
**PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR RECREATION CLUBS AND
ORGANIZATIONS USE
AT JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WASHINGTON**



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Proposed Action (32 CFR § 651.34 (c))

The Department of the Army proposes to enter into short-term real property licenses with regional Recreation Clubs and Organizations, to grant them non-exclusive use on Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). Each license issued would be valid for one year.

In the past an environmental document was created to support each real estate license issued, even if the proposed recreation opportunity was a standard and well-understood activity. Such a process was administratively cumbersome. Under the Proposed Action JBLM would continue to exercise its discretion to issue short-term licenses to Recreation Clubs and Organizations. The environmental analysis associated with each real estate license would be a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA).

Under the Proposed Action, only normal recreation activities would be authorized. Every licensee would follow these initial steps:

1. A Point of Contact would be assigned and validated by a Range Control Officer.
2. Training Area, range, and facility use must be requested through the Range Facility Management Support System (RFMSS) and then Range Control.
3. Any request must be done with express coordination with the Range Control Operations Officer; however, JBLM is not compelled to allow use of facilities to off-post users.

The use of Training Areas, ranges, and facilities on JBLM would be for the purpose of civilian Recreation Clubs and Organizations. Fort Lewis Range Regulation 350-30 (29 March 2000, Change 1, 23 November 2005) is the principal guidance regulation for preparation and execution of training at JBLM and any use of Training Areas, ranges, and facilities would be conducted in accordance with this regulation.

Standard use of Training Areas, ranges, and facilities by Recreation Clubs and Organizations includes, but is not limited to: horseback riding, all-terrain vehicles, and dog training events. Any use of Training Areas, ranges, and facilities outside the normal accepted uses would require re-evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NEPA analysis in this document covers only normal recreation activities and use of these areas.

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Purpose of the Proposed Action (32 CFR § 651.34 (b))

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to allow JBLM to authorize Recreation Clubs and Organizations to conduct training and club gatherings at JBLM on a space-available basis. JBLM has many open areas and various other recreation opportunities. JBLM and the community benefit from the Proposed Action.

Alternatives Considered (32 CFR § 651.34 (d))

The Army is considering one action alternative that meets the purpose and need for the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would allow the Army to issue real estate licenses with Recreation Clubs and Organizations in a more administratively efficient manner using a Programmatic Environmental Analysis for the required environmental documentation. The No-Action Alternative would result in continuing to prepare individual NEPA analyses for each license issued to Recreation Clubs and Organizations.

Existing Conditions and Affected Environment (32 CFR § 651.34 (e))

Located in Pierce and Thurston counties in the western portion of Washington JBLM Lewis Main, Lewis North, and McChord Field together encompass more than 90,000 acres bordering Tacoma, Washington to the Southeast. (Figure 1)

Interstate 5 (I-5), the main transportation corridor in the Puget Sound region, bisects the installation. It is bordered by suburban and commercial development on the North; rural areas, forested land, and several small communities on the East and South; and the Puget Sound, Nisqually Indian Reservation, and rural areas that surround Olympia on the West. The Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is located on the Northwest border of the installation.

Home to more than 58,000 Service Members and employees, the Installation also supports approximately 52,000 Family members and dependents. Installation priorities include “Providing continued support to the war efforts, continuing to transform the force, establishing and maintaining first-class training facilities, and providing top-notch care to Service Members, and their Families” (U.S. Army 2014).

