

Draft

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

For the

Implementation of the
Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
(2025-2029)

White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

Prepared For:

White Sands Missile Range
Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division
Building 163 Springfield Avenue
White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002

March 2025



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DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Name of the Proposed Action: Environmental Assessment for the Implementation of the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (2025-2029), White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

Description of the Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to adopt the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP, WSMR 2025). The ICRMP provides direction for routine activities involving cultural resources, management of historic properties, and providing guidance for carrying out goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Purpose and Need:

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to

1. Ensure that WSMR meets the regulatory requirements of managing the cultural resource (Department of Defense Instruction [DoDI] 4715.16 and Army Regulation [AR] 200-1)
2. Maintain mission readiness and improve coordination between WSMR and stakeholders of historic properties;
3. Identify any potential environmental impacts with adopting a revised management plan; and
4. Make an informed decision about adopting the revised plan.

Plan revisions provide updated guidance on how to identify, protect, preserve, restore, and enhance cultural resources on U.S. Army lands managed by the Garrison- (USAG-). The ICRMP is a communication tool to ensure consistent management between the resource manager and the interested stakeholders (i.e., State Historic Preservation Officer, Commander, Department of Army, etc.) of historic properties. While ensuring consistent application of management practices and policies captured in over 40 separate statutes, regulations, and other binding guidance that dictate the responsibilities for managing cultural resources on military lands.

Environmental Consequences:

This Environmental Assessment (EA) considers the potential impacts of the No-Action Alternative and the Action Alternative (Proposed Action) on the affected environment. Resource areas or valued environmental components considered in the evaluation include land use and military mission, visual aesthetics, air quality, noise, soil erosion effects, cultural resources, biological resources, water resources/wetlands, health and human safety, socioeconomics, traffic and transportation, airspace management, facilities, energy demand/generation/transmission/use, and hazardous wastes and materials. No significant impacts upon the environment were identified.

Conclusion: The Proposed Action, adopting the 2025-2029 WSMR ICRMP, has been selected as the preferred alternative. Based on the analysis provided in this environmental assessment (EA)

and in accordance with the guidelines for determining the significance of proposed federal actions (amendments to NEPA into the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 32 Code of Federal Register (CFR) § 651 [2002]; 40 CFR §1508.27 and 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq) and Environmental Protection Agency criteria for initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (40 CFR §6.207), WSMR has concluded that adoption of the updated ICRMP will not result in a significant effect on the environment. This Finding of No Significant Impact is hereby submitted.

Draft Availability and Points of Contact:

The draft finding of no significant impact, draft environmental assessment, and draft integrated cultural resource management plan will be posted on the White Sands Missile Range website: <https://home.army.mil/wsmr/about/garrison/directorate-public-works-dpw/environmental>.

Hard copies of these documents may be mailed upon request. Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days of the publication of the draft document. Written comments concerning the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact and EA should be directed to

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Printed copies of the documents will be available to the public at the following libraries:

Thomas Branigan Memorial Library
200 E. Picacho Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88001

White Sands Missile Range Post Library
Bldg. 465, Room 113
White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002

U.S. ARMY WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NEW MEXICO 88002-5048
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
APE	Area of Potential Effect
AR	Army Regulation
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRM	Cultural Resources Manager
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
DPW-E	DPW Environmental Division
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FY	Fiscal Year
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IMCOM	U.S. Army Installation Management Command
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
INCRMP	Integrated Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PAD	Project Action Description
REC	Record of Environmental Consideration
ROI	Region of Influence
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SRM	Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization
TACON	Tactical Control
USAG	U.S. Army Garrison
VEC	Valued Environmental Components
WSMR	White Sands Missile Range

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact.....	ii
Acronyms and Abbreviations	vii
Table of Contents.....	ix
Chapter 1 Introduction	1-1
1.1 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action	1-1
1.2 Scope of the Document	1-2
1.3 Decision to be Made.....	1-2
1.4 Related Environmental Documentation	1-2
1.5 Agency and Public Coordination	1-2
Chapter 2 Proposed Action and Alternatives.....	2-1
2.1 Military Mission and Command Structure.....	2-1
2.2 Cultural Resources Legal Commitments.....	2-1
2.2.1 Cultural Resources Manager.....	2-2
2.2.2 ICRMP Goals and Objectives	2-2
2.2.2.1 Program Accomplishments.....	2-4
2.2.3 Standard Operating Procedures.....	2-5
2.2.4 Environmental Review Process	2-6
2.3 Alternatives Considered	2-6
2.3.1 No-Action Alternative	2-6
2.3.2 Proposed Action.....	2-7
2.4 Alternatives Considered But Not Carried Forward.....	2-7
2.4.1 Inclusion of Resources Outside the Contiguous Boundaries of WSMR	2-7
2.4.2 Inclusion of Non-WSMR Resources	2-8
Chapter 3 Valued Environmental Components	3-1
3.1 Valued Environmental Components	3-1
Chapter 4 Environmental Effects.....	4-1
4.1 The No-Action Alternative.....	4-1
4.2 The Proposed Action.....	4-1
4.3 Cumulative Effects	4-7

Chapter 5 Conclusion.....	5-1
Chapter 6 References	6-1
Chapter 7 List of Preparers	7-1
Chapter 8 Agencies and Consultations	8-1
Appendix A U.S. Census Bureau Demographic Data	A-1

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1 WSMR Location	1-4
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LIST OF TABLES

Table 3-1 Valued Environmental Components.....	3-2
Table 4-1 Impacts Associated with Individual ICRMP SOPs.....	4-1
Table 4-2 Comparison of Alternatives.....	4-4
Table 4-3 Reasonably Foreseeable Actions within the Region of Influence.....	4-7
Table 4-4 Cumulative Effects Summary.....	4-8

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) proposes to adopt a revised Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) to meet legal obligations and stewardship needs of a cultural resource program with a military mission focus. White Sands Missile Range is responsible for management of cultural resources on approximately 2.2 million acres and portions of five counties (Doña Ana, Otero, Sierra, Lincoln, and Socorro) in south-central New Mexico (Figure 1-1). The Cultural Resource Manager administers stewardship activities on behalf of the Garrison Commander, the land holding command. The management plan develops application standards for over 40 statutes, regulations, and other binding legal drivers dictating program responsibilities. A revision to the plan was completed through cooperation with appropriate regulatory agencies such as the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), other federal and state agencies, Native American tribes, universities, contractors, non-governmental organizations and private citizens. Program goals and objectives were reviewed, validated and updated to address specific cultural resources management needs and requirements, while prioritizing education and coordination with the many other programs and activities that interact with cultural resources on WSMR-managed lands. The revised ICRMP is a communication tool, providing consolidated guidance between the cultural resource manager and the stakeholders (i.e., SHPO, Commander, Department of Army, etc.). The Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of the Army, and WSMR are required by Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.16, Cultural Resources Management, and Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement*, to implement and maintain ICRMPs (Army 2007).

This Environmental Assessment (EA) follows US Army environmental requirements addressed in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq), the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines *Protection of Environment* (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508 [20 May 2022]), and *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (32 CFR Part 651, [29 March 2002]). This environmental assessment (EA) considers the potential impacts of the No-Action Alternative (i.e., keeping the previous management plan) and the Proposed Action (i.e., adopting the revised ICRMP) on the affected environment. This EA does not include properties used by WSMR that are within the jurisdiction of other organizations (Section 2.4.2).

1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to

1. Ensure that WSMR meets the requirements of managing the cultural resource program by updating the management plan;
2. Maintain mission readiness and improve coordination between WSMR and stakeholders of historic properties;
3. Identify any potential environmental impacts with adopting a revised management plan; and
4. Make an informed decision about adopting the revised plan.

This EA will focus on the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with implementation of these new principals and policies. Adoption of a revised plan would fulfill Department of Defense and Army legal requirements.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

This EA analyzes the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with continuing to manage resources based on the older management plan or adopting revisions made in the 2025 plan. The analysis compares the differences between the 2015 Integrated Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan (INCRMP) and the 2025-2029 ICRMP (Section 2.3.2). Impact assessment provided in Chapter 4 investigates potential impacts due to the implementation of the updated resource management plan.

This EA does not attempt to provide a quantitative analysis of site-specific impacts from individual projects that will be implemented during the next five-year funding period (fiscal year [FY] 2025-FY2029). Individual ground disturbing projects would have to follow the requirements of WSMR Regulation 200-2, which requires a review to determine if the action falls within a categorical exclusion or would require a harder look through further analysis.

