

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER
FORT IRWIN, CALIFORNIA
LAND EXPANSION

PUBLIC HEARING

29 November 2001
Barstow, California USA
Evening Session

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<p>1 NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER 2 FORT IRWIN, CALIFORNIA 3 LAND EXPANSION 4 PUBLIC HEARING 5 Public Hearing was held pursuant to 6 Notice at the City Council Chambers, Barstow, 7 California, USA, commencing on the 29th day of 8 November, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. PT. 9 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 10 MR. REISCHL: Okay, let's get started. 18:02:43 11 Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. 18:04:52 12 My name is Tim Reischl. I am the Deputy 13 Program Manager for land expansion work for the Army 18:05:00 14 at Fort Irwin. 18:05:03 15 I would like to welcome you to the 18:05:06 16 second session of our public scoping meeting on the 18:05:08 17 Fort Irwin land expansion. Before we get started, 18:05:10 18 like to introduce a few people who will be here and 18:05:15 19 who will be taking the public comment later on. 18:05:18 20 First of all, Lieutenant, excuse me, 18:05:22 21 Colonel -- I almost demoted him. Col. Flinn -- 18:05:25 22 COL. FLINN: Thank you. 18:05:31 23 MR. REISCHL: -- is the Deputy Commander 18:05:34 24 of Fort Irwin. 18:05:35 25 Mr. Ray Marler is the Army Program 18:05:36</p>	<p>1 We'll then have a question session where 18:07:03 2 we'll, anything that I don't cover in the briefing, we 18:07:05 3 can talk through. 18:07:09 4 Finally we'll have two hours, or as long 18:07:11 5 as we need, to take public comment on the issue. Now, 18:07:15 6 the meeting is being entirely recorded and 18:07:19 7 transcribed, and there are, there will be copies made 18:07:24 8 of it, obviously, and included into the Final EIS. 18:07:28 9 And we will also use all of the input 18:07:32 10 that we get as subject matter for the EIS. Issues 18:07:35 11 that are raised, we will obviously look at those and 18:07:42 12 try to incorporate them into the work that we do. 18:07:46 13 Scoping meeting: I think I talked about 18:07:53 14 most of this already, but this is really not a public 18:07:56 15 comment session on good, the goodness or badness of 18:08:00 16 land expansion. It is, instead, a meeting to define 18:08:05 17 issues that need to be looked at in the expansion, and 18:08:11 18 for the public to comment on the various alternatives 18:08:15 19 we are considering in the land expansion. 18:08:18 20 The actual public comment session on the 18:08:22 21 expansion itself comes later after the Draft EIS has 18:08:25 22 been, has been published. We give everybody a chance 18:08:31 23 to read it, and then there will be another set of 18:08:36 24 public meetings on those comments and all. 18:08:38 25 I, I'll talk to the timelines on that 18:08:43</p>
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<p>1 Manager, the Director of the Strategic Programs for 18:05:40 2 the National Training Center. 18:05:42 3 Major Rob Ali -- Got that one right. 18:05:45 4 He's the Fort Irwin, he's the Fort Irwin PAO, Public 18:05:48 5 Affairs Officer. 18:05:53 6 Mr. Gary Ethridge is the Project Manager 18:05:55 7 for the the Environmental Impact Statement on the, on 18:05:58 8 the lands expansion. 18:06:01 9 And finally, Ms. Marcia Wertenberger in 18:06:03 10 the back hiding - 18:06:05 11 MS. WERTENBERGER: Here. 18:06:07 12 MR. REISCHL: -- is the, is the 18:06:08 13 environmental counsel working on the project. 18:06:09 14 The purpose, the purpose of the meeting 18:06:11 15 tonight is to solicit public input on the issues and 18:06:15 16 the alternatives that are, that relate to the proposed 18:06:20 17 expansion of Fort Irwin. This is basically the ground 18:06:25 18 we'll cover tonight. 18:06:35 19 Like to take about 30 minutes to talk 18:06:37 20 about what exactly the land expansion is, the 18:06:39 21 proposals, what is known, what's unknown, because it's 18:06:43 22 a very complicated subject and, and a lot of people do 18:06:48 23 not know all of the things that have gone into it, and 18:06:52 24 it's, we can diffuse a lot of uncertainty just by 18:06:57 25 having a short brief on it. 18:07:01</p>	<p>1 later. Comments can be written or verbal. 18:08:45 2 We're taking a written a, recorded copy 18:08:49 3 of this entire Hearing, and anything that's said 18:08:51 4 basically in this room is being transcribed. Speakers 18:08:54 5 later, we'll put a podium up here and speakers will be 18:09:05 6 able to, to relay their comments and concerns on the 18:09:09 7 issues. 18:09:13 8 If you do not want to do that, we also 18:09:14 9 have a format for you to put in written comments, and 18:09:17 10 that, that will also be transcribed into the Record. 18:09:19 11 And if you think about something on your way home 18:09:21 12 tonight, we're also taking written comments up to 30 18:09:25 13 days after the last public scoping meeting. 18:09:28 14 Basic, the ground rules: Pretty simple. 18:09:35 15 One speaker at a time. 18:09:39 16 We have set a three-minute time limit on 18:09:42 17 the comments basically because we want to give 18:09:44 18 everyone a chance to make comments. If your comments 18:09:46 19 last for longer than that, we'll ask you to either 18:09:51 20 write down what you didn't say and give it to us in 18:09:54 21 written form, or you may stay around and after the 18:09:58 22 speakers have, have finished, we will allow you to 18:10:03 23 come back up and finish what you want to say. 18:10:07 24 But in, in, in the interest of fairness, 18:10:11 25 we want everybody who, who wants to make a comment to 18:10:14</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 be allowed the opportunity to say. 18:10:18 2 Handouts and maps, I think you should 18:10:22 3 all have those. We'll also be talking from the map 18:10:24 4 as, as required. 18:10:30 5 The first thing I'd like to cover is the 18:10:34 6 purpose and need for the NTC land expansion. This is 18:10:36 7 the Army's rationale for why we are proposing to 18:10:42 8 expand Fort Irwin. 18:10:46 9 It starts really with the NTC's mission. 18:10:49 10 Of course, we were obligated to put this into 18:10:55 11 Army-speak, so let me decipher it a little bit for 18:10:58 12 you. 18:11:02 13 Fort Irwin, since 1982, when it became 18:11:03 14 the National Training Center, has really only had one 18:11:07 15 mission, and that is to train battalion Task Forces -- 18:11:09 16 That's a unit of about 800 soldiers. -- and since 18:11:14 17 1986, brigades -- That's a unit of about 5,000 18:11:18 18 soldiers. -- to be able to train that unit to prepare 18:11:25 19 it for combat. 18:11:29 20 We copied a program that the Navy and 18:11:30 21 the Air Force used. The Navy calls it "Top Gun." The 18:11:33 22 Air Force calls it "Red Flag." 18:11:38 23 It basically says if you can train a 18:11:42 24 Unit and give it as close to a near combat experience 18:11:44 25 as possible, that Unit will perform better if it 18:11:50</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 Highly capable and viable threat: I've 18:13:22 2 lost my football analogy about who you want to 18:13:26 3 practice against. Rams lost on Monday, so I will just 18:13:30 4 tell you that we want the Units to train against the 18:13:34 5 toughest entity possible, a perfect enemy, so that, so 18:13:38 6 that the Units understand how good they have to be and 18:13:43 7 how good the enemy is if, if they're going to defeat 18:13:47 8 that enemy. 18:13:51 9 So we have 2,500 soldiers, the Eleventh 18:13:53 10 Armored Cavalry Regiment that are stationed at Fort 18:13:57 11 Irwin. They're the home team and they have the 18:14:02 12 advantages of, of knowing the terrain and being very 18:14:04 13 practiced. And they are that tough enemy that the 18:14:07 14 Unit trains against. 18:14:11 15 Finally, infrastructure: The size of 18:14:13 16 the training area is conducive to putting a Unit out 18:14:17 17 on the exact ground, exact size of the ground that we 18:14:22 18 want them to fight. 18:14:26 19 We also have a very complex 18:14:28 20 instrumentation system. We track vehicles that, keep 18:14:30 21 their location 24 hours a day. 18:14:35 22 We monitor radio conversations. We take 18:14:39 23 pictures of what's going on, all of this replayed back 18:14:42 24 to the Unit to help them learn and help them to get 18:14:44 25 better. 18:14:48</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 actually has to go into combat. That is the basis for 18:11:53 2 everything that is done in training at the National 18:11:58 3 Training Center, to train those battalion- and 18:12:00 4 brigade-sized units under the most rigorous conditions 18:12:02 5 possible to prepare them should they have to go to 18:12:07 6 combat. 18:12:09 7 The NTC does this in four, in, using 18:12:14 8 four basic building blocks. First thing is a 18:12:19 9 realistic battle field. 18:12:23 10 We attempt through laser engagement 18:12:26 11 systems, live fire, actual use of the ground, the 18:12:28 12 scenario that they train under to make training as 18:12:34 13 hard as possible on the Unit. When a Unit is in 18:12:36 14 training it's a 24-hour-a-day operation, day or night, 18:12:41 15 any kind of weather. 18:12:46 16 They don't stop. Most of them for the 18:12:48 17 14 days they're in the field don't take a bath, for 18:12:50 18 example, don't sleep more than three or four hours a 18:12:54 19 day, the goal being to give them the realistic stress 18:12:57 20 of combat. 18:13:00 21 Second piece, skilled observer 18:13:03 22 controllers. Seven hundred soldiers are stationed at 18:13:06 23 Fort Irwin and their sole mission is to be the teacher 18:13:11 24 and the trainer of those Units that come to Fort 18:13:14 25 Irwin. 18:13:14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 As I said, we've been doing this since 18:14:53 2 1982. Since then about 1.2 million soldiers have 18:14:55 3 trained at the National Training Center. 18:15:00 4 We train now what we call ten rotations 18:15:03 5 a year. A rotation is a training event that lasts 18:15:06 6 between 28 and 35 days and brings a Unit from 18:15:10 7 somewhere to train here at Fort Irwin. 18:15:16 8 For example, the unit here now is from 18:15:20 9 the First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. Seven 18:15:23 10 months ago we had an airborne brigade from Fort Bragg. 18:15:29 11 So they come across country here to train. 18:15:34 12 The proof of NTC's training was Desert 18:15:44 13 Storm, 1991. That Army was largely trained, and the 18:15:48 14 people who trained at NTC were spread around the Army 18:15:53 15 to teach the Army the lessons of how to, how to 18:15:58 16 succeed in combat. 18:16:02 17 The problem is, Desert Storm was ten 18:16:03 18 years ago. The world is not the same place; the Army 18:16:07 19 is not the same Army. 18:16:10 20 If Fort Irwin is going to continue to do 18:16:13 21 its mission of providing that, that first shock of 18:16:17 22 training, it has to change. What you see on this 18:16:22 23 chart is, is really the breadth of missions that our 18:16:25 24 Army must be able to accomplish, in many cases 18:16:31 25 simultaneously. 18:16:37</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 For example, you hear about 18:16:40 2 environmental operations. What's that? That's 18:16:41 3 hurricane relief; things like that. 18:16:44 4 Peace operations, that's something 18:16:47 5 that's going on in Bosnia, Cosavo. 18:16:50 6 Counterterrorism, don't need to 18:16:56 7 elaborate on it. Peace enforcement, the early parts 18:16:59 8 of the Bosnia operation when we were physically 18:17:04 9 separating combatants, that was a peace enforcement 18:17:09 10 mission. 18:17:13 11 Those are all technically peacetime 18:17:14 12 missions, but the Army has the wartime side, some of 18:17:17 13 which you see and have heard about going on now. This 18:17:20 14 is what the Rangers did outside of Kandahar; strikes, 18:17:24 15 basically what we see the Special Operations people 18:17:32 16 doing these days in Afghanistan. 18:17:38 17 At Fort Irwin we concentrate on the 18:17:41 18 higher levels of war up to limited conventional 18:17:46 19 conflict. That's as serious a conflict as you can get 18:17:49 20 without the use of nuclear weapons. 18:17:55 21 Our goal is to be able to, at, train, to 18:17:57 22 train that entire spectral of operations whenever 18:18:03 23 required for whatever forces the Army has. It is not, 18:18:06 24 Fort Irwin is not just a tank-training-in-the-desert 18:18:15 25 place. 18:18:18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 cheap. 18:19:49 2 They're easily available. We have to 18:19:50 3 figure out how to deal with forces that have those 18:19:51 4 kinds of weapons. 18:19:54 5 To do this the Army has embarked on a 18:19:58 6 program called "Army transformation." Started 18:20:01 7 actually in the early '90s, got formalized in 1999 18:20:06 8 with a process of, of taking heavy formations, 18:20:10 9 tank-type units, and converting some of them to what 18:20:15 10 we call "medium brigades." 18:20:19 11 If you're familiar with what's happening 18:20:23 12 at Fort Lewis, Washington, we've taken a tank brigade, 18:20:25 13 taken all of its tanks away, and given it advanced 18:20:30 14 intelligence capabilities, advantages reconnaissance 18:20:34 15 capabilities, and lighter weight vehicles. Instead of 18:20:38 16 a 70-ton Abrams tank, you've got a 25-ton light 18:20:42 17 armored vehicle. 18:20:47 18 The goal is to get, is to use these new, 18:20:48 19 new units, new tactics, new weapons to reconfigure, 18:20:52 20 recast the Army so that it is able to achieve these 18:20:59 21 kinds of effects. We want to be able to send a 18:21:05 22 Brigade anywhere in the world in four days. 18:21:09 23 We want to be able to send a Brigade, 18:21:13 24 5,000 people, probably 1,200 vehicles. We want to be 18:21:15 25 able to send a Division, about four times that large, 18:21:24</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 We train all different kinds of forces 18:18:20 2 and we train all different kinds of operations. And 18:18:22 3 that is the mission that we've been given by the Army: 18:18:24 4 To prepare, to prepare it for war. 18:18:27 5 As I said, the world's a different 18:18:33 6 place. You know, the, the world we see now is urban 18:18:36 7 areas that we have to worry about. 18:18:43 8 Great word, "asymmetrical operations." 18:18:46 9 That means the Army, that means your opponent does 18:18:50 10 something to you that you won't do to him. 18:18:54 11 It's, an example, chemical weapons. We 18:18:57 12 do not use chemical weapons, but we have to be 18:19:01 13 prepared and trained to deal with them. 18:19:05 14 Adaptive threats: That means our enemy 18:19:06 15 is looking at us and consist, and consciously trying 18:19:09 16 to figure out a way to limit and defeat our 18:19:14 17 capabilities. 18:19:17 18 A dispersed threat: Nobody's going to 18:19:21 19 mass in front of us and let us do a Desert Storm 18:19:27 20 operation on them anymore. We have to figure out what 18:19:30 21 they're going to do, how they're going to do it, and 18:19:33 22 how we are going to train soldiers to fight so that 18:19:37 23 they can overcome those kinds of threats. 18:19:40 24 Advanced technology: Stinger missiles 18:19:42 25 are relatively cheap. Antitank weapons are relatively 18:19:45</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 anywhere in the world about, in about ten days; five 18:21:28 2 Divisions in 30 days. 18:21:30 3 Why? Because we think given the proper 18:21:32 4 circumstances that is what we are going to need to 18:21:35 5 fulfill our security mission for the country. 18:21:39 6 If we are going to train an Army to do 18:21:44 7 that, Fort Irwin has to be able to change to do it. 18:21:46 8 That's why we've embarked on a program to change many 18:21:55 9 things at Fort Irwin so that we can keep the training 18:22:00 10 philosophy relevant and keep the Units prepared to 18:22:03 11 fight. 18:22:06 12 Our mission has always been to develop 18:22:07 13 leaders to think and react to new situations; to 18:22:08 14 provide soldiers and units with an operational 18:22:14 15 experience so that they understand how tough combat 18:22:18 16 is, and if they are good, that they can succeed. And 18:22:20 17 finally, have its effect on unit readiness. 18:22:26 18 Not very well-publicized is the fact 18:22:33 19 that a Brigade that was here several months ago has 18:22:36 20 been deployed to Kuwait. It is, it is in Kuwait right 18:22:39 21 now from the same unit that is training here, First 18:22:45 22 Cavalry Division. 18:22:49 23 It has been deployed to Kuwait for, for 18:22:50 24 whatever reason, but that Unit trained out here. 18:22:53 25 Talk, talk to you a little bit about the 18:23:00</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 Army and changing the Army. Let's now talk about land 18:23:03 2 expansion. 