

**Draft
Environmental Assessment
Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts,
Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho**

November 2023



**Department of the Air Force
366th Fighter Wing**



Privacy Advisory

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is provided for public comment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the President's Council on Environmental Quality NEPA Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 to 1508), and 32 CFR Part 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*. For this EA, the updated May 2022 CEQ NEPA rules (87 Federal Register 23453 through 23470), are being followed. The EIAP provides an opportunity for public input on Department of the Air Force (DAF) decision-making, allows the public to offer inputs on alternative ways for the DAF to accomplish what it is proposing, and solicit comments on the DAF's analysis of environmental effects.

Public commenting allows the DAF to make better, informed decisions. Letters or other written or oral comments provided may be published in the EA. As required by law, comments provided will be addressed in the EA and made available to the public. Providing personal information is voluntary. Any personal information provided will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment portion of any public meetings or hearings or to fulfill requests for copies of the EA or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of EA; however, only the names of the individuals making comments and specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the EA.

Compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

This document is compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. This allows assistive technology to be used to obtain the available information from the document. Due to the nature of graphics, figures, tables, and images occurring in the document, accessibility is limited to a descriptive title for each item.

Compliance with Revised CEQ Regulations

This document has been verified that it does not exceed the 75 pages, not including appendices, and defined in 40 CFR Part 1501.5(f). As defined in 40 CFR Part 1508.1(v) a "page" means 500 words and does not include maps. Diagrams, graphs, tables, and other means of graphically displaying quantitation or geospatial information.

COVER SHEET

Draft Environmental Assessment for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and Community Support Districts Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho

- a. *Responsible Agency:* Department of the Air Force (DAF)
- b. *Cooperating Agency:* None
- c. *Proposals and Actions:* The Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the Proposed Action of constructing multiple facilities and implementing infrastructure improvements in the Flightline Maintenance District and the Community Support District at Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB), per the District Development Plan (DDP). The Proposed Action would include eight of the projects outlined in the DDP, three renovation/addition, and five construction projects to achieve short- and medium-term goals at MHAFB.
- d. *For Additional Information:* Ms. Beth Burgess, NEPA and Cultural Resource Manager, tabitha.burgess@us.af.mil
- e. *Designation:* Draft EA
- f. *Abstract:* This EA has been prepared pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, Title 42 United States Code Part 4321 to 4347, implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500 to 1508, and 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 989. *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*, and the updated May 2022 Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act Rules (87 Federal Register 23453 through 23470). Potentially affected environmental resources were identified in coordination with local, state, and federal agencies.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement multiple facilities improvements in support of the DAF's mission at MHAFB. The Proposed Action is needed to achieve the DAF's vision of "an efficient flightline with integrated mission nodes, connected infrastructure networks, and enduring historic hangars" for the Flightline Maintenance District, and the vision to "create a welcoming neighborhood with safe streets and accessible amenities" for the Community Support District, as outlined in the DDP. Further, the Proposed Action will bring the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) into compliance with current design and safety regulations and ensure adequate housing is available for the growing workforce.

The analysis indicates that by continuing the environmental protection measures and best management practices associated with the Proposed Action, there would be no significant impacts of the eight improvement projects outlined in the DDP. The resource areas analyzed as part of this determination were air quality, cultural resources, and noise. In addition, no significant impacts associated with the Proposed Action when considered with reasonably foreseeable future projects would be anticipated.

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and Community Support Districts at Mountain Home AFB, Elmore County, Idaho

Pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Title 42 United States Code (USC) Sections 4321 to 4347, implemented by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §1500-1508, and 32 CFR §989, Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), the U.S. Air Force (Air Force) assessed the potential impacts on the natural and human environment associated with Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and Community Support Districts at Mountain Home AFB, Elmore County, Idaho.