1.3 DECISION TO BE MADE

The U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) WSMR is the lead agency responsible for the completion of this EA. If the EA finds that there are no significant environmental impacts by adopting the ICRMP, then the decision is to proceed with implementation of the revised ICRMP. If it is determined that adopting the revised plan will have significant environmental impacts, then there would be a Notice of Intent issued into the Federal Register requiring the Army to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS; Army 2007).

1.4 RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Existing and relevant environmental documents have been reviewed. As permitted through Army policy and CEQ guidelines (40 CFR 1501.11 and 1501.12 [2022]) was completed and the analysis has been incorporated to keep the document brief. Incorporation of previous analysis eliminates repetitive discussions of the same issues while focusing on the key issues of this action. Documents that have been reviewed and incorporated by references include:

- Final Environmental Impact Statement for Development and Implementation of Range-Wide Mission and Major Capabilities at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico (WSMR FEIS; WSMR 2010);
- White Sands Missile Range Integrated Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment 2015-2019 (WSMR 2015);
- White Sands Missile Range Environmental Assessment Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (WSMR 2023); and
- Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (2023-2027) (WSMR 2023).

1.5 AGENCY AND PUBLIC COORDINATION

Public participation in the NEPA process promotes informed decision-making and open communication between the public and the government. Based upon the analysis conducted in this EA, adoption and implementation of the WSMR ICRMP, as written, would not constitute a major

federal action significantly affecting the equality of the human environment. A draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) has been issued along with this EA.

This draft finding was made available for public review and comment for 30 days. The FNSI will be published in the Las Cruces Sun-News announcing the availability of the Draft EA and draft ICRMP digitally on the WSMR Garrison Environmental Publication website [<https://home.army.mil/wsmr/index.php/about/garrison/directorate-public-works-dpw/environmental>] Notices were published on the USAG- WSMR social media sites including Facebook, Instagram, and X. Hardcopies of the Draft EA, draft FNSI and draft ICRMP were made available by request. Additionally, hardcopies of the document were provided at the following libraries:

- Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001; and
- White Sands Missile Range Post Library, Building 465, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico 88002

Following the 30-day public review period, the Army will address all relevant comments received. If the review process does not identify additional significant impacts, the Army will finalize the EA and the ICRMP and sign the FNSI.

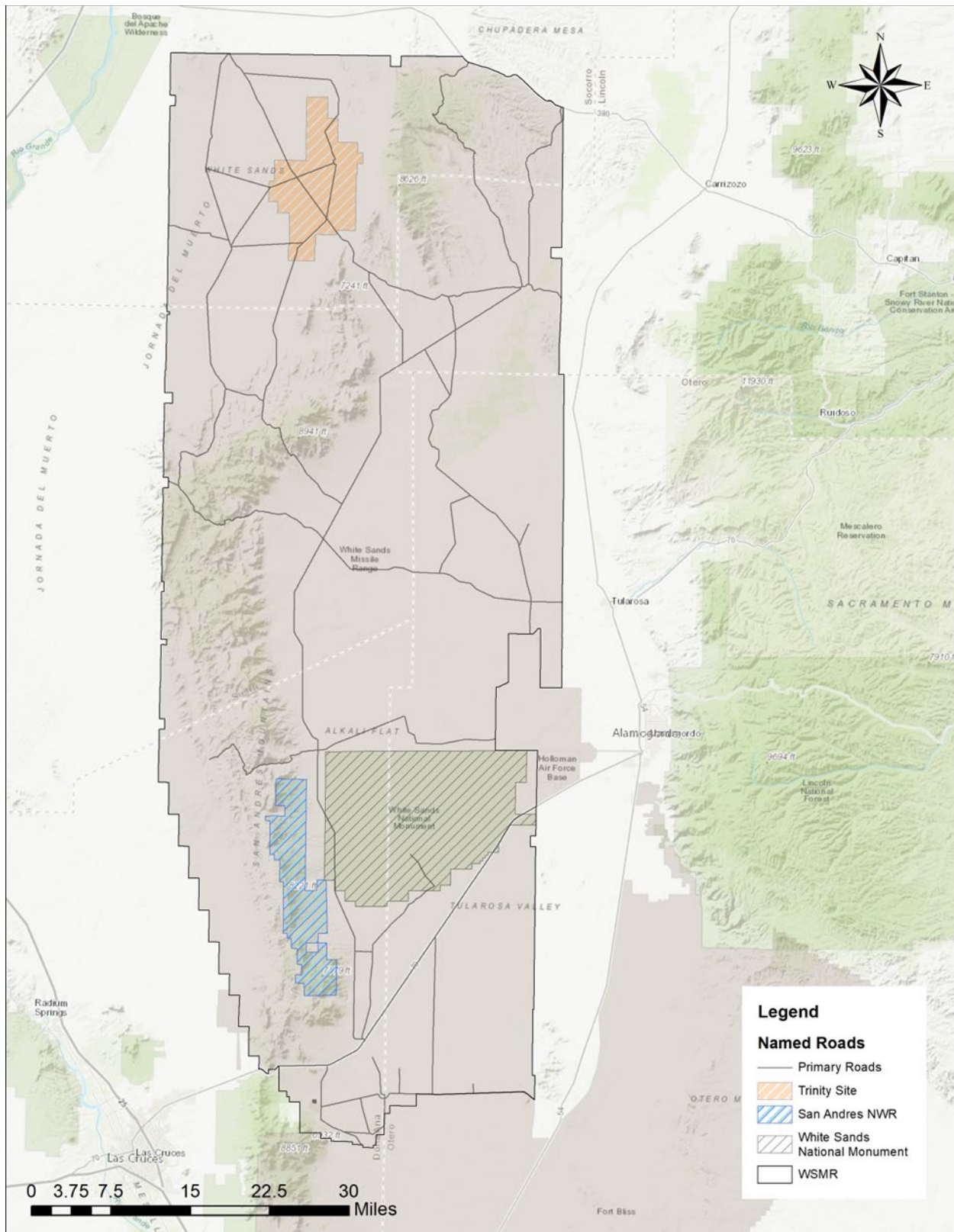


Figure 1-1. WSMR Location

CHAPTER 2 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Proposed Action is to adopt the revised WSMR ICRMP. An ICRMP is an instrument for compliance with the statutory management requirements of applicable federal statutes and regulations and provides specific compliance procedures to comprehensively manage cultural resources while sustaining the Army's capability to successfully achieve its mission. An ICRMP is an integral part of an installation's master plan and provides direction for routine activities that may impact cultural resources and guidance for carrying out management activities.

2.1 MILITARY MISSION AND COMMAND STRUCTURE.

WSMR is a national asset, critical for enabling national security modernization through independent development testing, operational testing, and evaluation of weapon systems. WSMR provides unmatched infrastructure and capabilities to test, evaluate, and train emerging technologies.

WSMR is comprised of several organizations, each with specific responsibilities, but together function as a team, 'Team WSMR', create unique capabilities. All personnel are responsible for stewardship of cultural resource. The administrative composition includes military, civilian, contractor, tenant, and customer organizations that are important to or have a vested interest in the stewardship of cultural resources.

USAG-WSMR provides installation management service and logistical support for approximately 5,350 civilian and military personnel at WSMR. USAG-WSMR is led by the Garrison Commander, who reports to the West Region of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) and as a Tactical Control (TACON) of the WSMR the Senior Commander has operational authority of the Garrison. The Garrison Commander is responsible for appointing the WSMR Cultural Resources Manager (CRM, Section 2.2.1).

The Environmental Division (DPW-E) is within the Directorate of Public Works and ensures compliance with environmental laws and policies, the integration of environmental sustainability principles of all mission activities, and the conservation and enhancement of natural and cultural resources to maintain installation readiness and environmental stewardship to secure the environment for future generations. DPW-E is comprised of three branches: the Customer Support, Environmental Compliance, and Conservation.

2.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES LEGAL COMMITMENTS

Cultural resources management on WSMR is currently guided by existing Army guidance documents, federal laws, regulations, and memorandums of agreement (MOA) serving as legal commitments, such as.

- **AR 200-1** states that the Garrison Commander is responsible for compliance with cultural resource laws on WSMR through the appointment of a Cultural Resource Manager (CRM).
- The **National Historic Preservation Act** (NHPA) establishes a national program for historic preservation. The Act includes Federal agency responsibilities and consideration

of effects of Federal undertakings on historic properties, as outlined in Section 110 and Section 106 of the NHPA, respectively.

