

Appendix D - Topic Areas of Concern in Written Comments

Public Comments
Air Quality Issues
Dust impacts for Newberry Spgs., Harvard, Baker, Shoshoni, and Las Vegas.
Exhaust pollution concerns-Baker.
Dust impacts for hikers.
Cumulative effects of Nwas and Ft Irwin, dust issues 9/23/88
Particulate Pollution
Wilderness
The expansion into wilderness areas, Avawatz Mountains, Red Pass Lake, and Soda Mountains is
Requested an extension of the scoping process through 28 Nov 1988.
Consideration be given to avoiding the Soda, Avawatz and South Avawatz Mountain Ranges.
Fate of lands previously designated as wilderness study areas south of Avawatz.
Preservation of wilderness study areas.
Impacts to Avawatz and South Avawatz.
Land Use (includes Aesthetics)
Requirement for more land is attitude change in Army operations vs. actual need for more land- why not simulations? Why not take over, clean and use China Lake?
Mitigation land needs will reach and impact areas as far away as Ridgecrest.
Use of China Lake will disturb sensitive natural resources there.
'97 EIS did not take an adequate look at use of Leach Lake—8 billion to clean seems unreasonable
Mitigation efforts to offset habitat loss resulting from Ld. Exp. will take place on public lands administered by BLM and will directly affect adjacent communities and residents across Mojave
Loss of view of Alvord Mtns.
Affects on youth camp in Newberry Springs
Overuse of current land holdings reason for needing more land.
Loss of grazing lands 9/20/88
Loss of lands for Pistachio farming north of I-15 9/25/88
Against any takings of public lands.
Against impacts to desert experience.
Cumulative impacts of more depends on desert lands.
Believe that the current Ft Irwin Lands are sufficient.
Concerns about being compensated for their lands.
Loss of homes around Ft Irwin.
Loss of lands around Cherokee Road.
Impacts on residential uses, like the Coptic Church.
Visual Degradation
Recreation
Effects on touring up 127 to Death Valley.
Potential closure of lands now used for recreation
Effect of Mormon trail re-enactment and access to springs
Loss of "quiet places and public lands".

Mitigation may require 2 million acres and potential impact this will have on rest of desert.
Mitigation will only address habitat issues for endangered species and not for tremendous loss of economic and recreational opportunities.
speak. [11/06/01]
National Wind Surfing Finals on dry lake beds.
Four-wheeling and motorcycling activities.
Limited access to Alvord Mt.-Sunrise Canyon area for rock-hounding.
Recreation in Silurian Valley-Dumont Dunes['97 draft].
Loss of Mtn. Climbing peaks.
Loss of RockHounding areas. 8/31/88
Loss of off-road areas. 9/12/88
Loss of motorcycle transportation corridors. 9/8/88
Affects on the Barstow to Vegas Motorcycle Race. 9/6/88
Loss of suitable Land Sailing Lakes. 9/20/88
Loss of dry lakes for recreational use.
Mining
Iron mine.
Private claims at Albert Mountain, Coolgardie, and Gold Stone areas.
those claims.
Private claims in area.
Govt. seeking to get mineral claims in land.
Closure of Cu City Rd. would limit prospecting clubs access.
compensate for expansion
Concerns about allowing future exploration.
Loss of private mining claims.
Loss of access to mineral deposits.
Geology
Will affect the use of the area for educational purposes in the areas of geology and paleontological
Loss of undisturbed lands.
Soils
Contamination of soils.
Biological Resources
Potential loss of rare plants w/o detailed vegetation map for all alternatives.
Lane Mountain Milk-vetch.
Joshua tree woodland in Silurian Valley['97 draft].
Protection of the Desert Tortoise—studies show ? in populations since '97 despite efforts to protect.
Need to expand Ft. Irwin's tortoise breeding project.
Preservation of DT critical habitat by inclusion of Blue Ribbon Panel's recs and avoidance of lands
Mojave Ground Squirrel in jeopardy in Superior Valley area.
Coyote, Kit Fox, Bobcat, Badger, Redtail Hawk, Eagles, Jackrabbit, Kangaroo Rat, Wild burros, Mohave Green Rattlesnake, King snake, gophersnake, red racer snake.
Desert Cymopterus

