Inc.

# **Private Citizens/Organizations**

I would unpreciate your support for Alternative 1: the current boundries of	
l would appreciate your support for Alternative I: the current boundries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex	
Respectively submitted.	
1800 M/2	
VIllay Pulm_	
Brian Nelson	
President	
Sudderth Nelson. Inc.	
1 copy file	

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document



JAN 2 9 RECT

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Loudes Ortego

4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903 (915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409 326. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

**EL PASO DIVISION** 

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

# Finished & Unfinished Furniture Center, Inc.

6430 GATEWAY EAST

EL PASO, TEXAS 79905

(915) 778-9269

January 28, 1999

JAN 3 0 RECT

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Signature

327

A-122

Save Offord

V. Elaine Painter P.O. BOX 1748

JAN 1 7 SECT

January 14, 1999

ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

I support the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal.

Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range. I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM.

The vast majority of people in Otero County support this project. Holloman Air Force Base is the lifeblood of our community.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Very truly yours,

V. Elaine Painter

February 3, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet ATTENTION: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

I am an economist, a banker with thirty-six years of experience in El Paso, and a former U.S. Army officer.

I believe that McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

I strongly support:

- The continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directly by the U.S. Army for a period of fifty years beginning 2001.
- That the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today.
- There be no constraints applied to the Range in respect to military use.

Please contact me if you have questions about the foregoing or wish further commentary.

Lester L. Parker President

Sincerely,

kc

(915) 532-1000 • Post Office Box 99100 • El Paso, Texas 79999-9100

Principal Office 500 North Mesa Street El Paso, Texas 79901 FAX (915) 747-1025

329

A-124

Alto Mesa Banking Center 6700 North Mesa Street El Paso, Texas 79912 PAX (915) 585-9583 Lee Trevino Banking Center 8340 Gateway East Boulevard El Paso, Texas 79907 FAX (915) 594-7275 Montwood/Yarbrough Banking Center 10/00 Montwood Drive 13 Paso, Texas 79935 FAX (915) 594-7623 Iontwood/Zaragosa Banking Cente 12101 Montwood Drive El Paso, Texas 79936 FAX (915) 855-9809

FEB 3 BECTO

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Hollman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

The El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce supports the continued use of McGregor Range for Military Activities by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001. It is that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

P.B. (Pete) Parraz President/CEO

CC: Mayor Carlos Ramirez Congressman Silvestre Reyes

> 2829 MONTANA • SUITE B-100 \_\_\_\_\_ EL PASO, TX 79903 \_\_\_\_\_ PH. (915) 566-4066 · FAX (915) 566-9714

Member of: U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce,

analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

330. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental

330

A-125

Susan Patten, Vice President for Government and Public Affairs Time Warner Communications Southwest Division 7010 Airport Road El Paso. TX 79906

JAN 3 0 PECTO



January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet

Time Warner Communications with 117,000 customers, and 200 employees in the El Paso area, recognizes the importance of the military in our local economy.

McGregor Range serves as the training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Hollman Air Force Base, therefore it is of the utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

I am writing to express strong support for:

- The continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001.
- The current boundaries of the Range remaining as they are today.
- Unconstrained use of the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Susan Patter

Vice President for Government and Public Affairs

Southwest Division

A Division of Texas Cable Partners, L.P.

331. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

FEB 5 DECT

332

# Handgards INC.

901 Hawkins Blvd. • El Paso, TX 79915-1202 800 351 8161 • 915 779 6606 Fax 800 777 0043 • 915 779 1843

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Tx. 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years, beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Arnie Pedersen VP of Operations 332. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

Corporate Office • 950 Skokie Blvd. • Northbrook, IL 60062-4069 • 847 564 5870



Manufacturer of Electrical and Electronic Wiring Devices

Edward Plaia Vice President/General Manager El Paso Operations

Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.

7800 Trade Center Avenue El Paso, TX 79912-8407 Telephone: (915) 877-1202 Fax: (915) 877-1280 www.leviton.com

FEB 8 RECTO

February 2, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet

McGregor Range, as training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.



# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

## **Private Citizens/Organizations**

Dr	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal aft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement			
Thank you for your input				
PLEASE PRINT	DATE AM. 26, 1999			
Rennin As they A insure the Contin Defense If Will	AT Me breyon Range And Allied Facilities the frescutty established. This is necessary to stip of the Sirs and the training Mission of the training Mission of the two the two economy of the conduity Community.			
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NAME: LOS ACASA	nt (Leo PLEASANTS) LTC. (Ref.)			
ADDRESS: 10023 BELFAS	or Ave			
CITY: EL PUSC, TEX	(AS 79925			
STATE, ZIP CODE				
PHONE NUMBER (915) 5 Area Code	98-7303			
Please check if you would like to re	eceive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)			
	ase Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999			
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss			

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

## **Private Citizens/Organizations**

Dra	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal aft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
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NAME: AL PEROL	
ADDRESS: 1008 of ALCON	) SF
STATE, ZIP CODE	4 79934
PHONE NUMBER 915 Area Code	759.7822
Please check if you would like to re-	ceive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)
	se Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999
U.S. 1	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

336

JAN 2 5 8000

1219 Oregon Ave. • P.O. Box 907 • Alamogordo, NM 88311-0907 Ph. (505) 437-2995 • Fax (505) 437-8358 • 1-800-975-5263

January 19, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

On behalf of the 600+members of the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to express our support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

We understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. We want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the life-blood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

As a Chamber, we have voiced our strong support for the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

We would appreciate your support for Alternative 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Tim Rabon Vice President

Mesa Verde Enterprises, Inc.