Purpose of and Need for Proposed Action

Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) is home to the 366th Fighter Wing (366 FW), the “Gunfighters,” including the 366th Operations Group, Maintenance Group, Mission Support Group, and Medical Group. The mission of the 366 FW is to “provide mission-ready Gunfighters to conduct military operations anywhere, anytime.” In October 2020, the District Development Plan (DDP) team worked with a Customer Concept Document (CCD)-lite planning team to assess the optimal location for development and improvements to the Flightline Maintenance District (FMD) and Community Support District (CSD). The DDP team discussed required buildings for the area, defined infrastructure deficiencies, and proposed upgrades and repairs where needed in anticipation of the arrival of a new squadron and aircraft. The Proposed Action includes a selection of those projects mainly addressing facility improvement projects, hangar additions, dorm-style improvements, and infrastructure consolidation.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement multiple facilities improvements in support of the Department of the Air Force (DAF) missions at MHAFB. This Proposed Action is needed to achieve the DAF’s vision of “an efficient flightline with integrated mission nodes, connected infrastructure networks, and enduring historic hangars” for the FMD, and the vision to “create a welcoming neighborhood with safe streets and accessible amenities” for the CSD, as outlined in the DDP. Further, the Proposed Action will bring the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) into compliance with current design and safety regulations and ensure adequate housing is available for the growing workforce.

Description of the Preferred Alternative / Alternative 1

The Proposed Action would include eight of the projects outline in the DDP, three renovation/addition projects, and five construction projects to achieve short- and medium-term goals at MHAFB. The DDP analyzed 15 key planning and decision-guidance documents for MHAFB before laying out specific plans and renovations within the FMD and CSD to accommodate facility improvements.

All the projects listed in Table 1 are included in the Proposed Action, which would occur entirely on base property. Projects 1, 2, and 6 would be renovation and/or construction-addition projects for more efficient training operations. Projects 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 would be new construction projects, including but not limited to additional buildings, a dorm and living quarters, and access roads to various Munitions Squadron (MUNS) facilities on base.

Table 1 Summary of Projects included in the Proposed Action

Ref. No.	Bldg. No.	Project Title	Description	Project Type
1	2425	Renovate Dormitory	Renovate existing unusable dormitory, up to 80 rooms.	Renovation
2	1795	Addition for Cowboy Control	4,768 SF addition to provide additional space to support current mission requirements.	Renovation/construction (cowboy control)
3	n/a	Construct MUNS Maintenance/Production Facility	MUNS maintenance and production facility.	Construction
4	n/a	Construct Hangar and AMU	Construct hangar and AMU with accessories.	Construction
5	n/a	Permanent Dorms and Improvements to Phantom Ave	Construct permanent dorms and improve Phantom Ave (up to 80 additional dorms).	Construction
6	3600	Renovate Control Tower	Renovate Air Traffic Control Tower cab and all systems within.	Renovation
7	1386, 1388, 1390, 1392, 13920, 71392	Construct new CATM Complex	Construct a new 28 lane indoor shooting range and associated support area. Upon completion, existing CATM complex would be demolished.	Construction/demolition
8	3600	Consolidate Flight Operations	Construction of a new ATCT on the other side of the flightline. Upon completion, existing ATCT would be demolished.	Construction/demolition

Abbreviations: No. – Number, n/a – not applicable, Ref. – Reference, Bldg. – Building, AMU – Aircraft Maintenance Unit; CATM – Combat Arms Maintenance and Training; ATCT – Air Traffic Control Tower; MUNS – Munitions Squadron

Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration

The EA considered all reasonable alternatives under the CEQ regulation, 40 CFR §1502.14(a), which states that that all reasonable alternatives that have been eliminated must be briefly discussed. Alternatives to the Proposed Action in the EA consisted of projects previously developed and analyzed in the DDP, as well as internal growth and development projects for MHAFB. The EA relied on the alternative analyses conducted as part of the development of the DDP, as each project included in the Proposed Action was assessed and selected based on necessity and required support of DAF's mission and operations at MHAFB. Therefore, no alternatives to the Proposed Action, other than the No Action Alternative, were further considered in the EA.

Description of the No-Action Alternative

The CEQ regulation 40 CFR §1502.14(d) requires the inclusion of a No Action Alternative in the NEPA analysis. Under the No Action Alternative, the Air Force would implement no action, improvements, or renovation/construction of facilities at MHAFFB. This alternative would not support any of the plans set out in the DDP. The No Action Alternative would also leave MHAFFB in a housing deficit for their growing population and would not allow for growth capacity if MHAFFB were to receive a new flying mission. However, the No Action Alternative was carried forward for analysis to provide a basis for comparison with the Proposed Action Alternative.