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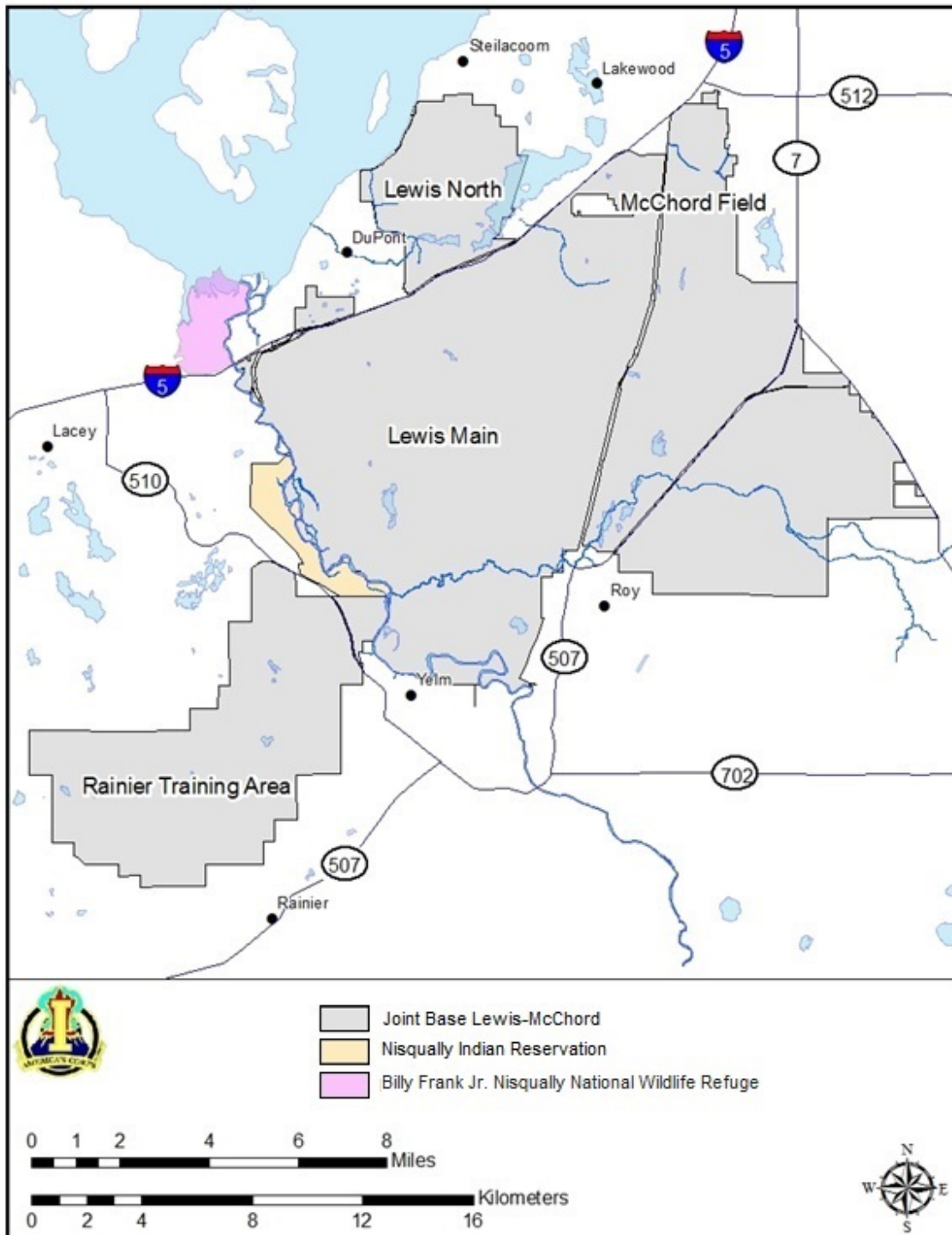


Figure 1 Joint Base Lewis-McChord Vicinity

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U.S. Air Force units located on McChord Field include the 62nd Airlift Wing and its Reserve Partner the 446th Airlift Wing, the Western Air Defense Sector, and the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron. JBLM is known for its abundance of high-quality, close-in Training Areas, including 115 live-fire ranges and substantial space for maneuver training.

There are several dozen non-military Recreation Clubs and Organizations that could potentially request short-term real property licenses under this programmatic NEPA analysis. In 2016, there were approximately seven active Recreation Clubs and Organization licensees using the Training Areas, ranges, and facilities at JBLM.

Outdoor Recreation Areas on JBLM

Facility/Area	Activities Supported
Adventures Unlimited	Boating, camping and other outdoor equipment rental
Holiday Park	Camping with hookups and tent camping, and group picnicking
Skeet Range	Archery and skeet ranges
Morey Pond	Fishing, wildlife watching, walking path, and picnicking
Carter Lake	Fishing, wildlife watching, picnicking, and playground
Porter Hills Watchable Wildlife Area	Hiking trails, and nature and wildlife watching
Gasking Park Watchable Wildlife Area	Wildlife watching
Mountain View Watchable Wildlife Area	Wildlife watching

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Morey Pond Watchable Wildlife Area	Wildlife and nature watching
Equipment Rental Center	Boating and camping equipment, skiing equipment, fishing, picnicking, educational classes, boating safety instruction, and equipment resale store
Travel Camp	Camping with hookups and tent camping
Shoreline Park	Boating, fishing, boat launch, mini-golf, group picnicking, swimming, hiking trail, food services, and equipment resale store
Tall Firs Picnic Area	Picnicking
Facility/Area	Activities Supported
Solo Point Recreation Area	Saltwater boat launch, fishing, and picnicking
Sequalitchew Lake Recreation Area	Fishing and picnicking
Miller Hill Recreation Area	Group picnicking, hiking trails, and nature activities
Wright Lake Recreation Area	Fishing and picnicking
Lewis Lake Recreation Area	Primitive camping, picnicking, and fishing
Ecology Park	Picnicking, hiking
Chambers Lake Recreation Area	Primitive camping, picnicking, and fishing