JAN 2 7 RECTO

DATE JAN. 25,1999.

17\_ PASO, TX

79901

Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)

Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager

U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss

ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)

P.O. Box 6020

Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Email: mcgregr@emh10.bliss.army.mil

PLEASE PRINT

PHONE NUMBER (915)

338

Written Comment Sheet

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for your input



JAN 2 9 RECTO

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Signature

rutina Damise z

339. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

EL PASO DIVISION

4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903 (915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409

## **Private Citizens/Organizations**

		Written Comment Sheet IcGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal It Legislative Environmental Impact Statement  DATE 1499
2401	Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement
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	NAME: CONTINUE ADDRESS: 52 CITY: 4 STATE, ZIP CODE	ands Saudsm O Pivine DEI ROO -50 -19732
	Area Code	581-0323
		eccive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)  AND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:
	U.S. 7	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

340. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

KSEETV38

CHRISTIAN TELEVISION
EL PASO : LAS CRUCES : CD. JUAREZ

FEB 8 RECTO

February 5, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Attention: ATZC-CSA

Dear Dr. Vliet,

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints to the range for military use.

Grace Rendail Station Manager

cc: File

341. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

6400 Escondido • El Paso, Texas 79912 • (915) 585-8838 • Fax (915) 585-8841 web page: http://www.flash.net/~ksce • e-mail: ksce@aol.com



1:09 ROYA\_BANNER

EL PASO "X 799"

57 :543

FAX 915 857 85

344 3 0 PECO

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet.

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely:

ALBERTO RIOS

r

342. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

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SERVICES IN FORMS MANAGEMENT, SISTEMS ANALYS S FORMS DES GN INVENTORY CONTROL, WAREHOUSING DESTRUCTION

SPECIALISTS IN DIRECT MAIL PRINTING, PERSONALIZATION MAILING SERVICES AND FULLHILLMENT



JAN 2 9 PECTO

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Martha Rivas

343. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

**EL PASO DIVISION** 

4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903 (915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

## **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawai Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement					
Thank you for your input						
PLEAS	E PRINT DATE $\frac{2/4}{}$	99				
M · G	As a resident of El Paso for the try years I have seen the important regar Runge to our community. Pleaser this range in El Paso.	e F				
NAME: _	Sylvia Rivas					
ADDRES						
CITY: STATE, Z	21 Paso, TX 79948-1422					
PHONE N	916 540 0 0					
Please	check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express	Delivery				
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999  Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager  U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss  ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)  P.O. Box 6020  Fort Bliss. Texas 79906  Email: mcgregor@emh 10.bliss.army.mil					

Patti Rivera

2600 Aspen
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310

JAN 1 9 BECO

January 14, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future. The vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project.

I support Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

I support the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss. White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternate 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Very truly yours,

Patte twen

Patti Rivera

### Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

FEB 8 RECT

Thank you for your input

date *FEB 5, 1999* 

Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement
	I AM IN FAVOR OF
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**** CONTINU	JE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE ****
NAME: ED; TH ROAC	1+
ADDRESS: 706 JUNI	PER AU
OTTY: ALAMOGORDO	, AEM
STATE, ZIP CODE <u>NEW</u>	UEX; CD 88310
	37-4685 437-4565
Please check if you would like to r	eceive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery
·	IAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL REFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss
Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)
P.O. Box 6020
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906
Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

## **Private Citizens/Organizations**

N Drai	Written Comment Sheet  1cGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal FEB 8 ECT  1ct Legislative Environmental Impact Statement	
Thank you for your input PLEASE PRINT	DATE_feb 5, 1999	
Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement	
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	Range's boundaries as they are Bo	
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NAME: VANCE FORM	<del></del>	
ADDRESS: 706 Gung	2w	
CITY: <u>Clamogordi</u>	200	
STATE, ZIP CODE New Y	nexico 88310	
PHONE NUMBER <u>( ら 5 ) ゲ</u> Area Code	-37 - 4565°	
Please check if you would like to re	eceive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery	
PLEASE H	AND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:	
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager	
U.S.	Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)	
	P.O. Box 6020	
	Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil	

347

FEB 3 RECTO



January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vilet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vilet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our regions's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Roark, Ed.D., FACHE **Executive Director** 

CER/ym

348. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

3901 N. MESA • SUITE 400 • EL PASO, TEXAS 79902 • 915 / 532-5699

# Leavell & Roberts, Inc.

JAN 2 9 BECO

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn. ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nations defense and to our regions economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U. S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

C. J. Roberts

LEAVELL & ROBERTS, INC. • 4487 NORTH MESA • SUITE 204 • EL PASO, TEXAS 79902 • (915) 533-9511 • FAX 532-1995

349. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

012899CJ.01



February 3, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet,

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic wellbeing.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001, that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Anita Rockett President

> 114 Castellano, Suite 2A / El Paso, Texas 79912 / (915) 577-9944 / FAX (915) 577-9558 E-MAIL rockett@rockett.com

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

Written Comment Sheet  McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal  Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement		
Thank you for your input	DATE <u>01/14/99</u>	
PLEASE PRINT		
Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement	
	Mc Margar Ranger is given excelle	
	Care while under Dod Control	
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NAME: Gus Redriguez Jr. ADDRESS: 1844 Longland # 122		
e . 0	•	
CITY: EI Paso		
STATE, ZIP CODE Texas 19935		
,		
PHONE NUMBER ( 9/5 ) 592 4209  Area Code		
Area Code		
Please check if you would like to r	eccive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express I	
PLEASE HAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:		
U.S.	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)	

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement				
	Thank you for your input				
	PLEASE PRINT	DATE 2-4-99			
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	Ft. Bliss)	Training. This Should			
	her in a	tol for the full			
	- Copacity	Openitions of			
		M (t va t			
	NAME: Patricia Roybal				
	ADDRESS: 5008 E. V	andell			
	STATE ZIP CODE TENERS	79903			
	PHONE NUMBER 7/5 Area Code	78-5900			
	/	ive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)			
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFORE FEBRUARY 5, 1999				
	U.S. Ar	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager my Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906			

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7044 San Marino

Esmeraldo Saenz Distributor Phone: (915) 584-7020

Phone: (915) 584-7020 Fax: (915) 581-1833

1-3-99

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and to sting site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-be 1g.