- The **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act** (NAGPRA) provides for the disposition of Native American human remains, associated and unassociated funerary objects, as well as sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony removed from Federal and tribal lands. NAGPRA requires consultation with Native American tribal entities with respect to disposition of cultural items discovered on Federal and tribal lands.
- The **Archaeological Resources Protection Act** (ARPA) protects archaeological resources that are 100 years of age or older on public lands. ARPA defines illegal activities and prescribes civil and criminal penalties for each infraction, establishes a permitting process for removal of archaeological resources from public lands, and provides for the confidentiality of archaeological site location information.

2.2.1 Cultural Resources Manager

The cultural resources manager (CRM) is the cultural resource administrator of the cultural program. The CRM is appointed and acts on behalf of the Garrison Commander to develop and implement the ICRMP. The CRM must meet the qualifications under the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (NPS 1983). The CRM is located in the DPW-E-Conservation Branch. The CRM coordinates with users and interested parties to ensure compliance with cultural resources laws and regulations.

2.2.2 ICRMP Goals and Objectives

DoDI 4715.16, Enclosure 6(1)(i), provides standardized procedures for compliance with Federal laws, regulations, and executive orders requiring the protection and/or management of cultural resources with the least possible effect on military training and mission support activities. The ICRMP will direct the cultural resources program at WSMR to achieve the following goals:

1. Comply with federal laws and regulations governing the treatment of cultural resources while causing the least disturbance to the military mission as required to support undertakings.
2. Integrate cultural resources compliance requirements with other installation plans, including but not limited to the installation master plan, the facilities maintenance plan, training and range area management plans, natural resources management plans, mobilization and deployment plans, and information management plan.
3. Maintain the historic fabric and character of buildings and landscapes contributing to WSMR's historic districts and landmarks.
4. Pursue ways to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties while supporting military training and testing activities.
5. Conduct data recoveries on National Register-eligible properties when avoidance is not feasible, per a project-specific MOA.
6. Develop project manuals and handbooks outlining treatment of historic buildings, structures, and landscapes; and regular, systematic inventory and evaluation of these properties.
7. Establish priorities based on the currently available information for the inventory and evaluation of cultural resources: (1) survey and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of cultural resources for eligibility to the NRHP in areas where military

- training has or is expected to have the greatest impact; (2) evaluation of any resource with “undetermined” eligibility; (3) identify mitigation methods for unavoidable adverse effects to historic properties.
8. Prioritize the management of historic properties determined to be most at risk for adverse effects by the military mission.
9. Establish a system of internal controls for the review of routine and mission-critical undertakings.
10. Define and exempt from review undertakings that do not or are not likely to adversely affect cultural resources.
11. Enforce federal laws prohibiting the vandalism or illegal collection of archaeological materials on WSMR and support that effort with the continued education of WSMR staff, contractors, and academic professionals through workshops and trainings (e.g., cultural sensitivity training, damage assessment workshops, site monitoring and condition assessment training).
12. Implement the existing plan to ensure management of archaeological collections relevant to cultural resources at WSMR in compliance with 36 CFR Part 79.
13. Ensure collections are available for research by professionals, interested Native American tribes, and other members of the public at the Fort Bliss curatorial facility during normal duty hours.
14. Establish and implement a management plan for currently endangered paper collections relating to historic structures, archaeology, cultural landscapes, and objects on WSMR.
15. Create and maintain cultural resource training opportunities for military and civilian personnel whose jobs or building occupations have the potential to impact cultural resources.
16. Set realistic budgetary goals based on ongoing and future projects and available industry data.
17. Ensure staff responsible for cultural resource management meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation and receive continued training.
18. Consider outside interests, including but not limited to, local governments and public groups.
19. Continue to engage Federally recognized Tribes in the management of resources of interest to them.
20. Through the implementation of this ICRMP, develop an innovative program that may serve as a model for other federal facilities; demonstrate the value of cultural resources management programs; and publicize and promote the commitment of WSMR to established programs.

The overarching purpose behind these management goals and objective is the integration of legal requirements for cultural resources management into the everyday operation of WSMR’s military mission and support activities. This ICRMP incorporates guidelines, schedules, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) into a single document to more efficiently fulfill management responsibilities.

2.2.2.1 Program Accomplishments

This section provides summaries of successful cultural resource management projects implemented under the INCRMP since 2015 with cross reference to goals and objectives stated in the revised management plan.

Schimdt/McDonald Ranch House Restoration

U.S. Army's Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (SRM) program funds were used to completed significant repairs to restore an interior wall, ceiling, exterior windows, and exterior structure. The ranch house is one of WSMR's most important historic properties. The effort has received high praise from the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division (Goal 3).

Sierra Chapel Repairs

Completed replacement of the canvas canopies on the front and side entrance at Sierra Chapel (Building T-45) which was funded using SRM funds. This was the last of a number of significant repairs made to maintain this significant historic structure (Goals 3, 8).

Telescope 4

Telescope 4 was the fourth of five early tracking telescopes prototypes and the only of its kind. The telescope is built on a 1944 90-mm M2 anti-aircraft gun. The telescope had been at Mule Peak site in the Lincoln National Forest since 1948, after being shipped to WSMR from the Aberdeen Proving Ground's Ballistic Research Laboratory. In 2019, it was moved to its permanent home at the WSMR museum. The telescope is historically significant and will help tell the story of WSMR's contribution to optical tracking as well as enormous contributions made by Clyde Tombaugh and the Optical Measurements group. Interpretive signage will be displayed at the museum, in addition to content made accessible through the internet. This effort is a component of required mitigation for the planned demolition of the historic Mule Peak Instrumentation site (Goals 3, 8).

Pete Wood Ranch Stabilization

Completed a much-needed stabilization of the northwest corner of the historically significant Pete Wood Ranch. The stabilization included shoring up and reframing a section of the back porch to prevent the roof from collapsing and repairing the damaged roof. This ranch has been the site of Wood Family reunions for many years and also the site of Rancher's Day visits (Goals 3, 4, 18).

Trinity Site Open House

Supported Trinity Open house events at the historic McDonald Ranch House. The Cultural Resource Program provides event participants with historic documentation and information related to the Manhattan Project and are available to answer questions and share information about ongoing conservation efforts at this unique portion of the National Historic Landmark (Goals 18, 20).

Trinity Base Camp Restoration

Completed repair and restoration to one of two remaining structures standing at the Trinity Base Camp. The framed wooden structure was severely damaged by high winds. This structure served as a photographic lab for the Los Alamos scientists and originally was a ranch house owned by the McDonald family. As a contributing element of the Trinity National Historic Landmark the repair of this structure demonstrates WSMR's commitment to implementing legal requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and providing ongoing stewardship of its world class cultural resources (Goals 3, 8).

WSMR Cold War Tour

In the ongoing effort to manage and interpret the world class history represented in the WSMR built environment, the DPW-E Cultural Resources Program has developed a Cold War Tour to be used as an asset for visiting dignitaries and tour requests. The buildings chosen for the tour have been abandoned in place, no longer being utilized for mission support, but highly significant. They include 100k, 500k observation dome, C-Station East FPS-16 building, and the Army Blockhouse. Efforts have been ongoing to address health and safety issues and to create interpretive materials. The effort is about 80 percent complete, with repainting of 100k and the FPS-16 building scheduled (Goals 3, 4, 6, 8).

2.2.3 Standard Operating Procedures

Standard Operating Procedures provide direction for routine activities that may have an impact on cultural resources. Each SOP identifies relevant regulations that the DPW-E must follow to maintain regulatory compliance. The SOPs detailed in the ICRMP address specific situations that are likely to occur and provide steps for the implementation and notification requirements for each event type. The following 19 SOPs are included in the WSMR ICRMP:

- SOP 1: Identifying Undertakings;
- SOP 2: Exempted Undertakings;
- SOP 3: Defining the Area of Potential Effect (APE);
- SOP 4: Identifying and Evaluating Historic Properties;
- SOP 5: Assessing Effects;
- SOP 6: Resolving Adverse Effects;
- SOP 7: Documenting Acceptable Loss;
- SOP 8: Reviewing and Monitoring through NEPA;
- SOP 9: Accidental Discovery of Historic Properties;
- SOP 10: Reporting Damage to Historic Properties;
- SOP 11: Public Involvement in the WSMR Cultural Resources Management Program;
- SOP 12: Dispute Resolution;
- SOP 13: Military Activities in Anticipation of Immediate Deployment, Mobilization, or Armed Conflict;
- SOP 14: Cultural Resource Protection Measures for Recovery of Test Mission Impacts;
- SOP 15: ARPA Compliance;

- SOP 16: NAGPRA Compliance;
- SOP 17: Paleontological Resources;
- SOP 18: Curatorial and Collection Management of Archaeological and Historical Collections and Associated Records; and
- SOP 19: Spill Responses.