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Johnson Marsh Recreation Area	Fishing
Cat Lake Recreation Area	Fishing
Skeet & Trap Range	Shooting activities and equipment resale store
Rifle/Pistol Range	Shooting activities and equipment resale store
ATV Park	ATV trails
Sears Lake Recreation Area	Picnicking and hiking, fishing (children only)
Shannon Marsh Recreation Area	Fishing (children only)
Nisqually River Recreation Area	Fishing
Fiander Lake Recreation Area	Fishing
Vietnam Village Marsh Recreation Area	Fishing
Spanaway Marsh Recreation Area	Fishing

Environmental Consequences (32 CFR § 651.34 (f))

Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in no noteworthy or significant changes in impacts to the environment from the existing conditions. JBLM would continue its program of issuing licenses for Recreation Clubs or Organizations to use its Training Areas, ranges, and facilities on a space-available basis when the proposed trainings do not conflict with military training requirements. The potential environmental

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consequences of implementing the Proposed Action and continuing to authorize Recreation Clubs and Organizations to gather on any of JBLM's Training Areas, ranges, and facilities are summarized in the following tables:

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Resource Topics and Significance Threshold	Environmental Consequences
<p>Air Quality</p> <p>Increase ambient air pollution concentrations to exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).</p> <p>Impair visibility within federally mandated Prevention of Significant Deterioration Class I areas.</p>	<p>There would be no increase in air emissions under the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Effects on air quality from implementation of the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative would be negligible due to the classification of attributed air sources and the attainment designation of JBLM in relation to the NAAQS. As described in 40 CFR Part 51, Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans (the "General Conformity Rule"), and all federal actions occurring in air basins designated in nonattainment or in a maintenance area must conform to an applicable implementation plan. Since JBLM is designated an attainment area for all criteria pollutants, the General Conformity Rule does not apply. The activities associated with the Proposed Action are limited to mobile sources per Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Regulation (PSCAA) I, Article 6.03; therefore, New Source Review and Prevention of Significant Deterioration requirements do not apply. The Proposed Action would not impact JBLM's Synthetic Minor Air Operating Permit through PSCAA since JBLM's licensees would operate equipment in a manner that is in compliance with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Regulations I, II, and III.</p>

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Resource Topics and Significance Threshold	Environmental Consequences
<p>Biological and Natural Resources</p> <p>Substantial permanent conversion or net loss of habitat at landscape scale.</p> <p>Long-term loss or impairment of a substantial portion of local habitat (species dependent) or substantial loss to a species population, including special status species resultant from implementation of the Proposed Action.</p>	<p>Use of JBLM Training Areas, ranges, and facilities by Recreation Clubs and Organizations would be consistent with the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for JBLM. Accordingly, there would be no loss of or changes to habitat.</p> <p>In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Army has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would have no effect on species or critical habitat listed under the ESA. Therefore, consultation with United States Fish and Wildlife Services and National Marine Fishery Service is not required. The Proposed Action would occur in previously disturbed areas, and would not impact any unique or sensitive biological resources. Therefore, no significant impacts to biological resources are anticipated under the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative.</p>

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Resource Topics and Significance Threshold	Environmental Consequences
<p>Cultural Resources</p> <p>The activity would cause an adverse effect on an archaeological, historical, or other cultural site that is listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and measures minimizing or mitigating the adverse effect of the resource are not implemented.</p> <p>The activity involves construction, repair, or maintenance affecting contributing elements to a historic building or district and historic landscapes.</p> <p>The activity would permanently introduce visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the historic property or alter its setting when setting contributes to the property's qualifications for the National Register of Historic Places, and measures minimizing or mitigating the adverse effect of the resource are not implemented.</p> <p>The activity would restrict access to a cultural resource of significance to the federally recognized tribes, and no attempt has been made to mitigate or to address issues through government-to-government consultation.</p>	<p>Use of JBLM Training Areas, ranges, and facilities by Recreation Clubs and Organizations would be consistent with JBLM's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan. Accordingly, no impact to cultural resources would occur with the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative.</p>