18:23:07 3 It is one of seven major modernization 18:23:08 4 programs that are un-, that are ongoing at the 18:23:12 5 National Training Center to make us able to do that 18:23:17 6 training mission. Other ones include things like 18:23:21 7 modernizing the aviation; building cities at Fort 18:23:26 8 Irwin so that we can train units in urban combat; 18:23:30 9 modernizing the instrumentation system so we can give 18:23:34 10 better feedback; modernizing the vehicles so that we 18:23:38 11 can expand the systems that have the capability. 18:23:43 12 The, expanding the training center is 18:23:46 13 one of those seven systems. But the key thing to 18:23:48 14 understand, and, and not many people do, is that Fort 18:23:52 15 Irwin is a one-of-a-kind installation. 18:23:55 16 It is the only place in the Free World 18:24:00 17 that trains a brigade-sized unit, about 5,000 18:24:03 18 soldiers, with all of their vehicles, with all of 18:24:08 19 their equipment, training with both, in what we call 18:24:10 20 force-on-force training, using laser-type weapons, 18:24:15 21 sort of a laser tag, a lot more sophisticated than 18:24:19 22 that, but a laser-tag-type of training, and also live 18:24:22 23 fire using all of their actual weapons. Can't do it 18:24:27 24 anywhere else. 18:24:30 25 Can't do it in Germany. Can't do it at 18:24:31</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 use live-fire training in many of the areas, but 18:26:02 2 because we also drive over them we do not fire 18:26:06 3 dudd-producing munitions in there. 18:26:10 4 Those are things like rockets out of 18:26:14 5 helicopters, certain types of artillery, most of the 18:26:16 6 types of the bombs that the Air Force drop. The only 18:26:22 7 place that we can train for the deployment of these 18:26:24 8 types of weapons is Leach Lake, so we use it a lot and 18:26:29 9 it has lots of plans for future use, but it does cut 18:26:34 10 down the area of, of land available to train. 18:26:38 11 On the other side, lots of things that 18:26:45 12 are, that are driving us towards expansion. Talked 18:26:48 13 about Army transformation and the operational 18:26:52 14 environment. That's what we, a fancy term for the 18:26:55 15 world today. 18:26:59 16 Equipment advances: Our equipment is 18:27:00 17 much more capable than it's ever been. That has 18:27:04 18 enabled us to cut the Army down from 780,000 during 18:27:10 19 Desert Storm to less than 480,000 now because we have 18:27:15 20 more capable weapons. 18:27:21 21 We are asking more of our units and 18:27:24 22 soldiers, so we want to give them a place to actually 18:27:27 23 ensure they know how to use all of those weapons 18:27:30 24 systems to their maximum effectiveness. 18:27:34 25 Reserve component training: We store 18:27:37</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 Fort Hood, Texas. 18:24:34 2 The only place where we do it is here, 18:24:37 3 ten rotations every year. Twenty-eight to 35 days are 18:24:40 4 spent doing that. 18:24:46 5 All of the energies of the 5,000 people 18:24:46 6 who live and work at Fort Irwin are devoted to 18:24:49 7 training that Brigade. Lots of forces, though, 18:24:53 8 decreasing the land that we have available. 18:25:01 9 Lots of environmental off-limits. For 18:25:05 10 example, all the dry lakes, all of the springs, 18:25:10 11 archeological sites, all of those have been placed 18:25:13 12 off-limits and we don't train on them. 18:25:17 13 We don't even come close to them. NASA, 18:25:19 14 NASA Goldstone Deep-Space Tracking Facility over here 18:25:22 15 performs a very valuable mission for the country and 18:25:29 16 the space program. 18:25:32 17 As far as Fort Irwin's concerned, it's a 18:25:33 18 black hole. We do not fly over it, we do not train in 18:25:36 19 it. 18:25:40 20 We only very seldom drive through it, 18:25:40 21 but it has affects on our training because of the 18:25:43 22 space mission. 18:25:49 23 The Leach Lake Training Range, that they 18:25:49 24 say this, this area in light blue is the only 18:25:54 25 permanently dudded area at Fort Irwin. Fort Irwin can 18:25:58</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 about half of the California National Guard's 18:27:40 2 equipment at Fort Irwin. The National Guard trains up 18:27:44 3 there on weekends and for two-week periods in the 18:27:48 4 summertime. 18:27:52 5 Finally, we need a place, we need places 18:27:53 6 to better improve our capability to take care of the 18:27:56 7 installation: Revegetate, erosion control, things 18:28:01 8 like that. We know we are never going to put back all 18:28:08 9 the Joshua trees at Fort Irwin, but what we can do is 18:28:10 10 take as good care as the land (sic) as possible. 18:28:16 11 And by allowing us -- One of the factors 18:28:21 12 that would help with land expansion is the ability for 18:28:24 13 us to work on land that doesn't need to be trained on. 18:28:28 14 Right now our available land is trained on during 18:28:32 15 every rotation. 18:28:36 16 This is the current maneuver space that 18:28:41 17 we, that we deal with. As you can see, it's, for 18:28:45 18 brigade maneuver, it limits us to essentially one 18:28:48 19 training corridor that's about 35 kilometers long, and 18:28:56 20 a portion of the southern corridor. 18:29:03 21 The areas that are hatched are not used 18:29:06 22 for whatever reason: Environmental concerns, people 18:29:08 23 live there, whatever. The proposal that we put 18:29:12 24 together earlier this year with the Department of the 18:29:19 25 Interior Bureau of Land Management is the one that you 18:29:25</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 see on this slide, and we use it basically for 18:29:27 2 illustrative purposes. 18:29:32 3 It is not the final. It is basically 18:29:35 4 the proposal that we, we and BLM agreed to. 18:29:37 5 It is also the proposal that is in our 18:29:43 6 legislation. As you can see, what it does is it 18:29:45 7 effectively adds 40 percent to the, to the available 18:29:49 8 maneuver space at Fort Irwin. 18:29:53 9 It allows us to use two cor-, two full 18:29:56 10 corridors. It allows us to stretch out unit 18:30:00 11 operations, which is what we're trying to do to make 18:30:05 12 Units learn how to use all of those new weapons and 18:30:08 13 new systems, and it will allow us to use all of those, 18:30:12 14 all of those corridors. 18:30:17 15 There's been a lot of discussion about 18:30:27 16 the Congressional action that, that took place on the 18:30:29 17 Bill with, about the Bill that was passed in December, 18:30:35 18 signed by the President in December, and what it did 18:30:38 19 for land expansion. I mean, talk through that 18:30:41 20 process. 18:30:44 21 Back in summer of 2000 the Department of 18:30:45 22 the Army and the Department of the Interior 18:30:50 23 essentially got marching orders to get the land 18:30:52 24 expansion proposal working, and they were told to come 18:30:58 25 up with a joint proposal for expanding the National 18:31:03</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 That is all of the studies and work that 18:32:54 2 have to be done so, so the land can be cleared for use 18:32:56 3 under NEPA, all of the, taking into account all of the 18:33:02 4 endangered species, all of the effects on all other 18:33:07 5 users, all of those kinds of things. 18:33:11 6 That all had to be done by December of 18:33:14 7 next year. Further specified that all NEPA actions 18:33:16 8 had to be completed in 30 months. 18:33:21 9 That means the EIS and all the public 18:33:23 10 hearings have to be final and a decision made, 18:33:26 11 whatever decision, whatever that decision might be. 18:33:30 12 That expansion plan and draft legislation was 18:33:36 13 completed. 18:33:39 14 Congress took it. It is currently in FY 18:33:41 15 2002 Defense Appropriations Bill. 18:33:45 16 Separate Bills have been passed by the 18:33:50 17 House and the Senate, and that Bill is currently in, 18:33:53 18 in the joint conference process trying to reconcile 18:33:56 19 the language between the two Bills. So it has not 18:33:59 20 been passed, and, and honestly we do not know what the 18:34:03 21 final status is going to be. 18:34:06 22 But that Bill still is not land 18:34:08 23 expansion. All it does is reserve a footprint of 18:34:11 24 land, the one that DA and DOI compromised on, and 18:34:19 25 reserves that land for future use pending NEPA 18:34:26</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 Training Center. 18:31:09 2 That proposal was the one that you saw 18:31:10 3 on the previous slide, and we'll show it again later. 18:31:14 4 That proposal was delivered to Congress and it was put 18:31:19 5 into an omnibus appropriations Bill that was signed on 18:31:24 6 the twenty-first of December, 2000. 18:31:32 7 What it required was DA and DOI to put 18:31:35 8 together an expanded plan to expand the National 18:31:39 9 Training Center; put together a Plan. It was not land 18:31:47 10 expansion. 18:31:50 11 It said, "Put together a Plan." It also 18:31:50 12 stipulate that that Plan had to agree that all of the 18:31:57 13 National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered 18:32:00 14 Species Act considerations had to be adhered to. 18:32:08 15 Nothing was waived in that process. It 18:32:11 16 also authorized but did not appropriate \$75 million to 18:32:13 17 pay for mitigation and compensation to endangered 18:32:18 18 species. 18:32:23 19 All of that, those actions would all 18:32:27 20 occur subsequent to this Bill 36. The Bill required 18:32:29 21 us to, to take essentially four months to formulate 18:32:33 22 the plan and draft legislation. 18:32:36 23 That was completed on the thirteenth of 18:32:40 24 July of this year. It also told us that we had 24 18:32:42 25 months to complete the Environmental Impact Statement. 18:32:49</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 actions, pending the approval of the EIS. 18:34:31 2 After that EIS gets approved, if it gets 18:34:35 3 approved, then there still has to be the entire 18:34:38 4 process of physically completing the mitigation, 18:34:41 5 completing the acquisition of the lands, preparing 18:34:45 6 them for training, and all of those kinds of things. 18:34:47 7 Just some things that are going on: In 18:34:56 8 1997 under a different set of alternatives the Army 18:35:01 9 started a Draft EIS. There were lots of public 18:35:07 10 hearings, and a document was, was physically produced. 18:35:11 11 That document is on our Web site if you 18:35:14 12 want to take a look at it. In order not to throw away 18:35:17 13 everything that was done, all of the studies and those 18:35:20 14 kind of things, about \$5 million-worth of effort, we 18:35:21 15 decided that the EIS for this land expansion would be 18:35:28 16 a supplemental, in other words, an add-on to the 1997 18:35:30 17 EIS. 18:35:35 18 Essentially we take what is good and 18:35:36 19 relevant and required from the 1997 version, add it 18:35:38 20 into the Supplemental, and republish it. That is the 18:35:44 21 process we are using. 18:35:49 22 The Army is now the lead agent for that 18:35:50 23 because it's our training area, and it was the BLM 18:35:55 24 before that. We understand there are threatened and 18:35:57 25 endangered species to be considered. 18:36:02</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 The desert tortoise and the Lane 18:36:05 2 Mountain milkvetch are Federally listed. The Mojave 18:36:10 3 ground squirrel is California listed. 18:36:15 4 We know we have to mitigate and account 18:36:18 5 for those species. There may be others. 18:36:20 6 Lots of studies and consultations have 18:36:24 7 to go on. You see some of these. 18:36:28 8 The air quality piece, basically: Were 18:36:32 9 we polluting the environment? Noise from jets, bombs, 18:36:35 10 things like that. 18:36:40 11 We know there are probably, there are at 18:36:43 12 least three Native American Tribes that we have to 18:36:45 13 consult with. There are also pre-Native American, 18:36:49 14 lots of cultural sites that we have to deal with. 18:36:54 15 Other pieces: Groundwater, real estate, 18:36:57 16 air space. We're going to fly over, so we have told 18:37:00 17 work on the air space people. 18:37:02 18 So there is a lot of things that will be 18:37:05 19 considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. 18:37:07 20 Other considerations: We know there are recreational 18:37:12 21 a off-road vehicle uses. Those have to be reconciled. 18:37:14 22 On the southeast corner of Fort Irwin, 18:37:19 23 about 25 miles of our southeastern boundary is four 18:37:23 24 towers wide power corridor. It also has two gas lines 18:37:31 25 in it. 18:37:36</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 can affect a land expansion, and that is our goal. 18:39:05 2 That's one of reasons we're having this meeting. 18:39:09 3 Timelines: We're doing lots of studies 18:39:11 4 and research right now. Sometime the 2000 prop-, 2002 18:39:17 5 Appropriation Bill is going to be passed. 18:39:28 6 Whether that section's in it or not, we 18:39:31 7 don't know. So, question mark. 18:39:34 8 Scoping meetings we're doing now, 18:39:36 9 hopefully. Hope to have them fully completed and all 18:39:38 10 of the inputs done by the end of January. 18:39:41 11 Draft Biological Assessment is being 18:39:44 12 done right now. That is the assessment of all the 18:39:47 13 biological facts and factors that are going on in the 18:39:51 14 expansion area and the areas contiguous to it. 18:39:54 15 That is going on right now. That, after 18:40:00 16 that Draft is completed, that will trigger under the 18:40:03 17 Endangered Species Act a Section 7 consultation which 18:40:08 18 basically decide in concert with the Fish and Wildlife 18:40:13 19 Service how to deal with threatened and endangered 18:40:17 20 species. 18:40:20 21 Per the legislation and our timeline, 18:40:22 22 the Supplemental Draft EIS should be published in 18:40:24 23 December of next year. That will then trigger a 18:40:30 24 process of the public hearings much like this scoping 18:40:34 25 session where we will go to many communities, give 18:40:39</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 We have to be able to ensure that it is 18:37:37 2 safe to train close to it, and that it is, and that we 18:37:40 3 are not going to do any possible damage to the 30 18:37:43 4 percent of the power of Los Angeles that flows through 18:37:46 5 those lines. 18:37:50 6 Mining interests, we know there are, 18:37:51 7 there is one commercial mine and many claims out in 18:37:55 8 the area. We have to account for those. 18:37:58 9 Private land, there is about 12,000 18:38:03 10 acres of privately owned land that also has to be 18:38:07 11 dealt with. So we are going through all the 18:38:11 12 procedures to identify it, estimate its value, all of 18:38:13 13 those kinds of things. 18:38:17 14 We don't do this by ourselves. 18:38:19 15 Cooperating agencies are ones that have a vital stake 18:38:21 16 in what's going on, and these are federal or state 18:38:25 17 agencies, and these are the ones that we are using for 18:38:29 18 cooperating agencies. 18:38:33 19 Now, we have a lot of other interested 18:38:37 20 parties. You all are by definition interested 18:38:38 21 parties, so I, make sure you sign up on our list. 18:38:42 22 But we are also dealing with the City of 18:38:45 23 Barstow, the City of Baker, all kinds of places to 18:38:49 24 make sure, excuse me, our goal is to do a complete 18:38:53 25 job. We know we have to account for everything that 18:39:01</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 notice, published, publish the EIS, and people will be 18:40:45 2 allowed to read it and then come back to us and make 18:40:50 3 comments on the adequacy of the EIS. 18:40:53 4 We hope those hearings and the EIS will 18:40:57 5 be complete in June. A Record of Decision is then 18:41:00 6 filled out, which basically decides what, what we are 18:41:05 7 going to do about land expansion. 18:41:10 8 After that, assuming it's, it's positive 18:41:14 9 and the land expansion in some force, form comes, we 18:41:18 10 will have time to complete mitigation, land 18:41:24 11 acquisition, preparation of the training area, and 18:41:27 12 begin training. Our hope is sometime in 2004 to begin 18:41:30 13 training out there if everything goes according to 18:41:37 14 this schedule. 18:41:41 15 Shift gears a little bit and talk about 18:41:46 16 the proposed alternatives. We have six proposed 18:41:48 17 alternatives that we are looking at. 18:41:54 18 Any one of them could be the selected 18:41:58 19 alternative. This is the basic study area that we are 18:42:01 20 looking at. 18:42:10 21 This is not an expansion proposal. This 18:42:10 22 is all of the land that is contained in all of the six 18:42:15 23 proposals. 18:42:20 24 Each of the six that we are using is a 18:42:25 25 subset of this area, about, almost 250,000 acres. 18:42:28</p>