SOPs 1 through 18 are listed in the 2015-2019 INCRMP and have been reviewed, validated and updated. SOP 19 is a new directive. A list of proposed changes to the INCRMP are provided in Section 2.4.2. These changes in management protocols represent the actions taken in the Proposed Action of this EA.

2.2.4 Environmental Review Process

The DPW-E Conservation Branch participates in the environmental review process in two ways. The Conservation Branch contains subject matter experts that provide input to the environmental review process, prescribing best management practices or mitigations to minimize impacts to cultural resources. This involvement meets the goals of the ICRMP. The other means for participating in the environmental review process is when the Conservation Branch plans to implement a specific activity from the ICRMP that requires an environmental review.

Proposed individual cultural program actions with the potential for ground-based disturbance (e.g. site excavation or facility restoration) are required to coordinate an environmental review by submitting a project action description (PAD) to DPW-E, Customer Support Branch, who initiates an environmental review. A PAD contains sufficient critical details to inform subject matter experts and internal stakeholders. During the review process, subject matter experts can add conditions of use to prevent environmental impacts or alert the proponent to other environmental requirements. The review process facilitates coordination between environmental program areas and the proponent. Comments received on a PAD provide information considered by the Customer Support Branch who determine if the proposed action meets the screening criteria for a categorical exclusion. When a PAD meets the screening criteria for a categorical exclusion, such as those for Construction and Demolition (32 CFR 651 App B Sec II (c)) and Cultural and Natural Resource Management Activities (32 CFR 651 App B Sec II (d)), the determination is documented in a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC). When a categorical exclusion does not apply, the action may still fall within the scope of existing EAs and would be documented in a REC. However, if there are extraordinary circumstances, then a “harder look” may be required which may mean completing an EA.

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

To address the purpose and need, this EA analyzes two alternatives: the No-Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative.

2.3.1 No-Action Alternative

CEQ regulation (40 CFR 1502.14 (d)) requires analysis of a No-Action Alternative. CEQ interprets the update or creation of land management plan, including ICRMPs, to be considered a “no

change” alternative versus a “no action” alternative. A “no change” alternative simply means there is no change from current management direction or level of management intensity (CEQ 1981). Ongoing programs initiated under existing legislation and regulations will continue, even as new plans are developed (CEQ 1981).

The analysis of the No-Action (i.e., “no change”) Alternative serves as a baseline for comparison of the environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action. Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed management measures set forth in the revised WSMR ICRMP would not be implemented. WSMR would continue to manage its cultural resources based on the information presented in the 2015-2019 INCRMP.

2.3.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to adopt the updated ICRMP, which contains new goals, objectives, and management practices as well as to fulfill implementation of an ICRMP is a requirement of DoDI 4715.16 and AR 200-1.

The DPW-E reviewed the Integrated Cultural and Natural Resources Management Plan 2015-2019 and proposed the following changes for the 2025-2029 ICRMP:

- Separate the existing INCRMP into two distinct resource management plans; an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for natural resources and the ICRMP for cultural resources. This action will create shorter documents that are more user-friendly (throughout ICRMP);
- Update procedures pertaining to ARPA and NAGPRA implementation at WSMR (SOPs 15 and 16, respectively);
- Updates to SOP 16, NAGPRA (revised 12 January 2024) are based on how custody of human remains and associated funerary objects are transferred and disposition of unclaimed human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony;
- Update information regarding access to sacred sites on WSMR, as required under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) (Action Item #15, ICRMP Section 3.1.5);
- Update the culture resources inventory to reflect new findings in cultural history, cultural management actions at WSMR, and recent architectural history (Chapter 5, ICRMP);
- Update the built environment inventory and update related methods and SOPs (Section 5.3, SOP 4);
- Incorporate an SOP for nonemergency spill response (SOP 19).

2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD

2.4.1 Inclusion of Resources Outside the Contiguous Boundaries of WSMR

WSMR considered inclusion of two properties outside the contiguous WSMR boundaries into their ICRMP. These two properties are Fort Wingate, New Mexico and Green River Launch Complex, Utah. This was not pursued further due to the multiple jurisdictions involved. Management requirements will be addressed individually and separately for these other locations.

2.4.2 Inclusion of Non-WSMR Resources

There are some properties used by WSMR that are within the jurisdiction of other government agencies. WSMR gains use of these resources under real estate instruments such as lease agreements or rights-of-way. These properties include:

- Alamo Peak and Sacramento Peak on U.S. Forest Service lands;
- Rose Peak on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands; and
- Co-use areas including White Sands National Park, San Andres National Wildlife Refuge, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Jornada Experimental Range.

WSMR considered inclusion of these properties in the ICRMP. However, this alternative was not carried forward due to the complex jurisdictional issues involved. The Cultural Resource Management Program will coordinate with other land holding agencies directly on behalf of the various organizations within Team WSMR or as stated in an agency agreement to ensure permitting requirements meet the cultural resource requirements of the permitting agency.

CHAPTER 3 VALUED ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS

This chapter provides a summary of the valued environmental components (VECs), a description of the environmental conditions potentially affected by the Proposed Action, and an analysis of potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action.

3.1 VALUED ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS

Army NEPA Analysis Guidance (Army 2007) provides an approach to screen VECs based on information gained from previous analysis. This is known as tiering or incorporation by reference. A VEC analysis was conducted to identify environmental resource areas (e.g., air, water, biological, infrastructure, etc.) potentially impacted by the Proposed Action. This analysis considered natural and human environmental resources which are applicable to WSMR and could be impacted by combinations of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. If the screening approach determined that the cumulative impacts of this action were no greater than anticipated from previously completed analysis, then no further analysis for that VEC was captured in this document. In addition to actions and impacts, useful references and potential mitigation measures were identified for possible inclusion.

Regionally important VECs at WSMR, as characterized by incorporated EAs, were ranked based on the likelihood of potential impacts caused by the Proposed Action. Each of the VEC categories to include air quality, cultural resources, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC §§ 703-712), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC § 668, [the Eagle Act]), human health, etc. are assigned to one of five impact potential categories:

- Very Low – No impact or minor impacts are anticipated;
- Low – Minor impact anticipated;
- Moderate – Moderate impact anticipated (less than significant);
- High – Significant impact potential anticipated (likely to be mitigated to less than significant); and
- Very High – Significant adverse impact anticipated (mitigation would be applied to minimize adverse effects).

In support of this EA, a VEC analysis was conducted. All VECs were ranked., Changes to the ICRMP are procedural having low to very low impacts. Table 3-1 provides a summary of the VEC analysis.

1 **Table 3-1. Valued Environmental Components**

Valued Environmental Component	Area of Interest	Significance Threshold	Rating/Rationale for Level of Assessment
Land Use	Area within WSMR.	Significant impacts could occur management practices create incompatible land uses or designations, including recreation. Appendix A of the FEIS provides the WSMR Land Use and Airspace Strategy Plan, which outlines land use strategies and management guidance. If cultural stewardship practices change convert the condition of natural land cover types (i.e., grassland to non-native invasive species from excavation) or when test facility can no longer be used because the use causes an adverse effect to the built environment.	Low. Management practices could result in discovery of previously unknown cultural, designation of a historic district or paleontological resources that adds additional coordination requirements but will not change military operations. Goal #4 is to pursue ways to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties while supporting military training and testing activities thus not changing land use status.
Visual Aesthetics	Area within and adjacent to the project area.	The Proposed Action would be considered to have a significant effect to visual impacts if long-term alteration of the viewshed would occur that would require mitigation; negative alterations to the viewshed of a historical resource would be expected; and it was not compliant with the overall viewshed of adjacent areas.	Low. The administrative action of adopting the ICRMP would not result in any impact to visual and aesthetic resources at or near WSMR. Goal #3 is to maintain the historic fabric and character of buildings and landscapes contributing to WSMR's historic districts and landmarks thus contributing to maintaining the visual aesthetics of the installation.
Air Quality	El Paso-Las Cruces-Alamogordo Air Quality Control Region 153.	Significant impact would occur if the Proposed Action were to affect the achievement or maintenance of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).	Low. Implementation of the ICRMP would not have a regional or statewide impact on air quality. Goal #1, Comply with federal laws and regulations. When an individual project that requires action on the ground is implemented, it will go through an environmental review process to determine if there are any air quality permitting requirements.
Noise (soundscape)	Area within and adjacent to the project area.	Impacts would be considered significant if noise from the Proposed Action were to cause harm or	Low.