Summary of Environmental Findings

The Air Force has concluded that the Proposed Action would not affect the following resources: airspace management and use, water resources, geological resources, biological resources, land use, infrastructure, public health and safety, hazardous materials and waste, socioeconomics, and environmental justice. The Proposed Action does not include the addition of new airspace or modifications to existing airspace, and therefore no impact to airspace management or use is expected. No playas or wetlands are located near the project area, and no additional ground water would be drawn to support the proposed new facilities; therefore, water resources will not be impacted. The project area is surface-level construction on previously disturbed land, owned and operated by MHAFFB, and no impacts to geologic resources are anticipated. No protected species are known to reside on MHAFFB, and no impact to biological resources is expected. Land use would remain the same in the hands of the military command at MHAFFB. Infrastructure will be improved upon but not significantly affected. Best management practices (BMPs) would be in place to account for public health and safety during construction and renovation. BMPs would also be used to eliminate release of hazardous waste and materials. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in no net loss or gain of employees, and no environmental justice populations are present within the project area. Environmental analysis focused on the following areas: air quality, cultural resources, and noise. These findings are summarized below:

Air Quality: Short-term, insignificant effects on air quality would be expected from the implementation of the Proposed Action. Overall construction emissions were estimated to have a maximum combined annualized emission of criteria pollutants. Compared to Elmore County's most recent available data from the EPA's National Emissions Inventory, the actions would account for less than 1 % of local air emissions. The project is expected to remain below the *De Minimis* threshold under the General Conformity rule and result in insignificant increases of GHGs as CO₂e.

Cultural Resources: The buildings specified to be renovated, modified, or demolished as part of the Proposed Action were previously determined not to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as historic structures. If any of the buildings are determined eligible following completion of this NEPA process but prior to MHAFFB initiating construction, MHAFFB would complete consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and apply any required mitigation measures prior to the renovation, modification, or demolition of these facilities.

Noise: Implementation of the Proposed Action would have minor, temporary increases in noise levels, localized in the FMD and CSD, during demolition and construction activities. The base is an active military facility that typically experiences high noise levels from daily flight operations. The Proposed Action would fall between the 65 and 80 dBA noise zones as determined by the base's AICUZ program measurements.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on my review of the facts and analyses contained in the attached EA, conducted under the provisions of NEPA, CEQ Regulations, and 32 CFR §989, I conclude that the Proposed Action would not have a significant environmental impact, either by itself or cumulatively with other known projects. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA, the President's CEQ 40 CFR §§ 1500-1508, and the Air Force EIAP regulations 32 CFR § 989. The signing of this Finding of No Significant Impact completes the EIAP.

SIGNATORY NAME
RANK
TITLE

Date

Executive Summary

This environmental assessment (EA) was prepared by the U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) and Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) to assess the potential for impacts associated with constructing multiple facilities and implementing infrastructure improvements in the Flightline Maintenance District and the Community Support District at MHAFB, per the District Development Plan (DDP). The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the DAF's regulations for implementing NEPA, the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP; 32 CFR 989).

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would include eight of the projects outlined in the DDP, three renovation/addition, and five construction projects to achieve short- and medium-term goals at MHAFB (MHAFB, 2021a). The DDP analyzed 15 key planning and decision-guidance documents for MHAFB before laying out specific plans and renovations within the Flightline Maintenance District and Community Support District to accommodate facility improvements within the districts (MHAFB, 2021a). Projects 1, 2, and 6 (Table ES-1) would be renovation and/or construction-addition projects for more efficient training operations. Projects 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 (Table 2-1) would be new construction projects, including but not limited to additional buildings, a dorm and living quarters, and access roads to various Munitions Squadron (MUNS) facilities on base. All the projects listed in Table ES-1 are included in the Proposed Action, which would occur entirely on base property.

Table ES-1 Summary of Projects included in the Proposed Action

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Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

Purpose: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement multiple facilities improvements in support of the DAF’s mission at MHAFB.

Need: The Proposed Action is needed to achieve the DAF’s vision of “an efficient flightline with integrated mission nodes, connected infrastructure networks, and enduring historic hangars” for the Flightline Maintenance District, and the vision to “create a welcoming neighborhood with safe streets and accessible amenities” for the Community Support District, as outlined in the DDP. Further, the Proposed Action will bring the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) into compliance with current design and safety regulations and ensure adequate housing is available for the growing workforce.

Alternatives Considered

MHAFB considered the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative.

Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action

Table ES-2 presents a summary of the potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action. Note that none of the effects would be significant.