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1 Alternative 1 is the one we call "East-West." 18:42:37
 2 It is the alternative that was developed 18:42:42
 3 by the Department of the Army and Department of the 18:42:45
 4 Interior. It is the one that is in the expansion 18:42:47
 5 legislation. 18:42:50
 6 It consists of about 44,000 acres on the 18:42:53
 7 eastern side of the Reservation. It ends about five 18:42:58
 8 kilometers, three or four miles from Highway 127. 18:43:04
 9 Does not cross Highway 127. It 18:43:09
 10 straightens out the boundary along the power corridor. 18:43:15
 11 There's always been confusion about 18:43:19
 12 whether you're in Fort Irwin or out of Fort Irwin, so 18:43:21
 13 we are putting a corridor down so there will be no, 18:43:25
 14 there will be no doubt exactly where you are. This 18:43:30
 15 area down here belongs to Fort Irwin. 18:43:35
 16 It's about 22,000 acres. It, it is 18:43:38
 17 currently set aside as, as tortoise critical habitat. 18:43:42
 18 We want to reopen it to training and use 18:43:50
 19 it to expand the southern corridor. The area in the 18:43:53
 20 west is about 66,000 acres, and what it does is give a 18:43:57
 21 western boundary to the training. 18:44:05
 22 Currently we can't train past this area 18:44:10
 23 because of the, the narrowness of the corridor for a 18:44:14
 24 brigade. Taking this area back allows us to have 18:44:17
 25 training out in the west, either as an objective to 18:44:21

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1 attack into, or a support area to support operations 18:44:26
 2 out of. 18:44:31
 3 The second alternative is the one that 18:44:37
 4 was proposed by the Bureau of Land Management in 1997. 18:44:40
 5 Again about 40-plus-thousand acres here, straightening 18:44:46
 6 the boundary upon the, on the eastern, southeastern 18:44:52
 7 side of the Reservation, and then an area in the 18:44:57
 8 Coyote Basin south of the Reservation. 18:45:02
 9 Alternative 3 is about 44,000 acres. 18:45:11
 10 What this alternative is is an area of the expansion 18:45:17
 11 that has no critical habitat in it, so it encompasses 18:45:23
 12 only the area along the power lines and the area on 18:45:29
 13 the eastern side of the Reservation because there are 18:45:33
 14 no threatened or endangered species there. 18:45:37
 15 Alternative 4 is what the Army proposed 18:45:43
 16 after BLM's 1997 proposal. The Army essentially said, 18:45:49
 17 "We can't use the area in Coyote Basin, but we would 18:45:57
 18 like to go south of the Paradise Mountains and then 18:46:00
 19 into the Superior Valley." 18:46:04
 20 This was the basis of the, of, of 18:46:08
 21 Alternative 1, which was the DA/DOI proposal which 18:46:14
 22 essentially cut off about 44,000 acres at, in the 18:46:18
 23 south, you know, and the Army gave up the requirement 18:46:23
 24 to try and use those acres. 18:46:29
 25 Alternative 5, the final one, about 18:46:34

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1 64,000 acres. What it uses is all of the Army land 18:46:37
 2 that is down here, the area along, it straightens the 18:46:43
 3 boundary along the power line, and it uses the 18:46:52
 4 Eastgate area. 18:46:55
 5 So what this alternative does is, is not 18:46:59
 6 take any critical habitat that is not currently owned 18:47:02
 7 by the Army. The new land, the new land acquired in 18:47:05
 8 this is actually not 64,000 acres. 18:47:11
 9 It's 64,000 minus the 22,000 down here, 18:47:14
 10 so it is actually acquiring about 40-, 42-, 44,000 18:47:19
 11 acres. 18:47:26
 12 Give you some points of contact and some 18:47:30
 13 places to go for information. We have a Web site, 18:47:33
 14 FortIrwinlandexpansion.com. 18:47:41
 15 All you have to be able to do is spell 18:47:44
 16 all those words and, and it works. If you want to 18:47:46
 17 make comments to us via e-mail this gets right into 18:47:49
 18 our office. 18:47:52
 19 If you want to call us, that's our Fort 18:47:53
 20 Irwin number. And we are there every day, happy to 18:47:55
 21 answer questions, direct you where you need to go, 18:48:00
 22 anything that, anything that we can do. 18:48:03
 23 What I'd like to do is take about ten 18:48:09
 24 minutes and answer any questions for anything that I 18:48:11
 25 have not covered that you'd like more, more detail on, 18:48:16

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1 and then we will start into the public com-, we'll 18:48:21
 2 take a short break, reconfigure the room, and then go 18:48:25
 3 into the public-comment period. 18:48:29
 4 Sir. 18:48:31
 5 A SPECTATOR: Would you please put that 18:48:32
 6 last screen back up? Thanks. 18:48:33
 7 MR. REISCHL: That's also in that, all 18:48:40
 8 that information is also in that tri-fold brochure. 18:48:42
 9 Questions. 18:48:48
 10 Sir? 18:48:49
 11 A SPECTATOR: You've mentioned other 18:48:51
 12 scoping meetings. Where will those be held? 18:48:51
 13 MR. REISCHL: We, we have not decided 18:48:56
 14 yet. Tech-, technically this scoping meeting, because 18:48:57
 15 of all the ones that were done in the Draft EIS, 18:49:01
 16 technically this is the only one that is required. 18:49:07
 17 We have had some indications that other 18:49:10
 18 people want some. We're honestly using the feedback 18:49:12
 19 that we're getting from here as a, as a way to do 18:49:17
 20 that. 18:49:19
 21 If we decide to have them, we are 18:49:20
 22 required to give 30 days' notice, a location, and 18:49:23
 23 advertise. So those, that will all be taken care of. 18:49:27
 24 It's not like it will happen tomorrow 18:49:31
 25 someplace that nobody knows about. There has to be 30 18:49:34

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 days' notice before we do that. 18:49:37 2 But at, at this point in time it hasn't 18:49:39 3 been decided whether to have them or not. We want to 18:49:42 4 review what we get tonight, make sure that we've 18:49:44 5 covered the people that we need to get comments from, 18:49:49 6 and make sure all that's done. 18:49:53 7 Okay? 18:49:58 8 A SPECTATOR: Okay. Well, I, the reason 18:50:01 9 I ask is I just drove over from Ridgecrest, and in 18:50:01 10 reviewing the documents I read so far, the mitigation 18:50:05 11 for this expansion could reach communities quite a 18:50:08 12 distance away, when you talk about in some of the 18:50:13 13 proposals that have been made and, and are potentially 18:50:16 14 within the realm of this plan. I would think that 18:50:19 15 some of your areas should be included in, in future 18:50:22 16 scoping meetings. 18:50:24 17 MR. REISCHL: Fair comment. Okay. I 18:50:29 18 guess the que-, you know, and, and you understand that 18:50:36 19 what we're trying to do is frame issues. 18:50:40 20 We don't know what the mitigation is 18:50:43 21 going to be. That hasn't been determined, or if there 18:50:45 22 is going to be any. 18:50:50 23 A SPECTATOR: That's true, but, but what 18:50:52 24 has been suggested, or, or at least suggested so far 18:50:54 25 is pretty widespread across the Mojave Desert. 18:50:58</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 you would like, rather, rather than me trying to 18:52:22 2 answer a question that's sort of asked and not asked. 18:52:25 3 What I would like to say is during the 18:52:28 4 comment period that ought to be one of your comments: 18:52:30 5 "I think you haven't had enough scoping meetings and 18:52:36 6 it, and for this reason." 18:52:38 7 And that, that, that really makes it, 18:52:41 8 you know, kind of formalizes this, rather than just a 18:52:43 9 question, okay? 18:52:44 10 Other questions? Yes, Ma'am. 18:52:51 11 A SPECTATOR: When are detailed maps of 18:52:54 12 those alternatives going to be available? These 18:52:57 13 aren't very detailed. 18:52:59 14 MR. REISCHL: We have the, we have the 18:53:03 15 legislation, or excuse me, the land description. We 18:53:05 16 just received the final one from the Corps of 18:53:10 17 Engineers which has the, the so-called meets and 18:53:13 18 bounds descriptions, all the Township and Range 18:53:18 19 descriptions. 18:53:21 20 We'll have that on the Web site probably 18:53:22 21 within the next week, and that has exactly the, the 18:53:25 22 real estate description on the, the land that is going 18:53:29 23 into the, the, that, the land that is in the Bill, 18:53:37 24 although that land isn't necessarily the final land 18:53:40 25 for expansion. But hopefully by the end of next week 18:53:43</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 MR. REISCHL: What has been proposed? 18:51:02 2 A SPECTATOR: For example, for 18:51:05 3 headstarting areas for tortoise and other areas that 18:51:06 4 -- 18:51:11 5 MR. REISCHL: Okay, separate out the 18:51:11 6 West Mojave Plan from the Fort Irwin Land Expansion, 18:51:12 7 because they are, they are not the same. 18:51:16 8 A SPECTATOR: But them are closely tied 18:51:18 9 together. 18:51:19 10 MR. REISCHL: Tied, but the tie is that 18:51:22 11 the West Mojave Plan has to account for the Fort Irwin 18:51:23 12 land expansion in some form, but the mitigation for 18:51:29 13 measures that are done in the West Mojave Plan are not 18:51:33 14 a result of the Fort Irwin land expansion. That is 18:51:37 15 covered in the mitigation and compensation issues that 18:51:41 16 will be covered in the Draft EIS. 18:51:48 17 A SPECTATOR: But if you apply some of 18:51:52 18 the mitigation that was recommended in the so-called 18:51:52 19 experts' report prior to this HR-5666, which I think 18:51:56 20 was feasible since it was, since it was provided by 18:52:02 21 the scientific community, that would, in fact, 18:52:06 22 potentially affect a wide area of the desert. 18:52:08 23 MR. REISCHL: Okay, so your -- Okay. 18:52:12 24 And you're going to -- What I would ask you to do is, 18:52:15 25 is comment on what specifically that you would, that 18:52:19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 it will be on the Web site. 18:53:50 2 If you want to call, we can probably 18:53:51 3 send you a copy of the legal description. 18:53:53 4 A SPECTATOR: Yeah, a legal 18:53:59 5 description's very hard for most people to read, even 18:54:01 6 myself as a surveyor. A graphic drawing, legal 18:54:04 7 description, you know, Township, Range, Section, a 18:54:09 8 graphic drawing with the different alternatives and in 18:54:13 9 detail, not -- These aren't, these aren't enough 18:54:16 10 detail to give you much information, -- 18:54:20 11 MR. REISCHL: We can -- 18:54:23 12 A SPECTATOR: -- okay? 18:54:25 13 You need something larger with more 18:54:25 14 landmarks and stuff. Even when you're talking about 18:54:27 15 the power corridor on there, the power corridor 18:54:30 16 doesn't show up on either your slides or on these. 18:54:33 17 You see what, you see what I mean? 18:54:37 18 MR. REISCHL: Understand. 18:54:41 19 A SPECTATOR: Yeah. 18:54:43 20 MR. REISCHL: And the legal descriptions 18:54:44 21 says a hundred feet west of the westernmost utilities 18:54:45 22 in the corridor, and that's what the boundary is. So 18:54:49 23 I'm not sure that's going to help you much either, 18:54:53 24 but, so I got it. 18:54:57 25 You need a better legal description. I 18:54:57</p>

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1 understand. 18:55:00
 2 A SPECTATOR: No, better maps of the 18:55:00
 3 legal description. 18:55:03
 4 MR. REISCHL: Understand. Understand. 18:55:04
 5 And we'll have to figure, we'll have to figure out how 18:55:05
 6 to do that, because you can take the Township and 18:55:09
 7 Range descriptions and put them on a 18:55:12
 8 seven-and-a-half-minute quad and, -- 18:55:14
 9 A SPECTATOR: I realize that. 18:55:17
 10 MR. REISCHL: -- and do that. But I got 18:55:19
 11 you. 18:55:21
 12 A SPECTATOR: I realize that. That's a 18:55:23
 13 lot of work. 18:55:25
 14 MR. REISCHL: Got, got, got it. 18:55:27
 15 Other questions? 18:55:28
 16 Sir. 18:55:30
 17 A SPECTATOR: Couple of things. First 18:55:32
 18 of all I'd like to agree with Ron Schiller that more 18:55:33
 19 meetings are definitely in order on the scoping end of 18:55:36
 20 things, as, and I even noticed on the slide it said 18:55:39
 21 "scoping meetings" with an S, but yet so far only one 18:55:45
 22 is proposed. And at the very least I think Ridgecrest 18:55:51
 23 is a good idea, and Baker, and two meetings, one being 18:55:54
 24 in Los Angeles area and San Diego to encompass the 18:55:58
 25 vast population of San Diego. 18:56:04

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1 Certainly I would think to comply with 18:56:07
 2 the various requirements of NEPA those things have to 18:56:12
 3 happen. So please consider that. 18:56:16
 4 The other question I have is that during 18:56:18
 5 the presentation I notice that alternatives were 18:56:19
 6 presented, six alternatives, and if this process is 18:56:22
 7 currently in scoping, shouldn't the Army be developing 18:56:26
 8 alternatives, not presenting alternatives? And that's 18:56:32
 9 my question. 18:56:35
 10 Where, where do you really see that? Is 18:56:37
 11 there opportunity to develop additional alternatives 18:56:41
 12 beyond the six that are being presented? 18:56:44
 13 MR. REISCHL: That is the purpose of 18:56:47
 14 this meeting. Those are the proposed alternatives 18:56:49
 15 that the Army developed, and if somebody wants to say, 18:56:51
 16 "Why didn't you consider, or why don't you consider," 18:56:56
 17 we think these cover the requirements for the Army and 18:57:00
 18 for NEPA. 18:57:04
 19 If -- And we've considered dozens, lots. 18:57:08
 20 There are some in the, the "Not further considered." 18:57:13
 21 Some we didn't, some we didn't bother with, but we are 18:57:17
 22 taking comments on: Why don't you consider? 18:57:22
 23 And, of course, we will consider that. 18:57:26
 24 But quite honestly I'm not sure what other ones people 18:57:29
 25 would come up with that they want us to consider. 18:57:34

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1 That's why we're having this meeting. 18:57:35
 2 So if you, and if you've got some, love to hear them. 18:57:40
 3 A SPECTATOR: Okay. Yeah, we do. I 18:57:44
 4 just wanted to make sure we weren't already locked 18:57:44
 5 into alternatives at the scoping phase. 18:57:49
 6 MR. REISCHL: No, we are not. We're 18:57:50
 7 just presenting you proposed alternatives and we are 18:57:52
 8 waiting for other ones. 18:57:55
 9 We've, we have a bunch that were in the, 18:57:57
 10 that were in the '97 EIS that are in the "No Longer 18:58:00
 11 Considered" category. 18:58:04
 12 Some of you may remember the one that 18:58:05
 13 went all the way out here to close to Dumont Dunes. 18:58:08
 14 That is in the "No Longer Considered" category. 18:58:12
 15 But we'll, we certainly would like input 18:58:16
 16 on other issues and other possible alternatives. 18:58:19
 17 A SPECTATOR: One, one last point. In 18:58:25
 18 addition to the cities I mentioned, I'd also like to 18:58:26
 19 mention Las Vegas as a needed location. 18:58:29
 20 I just noticed conservation colleague of 18:58:32
 21 mine walked in from Las Vegas and I'm sure he would 18:58:35
 22 have loved to have had a meeting in his hometown. 18:58:39
 23 MR. REISCHL: Okay. I'll tell you, 18:58:42
 24 there's not a requirement to do it all, but we'll, 18:58:43
 25 honestly we have to go look, have to go look at this. 18:58:46