Therefore, I strongly support the con inued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a pe iod of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use

Rest records

Esmeraldo S

353. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

FEB 5 AECT

February 4, 1999

VIA FACSIMILE - 568-6643

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Ft. Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet

McGregor Range, as training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the Range for military use.

Regards,

THE MESA GROUP, INC.

Scott M. Schwartz Chief Executive Officer 354. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

7598 North Mesa Street · Suite 205 · El Paso, Texas 79912 · (915) 845-4000 · (915) 845-4040 Facsimile

A-14

P. 2

2-08-1999 12:55PM FROM ALAMOGORDO C/C 505 437 6334

LEWIS SITTON, C.D.T.

810 9th Street Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310 (505) 434-4774

February 8, 1999

Representative Joe Skeen 1065-B S. Main Street, Suite A Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Representative Skeen.

I support Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawel Renewal.

Janice Sitton

Secretary
Sitton Dental Lab

355. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

### THRIFTY NICKEL WANT ADS

P.O. Box 2045 • 900 9th Street Alamogordo, NM 88310

800-649-0928

JAN 2 6 ECT

January 21, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet,

I am writing to express my support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (population 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the life-blood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

I would appreciate your support for Alternative 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Thrifty Nickel Want Ads

356. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

2-04-1999 10:30AN FROM GEPCC CHAMBER FAX3 9155779916 P. 1
FEB 4 RECT

The Material Handling Specialists

7010 INDUSTRIAL AVENUE EL PASO, TEXAS 79916 (815) 772-8662 - FAX (915) 772-6692

Pebruary 3, 1999

Dr. Andy Vlier Attn: ATZC-CSA P O Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Taxas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing sire for Fort Bliss, White. Sands Missle Range and Holloman Air Torce Base, is of atmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Robert E. Smashev

Robert Elmosh

357. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document



From the office of: Jay Smith General Manager

February 1,1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGrefor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Regards

358

Jay Smith

Jay Smith

El Paso, Texas, #9 Zane Grey, 79906 Phone: (915) 771-0090 Fax: (915) 771-0096

Z00 🗹

DJ NYPRO

05/01/88 07:52 FAX 8157710086

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### R. A. Rodriguez and Associates, Inc.

Search and Recruiting Professionals
10935 Ben Creature, Bills I to, YI Prop. Tents 7975 #975 598.5028, Fox 508 5150
L. mall: rariobs@jobcarecrs.com

February 9, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Records

Michael D. Smithson, CPC Business Development Manager 359. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

A-154

### MIRACLE DELIVERY SERVICE

ARMORE

415 S. KANSAS STREET • EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

915-532-6959

FFR 3 SECTO

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Ed Soto
President

ES/ja



1200 Golden Key Circle, Suite 330 • El Paso, TX 79925-5815 • (915) 592-3400 • FAX (915) 590-1872

FEB 16 BECTO

February 1, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Bast, is very important to our great nation's defense and also very important to our region's economic well-being.

Because of this, we at AccuStaff, strongly support the continued use of McGregor Range by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use. El Paso has always supported its defense personnel in every way and we will continue to do so.

Thank you

Janet Stacks

Manager of Operations



ECT FEB 3

**DUFFY B. STANLEY** ARCHITECTS 303 TEXAS AVENUE, SUITE 402 EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range has been a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base for many years and is vitally important to our nation's defense as well as to our region's economic status.

For these reasons, I support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for continued use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 20001.

Sincerely,

Duffy B. Stanley

363. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

A-159

### Vilet, Andrew From: McGregor

Sent: Monday, January 04, 1999 8:43 AM

To: Vliet, Andrew Subject: FW: desert property

### ----Original Message-----

From: Lmstokespc@aol.com [SMTP;Lmstokespc@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 1998 8:37 PM mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

Subject: desert property

Dear parties involved in the review process.

I understand & appreciate the importance of having a manuever area for our (and other) armed forces in our area. Aside from the fact that the forces have an incidental (and fortuitous) beneficial effect on the El Paso economy, I am also VERY pleased that another incidental effect is that, as a sportsman, the Army's (et al) effect of using this area is (other than some relatively unnoticeable minor debris) to preserve the natural integrity of the area. I'm sure there are some naturalists who will argue to the contrary, but I've seen a great deal of this area, and I'm pleased to say the army does a much better job than many property, if not most, property owners. I would STRONGLY urge that this area be left to the good stewardship of the army, with the limited request that it make access to the property a matter of easy contact with the appropriate personnel, so they may be contacted by phone, mail, fax, or internet, without having to make a 20-30 mile drive for an access permit.

As a general rule, MOST people want to comply with the rules provided they remain consistent and don't change. Just let the public know when they need to stay out of the area and they will Keep up the good work.