Table ES-2 Summary of Potential Impacts to Resource Areas

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action
Air Quality	None	<i>De minimis</i>
Water Resources	None	None
Geological Resources	None	None
Cultural Resources	None	None
Biological Resources	None	None
Land Use	None	None
Noise	None	<i>De minimis</i>
Infrastructure	None	None
Public Health and Safety	None	None
Hazardous Materials and Wastes	None	None
Socioeconomics	None	None
Environmental Justice	None	None

Public Involvement

MHAFB notified relevant agencies and stakeholders about the Proposed Action and alternatives. Letters were sent out via email on May 16, 2023, and hard copies were sent to any federally recognized tribes with interest in the Proposed Action area. After this early scoping, MHAFB also solicited comments on the draft EA from interested and potentially affected public parties. A public comment period of 30 days began on 1 November 2023. Advertisements for the notices of availability for the draft EA and draft FONSI were placed in two newspapers prior to the start of the public comment period: the *Idaho Statesman* and *City of Mountain Home*.

The documents were also made publicly available on the internet at:
<https://www.mountainhome.af.mil/About-MHAFB/Environmental-Info/>

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACAM	Air Conformity Applicability Model
AICUZ	Air Force Air Installations Compatible Use Zone
AMU	Aircraft Maintenance Unit
ATCT	Air Traffic Control Tower
AQCR	Region
BMP	best management practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CATM	Combat Arms and Training Maintenance
CCD	Customer Concept Document
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH ₄	methane
CO	carbon monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CO _{2e}	carbon dioxide equivalent
DAF	Department of the Air Force
Db	decibel
DDP	district development plan
DNL	day-night average sound level
EA	environmental assessment
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FW	Fighter Wing
GHG	greenhouse gases
GWP	global warming potential
IDP	Installation Development Plan
INFOSEC	information security
MHAFB	Mountain Home Air Force Base
MUNS	Munitions Squadron
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEI	National Emissions Inventory
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO _x	nitrous oxides
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
O ₃	ground-level ozone
OPSEC	operations security
Pb	lead
PM	respirable particulate matter
QEAF	Qatar Emiri Air Force
SC-GHG	Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SF	square feet
tpy	tons per year
VOC	volatile organic compounds

1 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction

This environmental assessment (EA) was prepared by the U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) and Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) to assess the potential for impacts associated with constructing multiple facilities and implementing infrastructure improvements in the Flightline Maintenance District and the Community Support District at MHAFB, per the District Development Plan (DDP). The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the DAF's regulations for implementing NEPA, the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP; 32 CFR 989).

1.2 Background

1.2.1 MHAFB History and Missions

MHAFB was established in 1943 as an Army base and a B-24 Liberator aircraft training center. Historical military use includes the 470th Bombardment Group, the 490th Bombardment Group, the 494th Bombardment Group, and the 5th Strategic Reconnaissance Group, among others.

Following WWII, the U.S. government established a policy of providing training to military personnel from countries allied with the U.S. that continues today. Changes in international requirements and reduction of the US military budget have established a need for military forces of many nations to work together to meet specific threats. This combined military capability allows for substantial reductions in each nation's military force while also creating a larger force necessary to respond to international requirements (MHAFB, 2021b, and MHAFB, 2007).

MHAFB is now home to the 366th Fighter Wing (366 FW), the "Gunfighters," including the 366th Operations Group, Maintenance Group, Mission Support Group, and Medical Group. The mission of the 366 FW is to "provide mission-ready Gunfighters to conduct military operations anywhere, anytime" (DAF, 2023). There are three fighter squadrons within the 366 FW, including the 389th Fighter Squadron, the 391st Fighter Squadron, and a Republic of Singapore 428th Fighter Squadron consisting of 10 operational F-15SG aircraft, personnel, and equipment. The 726th Air Control Squadron and the 266th Range Squadron of the Idaho Air National Guard are also assigned to MHAFB. The Qatar Emiri Air Force (QEAF) is anticipated to beddown 12 F-15QA aircraft, associated personnel, and equipment for training missions at MHAFB¹. This beddown expects approximately 300 additional QEAF and U.S. Air Force personnel (MHAFB, 2022a).

1.2.2 Installation Planning

The DAF ensures facilities and infrastructure at MHAFB meet mission and regulatory requirements through a comprehensive planning process. The installation development plan (IDP) is a living guidance document to support all development and improvement projects at MHAFB for the next 20–30 years (MHAFB, 2017). The IDP established four main goals, each containing several objectives, to support the vision statement. Objectives outlined under the first goal include improvements to hangar space; increased housing capacity; and updating utilities, communications, and internet. In addition to overall goals and objectives, the IDP lays out plans intended to increase efficiency and mission capability in seven different districts within MHAFB. The IDP also points out that current facilities capacity at

¹ The Qatar Emiri Air Force F-15QA Beddown Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was completed in 2022.