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1 We have from past scoping meetings over 18:58:49
 2 1,000 comments, scoping comments already, and I'm not 18:58:52
 3 sure, given that it's input on issues and 18:58:56
 4 alternatives, we're not sure how, how far we need to 18:59:01
 5 go. And that's, that's what we're going to have to 18:59:08
 6 determine. 18:59:10
 7 Other questions? 18:59:13
 8 A SPECTATOR: I actually have a couple 18:59:17
 9 more. If I understood you correctly, the current 18:59:17
 10 legislation, or at least what we think is going to be 18:59:22
 11 the current legislation being considered is still 18:59:25
 12 flexible on the boundary, or is that inflexible? 18:59:29
 13 Will that boundary, once it passes 18:59:33
 14 Congress, will that boundary be set, or will there be 18:59:36
 15 some flexibility yet? 18:59:39
 16 MR. REISCHL: Well, the boundary will be 18:59:41
 17 set, yes. 18:59:43
 18 A SPECTATOR: Okay, but -- 18:59:45
 19 MR. REISCHL: But that doesn't mean 18:59:45
 20 that's the area that will be used. Now, obviously it 18:59:47
 21 could be some subset of that, a lesser amount, lesser 18:59:50
 22 area included within that area, but if it's a 18:59:53
 23 substantially different area based on something else, 18:59:56
 24 it has to go back to Congress. 18:59:59
 25 The Act says to withdraw more than 5,000 19:00:03

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 acres of public land for military use requires an Act 19:00:07 2 of Congress. So if the answer is something different 19:00:12 3 than what's in the legislation, outside of those 19:00:17 4 boundaries, it will have to be reconsidered by 19:00:24 5 Congress. 19:00:29 6 A SPECTATOR: Which is related to my 19:00:31 7 other question. Why is this a Supplemental Draft 19:00:32 8 Environmental Impact Statement rather than a 19:00:35 9 Legislative Draft Environmental Impact Statement? 19:00:35 10 MR. REISCHL: We did not feel a 19:00:39 11 Legislative EIS was in the best interest of the 19:00:42 12 environmental process. Sometimes they are not done 19:00:45 13 with as much rigor, and we did not want, and we were 19:00:47 14 told, honestly, that, "You will do a full EIS," so 19:00:51 15 that's what we're doing. 19:00:56 16 A SPECTATOR: Thank you. 19:00:59 17 A SPECTATOR: I, I don't know if you've 19:01:01 18 answered this or not, but I did get here late. I'm 19:01:03 19 curious about a timeline of when things might be 19:01:06 20 closed. 19:01:11 21 If, if Congress passes a Bill fairly 19:01:13 22 soon, are you expecting that the public then would be 19:01:15 23 told, "Well, you can't use these lands," right away? 19:01:21 24 What's a, what's the timeline of that process? 19:01:28 25 Because you can't use it for training 19:01:30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 Sir. 19:02:45 2 A SPECTATOR: Are these rank ordered, 19:02:46 3 Alternative 1, 2, 3, through, through 5? Are they in 19:02:50 4 order of preference, or they, of the Army? 19:02:53 5 MR. REISCHL: There has been no 19:02:57 6 preference established. They're equally weighted. 19:02:59 7 A SPECTATOR: All equally weighted. 19:03:03 8 MR. REISCHL: No, we have established no 19:03:06 9 preference, and we're going to weigh them all equally. 19:03:08 10 A SPECTATOR: Didn't you just say the 19:03:14 11 Army prepared Alternative Number 4? 19:03:16 12 MR. REISCHL: They proposed it. 19:03:21 13 A SPECTATOR: Oh, they proposed it. I 19:03:23 14 see. 19:03:24 15 MR. REISCHL: But there's a lot of 19:03:25 16 issues involved in that, in that particular area. The 19:03:26 17 one that, the one that DA and DOI compromised on, that 19:03:29 18 description went into the legislation is Alternative 19:03:32 19 1, but some, you know, at one time -- 19:03:36 20 I'll tell you that before all this goes, 19:03:40 21 that was the Army preferred option, but it's, you 19:03:44 22 know, technically no longer because it, it is now one 19:03:48 23 of six alternatives. 19:03:52 24 A SPECTATOR: I, I, watching the slide 19:03:56 25 program I clearly thought that 1 was the preferred 19:03:59</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 until this process is done; right? 19:01:31 2 MR. REISCHL: And we aren't even allowed 19:01:35 3 to buy the land until after the NEPA process is 19:01:37 4 complete. So that land will, will belong to its 19:01:40 5 current owners, BLM or private, until after that 19:01:44 6 happens, and that's sometime after July of '03 at the 19:01:47 7 earliest. 19:01:53 8 A SPECTATOR: So there would be no, no 19:01:55 9 change in current public use of the land prior to 19:01:56 10 1903, or 2003? 19:02:02 11 MR. REISCHL: As far as the Army is 19:02:06 12 concerned, no. 19:02:08 13 A SPECTATOR: Uh-huh. 19:02:09 14 MR. REISCHL: But we do not own that 19:02:10 15 land. But we will not be training on it. 19:02:12 16 We obviously will have people go out to 19:02:14 17 do studies and things like that, but we have to 19:02:17 18 coordinate with the owner of the land to do that, BLM 19:02:19 19 or who else, whoever. But the Army is not going to 19:02:22 20 say, "You can't use this land because we may get it 19:02:26 21 later." 19:02:29 22 It doesn't work that way. BLM or the, 19:02:29 23 BLM or the private owner would determine what was the 19:02:33 24 use of that land until, until after the EIS was 19:02:35 25 complete. 19:02:43</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 option and that -- 19:04:01 2 MR. REISCHL: No, it is only 19:04:04 3 proposed. By law we cannot declare the preferred 19:04:05 4 option until we've done all the analysis. 19:04:11 5 We don't know enough to say, "This is 19:04:14 6 preferred." We have to look at endangered species, 19:04:16 7 you know, all those kinds of things, and, and figure 19:04:20 8 out what is the preferred alternative based on -- 19:04:22 9 You know, we may I say 1 is a preferred 19:04:27 10 alternative but it may have something that causes, it 19:04:30 11 may have the only White Mountain leopard in captivity, 19:04:34 12 or alive in it and we can't have it. So what we 19:04:40 13 prefer really doesn't make any difference because it 19:04:43 14 has to go through the NEPA process. 19:04:47 15 A SPECTATOR: Is it known which one has 19:04:49 16 the greatest environmental difficulties and -- 19:04:50 17 MR. REISCHL: Is it known now? 19:04:55 18 A SPECTATOR: Yes. 19:04:57 19 MR. REISCHL: No. No, we are doing the 19:04:58 20 biological assessment right now. 19:05:00 21 We hope we're aware of, of most of the 19:05:03 22 environmental problems, or, you know, in getting the 19:05:05 23 endangered species issues, but in terms of which is 19:05:07 24 the best, it's still to be determined. 19:05:11 25 A SPECTATOR: Could that stop, stop an 19:05:13</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 area because there was a Lane Mountain milkvetch or -- 19:05:15 2 MR. REISCHL: The law, the law says we 19:05:20 3 must, we must comply with all NEPA requirements. So 19:05:23 4 if we don't, at this point in time that would, that 19:05:26 5 would cause issue with, with the land. 19:05:32 6 Yes, ma'am. Let's take one, one more. 19:05:42 7 A SPECTATOR: I have a question then 19:05:45 8 with regards to the Draft Biological Assessment that 19:05:46 9 you're currently writing. What's being evaluated in 19:05:49 10 that then: All of the alternatives that you've 19:05:52 11 presented here tonight? 19:05:55 12 MR. REISCHL: Yes, and areas outside, 19:05:58 13 contiguous areas that may affect the, you know, that, 19:06:00 14 that may affect the study area. 19:06:06 15 MR. ETHRIDGE: The, the owns were 19:06:13 16 covered in previous presentations, so we'll be 19:06:15 17 focusing on the new alternative. 19:06:18 18 A SPECTATOR: And which one is that? 19:06:21 19 MR. REISCHL: I'm sorry? 19:06:23 20 A SPECTATOR: Which one is that, Number 19:06:26 21 1? 19:06:27 22 MR. REISCHL: Number 1. But we, we are 19:06:29 23 and have covered the entire study area, as we're 19:06:32 24 required to do. 19:06:34 25 Yes, sir. 19:06:36</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 about five minutes and we will, we agreed to 19:08:01 2 reconfigure the room. 19:08:06 3 If you, if you want to make a statement, 19:08:09 4 please fill out one of the pink "Speaker" cards, and 19:08:10 5 if you have something that, have a long drive and you 19:08:13 6 need to speak early, please indicate that to somebody 19:08:17 7 and we'll try and get you up quickly. Thank you. 19:08:21 8 (Whereupon, those present took a brief 19:08:21 9 recess and returned, after which the following 19:08:21 10 occurred:) 19:22:28 11 MS. WERTENBERGER: Number one is the 19:22:28 12 question, question on a willing-seller clause. There 19:22:29 13 is no willing-seller clause. 19:22:32 14 What the land expansion does is withdraw 19:22:34 15 the government land, and then there will be a separate 19:22:38 16 action to acquire the private land, a process called 19:22:43 17 "condemnation." 19:22:46 18 A SPECTATOR: Imminent domain. Three 19:22:48 19 on our four. 19:22:51 20 MR. REISCHL: Basically understand 19:22:54 21 imminent domain. Second question is, let me clarify 19:22:54 22 what are the uses of the land after the withdrawal has 19:22:59 23 been passed, if it's passed, and before the NEPA 19:23:02 24 process has been completed? 19:23:05 25 Only limitations on the land were you 19:23:09</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p> <p>1 A SPECTATOR: If, if you ought to reduce 19:06:38 2 part of the, let's say the southwest expansion area by 19:06:41 3 taking out the southern part of Superior Valley, which 19:06:45 4 I think has more desert tortoises than the north, can 19:06:49 5 that still be done? Can, can you chop out a part of 19:06:53 6 the alternative that includes that section? 19:06:57 7 MR. REISCHL: Yes. 19:07:01 8 A SPECTATOR: At the same time, you can 19:07:05 9 add, I guess, add another area, too. 19:07:06 10 MR. REISCHL: We can't -- If it's, if it 19:07:08 11 is not in the legislation that is in Congress, we 19:07:11 12 cannot add it. It would have to go, another Bill 19:07:14 13 would have to be written, and it would have to go 19:07:17 14 through the withdrawal process with Congress again. 19:07:19 15 Let me take one more question, because I 19:07:32 16 think we want to get one more question started with 19:07:33 17 letting some other people speak. Sir. 19:07:38 18 A SPECTATOR: One quick question. I 19:07:41 19 assume in the acquisition of private property there's 19:07:42 20 no willing-seller clause in this. 19:07:46 21 MR. REISCHL: I can, I need to get my 19:07:50 22 lawyer to ask. I can't -- I don't believe so, but I 19:07:52 23 have a lady you can ask who can tell you for sure. 19:07:54 24 A SPECTATOR: Thank you. 19:07:59 25 MR. REISCHL: Okay. I'd like to take 19:08:00</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>1 cannot fire, file Mineral Claims on the withdrawn 19:23:10 2 government land. Private land is private land, and 19:23:17 3 it's disposed of as, as the owner wishes, okay? 19:23:20 4 MS. WERTENBERGER: Tim, just one 19:23:29 5 clarification. We don't automatically take the land 19:23:31 6 by condemnation. 19:23:35 7 We ask for willing sellers first, and 19:23:36 8 negotiate fair-market value. And then if we're 19:23:38 9 unwilling to come to a resolution on a sale price, 19:23:41 10 then the Government would have the option to file 19:23:44 11 condemnation action. 19:23:46 12 MR. REISCHL: Where was she when the 19:23:50 13 question was asked? 19:23:51 14 MS. WERTENBERGER: I was in the hall. 19:23:52 15 I'm sorry. 19:23:53 16 PUBLIC COMMENTS: 19:23:53 17 MR. REISCHL: Okay, Mr. Ray Marler is 19:23:55 18 going to call people. A reminder, three minutes. 19:23:57 19 Give everybody a chance to speak. If 19:24:01 20 you don't finish, a written comment, or you can wait 19:24:04 21 and we will take whatever time's required to hear 19:24:06 22 everybody out. 19:24:10 23 MR. MARLER: Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, 19:24:13 24 thank you. Welcome to the public-comment portion of 19:24:15 25 this scoping meeting. 19:24:18</p>

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1 Mr. Ira Gwin. 19:24:20
 2 MR. GWIN: Thank you very much. Ira 19:24:26
 3 Gwin. I live in Barstow. 19:24:31
 4 You said that this is about issues and 19:24:33
 5 alternatives. One alternative that wasn't mentioned 19:24:35
 6 was no action at all. 19:24:41
 7 When I used the DEIRs, that was one of 19:24:42
 8 the things that was, always had to be put in. It was 19:24:46
 9 never taken very seriously, but I think maybe it ought 19:24:50
 10 to be taken seriously. 19:24:54
 11 I realize that we're, the whole issue of 19:24:55
 12 expansion is, is something we're not supposed to 19:24:58
 13 particularly be discussing here; we're only supposed 19:25:01
 14 to talk about the proposed expansion and what it's 19:25:05
 15 going to do, and, and that it is going to happen. 19:25:07
 16 And I feel that that's probably in the 19:25:12
 17 cards, but I want you to understand, I think there are 19:25:14
 18 a lot of people who don't believe that an expansion is 19:25:17
 19 really necessary nor in the best interests of the 19:25:22
 20 Country, and certainly for us who live in Barstow. 19:25:25
 21 Having said that, the other question 19:25:29
 22 that I kind of always been curious about is the fact 19:25:30
 23 of joint use with your neighbor at China Lake, and 19:25:35
 24 that in the, in your very good, very comprehensive Web 19:25:41
 25 site, listed that, but two par-, one paragraph which 19:25:45

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1 basically said that in 1993, I believe, the Department 19:25:53
 2 of the Navy issued a document that said that it would 19:25:55
 3 be incompatible, and various things like radio 19:25:58
 4 frequencies and that sort of thing that would make it 19:26:02
 5 difficult. 19:26:05
 6 Frankly, I don't know how much work has 19:26:07
 7 gone on to look at joint use of military land, and 19:26:10
 8 basically that's what it is. The two, as you can tell 19:26:16
 9 by a map, the China Lake site is almost as big as Fort 19:26:21
 10 Irwin. 19:26:25
 11 The other thing, of course, is that the 19:26:25
 12 Army seems to be looking for land that has 22 degrees 19:26:27
 13 slope. It's nice for tanks. 19:26:31
 14 You've got big areas they can go through 19:26:33
 15 and, and use for their training purposes. I suggest, 19:26:36
 16 because I trained out there many years ago, that it 19:26:39
 17 might not be a bad idea to use more difficult land. 19:26:42
 18 Certainly some of the areas that you're 19:26:49
 19 going to be training in, and if you are going to be 19:26:49
 20 doing any fighting in, is going to have slopes of more 19:26:52
 21 than 22 degrees, and you're not going to have very 19:26:55
 22 nice mountain passes for them to go through and easy 19:26:56
 23 corridors. It's likely to be mountainous and pretty 19:26:59
 24 difficult. 19:27:04
 25 So perhaps some of the land that you 19:27:04

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1 already have out there is adequate. Certainly tanks 19:27:07
 2 go faster, guns go further, rockets are more wonderful 19:27:11
 3 than ever before, and having said that, there is no 19:27:16
 4 reason to believe that after this expansion is 19:27:19
 5 through, in the next ten or 15 years the Military 19:27:24
 6 isn't going to be looking for some more, you know, 19:27:27
 7 possibly right on the other side of Barstow here. 19:27:29
 8 That's, one of the proposals is coming 19:27:33
 9 fairly close to us in Superior Lake. I grew up in 19:27:36
 10 this area, and that's sort of our backyard. 19:27:39
 11 And I really don't like the idea of 19:27:42
 12 having it taken out of the public, public lands, from 19:27:45
 13 a very personal point of view. I think from a 19:27:48
 14 long-term economic region in this area, the desert 19:27:51
 15 land is being used more and more for recreation and 19:27:57
 16 for the population in the urban areas that comes out 19:28:00
 17 here, for their benefit. 19:28:05
 18 This is, I think, is, is certainly, is 19:28:06
 19 a, worthwhile as training for armed con-, armed 19:28:08
 20 conflict. You're going to talk about how you're going 19:28:14
 21 to handle the little desert tortoises and the milk 19:28:18
 22 vetch, and frankly I don't think anybody really cares 19:28:24
 23 a whole lot about that. 19:28:27
 24 It's being used as an issue from one 19:28:28
 25 side to the other. There's not many tortoises left. 19:28:30