Thanks for the good work, L.Stokes

### BANKERS LIFE AND CASUALTY COMPANY

A Conseco Company Branch Office 4150 Rio Bravo, Suite 209 El Paso, TX 79902 915/543-9001

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Mr. Vliet,

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely

Robert Sweet Branch Sales Manager 365. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

BOL-4096

Mrs. Julia E. Talley

JAN 2 8 BECTO

ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310

January 20, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

I would appreciate your support for Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

The last Base Realignment and Closure Commission noted that the target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

Sincerely

Julia E. Talley

Julia E. Talley

analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

366. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental

# Mr. Glenn VII. Talley

JAN 2 8 RECTO

1516 Serrano ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310

January 20, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

I understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. I want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the lifeblood of our community, Holloman AFB.

I would appreciate your support for Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

The last Base Realignment and Closure Commission noted that the target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

Sincerely,

Islem W Tally Glenn W. Talley

Adolpho R. Telles

221 N. Kansas Street, Suite 1300 P.O. Box 522551 El Paso, TX 79999-0010 915 532 3665

February 1, 1999

Mr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well being.

I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the Range for military use.

Sincerely,

Adolpho R. Telles

God Telles

lc



February 4, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

ConTigo Call Center Manager.

YT/grm

369. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

4600 Pollard • El Paso, Texas 79930 • (915) 680-8322 • Fax: (915) 680-8323

PAGE 81

CONTIGO

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P.01

370

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

Jan-28-99 04:23P

Pa Ted Spring Company of El Paso, Inc. 1520C Goodyear Drive . LI Paso, TX 79936 tel. 915-590-6610 · Fax: 915-590-6602

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Aun: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas, 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Transconsider Charles



### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(505) 437-6120

1301 White Sands Blvd. • P.O. 518, Alamogordo, New Mexico U.S.A. 88311-0518

December 18, 1998

JAN 4 RECTO

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet.

On behalf of the 600+ members of the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to express our support for the Alternative 1 listed in the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for McGregor Range, New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Renewal. Alternative 1 states that the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same. Nonmilitary activities would continue under the BLM Resource Management Plan, McGregor Range.

We understand that the McGregor Range is under the joint jurisdiction of the US Army and the BLM. We want you, as a decision-maker in this process, to know that the vast majority of people in Otero County (pop. 55,000) support this project. Plus, please keep in mind that this deals with the life-blood of our community, Holloman AFB.

The target complex proposed for the Otero Mesa and McGregor Range and associated flight routes fill a shortcoming of Holloman noted by the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Holloman and the USAF need this range space for force readiness and training. The fact that the German Air Force is willing to pay for much of the infrastructure provides tremendous savings to the US taxpayer.

As a Chamber, we have voiced our strong support for the continued withdrawal of the entire McGregor Range. The range is a vital resource to the installation triangle of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB. These installations are critical components of our economy, providing jobs and a tax base to a relatively sparsely populated and industry-poor region. These installations have proven their value to national defense over and over, and will continue to be vital assets in the future.

We would appreciate your support for Alternative 1: the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same, and for the McGregor Range target complex.

Respectfully submitted

Colene C. Van Winkle Executive Director

Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce

Ed Brabson

President, Board of Directors
Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce

"TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS"

E-Mail - chamber@wazoo.com

371



JAN 2 9 RECT

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

**EL PASO DIVISION** 4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903 (915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409 372. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document



# METAL RECYCLING COMPANY 2506 TEXAS AVENUE EL PASO, TEXAS 79901 TEL. (915) 544-9690

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missue Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today, and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Signature

Frankongs, CEO. 2/18/99

373. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement		
	Thank you for your input		
	PLEASE PRINT	date <u>2-04-99</u>	
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	NAME: (7) Wile Mas GUEZ		
	CITY: C(1/10 9) 4		
	STATE, ZIP CODE		
	PHONE NUMBER (4/) 159-1831 Area Code		
	Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEI		
	Please Hand This Form In or Ma  Dr. Andy Vliet, Progr U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery  ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LE P.O. Box 66	ram Manager / Center and Fort Bliss IS Comments)	



JAN 3 0 RECTO

StudioPLUS at El Paso

990 Sunland Park Drive • El Paso, Texas 79922

(915) 833-7731 • Fax: (915) 833-6435 • Reservations: (800) 646-8000

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Signature

Knikki Velazouez

General Manager

375. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

### **Private Citizens/Organizations**

## Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal **FEB** 8 ECO Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement Thank you for your input DATE <u>/-14-99</u> PLEASE PRINT Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information) **Comment and Suggested Improvement** Option ONE WITHGRAWAL CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\* NAME: JACKIE M. VIGIL 88337 STATE, ZIP CODE NM PHONE NUMBER (505 434-1780 Area Code Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery) PLEASE HAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO: Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

376. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

ELLER MEDIA COMPANY

JAN 3 0 TOO

January 26, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sie Wallree

EL PASO DIVISION

4705 PERSHING, EL PASO, TEXAS 79903
(915) 566-9380 FAX (915) 566-9409

377. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document



JAN 2 9 RECT

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet ATTENTION ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Ft. Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGreggor Range, along with Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range, and Holloman Air Force Base, comprise the largest contiguous training and testing area in the United States. It is extremely important to our nation's defense, that the Range remain as a training and testing site, with unlimited access to the military. It is also vital to our region's economic well being.

I very strongly am in favor of continued withdrawal of McGreggor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army, for a period of fifty years, beginning in 2001. The current boundaries of the Range should remain as they are, and there should be no constraints applied to McGreggor Range for military use.