Valued Environmental Component	Area of Interest	Significance Threshold	Rating/Rationale for Level of Assessment
		injury to personnel, sensitive members of nearby communities, or wildlife communities. Significant impacts would also occur if noise levels exceeded any applicable noise limit guidelines.	Noise generated from cultural resource field work are below the threshold level range of 115 to 130 dB levels described in the Installation Compatible Use Zone (ICUZ) report (WSMR 2019). Goal #1, Comply with federal laws and regulations. When an individual project that requires action on the ground, it will go through an environmental review process to determine if there are any sensitive noise receptors within the vicinity of the proposed project.
Soil Erosion Effects	Land surfaces where construction and military actions will occur.	Significant impacts of geology, topography, and soils would be if the proposed action caused excessive soil loss. Impacts of geology, topography, and soils would be significant if the surrounding landscape were affected in a manner that would not support existing land uses, excessive soil loss impairs plant growth, or federal, state, or local laws pertaining to geology and soils are violated.	Low. Archaeological surveys and routine maintenance could result in small-scale disturbances to soil, but effects would be negligible and easily remediated if necessary. The environmental review process would be used to manage potential impacts from individual field work actions. Goal #3 is to maintain the historic fabric and character of buildings and landscapes contributing to WSMR's historic districts and landmarks. Goal #4 pursues ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.
Cultural Resources	Area within and adjacent to the project area.	Impacts would be significant if an action adversely affects any NRHP-eligible property or resource.	Low. Adopting the ICRMP will have a beneficial effect on cultural resources, as it aims to satisfy all goals and objectives of the plan.
Biological Resources	Project specific survey, recovery or restoration activity	For federally-listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species, NM State listed species or Army Species at Risk, a significant impact occurs when the action would be likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species, or would	Low. The Proposed Action would result in cultural resource surveys of areas at WSMR, during which the field crew could encounter sensitive plant and

Valued Environmental Component	Area of Interest	Significance Threshold	Rating/Rationale for Level of Assessment
		result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat. Cultural resource field work would not be considered a military readiness activities and not exempt.	animal species. The crew may increase the spread of noxious weeds. However, by following procedures provided in the WSMR INRMP, avoidance of sensitive species would be promoted, and methods to prevent spreading noxious weeds would be employed. Goal #4 pursues ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.
Water Resources/ Wetlands	Surface waters, non-jurisdictional wetlands specific to individual projects.	When implementation of a specific project does not comply with policies, regulations, and permits related to surface water and drinking water requirements.	Low. Adoption of the ICRMP would have no effect on surface water and groundwater resources. Field work could involve coordination to maintain historic earthen cattle tank. Incorporation of a spill response SOP will have a beneficial impact (SOP 19). Goal #4 pursues ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.
Human Health and Safety	For worker safety, the immediate area of interest includes the construction areas associated with the Proposed Action. Additionally, effects to non-involved WSMR personnel must be considered in the analysis. Public health analysis considers the impacts to communities surrounding WSMR (e.g., Las Cruces, Alamogordo, and others).	Public health impacts are considered significant if the Proposed Action would result in the conditions that could negatively affect the health of involved workers or members of the public.	Low. Implementing the ICRMP will represent no change with regards to risks to human health and safety. Safe practices included in the SOPs (i.e., SOP 19 in particular) will reduce risks associated with cultural resources management at WSMR.
Socioeconomics	The community living adjacent to WSMR.	When determining whether a potentially affected minority population or low-income population influences the extent of the affected environment, agencies can be informed by considering the Proposed Action's: 1) exposure	Low. ICRMP implementation would not result in adverse effects to disproportionately populations, and minority groups.

Valued Environmental Component	Area of Interest	Significance Threshold	Rating/Rationale for Level of Assessment
		<p>pathways (routes by which the minority or low-income population may come into contact with chemical, biological, physical, or radiological effects); 2) ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health consequences to the community; and 3) distribution of adverse and beneficial impacts from the Proposed Action.</p> <p>To determine the existing socioeconomic environmental setting, information was gathered for the New Mexico counties of Dona Ana, Otero, Sierra, and Socorro from the U.S. Census Bureau which is provided in Appendix A. The data indicates that Dona Ana and Socorro counties have the highest minority population, while Sierra and Socorro counties have lower median household incomes and higher proportion of persons living in poverty, when compared to statewide values.</p>	<p>The ICRMP would have beneficial outcomes for Native American populations and other minority groups. Goal #6 is to ensure that collections are available to Tribal groups and other members of the public.</p>
Traffic and Transportation	<p>Traffic is the flow of motor vehicles on local (WSMR) and regional road networks. Transportation systems include the regional network, traffic control equipment, and public transportation vehicles.</p>	<p>Factors result in traffic increases that would exceed the design capacity of an affected portion of the roadway system or the level of service of a key intersection.</p> <p>Significant impacts to the transportation system would occur if the Proposed Action negatively impacts the regional road network through degradation (wear and tear on the roads due to increased traffic) or construction activities that may temporarily affect traffic on the roadway</p>	<p>Low.</p> <p>Implementation of the ICRMP would lead to minor increases in the traffic volume at WSMR. This is not anticipated to impact the traffic flow or transportation infrastructure at WSMR.</p> <p>SOP #4 provides procedures for identifying a project APE and recommendations for conducting Section 106 surveys.</p>
Airspace Management	<p>Airspace is a three-dimensional resource defined by latitude, longitude, and altitude. There are six classes of airspace—A, B, C, D, E (controlled), and G (uncontrolled)—available to all users (civilian and military). The airspace classes dictate pilot</p>	<p>Significant impact would occur if the Proposed Action were to affect the flight patterns, times of flight, or general use of the airspace by military, commercial, or general aviation aircraft.</p>	<p>Low.</p> <p>Implementation of the ICRMP would not involve any operations that would impact the airspace over WSMR or its vicinity.</p> <p>SOP #2 provides lists of actions that are exempt from further Section 106 review. The lists include activities within the SUA that are exempt.</p>

Valued Environmental Component	Area of Interest	Significance Threshold	Rating/Rationale for Level of Assessment
	qualification requirements, rules of flight that must be followed, and the type of equipment necessary to operate within that airspace.		
Facilities	In general, federal facilities are defined as buildings, installations, structures, land, public works, equipment, aircraft, vessels, other vehicles, and property, owned, constructed or manufactured for leasing to the federal government.	Impacts would be considered significant if implementation of the Proposed Action results in undesirable effects to existing facilities (i.e., impacts on function and/or accessibility).	Low. Incorporation of the ICRMP would have a beneficial impact on WSMR facilities, as the historic architecture evaluation provisions can lead to positive impacts due to management requirements. Goal 2 requires WSMR to integrate cultural resource compliance requirements with other installation plans. This includes the installation master plan and the facilities maintenance plan.
Energy Demand, Generation, Transmission, and Use	The facilities and infrastructure needed to generate and transmit electricity. The resource area also considers the local generating capacity and use of electricity.	A significant impact would occur if the Proposed Action disrupts power generation or transmission/distribution of electricity. Impacts may include physical impact on the distribution system (utility poles, conductors, support equipment) or disruption of power generation.	Low. The energy demands associated with the implementation of the ICRMP are very minor and are not expected to affect energy demand, use, or generation at WSMR and surrounding communities. The Cultural resource program supports alternative energy initiatives through coordination and planning. Goal 2 requires WSMR to integrate cultural resource compliance requirements with other installation plans. This includes the installation master plan, which provides a roadmap for future energy generation, transmission, and use.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	Hazardous materials management refers to the handling of hazardous materials and includes the purchase, storage, and distribution of hazardous materials such as paints, solvents, lubricants, and batteries. Hazardous waste	Factors considered in assessing impacts associated with hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are the extent or degree to which an action would significantly increase the volume of hazardous materials used or the volume of hazardous wastes generated (including waste generated from spills).	Low. Implementation of the ICRMP does not involve the handling or use of hazardous materials and would not lead to the generation of hazardous wastes. Implementation of individual field actions involving restoration of older buildings

Valued Environmental Component	Area of Interest	Significance Threshold	Rating/Rationale for Level of Assessment
	management refers to the handling of hazardous wastes generated as part of industrial activities. These wastes must be containerized, labeled, stored, and transported in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, state, and Army/WSMR requirements.		will fall all Federal, State and Army requirements for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and waste. Goal #4 pursues ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties. Proper management of hazardous materials and waste would minimize potential effects.

CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This chapter provides a comparison of the potential environmental impacts associated with adoption of the No-Action Alternative or the Proposed Action as well as an analysis of potential cumulative effects.

4.1 THE NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, the ICRMP would not be implemented and WSMR would continue to manage its resources through the 2015-2019 INCRMP. The No-Action Alternative would not adequately capture regulatory and administrative to cultural resources. As such, the No-Action Alternative would not meet the requirements of DoDI 4715.16 and Army Regulation 200-1.