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Resource Topics and Significance Threshold	Environmental Consequences
<p>Energy</p> <p>The immediate and/or long-term energy demand of JBLM would have the potential to exceed the actual or projected capacity of JBLM or its energy suppliers to provide service and would not produce enough energy to meet the energy demands to support the JBLM mission.</p> <p>Or the Proposed Action would interfere with JBLM's ability to absorb intermittent impacts and variance in peak energy generation.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative would have insignificant impact to energy demand, as the Proposed Action would be consistent with existing uses.</p>
<p>Geology and Soils</p> <p>Substantially degrade soils, soil fertility, soil productivity, or geologic resources.</p>	<p>All activity would occur at existing Training Areas. Therefore, no significant impacts to geologic resources are anticipated under the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative.</p>
<p>Land Use</p> <p>An action would not be compatible with the surrounding land use.</p> <p>Or an action would not conform to zoning and community land use plans and policies</p>	<p>Implementing the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative would not alter existing land use. Implementing the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative would have no impacts to land use.</p>
<p>Noise</p> <p>Noise levels on the installation would exceed compatibility standards for noise zones at JBLM.</p> <p>Occupational noise levels exceed 85 decibel for an eight-hour day.</p>	<p>Noise generated from the Proposed Action would not exceed typical noise levels already existing on a daily basis on JBLM due to use of Training Areas, ranges, and facilities. There would be no long-term change in the noise environment at JBLM with implementing the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative.</p>

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Resource Topics and Significance Threshold	Environmental Consequences
<p>Public Health and Safety</p> <p>A substantial safety risk to the general public and installation personnel.</p> <p>Notable public safety and emergency service level reductions.</p> <p>Increases for the potential in manmade disasters and decrease the ability of services to respond.</p>	<p>The Proposed Action would not affect public health because it would be located entirely within JBLM where public access is permitted only by permission. During use of JBLM Training Areas, ranges, and facilities by Recreation Clubs and Organizations, applicable Army regulations to protect the health and safety of military and civilian personnel would be followed.</p>
<p>Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice</p> <p>Impacts would be considered significant if the estimated impacts on socioeconomic issues, such as employment, business volume, population, and income, would affect a large number of individuals, groups, businesses, or government entities and/or be readily detectable and observed and/or occur over a wide geographic area and have a substantial influence on social and/or economic conditions.</p> <p>An environmental justice impact is considered to be significant if the impact from an Action Alternative disproportionately and adversely affects a minority or low income community.</p> <p>An impact on a population of children is considered to be significant if the impact from an Action Alternative disproportionately and adversely affects this population of children.</p>	<p>Implementing the Proposed Action would not adversely affect socioeconomic resources and would comply with Executive Order (EO) 12898, <i>Federal Actions to address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-income populations</i>, and EO 13045, <i>Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks</i>. The Proposed Action would occur entirely within the boundaries of JBLM, as such there would be little potential for socioeconomic impacts to nearby communities. Therefore, no disproportionate impacts to schools, children, or minority populations would occur, and the scale of the alternatives would result in only minor effects to the economy. As no low-income or minority communities exist at JBLM, these communities would not be disproportionately affected with implementations of the Proposed Action or No-Action Alternative.</p>

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Resource Topics and Significance Threshold	Environmental Consequences
<p>Transportation and Traffic</p> <p>Level of service is reduced to unacceptable levels.</p> <p>Intersections and gates would reach capacity and extensive delays would develop.</p>	<p>Implementation of activities under the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative would have the potential to generate some traffic during access to training sites; however, this traffic increase would be negligible because it would generate minimal vehicular traffic.</p>
<p>Utilities and Services</p> <p>Impacts would be considered significant if the Proposed Action would require more utility service than could be reliably provided and sustained by the combination of available utility Agencies, system and sources.</p>	<p>No modification or impacts on infrastructure or utilities would occur as a result of the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative.</p>
<p>Visual Resources</p> <p>Result in changes to the physical features that would diminish the aesthetic character and value of the landscape.</p> <p>Eliminate public viewing opportunities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative would have no impact on the current visual and aesthetic landscape of JBLM.</p>

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Resource Topics and Significance Threshold	Environmental Consequences
<p>Water Resources</p> <p>Alter the existing pattern of surface or groundwater flow or drainage in a manner that would adversely affect the uses of the water within or outside the region.</p> <p>Degrade surface or groundwater quality in a manner that would reduce the existing or potential beneficial uses of the water.</p> <p>Would be out of compliance with existing or proposed water quality standards or other regulatory requirements related to protecting or managing water resources, including all requirements of JBLM's Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, Permit number WAS-026638.</p> <p>Would not comply with the Clean Water Act</p> <p>Would not comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act</p>	<p>There would be no impacts to water resources from the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative. Groundwater would not be affected because no discharges on the ground would occur. Implementation of the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative would have no impacts to water resources.</p>

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Cumulative Impacts

CEQ regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA define cumulative impacts as: "...the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time." 40 CFR § 1508.7.