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1 From where I grew up in this area I can 19:28:34
 2 see that there's not so many of them. I guess the 19:28:37
 3 question really is: So what? 19:28:40
 4 When I was training over there a long 19:28:44
 5 time ago, and I'm certain things have changed in the 19:28:45
 6 Army, and things, you're much more sensitive than when 19:28:47
 7 we are, than we were, we used them sort of as 19:28:51
 8 landmarks and that sort of thing. But times have 19:28:55
 9 changed and I'm glad to hear that. 19:28:57
 10 And I'm glad to hear that the Army is 19:28:59
 11 taking steps, HeadStart programs and that sort of 19:29:01
 12 thing with the tortoises. Hopefully it will be 19:29:04
 13 better. 19:29:08
 14 However, I don't care how you cut the 19:29:09
 15 cookie, when you take tanks, armed vehicles, whatever, 19:29:11
 16 and run them across the desert, it's going to have an 19:29:16
 17 impact. You know that, and you're going to try and 19:29:20
 18 mitigate it as best you can. 19:29:23
 19 But on a, on a training this many 19:29:25
 20 troops, over a million troops you've gone through 19:29:27
 21 there, I've been to Fort Irwin. The desert will 19:29:30
 22 change, and I think it does affect all of us. 19:29:33
 23 I think you're going to go ahead and get 19:29:37
 24 some of your land. You're probably going to get most 19:29:40
 25 of what you want. 19:29:42

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1 From my point of view, I would wish that 19:29:44 2 you don't take any more, and I would wish that if 19:29:46 3 you're going to expand and you need further training 19:29:50 4 capabilities, work something out with your friends in 19:29:53 5 the Navy. I mean, we are all Americans, supposedly. 19:29:56 6 I just find it very difficult to 19:30:00 7 understand why that has not been addressed further and 19:30:02 8 much more fully. Thank you. 19:30:07 9 MR. ETHRIDGE: If I could, sir, too, I 19:30:12 10 want to clarify one point. We are looking at 19:30:14 11 no-action alternative. It is one that's in your 19:30:19 12 brochure. 19:30:22 13 MR. REISCHL: Yeah, I'll publicly 19:30:24 14 apologize. No-action is an alternative, and the Army 19:30:25 15 and the Navy do like each other except for Saturday in 19:30:29 16 Philadelphia. Go Army. 19:30:33 17 But, and we are in conversations with 19:30:36 18 the Navy. 19:30:36 19 A SPECTATOR: But not on this expansion. 19:30:40 20 MR. REISCHL: At, at this point, no. 19:30:43 21 A SPECTATOR: Aah. Thank you. 19:30:46 22 MR. MARLER: Chuck Holloway. 19:30:50 23 MR. HOLLOWAY: Good evening. My name's 19:30:59 24 Chuck Holloway, and I'm here representing the Los 19:31:01 25 Angeles Department of Water. 19:31:05</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1 discussions between my department and, and the 19:32:25 2 Department of Army, it seems like we've had, it's so 19:32:27 3 difficult in coming into, coming up with a Memorandum 19:32:31 4 of Understanding or Agreement. And I believe that 19:32:35 5 within the context of the EIR we'd like to see some 19:32:38 6 mitigation proposed that, that would be somewhat 19:32:42 7 bounding; maybe some physical barriers, as I said. 19:32:47 8 Thank you. 19:32:51 9 MR. MARLER: Ron Schiller. 19:32:58 10 MR. SCHILLER: I want to thank you very 19:33:11 11 much for this opportunity to express concern regarding 19:33:12 12 this proposal. I do have a prepared statement that I 19:33:16 13 will provide you shortly. 19:33:20 14 I represent the High Desert Multiple-Use 19:33:24 15 Coalition, which is a Ridgecrest-based organization 19:33:29 16 primarily concerned with, with the multiple uses of 19:33:33 17 public lands and, and access to those public lands. 19:33:36 18 As most of us are employed by China Lake, another 19:33:41 19 military installation, we understand and are not 19:33:46 20 opposed, per se, to the expansion of the Fort Irwin 19:33:50 21 facility, the National Training Center. 19:33:53 22 However, our concerns arise with the way 19:33:57 23 this plan is being brought about, and our extreme 19:34:01 24 frustration in trying to get information on this 19:34:05 25 subject to this point, which has included many letters 19:34:08</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1 And as was acknowledged in the slide 19:31:08 2 presentation, we're concerned about the power corridor 19:31:09 3 and our transmission facilities that basically are 19:31:13 4 going to be the boundary of all of the alternatives. 19:31:17 5 And it's a major resource to the City of Los Angeles. 19:31:21 6 It at times provides up to 30 percent of 19:31:25 7 the energy for Los Angeles, as well as energy for 19:31:28 8 other cities, like Burbank, Glendale, Anaheim, 19:31:31 9 Riverside. We're not really opposed to the expansion 19:31:35 10 of the Fort. 19:31:37 11 However, we believe that we've already 19:31:39 12 seen that you've acknowledged the power facilities are 19:31:45 13 out there and it's an issue that needs to be 19:31:49 14 addressed. However, I believe it needs to be 19:31:51 15 acknowledged that there is a potential to significant 19:31:53 16 impacts to those facilities. 19:31:56 17 We're concerned about our ability and 19:31:59 18 our ability to maintain and operate these facilities, 19:32:00 19 and also the safety of our military personnel around 19:32:03 20 these facilities. Our real concern, I guess, is our 19:32:06 21 proximity to the training facilities to these, and we 19:32:10 22 believe there needs to be some mitigation in terms of 19:32:15 23 physical barrier, maybe in the form of some kind of 19:32:18 24 tank traps or, or trenches. 19:32:22 25 And although there's been some 19:32:23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p> <p>1 to the Department of the Interior, which was at one 19:34:11 2 point in the lead. 19:34:15 3 One thing that I, that I really took 19:34:17 4 offense to in, in looking at the Web site that you 19:34:19 5 have, which I just found yesterday, is the requirement 19:34:24 6 for a public-, the public to provide written 19:34:28 7 justification to obtain a copy of the Draft 19:34:33 8 Environmental Impact Statement. You know, this is a 19:34:36 9 government by the people, and I don't think that you, 19:34:40 10 we should have to justify our right to obtain 19:34:42 11 information regarding the pub-, the, anything that our 19:34:47 12 Government does. 19:34:51 13 Moving on from that, after, based on 19:34:53 14 what we've learned so far, and some of which has been 19:34:58 15 clarified tonight, and I, and I wish to thank you for 19:35:01 16 that, but, but we still have concerns regarding the 19:35:06 17 legitimacy of this, this process that's being called a 19:35:09 18 National Environmental Policy Act process. As far as 19:35:12 19 the, the mitigation issues go, in reviewing documents 19:35:19 20 that were prepared at the direction of Congress prior 19:35:26 21 to HR-5666 and in previous legislation there was a 19:35:29 22 so-called experts' report which indicated at one point 19:35:34 23 that to mitigate the expansion of Fort Irwin at that 19:35:40 24 time would require that 2,500 square miles elsewhere 19:35:43 25 in the desert be set aside to mitigate that habitat 19:35:50</p>

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1 loss. 19:35:54
 2 And review of the map, 2,500 square 19:35:55
 3 miles is, is right at 2 million acres. As a result, 19:35:59
 4 we believe that when you look at these mitigations, 19:36:03
 5 and because that's already been brought up and likely 19:36:06
 6 to reoccur here in the comments and, and other 19:36:08
 7 processes that you go through, we suggest that you 19:36:13
 8 look at mitigation for these losses of, of economic 19:36:16
 9 and recreational benefit that occur desert-wide, and 19:36:21
 10 in fact look at how to mitigate that desert-wide 19:36:27
 11 because there are many communities who are far-removed 19:36:31
 12 from this immediate area who have a potential now to 19:36:34
 13 be impacted by this Fort Irwin expansion. 19:36:39
 14 For example, we believe that, that there 19:36:43
 15 should be some consideration for maybe the public 19:36:50
 16 sharing some of the time, some, some of the, the 19:36:54
 17 public land within the boundaries of the new expansion 19:36:58
 18 for activities such as gem mineral collecting on, on a 19:37:03
 19 weekend or two coordinated with a local club; maybe 19:37:10
 20 some historic sites visited working with the local 19:37:14
 21 museum or other local clubs. 19:37:18
 22 Hunting is another activity that I don't 19:37:21
 23 believe would, would conflict with the use of this 19:37:24
 24 land at the times that the, that the Military isn't 19:37:26
 25 specifically using it. Another activity is, if I 19:37:31

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1 understand right, tanks make a heck of a (sic) impact. 19:37:36
 2 Well, maybe this is a (sic) opportunity 19:37:40
 3 where maybe some off-road racing could occur at times 19:37:44
 4 when that's not being used, and that could be 19:37:49
 5 coordinated with local groups and clubs. Other 19:37:52
 6 possibilities might be looking at the possibility of 19:37:57
 7 cleaning up some of Cuddyback (phonetic), the old 19:37:59
 8 bombing range which could maybe provide some 19:38:03
 9 mitigation for loss of some of these areas. 19:38:05
 10 So, in closing, I, I will provide our 19:38:08
 11 comments written here and say thank you, although some 19:38:11
 12 of my comments are really not appropriate now that 19:38:17
 13 I've learned differently from attending the meeting 19:38:19
 14 tonight. I'll be submitting supplemental copies. 19:38:23
 15 Thank you. 19:38:26
 16 MR. MARLER: Thank you. 19:38:28
 17 Robert Lucas. 19:38:29
 18 MR. ETHRIDGE: Excuse me, sir. Sir, I 19:38:34
 19 just wanted to try to clarify something. 19:38:36
 20 One of your statements was receiving a 19:38:38
 21 hard copy. Were you aware that we were going to make 19:38:42
 22 hard copies available in libraries and local 19:38:43
 23 communities, and CDs and so forth? 19:38:47
 24 MR. HOLLOWAY: Well, I understand that. 19:38:51
 25 I just, if you go to your Web site and you fill out 19:38:52

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1 the, the form for participating and being notified, it 19:38:56
 2 says if you want a copy -- In fact, I have a copy of 19:38:59
 3 the letter I received. 19:39:02
 4 MR. ETHRIDGE: Right. 19:39:02
 5 MR. HOLLOWAY: -- that if I want a copy 19:39:05
 6 of the document, it doesn't specify hard copy or, or 19:39:06
 7 CD, it just says if I want a copy I have on justify to 19:39:10
 8 you why I should get it. 19:39:15
 9 MR. ETHRIDGE: Well, the intent really 19:39:17
 10 was to keep down the production costs. For 20,000 19:39:19
 11 people it was enormous, obviously enormous. It was to 19:39:23
 12 cut down the production costs. 19:39:28
 13 MS. WERTENBERGER: Basically everyone 19:39:29
 14 is entitled to a CD copy. Just like a justification 19:39:32
 15 why you couldn't use a CD copy and you'd want a hard 19:39:36
 16 copy. And I think as a cost-saving measure in this 19:39:39
 17 project, I think that's probably pretty good. 19:39:43
 18 MR. HOLLOWAY: Well, I've requested a 19:39:47
 19 hard copy because during a meeting you can't refer to 19:39:47
 20 a CD. 19:39:50
 21 MS. WERTENBERGER: That's fine. That's 19:39:52
 22 the justification. 19:39:54
 23 MR. HOLLOWAY: But I'll be happy, if you 19:39:56
 24 provide a CD, that I'll make copies and I'll 19:39:58
 25 distribute it to members and directors and those who 19:40:01

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1 are interested. It doesn't cost me anything to do 19:40:04
 2 that. 19:40:04
 3 MS. WERTENBERGER: Thank you. 19:40:09
 4 MR. LUCAS: Next, right? We've had 19:40:11
 5 several public hearings over the past. 19:40:14
 6 I've spoke (sic) at each of them, and 19:40:15
 7 I'm a retired member, military member myself, Viet Nam 19:40:18
 8 veteran, and I'm a local businessman. My two sons are 19:40:22
 9 in the Army, so I obviously have a stake at what goes 19:40:26
 10 on at the NTC. 19:40:29
 11 I think it's funny that in 1981 no one 19:40:30
 12 would have even given a damn about this, whether the 19:40:33
 13 NTC was created, especially back then. Now they do 19:40:36
 14 care. 19:40:41
 15 I think land's needed to fight wars in 19:40:41
 16 the future with sophisticated equipment. That's the 19:40:43
 17 bottom line. 19:40:47
 18 We need to get off the dime and do it. 19:40:47
 19 We've been talking about this for years and years and 19:40:49
 20 years. 19:40:52
 21 We need to look at our fighting in 19:40:53
 22 Afghanistan that's going on right now in the desert, 19:40:55
 23 and if we're going to get better, we need more land in 19:40:58
 24 the NTC. 19:41:00
 25 And I think it's paramount and needed. 19:41:01

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1 One of the public meetings I went to, I had a problem 19:41:03
 2 because my two sons are in the United States Army, and 19:41:06
 3 if they're going to get training, they need the best 19:41:10
 4 possible, which means the land. 19:41:12
 5 If they're going to die in any kind of 19:41:14
 6 war, I want to make sure they have the latest, the 19:41:18
 7 technology. And I think so this land is definitely 19:41:21
 8 needed. 19:41:23
 9 And I think we need to get off the dime 19:41:23
 10 and do it. I personally could care less about 19:41:25
 11 off-roading, mining, and environmental issues. 19:41:28
 12 I think they should not take front seat 19:41:30
 13 to what we need to do out here, and I think up to now 19:41:33
 14 we've let that happen. Fort Irwin was designated as 19:41:36
 15 the NTC in 1981, and this will allow the Post to do 19:41:39
 16 its job as it should have done years ago, with a 19:41:43
 17 future of the equipment that we're now getting in the 19:41:46
 18 Army. 19:41:48
 19 We got to get larger to meet the needs. 19:41:49
 20 Otherwise we might as well close the Post, and that's 19:41:51
 21 even been talked about. 19:41:55
 22 And it would have been exciting, 19:41:57
 23 wouldn't it, if we didn't get the land? Because the 19:42:00
 24 Post will go away. 19:42:01
 25 And if we think it's not, we're kidding 19:42:03

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1 each other. As Tim Reischl says, it's a one-of-a-kind 19:42:05
 2 post in the world for brigade training. 19:42:12
 3 Let's get on with approval so we can get 19:42:15
 4 on with better training our soldiers. Lastly, isn't 19:42:17
 5 that cool? 19:42:21
 6 It's almost over -- To have follow-on 19:42:22
 7 meetings in L.A., San Diego, and other areas is 19:42:24
 8 ludicrous. They're not directly impacted, so they 19:42:28
 9 should not be considered. 19:42:30
 10 Thank you. 19:42:31
 11 I didn't get applause. 19:42:36
 12 (Whereupon, applause was had.) 19:42:37
 13 MR. MARLER: Ginger Hancock. 19:42:37
 14 MS. HANCOCK: Good evening. I'm Ginger 19:42:54
 15 Hancock. 19:42:57
 16 I'm here for the Newberry 19:42:57
 17 Springs-Harvard Real Property Owners' Association. We 19:42:58
 18 have been to most of these meetings throughout the 19:43:02
 19 last 15, 20 years. 19:43:04
 20 We have spoke (sic) on all our concerns 19:43:06
 21 repeatedly. Many of these concerns have not been 19:43:09
 22 addressed, and because we're not speaking for or 19:43:12
 23 against tonight, I understand we're supposedly 19:43:16
 24 bringing up issues, I once again will bring up the 19:43:20
 25 issues we have brought up previously so that maybe 19:43:23

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1 this time they will be addressed. 19:43:24
 2 Number one in our community as far as 19:43:27
 3 impact in our area has been an economic impact with 19:43:29
 4 the closures of some of our desert lands. Our, my 19:43:33
 5 neighbors in the area used to use and take advantage 19:43:39
 6 of tourists in the area to do things like sell them 19:43:42
 7 firewood during their off-road races. 19:43:46
 8 The off-road races were banned about -- 19:43:50
 9 I don't know. I've, I've lost track. Ten, 12 years 19:43:53
 10 ago the Thanksgiving Las Vegas races were banned. 19:43:57
 11 These people lost their Christmas 19:44:01
 12 income, as they would call it. That same area then 19:44:04
 13 was, is, and then and now is impacted on an every 19:44:06
 14 rotation by the military tanks going from Fort Irwin 19:44:13
 15 to the railroad sidings. 19:44:17
 16 These roads are not maintained. The 19:44:19
 17 tanks are not kept within their boundaries. 19:44:21
 18 The dust is not addressed. The noise is 19:44:24
 19 not addressed. 19:44:27
 20 That's basically the dirt roads. The 19:44:31
 21 paved road, when we asked for some help and assistance 19:44:34
 22 from the Army to upgrade the paved road and to 19:44:38
 23 maintain the paved road, they denied that they used 19:44:40
 24 it. 19:44:44
 25 We took videotapes of the tanks on 91 19:44:45