4.2 THE PROPOSED ACTION

Through implementation of the Proposed Action, WSMR would adopt the 2025-2029 ICRMP for the management of cultural resources for the next five years. The ICRMP meets the requirements of DoDI 4715.16 and U.S. Army Regulation 200-1. The ICRMP is a revision of the 2015-2019 INCRMP and included reviewed goals and objectives, guidance, and policies for the WSMR cultural resource program. It updates and validates these procedures to current day requirements.

Table 4-1 identifies the nature of potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the 18 SOPs provided in the ICRMP. The SOPs fall into two kinds of actions: office and field work. The majority of the SOPs involve office work with no additional impact to the environment while others involve field work. Field work includes traveling in a pickup or smaller vehicle to a historic site to conduct basic reconnaissance to intense surveys; recovery, renovation or repair of a historic property; or recovery of a weapon debris. Office work is routine and does not require environmental coordination. Environmental impacts from office work are predominantly indirect in nature. As an example, operating an office requires heating and cooling systems, electricity to run equipment and computers, as well as the supplies needed to construct the office building. All these demands have environmental effects in the form of increased GHG emissions, consumption of non-renewable resources, and others.

Field work includes individual projects that will be coordinated through the environmental review process prior to implementation to determine best management practices, conditions of use or additional environmental analysis. Impacts from field work can be direct and are anticipated to be temporary in nature.

Table 4-1. Nature SOP Environmental Effects

SOP #	Title	Nature of Impacts
1.	Identifying Undertakings	Office
2.	Exempted Undertakings	Office
3.	Defining the Area of Potential Effect (APE)	Office
4.	Identifying and Evaluating Historic Properties	Field
5.	Assessing Effects	Field
6.	Resolving Adverse Effects	Field
7.	Documenting Acceptable Loss	Office
8.	Reviewing and Monitoring through NEPA	Office
9.	Accidental Discovery of Historic Properties	Field
10.	Reporting Damage to Historic Properties	Office and Field
11.	Public Involvement in the WSMR Cultural Resources Management Program	Office
12.	Dispute Resolution	Office
13.	Military Activities in Anticipation of Immediate Deployment, Mobilization, or Armed Conflict	Office
14.	Cultural Resource Protection Measures for Recovery of Test Mission Impacts	Field
15.	ARPA Compliance	Field
16.	NAGPRA Compliance	Field
17.	Paleontological Resources	Field
18.	Curatorial and Collection Management of Archaeological and Historical Collections and Associated Records	Office
19.	Spill Responses	Field

Environmental impacts to natural, cultural, and man-made resources can vary in degree or magnitude from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment. Table 4-2 provides an analysis of potential impacts associated with the No-Action Alternative (i.e., maintain the INCRMP as a planning document) and the Proposed Action (i.e., adoption of the ICRMP), as well as best management practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures that can be implemented to minimize these impacts. For the purpose of this analysis, the intensity of impacts (negative and beneficial) is classified as no impact, negligible, minor, moderate, or major. The intensity thresholds are defined as follows:

- **No Change:** A resource would not be affected, or continuance of the status quo.
- **Beneficial.** A resource would be positively affected by the action.
- **Negligible:** A resource would not be affected, or the effects would be at or below the level of detection, and changes would not result in any measurable or perceptible consequences.

- 1 • **Minor:** Effects on a resource would be detectable, although the effects would be localized,
2 small, and of little consequences to the sustainability of the resource. BMPs, if needed to
3 offset adverse effects, would be simple and achievable.
- 4 • **Moderate:** Effects on a resource would be readily detectable, long-term, localized, and
5 measurable. BMPs, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be extensive and likely
6 achievable.
- 7 • **Major:** Effects on a resource would be obvious, long-term, and would have substantial
8 consequences on a regional scale. Extensive mitigation measures to offset the adverse
9 effects would be required and success of the mitigation measures would not be guaranteed.

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Table 4-2. Comparison of Alternatives

Resource Area	Anticipated Impacts		Notes/BMPs and Mitigation Measures
	No-Action Alternative	Proposed Action	
Land Use and Military Mission	Moderate – The 2015 INCRMP is not in compliance to review and update management plans.	Minor. The revised plan provides comprehensive guidance for events in which land use has the potential to adversely affect cultural resources. Improved coordination between DPW-E and land users can reduce the risk of interruptions to the mission.	The environmental review process is used to communicate conditions of use to promote beneficial stewardship of cultural resources compatibility to the military mission and land use.
Visual Aesthetics	No Change.	No Change. The management of visual aesthetics has not changed in the updated ICRMP.	ICRMP Objective #3 is to maintain the fabric and character of buildings and landscapes contributing to WSMR's historic districts and landmarks.
Air Quality	No Change.	Negligible. Implementation of individual field work activities would result in the release of fugitive dust from surveys, recovery, and maintenance activities. Impacts are anticipated to be minor and temporary in nature.	As technology improves, more efficient vehicles will be used to GHG when engaged in field work. Use of generators to power historic ranch houses would be coordinated through the environmental review process to meet Title V permit requirements.
Noise (soundscape)	No Change.	Negligible. Implementation of individual field projects such as survey work, maintenance on historic properties or recovery efforts would cause minor and temporary noise.	Individual projects would go through the environmental review process to identify need for conditions of use or use of best management practices.
Soil Erosion Effects	No Change.	Negligible. Implementation of individual field projects such as survey work, maintenance on historic properties or recovery efforts would cause minor and temporary impacts to soils from staging, digging or soil scarification. Soil degradation or loss would be minor and temporary.	Individual field projects would go through the environmental review process to identify need for conditions of use or use of best management practices such as use existing roads, staging areas or stormwater prevention strategies to the fullest extent possible.
Cultural Resources	No Change.	Beneficial Impact. Goals, objectives and SOPs have been reviewed, revalidated and revised keeping the	Goals and objectives would be valid when incorporated into operational procedures of WSMR functions. SOPs would be incorporated

Resource Area	Anticipated Impacts		Notes/BMPs and Mitigation Measures
	No-Action Alternative	Proposed Action	
		program in compliance with Army requirements. The revised plan becomes a communication tool with WSMR personnel that may be unaware of program requirements.	into the environmental review processes, used as management guidelines for stewardship of historic properties.
Biological Resources	No Change.	No Change. Existing coordination with DPW-E to reduce risk of negative impacts to native ecosystems and biological diversity would continue.	The administrative act of adopting the ICRMP will have no impact on local plant and wildlife species or their habitat. As such, no BMPs or mitigation measures are required.
Water Resources/Wetlands	No Change.	No Change. Adoption of the ICRMP would have no effect area surface water and groundwater resources. Surveys would avoid transiting wetlands.	The primary BMP will be to avoid conducting surveys or any other cultural resources management activity within wetlands. Incorporation of SOP 19 will have a beneficial impact to water resources at WSMR.
Human Health and Safety	No Change.	No Change. Health and safety would continue to be managed under the current Army and DoD regulations and policies.	The administrative act of adopting the ICRMP will have no impact on human health and safety. As such, no BMPs or mitigation measures are required.
Socioeconomics	No Change.	Beneficial Impact. Current conditions would remain unchanged. Existing management practices and legal requirements require that consultations are held for Native American populations and other minority groups who may be disproportionately affected by actions on USAG lands.	The administrative act of adopting the ICRMP will encourage visitors to the Trinity Site and the WSMR Museum. Many of the visitors will be out of town tourists, who will spend money in the surrounding communities, yielding a benefit to the local economy.
Traffic and Transportation	No Change.	No Change. Surveys of road corridors could lead to modification of traffic flow in some areas. However, these events would be short-term in nature and would not affect the roadways. Implementation of the ICRMP would not increase the incidence of roadway surveys.	As adopting the ICRMP would not lead to an increase of surveys in and around road corridors, no additional impact would occur. No BMPs or mitigation measures are required.
Airspace Management	No Change.	No Change. Implementation of the ICRMP would not involve any activity 200 feet above ground level or higher.	Adoption of the ICRMP would have no effect on the Special Use Airspace. No mitigation measures or BMPs would be required.