Bendire's Thrasher
Special Status Species
Desert Tortoise
Mojave Ground Squirrel
Lane Mountain Milkvetch
Consideration of Sclerocactus (Cactacea) which is listed as "sensitive" populations on Lane Mountain west of there including Slocum Mountain and north into Copper City area. None in planned areas;
Health and Safety
With increased area of activity and live fire ranges, what is risk of damage to surrounding areas?
Environmental Justice
Region of Comparison
Desert unfairly targeted for waste dumps and military projects.
Minority and Low Income Populations
Effects on lower-income echelon in Barstow.
Cooperative Agency
NASA- need for improvement of existing protocols for coordinating issues between Army & NASA.
Coordination for future NASA mission needs w/o which incidental ld exp. effects may limit and increase cost to NASA's future planned activities at GDSCC.
Potential damage to utilities infrastructure [fiber optic, electrical, communication, water] and hardening
Radio frequency interference from military radio communications.
Potential loss of NASA critical operations information due to RF interference.
Potential interference with Emergency telecommunication activities that could increase risk of
Encroachment on the GDSCC restricted air space.
Impact of wind-blown dust and vibration to sensitive optical telecommunication causing misalign- ment of precision optics & degrade signal to noise performance.
Impact on GDSCC airstrip operations including potential unavailability of current flight path over proposed expansion area and windblown dust impairing safety of flight and airfield operations.
Existing protocols between Army, FSWS, & Army may not be adequate to protect desert tortoise and its habitat in accordance with the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the GDSCC and thereby ?
Failure of '97 Draft EIS to adequately assess the incremental effect or cumulative effects of the Army's proposed action & NASA's reasonably foreseeable future actions at GDSC.
Socioeconomics and Education
Mojave Quaternary Research Center (MDQRC) will be adversely affected by the expansion.
Request that geological education and research be included in the sections.
Possible closure of Rainbow Basin to educational expeditions.
Closure of Cu City Rd. affecting tourism business [toward Superior Valley and west to Incription Canyon. Bill Mann has 100K invested in business.
Lg.-term econ. effect of loss of recreational uses.
Economic impact desert land closures is having on residents of Newberry Springs area [reduction of tourists, and property values].
Economic loss Barstow may face.
Loss in economic opportunities as a result of mitigation measures.
Cost to taxpayers to mitigate socio-econ. impacts of Environmental Degradation.

Concern unjust discrimination against Mojave Desert residents.
Possible restriction of future installations in utility corridor could have negative econ. impact on Baker [crews reside there while on job].
Fair compensation to property owners
Impact to geology classes held in area.
Cultural Resources
Preservation of ancient campsites of "Pinto Basis & Lake Mojave Complexes".
Preservation of historical points of interest at Copper City Road.
Paleontological resources in Silurian Valley ['97 draft comments].
Concerned about the disruption to Manix Lake Basin and Superior Valley, which lie along natural
Disturbance of Lake Manix Lithic Industry 9/16/88
Disturbance of Coyote Dry lake 9/16/88
That every consideration be given to the identification and protection of cultural resources in the EIS
Exculsion of Manix Basin and Calico Early Man Site and western portion of Superior Valley 9/22/88
Water Resources
Contamination of water resources
Hazardous Materials and Waste
Direct and indirect impacts of toxic components
Utilities
Unwise to expand towards the powerlines.
Impacts on Kern River Gas Transmission Company. 9/20/88
Impacts on Williams Telecommunications Group. 9/22/88
Impacts on DPW, City of LA 9/30/88
Impacts on CONTEL, Telephone Operations 10/3/88
Close proximity of the NTC activities to the corridor.
Dust contamination on the transmission lines.
Access to transmission lines.
Transportation
Closure of Cu City Rd. and route to Inspiration Canyon [Inscription Canyon]-if closed 5 days/mo-how would people know which 5 days?
Maintenance of dirt roads in Newberry Springs area allegedly being traversed by tank traffic.
Impacts on Manix Trail.
Potential closure of 127 will ? costs for small business [freight hauler].
Military traffic on highway will accelerate deterioration of the roadbed ['97 draft comments].
Closure of Cu City Rd. inhibit access to Inscription and Black Canyons, Harper Dry Lake, access to Low Tide ranch by owner-Donald Sanders.
Airspace
Airspace concerns in Baker airport.
Noise Issues
some mobile homes.
Noise deters would-be residents resulting in death of community.
Noise to residents of Harvard area.