MHAFB are inadequate and not able to support new flying missions. Furthermore, any transient aircraft would constrain available hangar space.

In October 2020, the DDP planning team worked with a Customer Concept Document (CCD)-lite planning team to assess the optimal location for development and improvements to the Flightline Maintenance District (FMD) and Community Support District (CSD). The DDP team discussed required buildings for the area, defined infrastructure deficiencies, and proposed upgrades and repairs where needed in anticipation of the arrival of a new squadron and aircraft. In July of 2021, the CCD planning team conducted a second on-site workshop with key stakeholders, focusing on relocating the proposed Squadron Operations Facility and Maintenance Hangar to the “Sea of Rocks” alternative site (MHAFB, 2021a). This site and other alternatives for the improvements were laid out in the DDP, properly assessed, and preferred locations were identified. The final DDP report was produced in November of 2021, summarizing the analysis and necessary improvements needed at MHAFB, including preferred locations, timelines, and project priorities (MHAFB, 2021a). This EA includes a selection of those projects mainly addressing facility improvement projects, hangar additions, dorm-style improvements, and infrastructure consolidation.

1.3 Location

MHAFB is located approximately 40 miles southeast of Boise, Idaho, and 11 miles southwest of Mountain Home, Idaho, in Elmore County (Figure 1-1). The installation occupies 6,844 acres of high plateau desert landscape. The most intensively developed areas are the central and northeastern portions of the base. Military infrastructure includes the airfield, hangars, administration buildings, and housing. MHAFB currently has a wide range of base utilization that includes the Sagebrush Inn (hotel), Silver Sage Golf Course, Gunfighter Theater, Mountain Home FamCamp, a clinic and veterinary clinic, and an archery range.