Resource Area	Anticipated Impacts		Notes/BMPs and Mitigation Measures
	No-Action Alternative	Proposed Action	
Facilities	No Change.	No Change. Implementation of the ICRMP would not affect use of or access to WSMR facilities.	Adopting the ICRMP would have no new effect on facilities. However, it should be noted that implementation of the ICRMP could affect how facilities are managed, maintained, and demolished, especially for facilities over 50 years in age or facilities with Cold War significance.
Energy Demand, Generation, Transmission, and Use	No Change.	Minimal Impact. Implementation of the ICRMP would result in negligible changes in energy demand, generation, or use at WSMR. Furthermore, there would be no need to modify the existing electricity transmission system. As the Army and WSMR incorporate more renewable energy sources into its energy generation portfolio, the infrastructure to generate (i.e., rooftop solar panels, ground-based solar arrays) and distribute (i.e., utility poles, electric vehicle charging stations) could affect the view of or viewsheds from historic properties.	Prior to construction, each planned renewable energy project on WSMR would be subject to the environmental review process. During the review, analysis of potential impacts to sensitive viewsheds would be considered. When needed, BMPs such as instituting setback distances for solar panels or other equipment, strategic placement of resources, and selection of materials used would be implemented to reduce impacts to the historic properties.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	No Change.	No Change. Implementation of the ICRMP would result no change in the generation and management of hazardous materials and waste, when compared to the 2015-2019 INCRMP.	Maintenance/restoration of historic buildings such as painting could generate listed or characteristic wastes. The environmental review process would identify BMPs to follow. During the environmental review, project proponents would be made aware of all applicable BMPs regarding use of hazardous materials and the collection, handling, transportation, and disposal of hazardous material.

4.3 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

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 [2020])

Each resource, ecosystem, and human community must be analyzed in terms of its ability to accommodate additional effects based on its own time and space parameters. Therefore, cumulative effects analysis will typically encompass a Region of Influence (ROI) or geographic boundaries beyond the immediate area of the Proposed Action and a time frame including past actions and foreseeable future actions, to capture these additional effects.

For purposes of this cumulative effects analysis, the ROI includes projects considered within the boundaries of WSMR, as the ICRMP provides coverage for all activities within the installation. This analysis depends on the availability of data and the relevance of effects of past, present, and future actions. Although certain data (e.g., extent of forest cover) may be available for extensive periods in the past (i.e., decades), other data (e.g., water quality) may be available for much shorter periods. Because specific information and data on past projects and action are usually scarce, the analysis of past effects is often qualitative (CEQ 1997).

Table 4-3 lists the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the ROI that have had, continue to have, or would be expected to have some impact on the natural and human environment. The projects in this table are limited to those implemented in the last five years or those with ongoing contributions to environmental effects. Projects with measurable contributions to impacts within the ROI for a resource area were included in the cumulative analysis.

Table 4-3. Reasonably Foreseeable Actions within the Region of Influence

Title	Program Description	Past	Present	Future
INRMP Implementation	DPW-E implementation of the INRMP, dated March 2023. The program includes adoption of new goals, objectives, and natural resource management practices.	✓	✓	✓
Oscura Mountains Ecosystem Management Planning	Implementation of vegetative treatments (i.e., manual or mechanical removal, prescribed fire, and application of chemical treatments) to reduce fire risk within the area.	✓	✓	✓
Integrated Pest Management Plan White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico	This plan describes the pest management requirements; outlines the resources necessary for surveillance and control; and describes the administration, safety, and environmental requirements of the program.	✓	✓	✓
Garrison Policy Letter #14: Garrison Commander's Environmental Policy	Policy statement for personnel working at WSMR. This policy commits WSMR to compliance with all environmental regulations and establishes the requirement to establish an Environmental Management System.	✓	✓	✓

Title	Program Description	Past	Present	Future
White Sands Missile Range Wildland Fire Management Plan	Summarizes SOPs, risk management strategies, and policies that make up the installation's wildland fire management program.	✓	✓	✓

Table 4-4 summarizes the potential cumulative effects associated with the Proposed Action.

Table 4-4. Cumulative Effects Summary

Resource Area	Cumulative Effects
Land Use and Military Mission	Negligible Impact. Implementation of the ICRMP is compatible and would not affect or alter current land use management plans for WSMR.
Visual Aesthetics	No Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not affect any WSMR viewshed and would not exacerbate visual impacts of other projects at WSMR.
Air Quality	Negligible Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Action would lead to a small increase in emission of pollution causing contaminants. This increase would not be regionally significant.
Noise (soundscape)	No Impact. As the noise levels would be below impact thresholds, no impact to neighboring sites (and the wider WSMR area) is anticipated.
Soil Erosion Effects	Negligible Impact. The ground disturbance associated with the Proposed Action would be minor and temporary in nature, as sites would be remediated as needed. These impacts are not anticipated to affect soil resources at other locations.
Cultural Resources	Beneficial Impact. Implementation of the ICRMP will provide cultural resources management guidance to organizations that use WSMR assets and will inform how other land use management plans would be implemented.
Biological Resources	No Impact. ICRMP implementation would have no impact on native ecosystems and biological diversity. As such, no cumulative effects are anticipated.
Water Resources/ Wetlands	No Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no effect on water resources and wetlands. As such, no cumulative effects are anticipated.
Human Health and Safety	Negligible Impact. Health and safety would continue to be managed under the current Army and DoD regulations and policies. No impacts anticipated.
Socioeconomics	Beneficial Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Action would generate a beneficial impact, as tourists and other members of the public would be encouraged to visit the Trinity Historic District and the collections at the White Sands Missile Range Museum.
Traffic and Transportation	No Impact. The Proposed Action would have no impact on traffic or transportation systems. Therefore, no cumulative impacts to traffic and transportation are anticipated.
Airspace Management	No Impact. As the Proposed Action involves no activity over 200 feet above ground level, no impact to airspace management is anticipated.
Facilities	No Impact. Implementation of the ICRMP would not affect use of or access to WSMR facilities. No cumulative effects on facilities anticipated.
Energy Demand, Generation, Transmission, and Use	Minimal Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in a negligible increase in energy demand. This increase would not affect operations at other WSMR facilities. However, the increasing demand for electricity at WSMR may result in more renewable energy infrastructure installed at WSMR, increasing the potential for viewshed impacts from historic properties. It should be noted that all proposed plans to install solar farms or other electrical energy infrastructure would be subject to the environmental review process, including management actions as prescribed in the ICRMP.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	Negligible Impact. Repair and renovation activities associated with the ICRMP would lead to increased hazardous waste production due to the use of paints, caulks, solvents, and other construction materials. However, all waste generated

Resource Area	Cumulative Effects
	would be handled, stored, transported, and disposed in accordance with WSMR and Army regulations.

1

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION

The legal requirements of DoDI 4715.6 and AR-200-1 mandate that each Army installation develop and implement an ICRMP for use as a planning tool and as the guiding document for cultural resources management decisions. The ICRMP articulates management procedures and long-range goals for cultural resources on USAG-WSMR lands.

An analysis of the environmental effects as proposed by goals, objectives, projects and initiatives in the ICRMP was completed by DPW-E. There are no specific changes that would trigger the need for an EIS. Many existing projects and initiatives listed within the ICRMP have already been analyzed for NEPA compliance and incorporated by reference, or they qualify as a categorical exclusion (32 CFR 651). Use of the environmental review process to identified specific BMPs and mitigations is a means to ensure changes in management of cultural resources does not have a significant impact for field work activities. The WSMR internal environmental review process would be used to evaluate implementation of new actions. This EA has determined that the revisions and changes in the ICRMP are administrative in nature and are considered to be negligible to minimal in potential environmental impacts.