National Security/Solider Safety
Believe the safety of soliders should take a higher priority over the desert tortoise.
Give justification for expansion based on scenarios for future battlefields.
Full analysis of the U.S. military's current defense/offense needs and expectations
Sugested Alternatives
Move contonment area to open up corridors.
Use of Leach Lake
Joint forces training
Purpose and Need
Updated LURS
Timeframe of use of land and permenate impacts
Prove lack of land endangers soliders
Other
Lack of under- standing need for more land with increased techn. and accuracy.
Maps of altern- atives need to show more accurate boundaries better using townships and ranges.
Need for more scoping meetings [11/29].
Requirement for written justification for hard copies of draft.
RF interference with telephone, radios, tv in New- berry Springs area.
Independent analysis of need for expansion.
Adherence to recommendations of Blue Ribbon Panel.
Federal Register gave no time period for scoping comments to be made. [11/29/01]
Deadline for accepting scoping comments. [11/29/01]
Will amount allocated for mitigation cover all mitigation costs for the proposal?
Are only individuals trained us soldiers?
Is need for expansion to provide live fire weapon ranges and to increase number and amount of training activities? And If so, is expansion enough.
Other countries training here?
Objection to replacement of BLM as lead agency by the Army.
Public safety concerns along State Highway 127 ['97 draft comments].
Referals in SEIS to inaccurate info in '97 draft.
Keeping owners of private land in loop.
Belief that this is a "land acqusition" effort for profit by US Govt.
How will Army restore damaged lands for return to public?
How will Army prevent contamin- ation of desert w/fuels, oils, solvents, radio- active materials, etc?
LURS questioned
Concerned about potential accidents related to simulations.
Concerns on the content of the EIS.
Request vegetation maps
Species be considered under CEQA
Analysis for need of expansion
Against use of UTM 90 area
Request Lane Mountain Milk-vetch report be placed on website
Compliance with ESA and NEPA

Appropriate mitigation
Request additional scoping meetings.
Use computer simulations
Who will have oversight on Army on public lands?
Risk analysis of project on infrastructure and possible accidents.
Loss of public lands and possible government plot to funnel funds to key individuals
Cooperative Agency Comments
BLM
The Army needs to provide the public with full disclosure of documents. Mike cautioned not to fall into the trap of making the EIS document look like a “justification” document but rather one that addresses data, issues, and decisions. There was also a mention of short turn around times for reviewing EIS drafts and the shortage of resources to conduct the reviews on behalf of BLM.
The timelines between both the West Mojave Plan and the Expansion process need to be coordinated—currently they are running fairly parallel and BLM would like to look at them both more
The Army needs to look at the effects of the mitigation and compensation, since the public is starting to look at the results it will have on them.
Wilderness, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Public Loss of Lands are the major issues that the BLM wants to ensure are thoroughly covered in the Supplemental DEIS.
BLM is concerned the map of the legal description provided by the Corp of Engineers isn’t completely
BLM , as the previous lead agency for the land expansion project, has boxes of land expansion related documents. They need a letter, signed by a designated Army Representative, to release this information.
FAA
The Army needs to ensure that NEPA and CEQA are followed while completing the airspace proposal.
The Army needs to ensure that “Special Use” airspace requests are thorough and accurately documented. The FAA NEPA process includes public hearings and produces a separate Record of
FAA requests an in-depth airspace analysis and impacts from each action alternative.
FAA requests a detailed expansion timeline to compare NEPA and CEQ process.
China Lake
NAWS is aware of the public’s request for the National Training Center to jointly use China Lake instead of the proposed expansion—and will provide a Joint Mission Compatibility Update to provide
The five areas of concern that were briefly addressed are: a.) Frequency Management, b.) Administration for the public use of land, c.) Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Plan, d.) Airspace (tempo increase and schedule deconfliction), and e.) the near and long term affects the
NASA
Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) – more Army RF in the Goldstone area may increase the noise level and jeopardize the Goldstone deep space mission.
High power transmitters pose hazards to flight and Goldstone must coordinate their use with surrounding airspace users—up to now the Army has not been concerned; if operating in the southwest
The radiation patterns for Goldstone high power transmitters are predominately in the southern hemisphere overlying the southwest expansion area.
NASA 7 flights/approach patterns – NASA 7 flies from Burbank to Goldstone several times each week—its approach pattern to the Goldstone airstrip is directly over the southwest expansion area.

Dust – with predominate winds out of the southwest, Army operations in the southwest expansion area will create dust that could negatively impact electronic equipment and radar dish tracking mechanisms and future optic tracking systems, and thereby negatively affect the Goldstone mission.

Edwards Air Force Base

Airspace management – heavy Air Force use of the R-2515 will require some creative airspace management and scheduling for co-use to occur.

Frequency management – the Air Force wants to make sure that the Army’s use of RF in the southwest expansion area will not impact or negatively affect the Air Force test missions.

Supersonic flight corridors – the Black Mountain Super Sonic and High Altitude Super Sonic Corridors over lay the southwest expansion area—the Black Mountain Super Sonic Corridor extends down to 500 feet above the ground—and could pose some challenging scheduling conflicts.

Nellis Air Force Base

Airspace Management issues.

Any proposal needs to include the continued use of Leach Lake for air operations launched by Nellis.