For the Proposed Action to have a cumulatively significant impact to an environmental resource, two conditions must be met. First, the combined effects of all identified past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, activities, and processes on a resource, including the effects of the Proposed Action, must be significant. Second, the Proposed Action must make a substantial contribution to that significant cumulative impact. In order to analyze cumulative effects, a cumulative effects region must be identified for which effects of the Proposed Action and other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions would occur.

Under the current condition, the Army issues individual licenses to Recreation Clubs and Organizations on an individual basis. No cumulative effects from implementing the Proposed Action are anticipated.

Other Considerations Required by NEPA

In accordance with 40 CFR § 1502.16(c), analysis of environmental consequences shall include discussion of possible conflicts between the Proposed Action and the objectives of Federal, Regional, State and local land use plans, policies, and controls. The table below identifies the principal federal and state laws and regulations that are applicable to the Proposed Action, and describes briefly how compliance with these laws and regulations would be accomplished:

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Federal, State, Local, and Regional Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls	Status of Compliance
NEPA (42 USC § 4321 <i>et seq.</i>); CEQ NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508);	Preparation of this EA has been conducted in compliance with NEPA and in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations and the Army's NEPA procedures.
Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 USC § 7401 <i>et seq.</i>)	JBLM is in attainment. The Proposed Action would not change air quality attainment status or conflict with attainment and maintenance goals established in the State Implementation Plan. Therefore, a CAA conformity determination is not required.
Clean Water Act (Sections 401 and 404, 33 USC § 1251 <i>et seq.</i>)	No effect to water quality would occur.
Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) (16 USC § 1451 <i>et seq.</i>)	No activities would occur that would require a Coastal Consistency Determination. Use of Solo Point Boat Ramp would be consistent with the enforceable policies of the CZMA.
National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC § 306102 and 54 USC § 306108)	No effect to cultural resources would occur.
Endangered Species Act (16 USC § 1531 <i>et seq.</i>)	No effect to threatened or endangered species would occur.
Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC § 1361 <i>et seq.</i>)	No effect to marine mammals would occur.

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Federal, State, Local, and Regional Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls	Status of Compliance
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC §§ 703-712)	No effect to migratory birds would occur.
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC §§ 668-668d)	No effect to Bald and Golden Eagles would occur.
Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-income Populations	No disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations would be expected for the resource analyzed in this EA.

Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitment of Natural or Depletable Resources (40 CFR § 1502.16)

Resources that are irreversibly or irretrievably committed to a project are those that are used on a long-term or permanent basis. This includes the use of non-renewable resources such as metal and fuel, and natural or cultural resources. These resources are irretrievable in that they would be used for these activities when they could have been used for other purposes. Human labor is also considered an irretrievable resource. Another impact that falls under this category is the unavoidable destruction of natural resources that could limit the range of potential uses of that particular environment. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

Relationship between Local Short-Term Use of the Human Environment and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Natural Resource Productivity (40 CFR § 1502.16)

NEPA requires an analysis of the relationship between a project's short-term impacts on the environment and the effects that these impacts may have on the maintenance and enhancement of the long-term productivity of the affected environment. Impacts that

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narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment are of particular concern. This refers to the possibility that choosing one development site reduces future flexibility in pursuing other options, or that using a parcel of land or other resources often eliminates the possibility of other uses at that site.

The Proposed Action would not result in any impacts that would significantly reduce environmental productivity or permanently narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment.

Means to Mitigate and/or Monitor Adverse Environmental Impacts (40 CFR § 1502.16(h))

The Proposed Action would not result in any adverse environmental impacts.

Any Probable Adverse Environmental Effects That Cannot Be Avoided and Are Not Amenable To Mitigation

This EA has determined that the Proposed Action would not result in any significant impacts; therefore, there are no probable adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided or are not amenable to mitigation.

Public Involvement (32 CFR § 651.21)

The Army made the EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) available for public review and comment from XXX through XXX. XXX comments were received.

Conclusion (32 CFR § 651.34 (g))

Implementation of the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts to any resource area when considered individually or cumulatively in the context of NEPA, including both direct and indirect impacts. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not constitute a “major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.” Therefore, this EA supports a FONSI and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted or required.

References (32 CFR § 651.34 (i))

U.S. Army (U.S. Department of the Army). 2014. Joint Base Lewis-McChord Master Plan Digest.

List of Preparers and Persons Consulted (32 CFR § 651.34 (h))

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