MNW:po

378. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

El Paso, Texas 79903 / (915) 542-1654 FAX: (915) 542-1680

2211 E. Missouri, Suite N-200

FEB 1 SECTO

January 29, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attention: ATZA-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Ft. Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

379

I strongly favor and support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of fifty years beginning 2001. I support the current boundaries of the Range, and that there be no constraints applied to the Range for military use. There are already several other recreational opportunities in the area, including the Gila National Forest, Sacramento Mountains, Hueco Tanks State Park, and the Franklin Mountains State Park.

I am a native El Pasoan, very familiar with the importance of Ft. Bliss, McGregor Range, White Sands Missile Range, and Holloman Air Force Base, to our nation's defense and to our region's economy. Specifically, the use of McGregor Range for training and testing is paramount for our nation's security and defense. When combined with Ft. Bliss and White Sands, this area provides one of the largest, if not the largest, free fly areas in the free world.

El Paso, Texas 79903 / (915) 542-1654 FAX: (915) 542-1680

PBW:po

379. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

2211 E. Missouri, Suite N-200

9157812745 DISMAS CHARITIES

540 P02/02 JAN 28 '99 10:18



JAN 2 8 RECTO

KEN WILLOUGHBY

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range, and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nations defense and to our economic well-being. The fact that troops from Air Defense units here at Fort Bliss, and aircraft and crews from Holloman Air Force Base, were called upon to support the last actions in the middle east supports the need for this training site. Where else could they go for essential training?

Therefore, being retired military myself, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S. Army for a period of fifty (50) years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely

Ken Willoughby

Director

Director Dismas El Paso

7011 ALAMEDA AVENUE • EL PASO, TEXAS 79915 • (915) 781-1122 • FAX (915) 781-2745

380. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

January 30, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

McGregor Range, as a training and testing site for Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, is of utmost importance to our nation's defense and to our region's economic well-being.

Therefore, I strongly support the continued withdrawal of McGregor Range for use as directed by the U.S Army for a period of 50 years beginning 2001; that the current boundaries of the Range remain as they are today; and that there be no constraints applied to the range for military use.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Wingren General Manager AMERICAN AIRLINES

El Paso

BW/gh

381. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, EL PASO, TEXAS 79925, FOR RESERVATIONS, PHONE 533-9909, CABLE ADDRESS AMAIR

A-17

JAN 2 9 RECTO

2112 Murchison Dr. El Paso, Texas 79930 Phone: 915 / 533-3777 Fax: 915 / 532-7733 email:wdarchs@elp.rr.com

January 28, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet Attn: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

We believe McGregor Range should be maintained as a military reserve, both for our national defense and for the good of the local economy.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Wright Principal

Wright & Dalbin Architects, Inc.

Frederic Dalbin Principal

Wright & Dalbin Architects, Inc.

382. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

JAN 12 HECD

Jerold Yates 2304 Pine Drive Alamogordo, NM 88310

Re: McGREGOR BOMBING RANGE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have been a resident of Alamogordo since 1956. I have a business and raised my family here. Because of the excellent economy of Alamogordo, my children have decided to make Alamogordo their home. Holloman AFB has always been a vital part of the Alamogordo economy and we have enjoyed the comradeship of Holloman and now the German Air Force.

This community and Holloman AFB have survived several BRAC considerations. Holloman AFB is the principal support of Otero County.

The German Air Force arrival has been essential to our continued business health. I urge you to continue with the <u>complete</u> withdrawal of McGregor Bombing Range, including Otero Mesa and Culp Canyon. This continuation of the withdrawal is vital to Alamogordo, NM, and is the best use of this land for the majority of its citizens.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry Yates/President The Ink Well, Inc. 384. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

# **Private Citizens/Organizations**

FEB 02 '99 21:56	FROM JIM AND MARTHA COODY	TO 9155686643 PAGE.001
	Written Comment S McGregor Range Land Withdr Draft Legislative Environmental I	awal Renewal
To: Da. Badeen	Viet - Fa 95-568- Thank you for your	
PLEASE PRINT		DATE 2/2/99
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NAME: Jim	L Coody	
ADDRESS: 7-2	gordo, 083/1	
STATE, ZIP CODEPHONE NUMBER	963-2383	
_ (	te to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phor	se Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEF  Dr. Andy Vilet, Program M U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Cent ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LESS CO P.O. Box 6020	lanager ter and Fort Bliss

385. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

FROM JIM AND MARTHA COODY FEB 02 '99 20:31

TO 9155686643 PAGE.001

# TKLECOPIER TRANSMISSION COVER PAGE

TO: Or Andrew V/let - Fax # (915) 5-68-6643

FROM: Martha Coody

DATE: 2/2/99

SUBJECT: Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

COMMENTS ABOUT THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT:

On the page to follow are my comments on the L.E.I.S. for Mc Gregor Range New Mexico, Land Withdrawal Kenewal. Please include them in your final L.E.I.S.

> NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW THIS COVER PAGE: IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL: (505) 963-2383

TKLECOPIER NUMBER: (505) 963-2459

CONTACT PERSON: Martha Coody
P.O. Box 247 | 84 Dog Karch Road
Alamogordo, N. M. 88310