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1 where the road is, is demolished and they do not, they 19:44:48
 2 deny that those were their tanks. I don't know where 19:44:52
 3 else they came from across the desert. 19:45:00
 4 I can trace them back to Fort Irwin. We 19:45:02
 5 would like this addressed. 19:45:05
 6 The, the dirt roads, the, the paved 19:45:06
 7 roads, their good-will to their community. The other 19:45:09
 8 ad-, thing that needs to be addressed that has not 19:45:15
 9 been addressed and has been repeatedly asked is the 19:45:19
 10 noise from the helicopters and the aircraft. 19:45:23
 11 We've invited the Army to put meters out 19:45:25
 12 in our community. Some of our mobile homes have had 19:45:28
 13 broken windows from the low-flying helicopters. 19:45:31
 14 The jets fly low over our current areas. 19:45:34
 15 These, these are not addressed. 19:45:39
 16 We are currently being impacted and 19:45:41
 17 ignored. I fear for expansion, especially when I look 19:45:44
 18 at the drawings and they're expanding their areas to 19:45:50
 19 the south, and further that they won't be isolated. 19:45:53
 20 We will be further impacted. Our 19:45:56
 21 community is dying, and part of the reason it's dying 19:46:00
 22 is it's not the peace and quiet it used to be. 19:46:03
 23 Then I'd like to address, besides the, 19:46:07
 24 the meters, to address the noise issues out there. We 19:46:10
 25 welcome the studies. 19:46:14

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1 We welcome to show you and have somebody 19:46:15
 2 concerned about these. We also have a new concern 19:46:18
 3 with the radio frequencies. 19:46:21
 4 We are having interference on our TVs, 19:46:23
 5 on our radios, on our telephones from some type of 19:46:27
 6 radio frequency that's interfering with our channels. 19:46:31
 7 We have been addressing them locally, and will be 19:46:35
 8 addressing the County to try and define where this 19:46:39
 9 interference is coming from. 19:46:41
 10 As I say, we haven't addressed that one 19:46:45
 11 prior to this particular issue, but I believe it's 19:46:47
 12 partly some type of military frequency that's making 19:46:49
 13 that interference. I've addressed our concerns for 19:46:52
 14 the consideration at the economic issues. 19:47:00
 15 I've addressed the roads, the radio, the 19:47:04
 16 air quality with the dust issue with the roads, the 19:47:06
 17 aircraft, the helicopters, and besides the needs of 19:47:09
 18 the Military, which I cannot truthfully address that 19:47:13
 19 as far as if they really need this, we would like to 19:47:23
 20 suggest studying the simulation of some of these 19:47:26
 21 matters that seem, seem to require more land and more 19:47:31
 22 expansion in today's day of technology and today's day 19:47:35
 23 of simulation, of computerized training, and the 19:47:39
 24 realization that the land impacted in these expansions 19:47:46
 25 is a tremendous amount of land. 19:47:52

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1 A city of L.A. can sit within the land 19:47:57
 2 that's being proposed for expansion. Thank you for 19:48:02
 3 your time, and I hope that Fort Irwin continues its 19:48:06
 4 good work for training brigade-sized missions. 19:48:08
 5 At one point they told us that the 19:48:11
 6 reason they needed to expand was so that they could 19:48:14
 7 employ brigade, brigade-sized training. And now I 19:48:17
 8 read that all this brigade training that has been 19:48:23
 9 going on, that that is not the issue for expansion. 19:48:27
 10 So, continue the good work, but please 19:48:28
 11 consider your neighbors. We may be small, but we're 19:48:31
 12 heavily impacted. 19:48:34
 13 Thank you for your time. 19:48:36
 14 (Whereupon, applause was had.) 19:48:37
 15 MR. MARLER: Pat Aleman. 19:48:42
 16 MR. ALEMAN: Good evening. Thank you 19:48:48
 17 for giving me the opportunity to come before you to 19:48:49
 18 speak to you. 19:48:51
 19 I first want to state that I am a 19:48:53
 20 federal employee; work at the Base, but I'm not way, 19:48:55
 21 here in the capacity as a federal employee. I'm just 19:48:59
 22 here as a citizen who wants to just voice my opinion. 19:49:02
 23 But yes, I may have an impact because I 19:49:05
 24 work at the Marine base, and Fort Irwin and the Marine 19:49:08
 25 base are tied. And economically let's face it: 19:49:11

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1 There's jobs, and in Barstow we have a job situation. 19:49:13
 2 And Fort Irwin opened up, there are 19:49:16
 3 jobs, although they're contracting jobs, and I'm not 19:49:18
 4 happy about that. But still, they were out there as 19:49:20
 5 jobs. 19:49:22
 6 And if the expansion of the fort means 19:49:23
 7 more jobs, then I think that we need to look at that. 19:49:25
 8 I understand. 19:49:28
 9 I hear the other people who have 19:49:29
 10 interests or have, share other ideas about the 19:49:30
 11 environment and the desert tortoise and that. I 19:49:34
 12 understand that. 19:49:37
 13 But, and, you know, like the gentleman 19:49:37
 14 said, you have people. You're going to have meetings 19:49:40
 15 all over, like in San Diego, other places like that. 19:49:43
 16 I agree with them. I live in Barstow. 19:49:47
 17 I don't just say I come to Barstow. I 19:49:50
 18 live here. 19:49:53
 19 And all those people, all those other 19:49:53
 20 areas wants to have a say-so in this area, and 19:49:56
 21 especially in Barstow. They should do what we do and 19:49:59
 22 live here in Barstow, and then they can have a voice 19:50:02
 23 on what's going on, because I don't think there's 19:50:05
 24 anybody in Barstow that wants to do any harm to 19:50:07
 25 environment or any harm to the desert tortoise. 19:50:10

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1 And I think anybody who does anything 19:50:12
 2 that hurts any creature like that, that then the law 19:50:14
 3 ought to come down on them. And I think that the 19:50:16
 4 Army, the Base needs to make sure that that's taken 19:50:19
 5 care of. 19:50:22
 6 I think it seems like they're doing a 19:50:22
 7 good job. I don't have all the facts, but if they're 19:50:25
 8 not, they need to do more. 19:50:27
 9 But if not, let's face it. I mean, you 19:50:29
 10 can take a desert tortoise and you can relocate it. 19:50:31
 11 A friend of mine told me, "Come on. 19:50:34
 12 Were you serious? Relocate a desert tortoise?" 19:50:36
 13 The facts of life is there are people 19:50:39
 14 who are lo-, relocated every day. People who lose 19:50:41
 15 jobs are relocated, okay? 19:50:44
 16 When the Government took the American 19:50:46
 17 Indians' lands they were relocated. I hear a lot of 19:50:48
 18 people screaming about it. 19:50:53
 19 If they're going to scream about the 19:50:54
 20 desert tortoise, trust me. I believe a desert 19:50:55
 21 tortoise is important. 19:50:56
 22 If I see one on the roads, as I have in 19:50:57
 23 past, I will give it aid if it's hurt. But I'm not, 19:51:00
 24 it don't believe that because the desert tortoise or 19:51:04
 25 the environment is going to have a big impact. 19:51:06

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1 You're going to stop the expansion. I'm 19:51:10
 2 sorry, I don't agree with that. 19:51:12
 3 I think we need the expansion, 19:51:13
 4 especially if it's going to bring more jobs. Thank 19:51:14
 5 you. 19:51:17
 6 MR. MARLER: Thank you. 19:51:19
 7 Terry Weiner. 19:51:20
 8 MS. WEINER: Good evening. My name is 19:51:31
 9 Terry Weiner. 19:51:31
 10 I live at 4544 Marshlands Street in San 19:51:35
 11 Diego. Thank you for having this meeting for us 19:51:41
 12 today. 19:51:42
 13 I drove all the way from San Diego, 180 19:51:42
 14 miles, to come here tonight to represent the Desert 19:51:45
 15 Protective Council. We're a 47-year-old membership, 19:51:48
 16 national-membership organization with about 350 19:51:52
 17 members. 19:51:56
 18 We have been and we continue to be 19:51:56
 19 opposed to the Army's expansion of Fort Irwin. We 19:51:58
 20 will also be submitting our written comments on this 19:52:03
 21 scoping process. 19:52:07
 22 We're disappointed, however, that you 19:52:10
 23 did not respond to any of our faxes or phone calls or 19:52:14
 24 letters asking for more scoping meetings in other 19:52:16
 25 areas, particularly the large metropolitan areas of 19:52:21

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1 San Diego and, and Los Angeles. If you're really 19:52:23
 2 serious about your commitment to taking public 19:52:27
 3 comment, then you, you absolutely have to hold 19:52:30
 4 meetings in, in other places where the public lives. 19:52:32
 5 There are a, large populations of people 19:52:35
 6 who care about the deserts who don't just live in 19:52:39
 7 Barstow and Southern California. Indeed, I actually, 19:52:42
 8 to be perfectly honest, I think you should be holding 19:52:46
 9 meetings in every state of the country. 19:52:50
 10 This is the people's land, and the 19:52:52
 11 people care about their land because they voted for 19:52:54
 12 the passage of the Endangered Species Act, and so did 19:52:59
 13 Congress. And that means the people are behind 19:53:03
 14 preserving the biodiversity. 19:53:05
 15 So, and we, we do agree with you. The 19:53:08
 16 Desert Protective Council sees very clearly that the 19:53:11
 17 world has changed since your successful mission of 19:53:14
 18 Desert Storm in 1991 and, and from, it's changed since 19:53:18
 19 1997, too. 19:53:23
 20 And although we appreciate your mission 19:53:25
 21 and we understand your mission, we, we, we see the 19:53:26
 22 world in a little bit bigger point of view, and we see 19:53:29
 23 the desert as a, as an ecosystem with irreplaceable 19:53:33
 24 plants and animals that aren't doing too well lately. 19:53:38
 25 We know that the Lane Mountain milkvetch, for example, 19:53:44

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1 wasn't a listed endangered species in 1997, and to us 19:53:48
 2 that means it's in danger of going extinct. 19:53:53
 3 It only lives here, from what I 19:53:58
 4 understand, around Fort Irwin and in Fort Irwin, and 19:54:00
 5 once it's gone, it's gone. And once again, the people 19:54:03
 6 of the United States deserve to have their desert 19:54:07
 7 protected. 19:54:10
 8 And the desert tortoise, our California 19:54:11
 9 state mammal, reptile, sorry, its numbers have 19:54:15
 10 continued to plummet since 1997. We don't want to see 19:54:20
 11 the desert tortoise go the way of our, our state 19:54:23
 12 mammal, the grizzly bear, and so we support the 19:54:27
 13 no-action alternative until you do a complete analysis 19:54:30
 14 of the need for this land expansion. 19:54:34
 15 And earlier it was said that you plan to 19:54:38
 16 deal with the threatened endangered species. We, we 19:54:41
 17 don't want you to deal with them. 19:54:45
 18 We want to, you to protect them and 19:54:47
 19 preserve them, and we're absolutely opposed to you 19:54:49
 20 opening up the southern area where you've been 19:54:51
 21 protecting the desert tortoise and now all of a sudden 19:54:55
 22 you're going to start training there. 19:54:57
 23 What did you protect it for all these 19:55:00
 24 years? Do not open that area. 19:55:02
 25 The air pollution problem, from what I 19:55:04

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1 understand, is something that really needs to be dealt 19:55:07
 2 with, and the people of Shoshoni and Baker, they need 19:55:10
 3 to have their voices heard because their quality of 19:55:12
 4 life is going to be impacted by the changes that 19:55:15
 5 you're proposing as well as the, all the tourists who 19:55:17
 6 go up to Death Valley by way of Route 127. I realize 19:55:24
 7 that three or four miles away isn't going to stop the 19:55:27
 8 pollution and noise from jeopardizing that tourist 19:55:30
 9 experience. 19:55:34
 10 Thank you very much for giving me time 19:55:35
 11 to speak today. 19:55:39
 12 MR. MARLER: Thank you. 19:55:41
 13 Michael Connor. 19:55:44
 14 MR. CONNOR: Good evening, Ladies and 19:55:47
 15 Gentlemen. My name is Michael Connor. 19:55:59
 16 I'm the Executive Director of the Desert 19:56:00
 17 Tortoise Council. I represents the Desert Tortoise 19:56:05
 18 Preserve Committee of the Desert Tortoise 19:56:05
 19 Council. Between the organizations we have 19:56:12
 20 approximately 4,000 members, most of whom live in 19:56:13
 21 south-central California, and we're all deeply 19:56:17
 22 concerned about the future of the desert tortoise in 19:56:18
 23 the West Mojave. 19:56:21
 24 Since the EIS process was done in the 19:56:23
 25 early '90s there have been a series of scientific 19:56:28