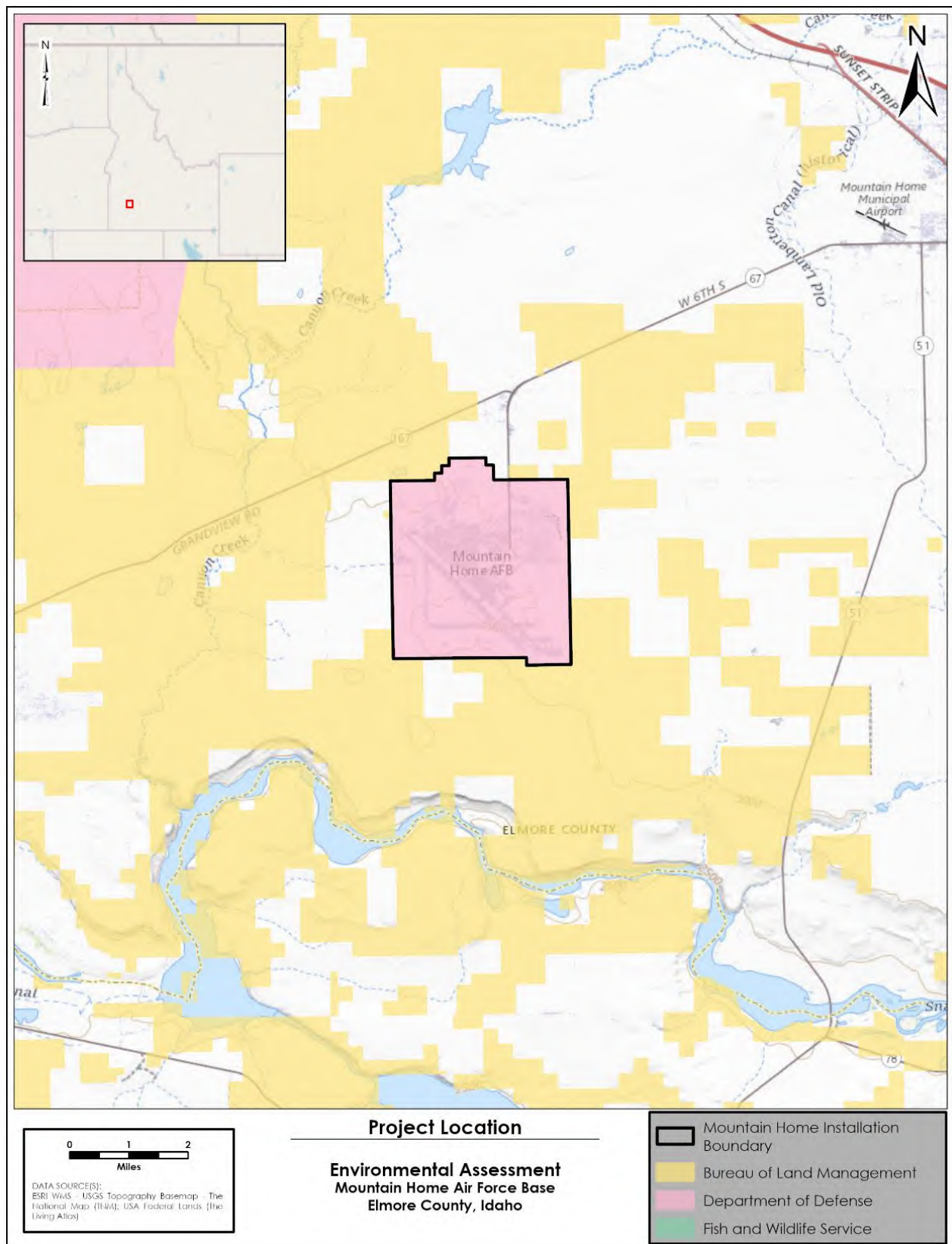


Figure 1-1 Project Location

1.4 Purpose and Need

Purpose: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to implement multiple facilities improvements in support of the DAF's mission at MHAFB.

Need: The Proposed Action is needed to achieve the DAF's vision of "an efficient flightline with integrated mission nodes, connected infrastructure networks, and enduring historic hangars" for the Flightline Maintenance District, and the vision to "create a welcoming neighborhood with safe streets and accessible amenities" for the Community Support District, as outlined in the DDP. Further, the Proposed Action will bring the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) into compliance with current design and safety regulations and ensure adequate housing is available for the growing workforce.

1.5 NEPA and Other Compliance Requirements

This EA is prepared under the NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations for NEPA. NEPA requires a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to evaluate all potential effects of a proposed federal action and alternatives. Air Force Policy Directive 32-70, *Environmental Considerations in Air Force Programs and Activities*, states that DAF will comply with applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations, including NEPA. The DAF's implementing regulation for NEPA is the EIAP, 32 CFR 989. In compliance with NEPA, the DAF determines if preparation of an EA is the appropriate level of the EIAP for the Proposed Action. The EA analyzes whether the Proposed Action would result in significant impacts and guides DAF in implementing the Proposed Action in a manner consistent with DAF regulations, policies, and standards for environmental stewardship should the Proposed Action be approved and implemented. If an EA is required, the analysis is documented and, if supported, a decision is reached, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is signed. If a FONSI is not reached, DAF decides whether to conduct mitigation to reduce impacts below the level of significance (i.e., in a mitigated FONSI), prepare an environmental impact statement, modify the Proposed Action, or select the No Action Alternative.

1.6 Stakeholder Coordination and Public Involvement

NEPA requirements help ensure that environmental information is made available to the public during the decision-making process and prior to actions being taken. The Intergovernmental Cooperation Act and EO 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs* (amended by EO 12416), requires federal agencies to cooperate with and consider state and local views when implementing a federal proposal. In accordance with CEQ regulations and procedures for implementing NEPA, MHAFB notified relevant agencies and stakeholders about the Proposed Action and alternatives. Letters were sent out via email on May 16, 2023, and hard copies were sent to any federally recognized tribes with interest in the Proposed Action area. After this early scoping, MHAFB also solicited comments on the draft EA from interested and potentially affected public parties. A public comment period of 30 days began on 1 November 2023. Advertisements for the notices of availability for the draft EA and draft FONSI were placed in two newspapers prior to the start of the public comment period: the *Idaho Statesman* and *City of Mountain Home*.

The documents were also made publicly available on the internet at:
<https://www.mountainhome.af.mil/About-MHAFB/Environmental-Info/> -

2 Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would include eight of the projects outlined in the DDP, three renovation/addition and five construction projects to achieve short- and medium-term goals at MHAFB (MHAFB, 2021a) (Figure 2-1). The DDP analyzed 15 key planning and decision-guidance documents for MHAFB before laying out specific plans and renovations within the Flightline Maintenance District and Community Support District to accommodate facility improvements within the districts (MHAFB, 2021a).