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

		11	ivate Citi
FEB 02 '99 20:31	FROM JIM AND MARTHA COODY	TO 9155686643	PAGE.002
	Written Comment Sh McGregor Range Land Withdraw Draft Legislative Environmental Im	ral Renewal	
	Thank you for your in	put	
PLEASE PRINT		DATE 2/2/9	29
Dear Dr Vliet:  I am a Range, New Mexic to have my com I support Alt a lot of Mc training especia such as the f Sands are also However, a foothills are ex preserved. Und have the use or purposes. This firstile than th inter a very s preserved for	uniting in regards to on Land Withdrawa I have included in your monetive 3. I appropriate the of advisor in the gree of advisor in the Orero Mesa and captionally pristing of Hotenative 3 the part of the Mesa and captionally pristing of 129395 acres of 1290 is much less and foothills. Continue their activity pristing attitude the public,	ses such as from Sacramento A ass lands and m nilitary would land for the productive an Therefore, th	ould like final LEI.  that  ilitary  ystems
NAME: Martha ADDRESS: P.O. Box 8	Coody 47 / 80 Dos Rá	anch Road	
CITY: Alamogordo	/		
STATE, ZIP CODE New	Mexico, 88310	)	
PHONE NUMBER (505	963-2383		
Please check if you would ii	te to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone		press Delivery)
	Please Hand This Form In or Mail BEFO		
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Ma U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Cente ATTN: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Com P.O. Box 6020	r and Fort Bliss	

Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

# McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

# **Private Citizens/Organizations**

	Written Comment Sheet 1 2 McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Ift Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
Thank you for your input	DATE 1/12/99
PLEASE PRINT	,
Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement
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	HAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:
PLEASE H	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager
PLEASE H	
PLEASE H	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss

The Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen represents approximately 1500 outdoors-oriented men and women in the Las Cruces area. We support Alternative #3 for the proposed withdrawal. It is our position that there are adequate areas in the Tularosa basin to carry out military objectives, including the proposed bombing range. However, recognizing the past history of McGregor Range, we feel that the chance of the military returning the Otero Mesa/Sacramento Foothills portion of the range to public ownership is remote.

Therefore, our secondary position on this issue is that, assuming the Otero Mesa and Sacramento Foothills area is again withdrawn, that the military be required, under the agreement, to act cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management, NM Department of Game and Fish, and Forest Service to insure that this portion of the range is not degraded or contaminated. Further, our organization strongly feels that public access to the range for recreational purposes, including hunting, should be guaranteed as part of the withdrawal. Under no circumstances should any military activity be allowed which would preclude the use of this area by the public. All such activities should be confined to areas west of the escarpment which are already degraded and off-limits to the public.

Finally, it should be noted that, at some point in the future, however distant, this area, as well as all other military installations, will be used for other purposes. It should be a matter of policy that the military, or any other contaminating entity, be required to "clean up their mess" as it occurs rather than let these areas be an on-going dumping ground for potentially highly dangerous materials and explosives. We must not jeopardize the well-being of future generations and their quality of life because of our own present short-sightedness.

# JAN 2 3 REC'D

# Written Comment Sheet McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for your input

DATE <u>/-/8-99</u>

PLEASE PRINT

Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement
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FINDINGS	GIVEN TO ALTERNATIVE FOUR (4).
ALTERNATIVE 4	SOUTH CENTRAL NEW MEXICO IS NOT
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	GROWN IN POPULATION, BUSINESS ETOURISM.
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	TO USE MORE AREA FOR RECREATION,
	HUNTING, FISHING AND RANCHING,
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	ONE(1). THIS IS BASED SOLEY ON HIS
	EXCESSIVE PERSONAL FOREED, IMPROVE
	HIS POLITICAL POSITION WITH NO CON-
	SIDERATION FOR THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.
	I WANT TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO

\*\*\*\* CONTINUE ON BACK FOR MORE SPACE \*\*\*\*

NAME: JOHN W. CHERRY
ADDRESS: 23 BEAR GRASS RD.
CITY: LA LUZ.

COURTS OF CORD. AUGUS MEY LAG. 88327

STATE, ZIP CODE NEW MEXICO 88337

PHONE NUMBER <u>(505)</u> 437-00/8
Area Code

Please check if you would like to receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)

## PLEASE HAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:

Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss
Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments)
P.O. Box 6020
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906
Email: mcgregor@emh 10. bliss.army.mil

# **Private Citizens/Organizations**

PAGE 2	YOUR NAME:		
Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement		
	MR. ANDY VLIET AND MR. TIM SANDERS		
	FOR THEIR PRESENTATION IN ALAMO-		
	GORDO ON JANUARY 12, 1999. I		
	THOUGHT IT WAS OUTSTANDING.		
	THANKS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO		
	EXPRESS MY THOUGHTS.		
	/ /		
	John W. Cherry		
·	·		
,	<u> </u>		

McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Public Comment and Response Document

D	Written Comment Sheet  McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal raft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
Thank you for your input	DATE (1999)
PLEASE PRINT	
Comment Location in Documer (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	
Alternative 5.	I believe We should use Alternative 5
Carthe land	which would return our land back to
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Domain	Mexico of the salt flats AREA
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NAME: CASSIE W. T	TYLER
address: P.O., BOX	908
CITY: HOLLOMAN A	AFB NM 88330
STATE, ZIP CODE	
PHONE NUMBER_( <u>らつり</u> ) Area Code	479-2527
Please check if you would like to	o receive a copy of the Final LEIS (Phone Number Required for Federal Express Delivery)
	HAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 1999 TO:
	Dr. Andy Vliet, Program Manager
U.	S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss Attention: ATZC-CSA (LEIS Comments) P.O. Box 6020
	Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 Email: mcgregor@emh10.bliss.army.mil