CHAPTER 6 REFERENCES

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CHAPTER 8 AGENCIES AND CONSULTATIONS

APPENDIX A U.S. CENSUS BUREAU DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know					
QuickFacts Socorro County, New Mexico; Sierra County, New Mexico; Otero County, New Mexico; Doña Ana County, New Mexico; New Mexico; United States <small>QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties. Also for cities and towns with a <i>population of 5,000 or more</i>.</small>					
<div> <input type="text" value="Enter state, county, city, town, or zip code"/> <div> -- Select a fact -- </div> <div> CLEAR </div> <div> TABLE </div> <div> MAP </div> </div>					
Table					
<div> All Topics <div> <div>Socorro County, New Mexico</div> <div>Sierra County, New Mexico</div> <div>Otero County, New Mexico</div> <div>Doña Ana County, New Mexico</div> <div>New Mexico</div> </div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population estimates, July 1, 2024, (V2024)</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>2,130,256</div> </div>					
<div> <div>PEOPLE</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population estimates, July 1, 2024, (V2024)</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>2,130,256</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population estimates, July 1, 2023, (V2023)</div> <div>15,963</div> <div>11,488</div> <div>68,835</div> <div>225,210</div> <div>2,114,371</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2024)</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>2,117,555</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2023)</div> <div>16,594</div> <div>11,573</div> <div>67,835</div> <div>219,569</div> <div>2,117,525</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2024, (V2024)</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>0.0%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2023, (V2023)</div> <div>-3.8%</div> <div>-0.7%</div> <div>1.5%</div> <div>2.6%</div> <div>-0.1%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population, Census, April 1, 2020</div> <div>16,595</div> <div>11,576</div> <div>67,839</div> <div>219,561</div> <div>2,117,522</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population, Census, April 1, 2010</div> <div>17,866</div> <div>11,988</div> <div>63,797</div> <div>209,233</div> <div>2,059,179</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Age and Sex</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Persons under 5 years, percent</div> <div>5.1%</div> <div>3.6%</div> <div>5.5%</div> <div>5.4%</div> <div>5.1%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Persons under 18 years, percent</div> <div>21.1%</div> <div>16.1%</div> <div>21.5%</div> <div>22.6%</div> <div>21.3%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Persons 65 years and over, percent</div> <div>21.7%</div> <div>38.5%</div> <div>17.8%</div> <div>17.4%</div> <div>19.8%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Female persons, percent</div> <div>48.6%</div> <div>50.0%</div> <div>47.3%</div> <div>50.7%</div> <div>50.3%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Race and Hispanic Origin</div> </div>					
<div> <div>White alone, percent</div> <div>77.9%</div> <div>91.5%</div> <div>81.8%</div> <div>91.0%</div> <div>80.7%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Black alone, percent (a) (a)</div> <div>1.6%</div> <div>1.3%</div> <div>4.6%</div> <div>2.7%</div> <div>2.8%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a) (a)</div> <div>15.1%</div> <div>3.3%</div> <div>8.1%</div> <div>2.6%</div> <div>11.4%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Asian alone, percent (a) (a)</div> <div>2.1%</div> <div>0.9%</div> <div>1.8%</div> <div>1.5%</div> <div>2.0%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a) (a)</div> <div>0.2%</div> <div>0.1%</div> <div>0.3%</div> <div>0.2%</div> <div>0.2%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Two or More Races, percent</div> <div>3.2%</div> <div>3.0%</div> <div>3.3%</div> <div>2.0%</div> <div>2.8%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Hispanic or Latino, percent (b) (b)</div> <div>50.3%</div> <div>30.2%</div> <div>40.0%</div> <div>68.0%</div> <div>48.6%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent</div> <div>33.3%</div> <div>64.4%</div> <div>46.5%</div> <div>27.0%</div> <div>36.8%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Population Characteristics</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Veterans, 2019-2023</div> <div>1,115</div> <div>1,469</div> <div>7,257</div> <div>13,007</div> <div>133,239</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Foreign-born persons, percent, 2019-2023</div> <div>5.8%</div> <div>8.4%</div> <div>10.1%</div> <div>14.9%</div> <div>9.2%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Housing</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Housing Units, July 1, 2023, (V2023)</div> <div>7,756</div> <div>8,275</div> <div>32,900</div> <div>93,950</div> <div>965,399</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2019-2023</div> <div>73.5%</div> <div>70.2%</div> <div>65.0%</div> <div>65.3%</div> <div>69.3%</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2019-2023</div> <div>\$143,200</div> <div>\$144,800</div> <div>\$149,500</div> <div>\$205,400</div> <div>\$232,200</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Median selected monthly owner costs - with a mortgage, 2019-2023</div> <div>\$1,330</div> <div>\$1,031</div> <div>\$1,177</div> <div>\$1,413</div> <div>\$1,510</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Median selected monthly owner costs - without a mortgage, 2019-2023</div> <div>\$414</div> <div>\$360</div> <div>\$356</div> <div>\$400</div> <div>\$439</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Median gross rent, 2019-2023</div> <div>\$653</div> <div>\$695</div> <div>\$926</div> <div>\$903</div> <div>\$1,021</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Building Permits, 2023</div> <div>NA</div> <div>NA</div> <div>5</div> <div>861</div> <div>8,511¹</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Families & Living Arrangements</div> </div>					
<div> <div>Households, 2019-2023</div> <div>5,222</div> <div>5,419</div> <div>24,285</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>					
<div> <div>Persons per household, 2019-2023</div> <div>2.99</div> <div>2.08</div> <div>2.66</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>					
<div> <div>Living in the same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2019-2023</div> <div>88.8%</div> <div>96.9%</div> <div>86.7%</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>					

Is this page helpful?

Yes
 No

Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 yearst+, 2019-2023	37.4%	21.0%	24.9%	45.0%	31.0%
Computer and Internet Use					
Households with a computer, percent, 2019-2023	74.4%	85.3%	94.1%	93.0%	92.4%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2019-2023	59.7%	81.0%	88.0%	88.2%	84.2%
Education					
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 yearst+, 2019-2023	84.7%	90.2%	87.3%	82.7%	87.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 yearst+, 2019-2023	21.0%	16.3%	21.0%	31.4%	30.2%
Health					
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2019-2023	17.4%	19.7%	14.0%	10.3%	11.0%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	10.4%	9.1%	9.3%	12.1%	11.1%
Economy					
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 yearst+, 2019-2023	44.0%	36.5%	48.0%	57.1%	56.9%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 yearst+, 2019-2023	40.9%	36.9%	48.1%	52.3%	53.3%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2022 (\$1,000)	34,646	29,394	225,094	474,473	7,086,476
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2022 (\$1,000)	61,935	D	455,411	1,761,746	17,390,006
Total transportation and warehousing receipts/revenue, 2022 (\$1,000)	6,181	3,513	25,516	326,304	3,660,003
Total retail sales, 2022 (\$1,000)	149,418	144,979	802,696	3,037,541	36,921,203
Total retail sales per capita, 2022	\$9,274	\$12,635	\$11,715	\$13,589	\$17,469
Transportation					
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 yearst+, 2019-2023	14.8	13.8	22.7	22.4	23.2
Income & Poverty					
Median households income (in 2023 dollars), 2019-2023	\$47,556	\$37,840	\$52,717	\$55,663	\$62,125
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2023 dollars), 2019-2023	\$25,898	\$24,882	\$28,186	\$28,726	\$34,823
Persons in poverty, percent	25.2%	23.5%	19.4%	19.8%	17.8%
BUSINESSES					
Businesses					
Total employer establishments, 2022	227	221	969	3,836	44,850
Total employment, 2022	2,720	2,171	12,819	54,657	639,118
Total annual payroll, 2022 (\$1,000)	94,474	74,796	499,325	2,216,228	31,979,149
Total employment, percent change, 2021-2022	1.4%	2.1%	13.2%	4.5%	5.5%
Total nonemployer establishments, 2022	785	754	3,996	15,370	138,557
All employer firms, Reference year 2022	155	186	794	3,006	31,989
Men-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022	46	119	326	1,674	17,512
Women-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022	37	10	S	577	7,081
Minority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022	39	S	171	1,096	9,485
Nonminority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022	69	113	456	1,432	18,502
Veteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022	5	S	S	214	1,782
Nonveteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022	103	123	534	2,323	26,552
GEOGRAPHY					
Geography					
Population per square mile, 2020	2.5	2.8	10.3	57.7	17.5
Population per square mile, 2010	2.7	2.9	9.6	55.0	17.0
Land area in square miles, 2020	6,646.39	4,181.21	6,612.56	3,808.19	121,312.75
Land area in square miles, 2010	6,646.68	4,178.96	6,613.21	3,807.51	121,298.15
FIPS Code	35053	35051	35035	35013	35

[About datasets used in this table](#)

Value Notes

- Includes data not distributed by county.

Methodology differences may exist between data sources, and so estimates from different sources are not comparable.

Some estimates presented here come from sample data, and thus have sampling errors that may render some apparent differences between geographies statistically indistinguishable. Click here to learn about sampling error.

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The vintage year (e.g., V2024) refers to the final year of the series (2020 thru 2024). Different vintage years of estimates are not comparable.

Users should exercise caution when comparing 2019-2023 ACS 5-year estimates to other ACS estimates. For more information, please visit the [2023 5-year ACS Comparison Guidance](#) page.

Fact Notes

- (a) Includes persons reporting only one race
- (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories
- (c) Economic Census - Puerto Rico data are not comparable to U.S. Economic Census data

Value Flags

- D Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information
- F Fewer than 25 firms
- FN Footnote on this item in place of data
- NA Not available
- S Suppressed, does not meet publication standards
- X Not applicable
- Z Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown
- Either no or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest or upper interval of a
- N Data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.

QuickFacts data are derived from: Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, Current Population Survey, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Small Area Income and Poverty Est Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits.

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