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p> <p>1 biological investigations of the tortoise in the 19:56:30 2 western Mojave showing that the species is continuing 19:56:35 3 to decline. We have data from the United States 19:56:36 4 Geological Survey's proposal, and studies by Dr. 19:56:40 5 Kristine Berry. 19:56:40 6 She's been doing studies every four 19:56:45 7 years for the last 25 to 30 years or so. In early 19:56:47 8 2000 there was a Blue Ribbon Panel Report which was 19:56:50 9 composed of distinguished scientists, some of which 19:56:54 10 are in this room, and included a couple of Army 19:56:57 11 scientists, including Jim Potilla (phonetic) and 19:57:01 12 Mickey Quillman. 19:57:02 13 One of the findings of that panel report 19:57:03 14 was that the desert tortoise has continued to decline 19:57:04 15 since the recovery plan was produced in 1994 by Fish 19:57:08 16 and Wildlife Service, and it probably was better 19:57:12 17 described as being endangered rather than threatened. 19:57:15 18 This has all happened in the last few years or so. 19:57:18 19 Then this spring the Fish and Wildlife 19:57:21 20 Service instituted its line distance sampling survey. 19:57:24 21 This is a range-wide survey to measure desert tortoise 19:57:28 22 through, throughout the range, including Nevada, 19:57:31 23 Arizona, and California. 19:57:34 24 This was funded in part by the Army, for 19:57:35 25 which we are truly grateful. One of the problems with 19:57:39</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p> <p>1 I will be submitting written comments on 19:58:51 2 behalf of the three organizations, but I, I'd like to 19:58:53 3 put in a mention for the Mojave ground squirrel. I 19:58:56 4 don't know if we have any Mojave ground squirrel 19:59:01 5 supporters in the room, but I know we work with local 19:59:05 6 agencies and with businesses with, who are developing 19:59:08 7 in the desert, and we help and solve their problems 19:59:10 8 with the ground squirrel. 19:59:13 9 And we've been interested in the ground 19:59:14 10 squirrel for several years now. We've conducted 19:59:16 11 several research projects. 19:59:19 12 We fund -- Dr. Philip Leitner (phonetic) 19:59:21 13 is probably the most renowned Mojave ground squirrel 19:59:22 14 researcher, and just as the desert tortoise 19:59:25 15 population's been crashing, so has the Mojave ground 19:59:27 16 squirrel population. The recent data that, that has 19:59:31 17 generated tends to suggest that the tortoise is the -- 19:59:35 18 Sorry. The ground squirrel's undergoing catastrophic 19:59:38 19 decline. 19:59:40 20 One of the consequences of the proposed 19:59:42 21 expansion of the Superior Valley is that it will 19:59:43 22 eliminate the easternmost part of the Mojave ground 19:59:46 23 squirrel's range, and we are concerned about that. 19:59:49 24 And we hope that this new data will be considered in 19:59:51 25 the review proposal. 19:59:54</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p> <p>1 the, that, that has arisen from this study is that in 19:57:43 2 order for the study to be meaningful in terms of 19:57:46 3 determining the numbers of tortoises throughout its 19:57:49 4 range, a certain number of tortoises have to be 19:57:51 5 encountered during the surveys, and the number of 19:57:53 6 tortoises encountered in west Mojave was below the 19:57:56 7 statistical minimum for them to get a meaningful 19:58:00 8 result, so they will be continuing that survey next 19:58:03 9 year, hopefully with adequate funding. 19:58:05 10 Maybe the Army will put in some more 19:58:08 11 money. We only hope. 19:58:10 12 And they will increase the number of 19:58:11 13 transects that they walk to hopefully increase the 19:58:13 14 number of tortoises that are encountered to get the 19:58:15 15 statistical meaningful data. But the upshot of this, 19:58:18 16 and the reason why I raise this, is because the low 19:58:21 17 numbers tend to determine the trends determined in the 19:58:24 18 study plots; that is, that the tortoise is continuing 19:58:28 19 to decline in the West Mojave. 19:58:30 20 It's in serious trouble and we're deeply 19:58:32 21 concerned that the impact of the proposed, of the 19:58:34 22 preferred alternative would be such that it would 19:58:36 23 actually jeopardize the tortoise. So what we ask is 19:58:39 24 that you take into account in the Supplemental EIS the 19:58:43 25 changing status of the tortoise in the late '90s. 19:58:47</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p> <p>1 Thank you very much. 19:59:56 2 MR. MARLER: Thank you. 19:59:58 3 Ileene Anderson. 19:59:58 4 MS. ANDERSON: Hi. I'm Ileene Anderson, 20:00:11 5 and I'm here representing the California Native Plant 20:00:13 6 Society tonight. 20:00:16 7 The Native Plant Society would like to 20:00:18 8 request a few things in this scoping process. First, 20:00:22 9 we'd like to request a full, independent analysis of 20:00:24 10 need for the expansion. 20:00:27 11 Considering the events of September 20:00:30 12 eleventh it suggests to me that the new threats to our 20:00:33 13 great nation is terrorism, and that some of our 20:00:41 14 resources may be, may need to be refocused to 20:00:44 15 intelligence, basically. But I'm not a military 20:00:47 16 strategist. 20:00:51 17 I've also noticed, though, that our, 20:00:53 18 since we're now at war, we haven't used any of the 20:00:56 19 training that Fort Irwin has been providing all these 20:00:59 20 years in our war, and so if you'll just humor people 20:01:03 21 like me that don't understand military strategy, I 20:01:07 22 request that we have a (sic) understandable, 20:01:10 23 independent analysis of the need in the upcoming 20:01:17 24 document. 20:01:21 25 Secondly, we also request that the 20:01:25</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 154</p> <p>1 preferred alternative avoid the Lane Mountain 20:01:28 2 milkvetch. And I'm sure you all know that in the 20:01:34 3 general area of at least three of the alternatives is 20:01:38 4 the territory, the only place in the planet where the 20:01:42 5 Lane Mountain milkvetch occurs. 20:01:46 6 And I think morally as well as in this 20:01:51 7 case legally we have an obligation to protect this 20:01:52 8 species' home. And it appears that the preferred, 20:01:58 9 although I know it's not a preferred alternative yet, 20:02:04 10 but at least the alternative that you're currently 20:02:08 11 hanging your B.A. on will impact quite a bit of this, 20:02:11 12 these plants, so many different populations, although 20:02:15 13 I don't know exactly where all of these are. 20:02:22 14 But my feeling is, with the absence of 20:02:24 15 any scientific data about the ecology of the species, 20:02:26 16 that any analysis of the impact to the species 20:02:31 17 currently would be or is speculative at best. 20:02:34 18 Therefore, I think the, the preferred alternative 20:02:39 19 should be avoidance. 20:02:42 20 Thirdly we would like to request a 20:02:46 21 detailed vegetation map for all of the alternatives, 20:02:50 22 and in the previous EIS I don't think that that was 20:02:53 23 available for all of the alternatives -- In fact, I'm 20:02:57 24 sure it wasn't, because I think that was a previous 20:03:00 25 comment I had. -- and that those, that that 20:03:02</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 156</p> <p>1 dad's name. My dad's a veteran. 20:04:42 2 My grandfathers are veterans. And what 20:04:46 3 this is really about, you know, we all solute the 20:04:50 4 fighting men and women in the United States Army, no 20:04:54 5 doubt about that. 20:04:56 6 We're all patriots in this room, but we 20:04:58 7 need to remind ourselves that if we destroy our 20:05:00 8 American nationality wildlife heritage while we're 20:05:04 9 preparing for war, our nation will be much poorer for 20:05:07 10 it, and future generations may never forgive us. It's 20:05:10 11 important to defend our national security, no doubt 20:05:13 12 about it. 20:05:17 13 We must also defend out natural 20:05:17 14 security. Freedom in America means wildlife. 20:05:21 15 It means quiet places. It means public 20:05:24 16 lands, and it means responsibility. 20:05:27 17 It means responsibility to ensure that 20:05:30 18 we're investing in natural resources, that we're 20:05:34 19 willing to spend the moneys necessary to mitigate for 20:05:37 20 impacts of Army training in that we absolutely do not 20:05:41 21 wipe out species of God's creation on this earth, and 20:05:47 22 that we take every measure possible to keep these 20:05:51 23 plants and animals that have been there millions of 20:05:54 24 years, long before any of us were even around, still 20:05:57 25 there. And we believe these things can be done. 20:06:00</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 155</p> <p>1 vegetation map include accurate acreages and analysis 20:03:05 2 of impacts to each of the different plant series. 20:03:09 3 Our feeling is that without knowing what 20:03:15 4 is out there on the ground, that you can't really do 20:03:17 5 an impact analysis. So I think that would be very 20:03:20 6 beneficial to include in your document. 20:03:24 7 And lastly, we would like to see 20:03:25 8 included in this additional analysis of the impacts to 20:03:28 9 the Manix Trail (phonetic) with increased, the 20:03:32 10 potential for increased activity of moving things 20:03:39 11 across the Manix Trail. We'd like to see analyzed, 20:03:42 12 and also to remind the Army that in the original, the 20:03:48 13 original environmental documentation on the Manix 20:03:51 14 Trail I believe that you were supposed to be using 20:03:59 15 only wheeled vehicles and no tracked vehicles, and I 20:04:01 16 don't think that that's exactly what's going on now. 20:04:05 17 I would also like to thank the Army for 20:04:09 18 all of the hard work that you did this year in finding 20:04:10 19 out more information about the Lane Mountain 20:04:13 20 milkvetch, because basically you've expanded the range 20:04:15 21 greatly, and as a native plant person I appreciate 20:04:19 22 that, so thank you. 20:04:21 23 MR. MARLER: David Patterson. 20:04:25 24 MR. PATTERSON: For the Record that's 20:04:36 25 actually Daniel Patterson, but David Patterson's my 20:04:38</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p> <p>1 I appreciate the fact that in the 20:06:03 2 presentation that was presented that this really is 20:06:05 3 far from a done deal. We would agree, and we find it 20:06:07 4 very significant that Congress has been very clear 20:06:12 5 that the Army must comply with our Nation's 20:06:15 6 environmental laws including NEPA and the Endangered 20:06:18 7 Species Act. 20:06:23 8 We would like to see a whole 'nuther 20:06:24 9 alternative which we would like to call the "American 20:06:26 10 natural security alternative." Much has changed since 20:06:30 11 the last time that scoping was done on this project, 20:06:34 12 which is why we're encouraging you to open it up 20:06:36 13 beyond just the fine City of Barstow. 20:06:40 14 I love Barstow. I used to work for BLM 20:06:42 15 based in this town. 20:06:46 16 It's always been a good place to me, but 20:06:47 17 we're talking about American public lands, and I don't 20:06:49 18 think Terry Weiner was too far out of bound to say 20:06:52 19 maybe there should be a, a meeting in every State's 20:06:56 20 capital. When you're talking about people's lands, 20:06:59 21 it's owned as much by the people in Barstow as it is 20:07:01 22 in by the people in Florida, in New York City, 20:07:06 23 Arizona, or anywhere across our great nation. 20:07:10 24 But much has changed since the last time 20:07:13 25 you went out historically including the listing of the 20:07:14</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p> <p>1 Lane Mountain milkvetch, including the facts now that 20:07:17 2 we know that the desert tortoise position is in much 20:07:20 3 worse shape. We know it. 20:07:24 4 We know the west Mojave population is in 20:07:25 5 danger of extinction, and failing; is in great 20:07:27 6 problems with or without a Fort Irwin expansion. A 20:07:30 7 Fort Irwin expansion could prove to be fatal to the 20:07:33 8 tortoise of the west Mojave. 20:07:36 9 And certainly we know more about the top 20:07:38 10 threats to, to our nation at this point. We know. 20:07:40 11 We're currently involved in a war. 20:07:43 12 Things are changing. 20:07:45 13 We certainly would agree with that. 20:07:46 14 And, and we do find it interesting that Fort Irwin has 20:07:47 15 served for many, many years as a, an excellent 20:07:51 16 training ground. 20:07:55 17 In fact, it's being stated that the last 20:07:57 18 war against Saddam Hussain in Iraq where basically the 20:07:59 19 U.S. Army kicked butt in a big way, all of that was 20:08:06 20 done on the present boundaries of Fort Irwin. 20:08:09 21 And we remain unconvinced, and we think 20:08:12 22 a great deal of the population remains unconvinced if 20:08:15 23 it's worked so well up to now, why does it need to be 20:08:18 24 bigger, especially now that things have changed and 20:08:23 25 we're trying to get people out of caves that are 20:08:26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p> <p>1 boundaries of the fort. 20:09:44 2 We would like to see an independent 20:09:46 3 review of the forecasted future of the need for these 20:09:48 4 large brigade-sized tank battles which many trained 20:09:51 5 military strategists and professionals, and military 20:09:58 6 think-tanks have said were becoming a thing of the 20:10:02 7 past, and apparently, judging from the war in 20:10:05 8 Afghanistan, are things of the past. 20:10:07 9 Are we expanding for a type of training 20:10:10 10 that really we don't really need? We would like to 20:10:12 11 see an independent review that would answer that 20:10:15 12 question. 20:10:18 13 We would like to see implementation fo 20:10:19 14 the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations, including the 20:10:21 15 studies starting on Page 17 of the Blue Ribbon Panel 20:10:28 16 report, including demography studies, disease, 20:10:31 17 population, and other studies that need to be done 20:10:35 18 before expansion can happen so that we can at the very 20:10:36 19 least have that from very important baseline data. 20:10:41 20 We're very concerned that the recommendations of the 20:10:46 21 Army's own expert panel are being just shuffled to the 20:10:47 22 wayside. 20:10:51 23 We would like to see in the natural 20:10:52 24 security alternative an independent detailed analysis 20:10:54 25 of what economic loss the Barstow area may face from 20:10:56</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p> <p>1 riding around in Toyota pickup trucks. 20:08:28 2 To get into a little bit of what we 20:08:31 3 would like to see in the American natural security 20:08:34 4 alternative to Fort Irwin, it would include, of 20:08:36 5 course, living within the current boundaries of an 20:08:39 6 already huge base. We would also like to see better 20:08:43 7 cooperation between the U.S. Army and the Marines at 20:08:45 8 Twentynine Palms to better coordinate sharing existing 20:08:49 9 bases which total close to 1.4 million acres of the 20:08:53 10 California desert currently set aside for the 20:08:56 11 Department of Defense for tank training. 20:08:59 12 That's a lot of land. We do not support 20:09:02 13 expansion onto China Lake due to the very sensitive 20:09:05 14 natural resource values up there. 20:09:09 15 We'd like to see a detailed analysis of 20:09:11 16 increased uses of computer technology and simulators 20:09:15 17 to be compatible and work in addition to the already 20:09:17 18 on-the-ground training that's out there. We think 20:09:21 19 there's a lot of potential out there. 20:09:24 20 We would like to see more attention and 20:09:26 21 a real hard look at cleaning up some of the unexploded 20:09:29 22 ordnance around Leach Lake area to increase the 20:09:32 23 diversity of the types of training that could be done 20:09:35 24 there, potentially increasing the trainable acreage by 20:09:38 25 up to 90,000 acres within the current existing 20:09:42</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 161</p> <p>1 the expansion and the loss of public-lands visitors, 20:11:00 2 the loss of the diversification of the economy. No 20:11:03 3 one has ever seriously considered closing Fort Irwin. 20:11:06 4 Of course Fort Irwin is not going to 20:11:09 5 close even if the expansion doesn't go forward. It's 20:11:11 6 a one-of-a-kind training facility with or without the 20:11:14 7 expansion. 20:11:18 8 We've not seen any proposal that would 20:11:18 9 include even one new job for Barstow as a result of 20:11:19 10 the expansion. There needs to be an independent look 20:11:24 11 to see what the real cost to this community will be, 20:11:28 12 and other adjacent communities, and especially that 20:11:30 13 you consider also the environmental costs as well. 20:11:33 14 Essentially the Army can continue to be 20:11:35 15 prepared, we believe, without the loss of wildlife and 20:11:39 16 without the loss of critical habitat, which also must 20:11:42 17 be considered, designated, and protected by law. Not 20:11:45 18 only the animals must be protected, but the habitat 20:11:50 19 that's been designated critical is essential for the 20:11:54 20 recovery of the species. 20:11:58 21 And that must be considered and analyzed 20:11:58 22 in your Supplemental EIS in a very similar way to the 20:12:00 23 actual animals themselves. Environmental justice 20:12:04 24 should be a whole, which wasn't even included. 20:12:07 25 President Clinton put some Directives in 20:12:12</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 162</p> <p>1 order since 1997. You've got to take a look at what 20:12:16 2 are the impacts going to be on the people in the lower 20:12:18 3 end of the income rung, many of which live here in 20:12:22 4 Barstow. And we would like to see a complete 20:12:26 5 avoidance of the UTM-90 lands. 20:12:28 6 We have seen some positive work being 20:12:30 7 done by the Army, and we acknowledge that in the 20:12:32 8 southern part of the fort very good things have 20:12:35 9 happened there. We are not sure at all what the 20:12:38 10 reasoning is to go ahead and now destroy them by 20:12:40 11 reopening up the land south of the UTM-90 land. 20:12:43 12 That land should be protected. So, in 20:12:46 13 short, the Center for Biological Diversity, on behalf 20:12:50 14 of our over 6,000 members in southern California and 20:12:53 15 nationwide, cannot support the expansion of Fort 20:12:56 16 Irwin, especially as proposed. 20:13:01 17 We see the Proposal Number 1 as probably 20:13:05 18 the most damaging alternative of any, and we would 20:13:08 19 like to see the development of a complete new 20:13:11 20 alternative, the natural security alternative, which 20:13:13 21 addresses those concerns. We will be contributing 20:13:17 22 additional comments in writing, and very much want to 20:13:21 23 encourage also additional scoping comments based on 20:13:26 24 the changes that have happened over the last several 20:13:30 25 years. 20:13:32</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 164</p> <p>1 that. We're having to figure out what we want to do 20:14:47 2 with what we have. 20:14:51 3 The Army here is basically taking what I 20:14:53 4 consider the easy route and saying, "Hey, we need more 20:14:55 5 space. We'll just ask for public lands. 20:14:57 6 "We'll get it. We'll do what we want," 20:15:00 7 whereas everybody else is saying, "We're going to have 20:15:01 8 to figure out what we need to do and do it on what 20:15:05 9 we've got available." 20:15:07 10 If we look at the, at the history of 20:15:08 11 military armaments we see that in the last 30 years 20:15:09 12 have been dramatic increases in the ability of, of 20:15:13 13 armaments to, in terms of distance and in terms of 20:15:17 14 travel speeds, in terms of all of these things. And 20:15:19 15 if we look at probably future improvements, we might 20:15:23 16 expect that to continue. 20:15:26 17 Thinking that we will expand the base 20:15:28 18 and expand the blue area, if you will, for the 20:15:29 19 military to accommodate ever-increasing capabilities 20:15:31 20 in terms of action at a distance I think really is not 20:15:35 21 realistic. You know, right now we've got weapons that 20:15:40 22 will go far, far beyond the, the limits of the base, 20:15:43 23 and, and clearly using those weapons in shooting well 20:15:46 24 outside the limits of the base doesn't make any sense. 20:15:50 25 In the future if you want to exercise 20:15:53</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 163</p> <p>1 And we believe strongly that if you're 20:13:32 2 going to comply with NEPA and if you want to be able 20:13:35 3 to show that down the road like you're probably going 20:13:37 4 to have to, better have some more meetings. Thank 20:13:41 5 you. 20:13:43 6 MR. MARLER: John Hiatt. 20:13:43 7 MR. HIATT: I'm John Hiatt with Red Rock 20:13:56 8 Audubon Society in Las Vegas, and I thank you for this 20:13:58 9 opportunity to comment tonight. When we talk about 20:14:01 10 withdrawal of land it sounds kind of innocuous, but 20:14:04 11 what we're really talking about here is an 20:14:08 12 irreversible process, and that's a large amount, well 20:14:10 13 in excess of 100,000 acres of public land will no 20:14:13 14 longer be accessible to the public and it will 20:14:17 15 basically just disappear into a military base. 20:14:21 16 The Army will never release that because 20:14:24 17 once land has been used for live-fire type training. 20:14:26 18 Even if it isn't subject to it, the Army's worried 20:14:29 19 about liability. 20:14:33 20 They never want to turn that back to 20:14:34 21 civilians because of liability issues. Every one of 20:14:36 22 us in the Southwest is experiencing problems of growth 20:14:39 23 in our community. 20:14:41 24 We don't have the open space that we 20:14:42 25 used to have, and what we're having to do is deal with 20:14:44</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 165</p> <p>1 weapons you're going to have things that will go, 20:15:55 2 rockets that have, surface-to-surface rockets that 20:15:58 3 have ranges well into excess of hundred miles. Are we 20:16:02 4 going to take all the areas of southern California, 20:16:05 5 into Nevada and Arizona? 20:16:09 6 I don't think that's realistic. You 20:16:10 7 realize that's not realistic, so we need to know how 20:16:13 8 to deal with that, and increasing the amount of land 20:16:16 9 is not it. 20:16:19 10 We've got areas such as a lake area 20:16:20 11 which is contaminated with ordnance. If it's only 20:16:23 12 proposed that this will be forever off-limits to 20:16:26 13 anyone, then I think that that's a serious error. 20:16:29 14 The Army, all branches of the Military 20:16:32 15 are looking it how to clean up areas of ranges which 20:16:34 16 are contaminated with unexploded ordnance so that 20:16:38 17 these can be used for other purposes or used again, 20:16:42 18 and, and that's something that has to be addressed 20:16:45 19 here. 20:16:47 20 We cannot ignore that and just say, 20:16:48 21 "We're going to acquifize (sic) large areas because 20:16:50 22 they've been used for live fire before, never going to 20:16:53 23 be used again. Now we want a new area. We'll 20:16:56 24 contaminate that, and when that's done we'll go for 20:16:59 25 someplace else." 20:17:03</p>