PAGE 2	YOUR NAME:
Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement
	TAKEN AND THEY WERE REMOVED FROM THEIR
	HOMES WITH MACHINE GUNS + TROOPS (American)
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	Course the army promised them they would
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	11- Gregor Runge Was To be returned to
	the public domain for the publics use.
	there are plenty of other areas that are
	barren where the army + Air force can
	play war games. If we are not fighting to
	protect our own citizens freedoms + rights
	what are we fighting for? The damages being
	done to New Mexico need to stop the last meeting
	I Attended there was a fellow (Ray anick) who
	stated that the army don't care and he is
	absolutely right. The military's job is to Kill
	people and destroy property and the onilitary
	doesn't CARE ABOUT NEW MEXICOS ranchers
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	beings, Please give our public domain back to
	citizens & honor our New Mexicans with freedom
	enjoy our beautiful state before the military
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	salt flats or desert westeland instead of our pris

PAGE 2	YOUR NAME:		
Comment Location in Document (Include page and line numbers or broader information)	Comment and Suggested Improvement		
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	HOMES WITH MACHINE GUNS + TROOPS (American)		
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	salt flats or desert wasteland instead of our pris		

JAN 2 5 RECTO

Michael P. Berman HC 71 Box 1370 89 Wilson Rd San Lorenzo, NM 88041 505 536-3238

McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Comment

I believe it is incumbent upon the the Army to balance its long term use of the lands in question with the protection of them. And where ever possible to preserve the ecological integrity of the lands. I believe this is possible without compromising the primary mission.

391 I Alternative 6 presents an elegant proposal to achieve both these ends and I would hope the Army would support it, as I also do.

Michael P. Berman

1/19/99

# NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

PO Box 13116 • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87192

Dr. Andy Vliet USA-ADAC Center & Ft. Bliss Attn: ATZC-CSA PO Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

19 January 1999

Dear Dr. Vliet,

This letter is in support of Alternative 6 in the Legislative Environmental Impact Statement on the McGregor Withdrawal. It is the position of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance that Culp Canyon is deserving of full wilderness designation and that Otero Mesa should be designated as a National Conservation Area. The historical, cultural, recreational and biological values of the areas (Culp Canyon and Otero Mesa) are simply too important to sacrifice them as a bombing range or a missile training ground. Other areas exist which can meet this nation's need for military training. However a wilderness like Culp Canyon is, once lost, lost forever. We cannot afford to lose any more wilderness in New Mexico. It has become too rare, and consequently, too precious a resource.

Sincerely

Martin Heinrich

for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance



# New Mexico Audubon Council

Representing Five Local Chapters of the National Audubon Society in New Mexico Conserving and restoring natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity

January 15, 1999

JAN 2 3 BECTO

Dr. Andy Vliet USA-ADAC Center and Ft. Bliss Attn: ATZC-CSA P. O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss. TX 79906

Dear Dr. Vliet:

The Department of Defense is assessing the impact of future uses of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land on the McGregor Range in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We are particularly concerned that the Army proposes to withdraw the area for 50 years for use as a training and test range.

This action is opposed by broad coalition of local ranchers, the environmental community, and hunters because Otero Mesa is one BLM area in New Mexico that is truly well-managed. The grasslands there are healthy and vibrant, supporting grazing and both game and non-game wildlife species, a tribute to the BLM's stewardship.

Among other issues, Otero Mesa is prime habitat for the endangered Aplomado Falcon, which is increasingly reported in New Mexico. The area would be a prime site for reintroduction efforts to re-establish the falcon in the Southwest. While the environment in many military areas is in fact protected by their status, this area is well managed as it stands. It is an example of the potential for success of multiple use, and should be used as an example of the quality that

We strongly support the designation of Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills as a National Conservation Area and the declaration of Culp Cañon as a BLM wilderness area. We therefore strongly support alternative 6 in the EIS. Withdrawal of this land is not in the best interests of the people of New Mexico or the United States.

Sincerely,

Thomas Jervis, Ph.D., President 60 Barranca Rd.

Los Alamos, NM 87544

393. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

Jennifer Johnson PO Box 327 Los Alamos, NM 87544

February 3, 1999

Dr. Andy Vliet USA-ADAC Center and Ft. Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906

Re: McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Renewal

Dear Dr. Vliet,

I am writing to let you know that I support Alternative 6 in the Legislative EIS which would re-withdraw McGregor Range for 50 years, and would have Congress designate Otero Mesa and Mountain Foothills as a NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA and Culp Canyon as a BLM Wilderness Area.

This seems to me to be the highest and best use for land recognized as an Historic Landscape, with potential historic sacred sites and managed for Multiple Use, wildlife, recreation, grazing and hunting.

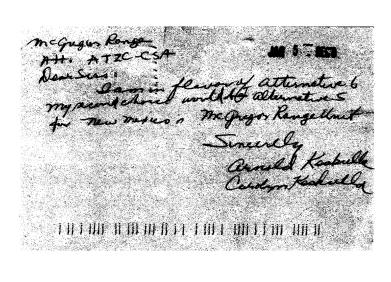
The concept that the US Army uses portions of the area occasionally for multi-national force training and as a buffer zone for live fire missile training is ludicrous. These military programs should be allowed to expire, as should the temporary withdrawal of all of McGregor Range, in the year 2001.

Sincerely, Lynnagir a Johnson Tennifer Johnson 394. The Army appreciates your involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. Your comment was considered during preparation of the final LEIS and has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review.

394

A-192

A-193



JAN 2 3 FEET What of for your support for Alternative b. For the Congressional designation of Others Man and Mountain footbills National and Mountain footbills National and Congressional and EM Wideman area. No more bombing!!!

I will write my congressional war as well. Trank you!

Sinauly

Shabeta Moadd R.A.

101 Eart Coneu St.

Godly NM 87103.

1-31-99

McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Renewal U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss ATTN: ATZC-CSA P.O. Box 6020 Fort Bliss, TX 79906

To whom it may concern,

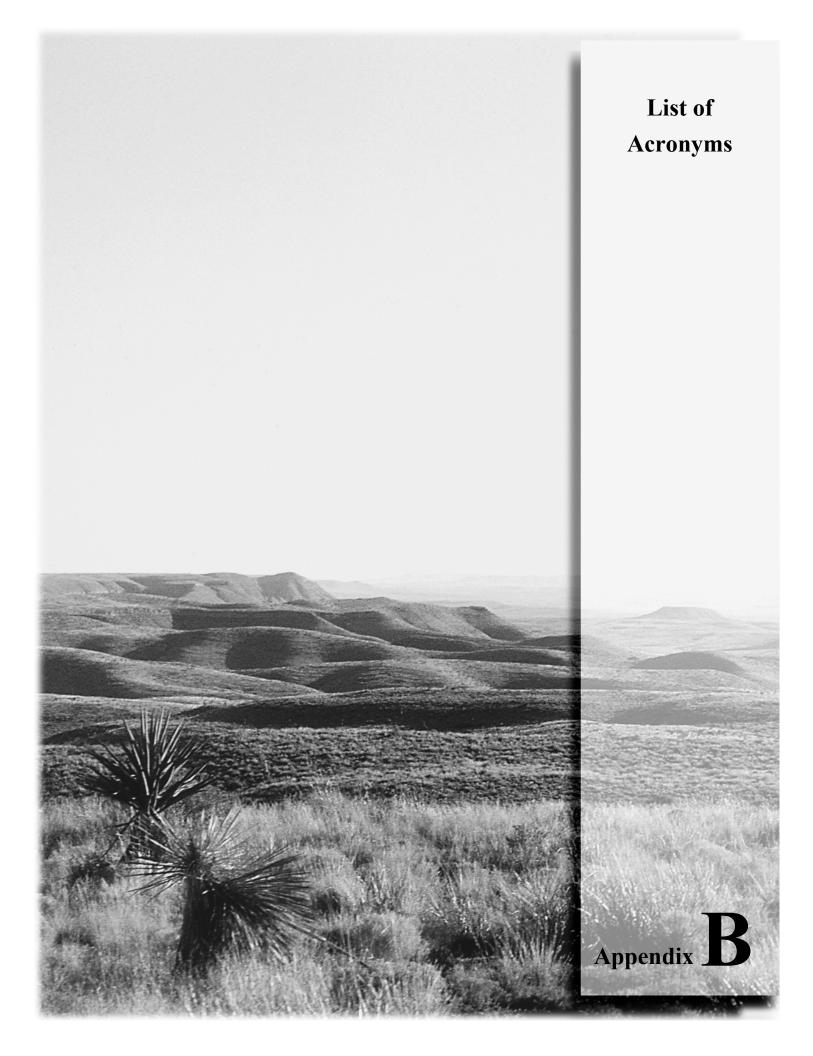
397

I am writing to you concerning the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal EIS. I favor Alternative 6, which would establish Otero Mesa and Sacramento Foothills as a National Conservation Area. These areas are in good condition and I would like to see them released as an NCA, preserving one of our most shrinking assets-- open space and wilderness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

4946 Quail Ridge Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87114



Mo	Gregor Range Land	Withdrawal Pub	lic Comment and	Response Docum	nent
		APPENI	DIX B		
		LIST OF AC	RONYMS		



# LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAF	Army Air Field	MICOM	U.S. Army Missile Command
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental	MLWA	Military Lands Withdrawal Act
11020	Concern	MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
ADA	Air Defense Artillery	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
AFB	Air Force Base	NASA	National Aeronautics and Space
ASIP	Army Stationing and	11/10/1	Administration
71011	Installations Plan	NCA	National Conservation Area
ASP	Ammunition Supply Point	NEPA	National Environmental Policy
ATACMS	Army Tactical Missile Systems	INLI II	Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	NESHAPs	National Emission Standards for
BMP	Best Management Practice	IVLSIII II S	Hazardous Air Pollutants
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	NHPA	National Historic Preservation
DA	U.S. Department of the Army	MIIIA	Act
DoD	U.S. Department of Defense	NMED	New Mexico Environmental
DOT	•	NNILD	
DOT	U.S. Department of	NCDC	Department New Source Performance
T: A	Transportation	NSPS	
EA	Environmental Assessment	DEIG	Standards
EIS	Environmental Impact	PEIS	Programmatic Environmental
ED A	Statement	DI	Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection	PL	Public Law
T. 4. 4	Agency	RMP	Resource Management Plan
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration	RMPA	Resource Management Plan
FICON	Federal Interagency Committee		Amendment
	on Noise	ROD	Record of Decision
FIREX	firing exercise	ROI	region of influence
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and	ROW	right-of-way
	Management Act	RPMP	Real Property Master Plan
FONSI	Finding of No Significant	SDZ	Surface Danger Zone
	Impact	TA	Training Area
FTX	field training exercise	TADC	Training Area Development
GAF	German Air Force		Concept
GIS	Geographic Information System	TBM	tactical ballistic missile
GPS	Global Positioning System	USAF	U.S. Air Force
HAFB	Holloman Air Force Base	USFS	U.S. Forest Service
HRMB	Hazardous and Radioactive	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Material Bureau	WSA	Wilderness Study Area
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing	WSMR	White Sands Missile Range
	and Urban Development		_
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources		
	Management Plan		
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources		
	Management Plan		
IRP	Installation Restoration Program		
JTX	Joint Training Exercise		
LCTA	Land Condition Trend Analysis		
LEIS	Legislative Environmental		
	Impact Statement		
	*		