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1 We don't have that kind of land 20:17:03
 2 available in this country or anyplace on the earth at 20:17:05
 3 this point. Joint operations is certainly an option 20:17:08
 4 that need to be fully explored with the Navy, with the 20:17:10
 5 Marines, with other Branches of the Service. 20:17:14
 6 One of the things we're seeing right now 20:17:16
 7 in, in Afghanistan is that cooperation between the 20:17:17
 8 Branches of Service is key to us being able to do 20:17:22
 9 anything. And there's no reason that we can't train 20:17:25
 10 cooperatively as well as operate cooperatively in 20:17:27
 11 times of war. 20:17:29
 12 As this land is used for tank, tank 20:17:29
 13 training, tanks are just about the most destructive 20:17:34
 14 land vehicle that there is in terms of what they do to 20:17:38
 15 the earth's surface: Destroy all vegetation that is 20:17:40
 16 driven over. And one of the things that I've noticed, 20:17:45
 17 and whether I've been near Fort Irwin, is the, and 20:17:46
 18 there are actual training operations underway, is the 20:17:50
 19 incredible pall of dust covering tens if not hundreds 20:17:53
 20 of square miles. 20:17:57
 21 And one of the things we're finding out 20:17:59
 22 now is that desert dust, especially that dust less 20:18:00
 23 than 10 microns in diameter, travels incredible 20:18:04
 24 distances. When inhaled it goes very deep into the 20:18:09
 25 lungs. 20:18:09

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1 It has permanent effects. And as a 20:18:13
 2 resident of Las Vegas where we already have a huge 20:18:15
 3 dust problem, I'm not very enthusiastic about seeing 20:18:20
 4 that increase. 20:18:23
 5 And as that area gets bigger and is used 20:18:24
 6 more, we'll chew up greater and greater areas there. 20:18:26
 7 In other words, as the paths expand, we get less and 20:18:29
 8 less vegetation, less to hold the soil, so that every 20:18:32
 9 time the wind blows, even if there's not active 20:18:36
 10 training going on, when you've got powdered soil up 20:18:38
 11 there, when the wind blows above a certain speed, it 20:18:41
 12 just picks that stuff up, carries it a long distance, 20:18:45
 13 and has a bad effect for everybody down wind. 20:18:48
 14 Even though Las Vegas is a long ways 20:18:50
 15 away, 90 miles from the edge, from Baker, which is 20:18:53
 16 sort of the edge of the new proposed training area, 20:18:57
 17 we'll be affected by that dust if as supplied by a 20:18:58
 18 significant wind. So we think that that needs to be 20:19:03
 19 part of, of the Environmental Impact Statement here. 20:19:06
 20 Las Vegas has one of the highest rates 20:19:10
 21 of asthma of any city in the country, and there's a 20:19:11
 22 lot of new medical research that suggests that dust is 20:19:15
 23 a part of that. People in Las Vegas aren't any 20:19:19
 24 different than anybody else, and as we increase the 20:19:22
 25 amount of dust in the desert as we have more people in 20:19:25

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1 the desert for recreational, whatever purposes, 20:19:27
 2 they'll be impacted. 20:19:30
 3 Their health will be impacted. They 20:19:30
 4 don't realize that right away. 20:19:33
 5 It doesn't happen -- You know, the day 20:19:35
 6 that you're exposed to the dust isn't when it happens. 20:19:36
 7 It's over time that the damage occurs, and we need to 20:19:39
 8 address the health issues of our population in terms 20:19:42
 9 of what happens when we increase the amount of, of 20:19:44
 10 dust in area. 20:19:48
 11 And clearly, increasing the amount of 20:19:49
 12 area that's damaged or affected by tank training will 20:19:51
 13 increase the amount of dust over a huge area down wind 20:19:54
 14 of the range. You can certainly go out there on clear 20:19:58
 15 days after a rain; hey, it looks great. No problem. 20:20:01
 16 But on those days in the summertime when 20:20:04
 17 we have strong prevailing winds out of the southwest 20:20:06
 18 you're going to carry large amounts of dust not only 20:20:09
 19 to Las Vegas, but well beyond it. And, and I think 20:20:12
 20 that that's a very significant problem. 20:20:16
 21 So I think that the no-action, or the 20:20:18
 22 no-expansion alternative and the conservation 20:20:19
 23 alternative of how to, how to deal with the mission 20:20:23
 24 and the resources available, and not damage those 20:20:25
 25 resources any more than actually necessary, needs to 20:20:29

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1 be fully explored. And I thank you. 20:20:32
 2 MR. MARLER: Bob Ellis. 20:20:39
 3 MR. ELLIS: Hello. I'm Bob Ellis. 20:20:47
 4 I rep-, represent Desert Survivors. 20:20:49
 5 We're a desert hiking conservation group with 800 20:20:55
 6 members in California, Nevada, and parts of the West. 20:20:58
 7 For many years we've come down and led 20:21:01
 8 backpacks and hikes in the area around Fort Irwin. 20:21:04
 9 We're very concerned with any impacts on our public 20:21:08
 10 lands. 20:21:12
 11 We're especially concerned about impacts 20:21:13
 12 on areas which have been designated previously by BLM 20:21:15
 13 studies to be eligible for wilderness. All your 20:21:19
 14 proposals at this point would take over the, what is 20:21:24
 15 now the South Abowalt (phonetic) Wilderness Study 20:21:29
 16 Area. 20:21:34
 17 All your proposals would take part of 20:21:35
 18 the Abowalt Wilderness Study Area. We're very 20:21:37
 19 concerned about that. 20:21:42
 20 It, I was interested, but before tonight 20:21:43
 21 I did not realize that you were going to, in effect, 20:21:46
 22 take over, take up from where you left off on the old 20:21:49
 23 EIR process. We commented on those processes. 20:21:53
 24 One of the things that concerned me when 20:21:58
 25 I wrote comments a few years ago was the Land Use Plan 20:22:01

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1 that justified the need for expansion. I believe the 20:22:06
 2 first Plan was done by the Army in 1987 or so, and, 20:22:10
 3 and the metrics involved and the needs involved at 20:22:15
 4 that time were used to justify an expanded base. 20:22:20
 5 I believe the Plan was also updated in 20:22:24
 6 1993, and that was the basis upon which the, the more 20:22:27
 7 recent Draft was done. Well, since that time we've 20:22:30
 8 had the Gulf War and we've had incredible advance in 20:22:36
 9 technology, primarily with use of satellites and the 20:22:42
 10 interactions that satellites and computers make on the 20:22:45
 11 battle field. 20:22:49
 12 Five or six years ago I had never read a 20:22:50
 13 Tom Clancey book, and now I'm a big fan. I've read 20:22:53
 14 about how Fort Irwin was a key factor in winning the 20:22:57
 15 Gulf War, and some of the strategic decisions that the 20:23:04
 16 Generals had to make in fighting that war. 20:23:08
 17 And it also showed me very clearly that 20:23:10
 18 things have changed seriously. The new Tom Clancey 20:23:12
 19 book that talks about fighting in Siberia between 20:23:17
 20 Russia and China with, with the United States as a 20:23:20
 21 partner there, and using satellite-based weaponry 20:23:23
 22 really, really makes it very clear that we're no 20:23:27
 23 longer in 1991; we're now in a new century. 20:23:30
 24 Desert Survivors, and I, I believe many 20:23:36
 25 other groups, are very interested in a new land use 20:23:39

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1 justification which will use modern technology and 20:23:45
 2 will determine whether or not it is really needed to 20:23:49
 3 have a Fort Irwin expansion. We, we urge you to make 20:23:52
 4 that update part of this new process. 20:23:57
 5 Number, another point from the prior 20:24:02
 6 EIR, several times I've sat on Silver Dry Lake a 20:24:04
 7 little bit north of Baker. One, one day I was perhaps 20:24:11
 8 unfortunate enough to be there in an incredible dust 20:24:17
 9 storm. 20:24:21
 10 The, the wind was coming out of the 20:24:21
 11 northwest. I had to wear handkerchiefs over my face. 20:24:24
 12 That dust was all coming out of Fort 20:24:28
 13 Irwin. I'm a backpacker and hiker. 20:24:31
 14 I've been up on Cadey Mountains on windy 20:24:33
 15 days, and what happens, the dust clouds coming from 20:24:36
 16 Fort Irwin, I've been up on mountains in southern 20:24:39
 17 Death Valley, I've seen the dust plumes coming out of 20:24:42
 18 Fort Irwin. 20:24:47
 19 I think the, that the new EIR needs to 20:24:47
 20 do a very expanded inclusion of the uses and the dust 20:24:49
 21 that's coming out. We have, as a previous speaker 20:24:54
 22 noted, new, new information has come out about the 20:24:56
 23 health concerns both in the short and long term from 20:24:59
 24 this kind of air pollution, so we're very interested 20:25:03
 25 in seeing how you're going to deal with that. I think 20:25:05

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1 it's a very important issue. 20:25:09
 2 A last issue I'd like to bring up, I did 20:25:10
 3 not get to see all the coverage, but I understand that 20:25:12
 4 a group of people recreating the historic trek on what 20:25:15
 5 was called the Mormon Trail coming from Salt Lake down 20:25:20
 6 to San Bernardino County, a large number of people in 20:25:23
 7 Salt Lake dressed up in old costumes, got their horses 20:25:27
 8 out and hauled wagons and came down the old trail. 20:25:31
 9 And I believe that Fort Irwin let them come on the 20:25:36
 10 base for part of that trek. 20:25:39
 11 Now, there's a lot of history at Fort 20:25:42
 12 Irwin. The Old Spanish Trail went through there, and 20:25:44
 13 I believe it was used, let's say starting around 1830. 20:25:47
 14 A lot of springs are on Fort Irwin that 20:25:52
 15 are now mostly off limits. I'd like to support a 20:25:55
 16 previous speaker's idea of perhaps some of the 20:25:58
 17 mitigation, if you do begin to think about better ways 20:26:01
 18 to use Fort Irwin, is to let some of us history buffs 20:26:08
 19 have access to some of those areas. 20:26:11
 20 Protect some of those areas, too, and 20:26:14
 21 promote that, because that's part of what we're all 20:26:17
 22 interested in in public lands as well. I guess I do 20:26:20
 23 have one more point, and that is in the old EIR I 20:26:24
 24 don't feel there was very satisfactory treatment with 20:26:29
 25 the issue of the Leach Lake gunnery range. 20:26:33

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1 In fact, I think if I'm not mistaken 20:26:37
 2 there was an astronomical number in there of something 20:26:39
 3 like \$8 billion as an estimate to clean it up. Well, 20:26:42
 4 I don't think that was treated very seriously, and I 20:26:47
 5 think it's time that you begin to do that in this EIR. 20:26:50
 6 I also think that a better and more 20:26:53
 7 creative use of, of the higher slope areas within the 20:26:55
 8 current base should be done as well. Anyway, good 20:26:58
 9 luck with this process. 20:27:00
 10 We're going to be looking at you all the 20:27:04
 11 way. We have a lot of concerns, and we'll be making 20:27:05
 12 comments. So, thank you very much. 20:27:08
 13 MR. MARLER: Thank you. 20:27:12
 14 Okay. We have 30 minutes left. Any 20:27:14
 15 more speakers that want to go on record for comment? 20:27:20
 16 (Whereupon, no response was had.) 20:27:23
 17 MR. MARLER: Or any questions, you may 20:27:25
 18 do it at this time. 20:27:27
 19 (Whereupon, no response was had.) 20:27:29
 20 MR. MARLER: We're here till 9:00 20:27:37
 21 o'clock, folks. 20:27:40
 22 MR. REISCHL: But you you all don't have 20:27:43
 23 to be, obviously. We, if, if we don't get someone who 20:27:44
 24 wants to speak, what we'll basically do is we'll 20:27:47
 25 recess the, the Hearing until somebody wants to say 20:27:50

1 something or until 9:00 o'clock whichever comes later. 20:27:54

2 And if we have, if we go past 9:00 20:27:59

3 o'clock, we'll go past 9:00 o'clock. But obviously 20:28:02

4 you're not required to stay. 20:28:05

5 We, we very much appreciate the fact 20:28:07

6 that you came. We did, we did get some, some, we 20:28:10

7 think, very useful things and some very good comments, 20:28:16

8 and we appreciate your patience and your 20:28:20

9 understanding. 20:28:22

10 MR. ETHRIDGE: Tim, if I could comment 20:28:26

11 on the last gentleman, one of the statements he made, 20:28:28

12 we're conducting a new land use study that was 20:28:31

13 effective I think in March of 2001, was when the 20:28:33

14 document came out. So it will be an updated land use 20:28:37

15 requirement study that would be part of the, the 20:28:43

16 Supplemental Draft. 20:28:45

17 (Whereupon, the above meeting was
18 adjourned.)

19 I certify the foregoing to be a
20 true transcript from my notes.

21
22 E-signature: D. I. Bunn

23
24 _____
25 CSR CP RPR

1 CERTIFICATION

2 I, Dorothy I. Bunn, a Registered
3 Professional Reporter, Certified Conference Reporter,
4 and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the
5 foregoing testimony was duly taken and reduced to
6 writing before me at the place and time therein
7 mentioned. I further certify that I am neither
8 related to any of the parties by blood or marriage,
9 nor do I have any interest in the outcome of the above
10 matter.

11 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set
12 my hand and affixed my official seal, at Douglas,
13 Wyoming, this 5th day of December, 2001.

14
15 E-signature: D. I. Bunn

16
17 Notary Public

18
19 My Commission expires November 17, 2003.

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23
24
25