Projects 1, 2, and 6 (Table 2-1) would be renovation and/or construction-addition projects for more efficient training operations. Projects 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 (Table 2-1) would be new construction projects, including but not limited to additional buildings, a dorm and living quarters, and access roads to various Munitions Squadron (MUNS) facilities on base. All the projects listed in Table 2-1 are included in the Proposed Action, which would occur entirely on base property.

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1	2425	Renovate Dormitory	Renovate existing unusable dormitory, up to 80 rooms	Renovation
2	1795	Addition for Cowboy Control	4,768 SF addition to provide additional space to support current mission requirements.	Renovation/construction (cowboy control)
3	n/a	Construct MUNS Maintenance/Production Facility	MUNS maintenance and production facility.	Construction
4	n/a	Construct Hangar and AMU	Construct hangar and AMU with accessories.	Construction
5	n/a	Permanent Dorms and Improvements to Phantom Ave	Construct permanent dorms and improve Phantom Ave (up to 80 additional dorms).	Construction
6	3600	Renovate Control Tower	Renovate Air Traffic Control Tower cab and all systems within.	Renovation
7	1386, 1388, 1390, 1392, 13920, 71392	Construct new CATM Complex	Construct a new 28-lane indoor shooting range and associated support area. Upon completion, existing CATM complex would be demolished.	Construction/demolition
8	3600	Consolidate Flight Operations	Construction of a new ATCT on the other side of the flightline. Upon completion, existing ATCT would be demolished.	Construction/demolition

Abbreviations; No. – Number, n/a – not applicable, Ref. – Reference, Bldg. – Building, AMU – Aircraft Maintenance Unit; CATM – Combat Arms Maintenance and Training; ATCT – Air Traffic Control Tower; MUNS – Munitions Squadron



Figure 2-1 Layout of the projects included in the Proposed Action

Renovate Dormitory

This dorm was built in 1959 but was vacated in 2015 because of failing infrastructure. MHAFB had an excess of this facility category at that time, so renovations were not made, and today the existing structure is unusable. Recent mission changes have prompted a need for more beds than currently available at MHAFB. This renovation project would include an additional 25,000 SF and 80 rooms in B2425.

B1795

Building 1795 was built in 1974 and is used for operations security (OPSEC) and information security (INFOSEC). B1795 is primarily used to provide electronic simulations of ground-based air defense threats and command and control, ground intercept, and datalink management through the air operations center for the Mountain Home Range Complex. The current building is insufficient for current mission requirements, and there is not enough space on the operations floor to monitor training scenarios. An addition is required to allow personnel involved in training scenarios to communicate with aircraft. The addition would secure a space that includes server rooms and an operation room. The project would be a 4,768 SF addition and would include bullpen-style operation space for air traffic control and air battle management training and critical equipment storage.

MUNS Facility

A new facility with associated igloo would be constructed for MUNS training and storage, and 15,568 ft of access roads would be built and/or improved.

Construct Hangar and Aircraft Maintenance Unit (AMU)

A new 79,185 SF fighter jet hangar would be constructed alongside existing hangars adjacent to Runway 12/30. The AMU would be equipped with wheels, tires, egress, propulsion, tools and parts, and armament-maintenance equipment storage. The hangar and AMU would be all new construction to support growing mission requirements.

Dorms and Renovations to Phantom Ave

New dorm-style living quarters would be constructed, adding approximately 25,000 SF and 80 rooms to support the incoming personnel. Two blocks, or about 2,110 ft, of Phantom Ave would be improved.

Renovate Air Traffic Control Tower

The existing Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT), built in 1986, would be renovated to address multiple health and safety issues. The existing cab would be removed from the tower, and a new cab with a more efficient layout would be added. Renovations to the cab portion would include all systems located inside (i.e., taller windows, shallower counters) to solve visibility restrictions towards the south side of the airfield. The ATCT renovation would also include, at minimum, installation of a walkway between the ATCT and the simulator building; overhaul/repair of the elevator hydraulic system; repair/replacement of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system; and repair/replacement of the fire alarm and fire-suppression systems. A temporary air traffic control facility would be required during construction.

Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) Complex

A new 37,196 SF complex would be constructed for combat arms training and maintenance. The new facility would provide a 28-lane indoor arms range and associated support areas that include a classroom, weapons-maintenance shop, student weapons cleaning, issue room, arms vault, break room, range supply room, restrooms, admin offices, and mechanical and electrical rooms. The existing outdoor range is completely exposed to the environment, and the watch tower is improperly positioned and has a restricted view of all firing positions and targets, which is against Air Force Instruction. Upon completion of the new CATM complex, the existing complex, including B1388, 1392, 1386, and the associated berm, will be demolished.

Consolidating Flight Operations

This project would involve construction of a new ATCT on the other side of the flightline, next to B261. This project would be completed in 2028, and once complete, the existing ATCT would be demolished. Currently, air traffic controls cannot see the holding patterns to the south of the runway, and they are required to maintain visual contact with aircraft in the visual flight rules pattern. Therefore, this project is necessary to provide controllers proper line of sight. In the meantime, renovations to the existing ATCT, as described above, will temporarily solve this line-of-sight issue.

2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would implement no action, improvements, renovation/construction, or facilities improvements at MHAFB. This alternative would not support any of the plans set out in the DDP. The No Action Alternative would also leave MHAFB in a housing deficit for their growing population and would not allow for growth capacity if MHAFB were to receive a new flying mission (MHAFB, 2017). However, the No Action Alternative was carried forward for analysis to provide a basis for comparison with the Proposed Action Alternative.

2.3 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

In accordance with 32 CFR 989, which implements the Air Forces' EIAP procedures, and with CEQ's regulations implementing NEPA, the Air Force must consider reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action. Alternatives were deemed reasonable if they fully satisfied the purpose and need for the Proposed Action while also being technically and fiscally feasible.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action in this EA consist of projects previously developed and analyzed in the DDP, as well as internal growth and development projects for MHAFB. This EA relies on the alternative analyses conducted as part of the development of the DDP, as each project included in the Proposed Action has been assessed and selected based on necessity and required support of DAF's mission and operations at MHAFB. Therefore, no alternatives to the Proposed Action were further considered in this EA.

2.4 Identification of the Preferred Alternative

MHAFB has identified the Proposed Action as the preferred alternative.

3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.1 Resources Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

The Proposed Action would not result in any impacts to airspace management and use, biological resources, coastal resources, land use, safety, socioeconomics, environmental justice or children's health, geologic resources, visual resources, hazardous waste, and material or water resources, as detailed below (Table 3-1).

Table 3-1: Resources not carried forward for analysis.

Resource	Justification
Airspace Management and Use	The Proposed Action does not include the addition of new airspace or any modifications to existing airspace. Therefore, this resource would not be affected.
Water Resources	Implementation of the Proposed Action is not expected to impact water resources. No wetlands or playas are located within the project area. No additional ground water would be drawn to support the proposed structures. In fact, the consolidation of facilities may have a minor beneficial impact on water resources by providing more efficient water use by personnel. Therefore, effects to this resource can be discounted.
Geologic Resources	The Proposed Action would take place at or near the surface of previously disturbed, government-owned land where no significant geologic features are located. Therefore, this resource would not be affected.
Biological Resources	No species protected under the Endangered Species Act (whether listed as candidate, threatened, or endangered) are known to occur on MHAFB (MHAFB 2021c). Therefore, this resource would not be affected.
Land Use	The Proposed Action would take place on previously disturbed, government-owned land, which would remain in military use. No change in land use is being proposed. Therefore, this resource would not be affected.
Infrastructure	The Proposed Action includes construction of new buildings. However, these proposed types of buildings are common at MHAFB in form and function.
Public Health and Safety	Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented during all construction and renovation projects, including limiting public access to construction sites. Therefore, the Proposed Action poses no risk to public health and safety.
Hazardous Materials and Wastes	BMPs would be implemented during all construction and renovation projects to avoid or eliminate release of hazardous material and waste. Hazardous waste, if encountered, will be handled consistent with existing guidelines and regulations. MHAFB would obtain all required permits for waste disposal prior to the start of work. Therefore, impacts associated with hazardous material and waste would be minimal.
Socioeconomics	Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in no net loss or gain of employees or base personnel. Therefore, there would be no impact to the socioeconomics of the project area.
Environmental Justice	There are no environmental justice populations present within the project area. Therefore, there would be no impact to this resource area.

3.2 Air Quality

3.2.1 Regulatory Setting and Methodology

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality regulate air quality in the State. The Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended, gives the EPA the responsibility

of establishing primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (40 CFR Part 50) that set acceptable concentration levels for seven criteria pollutants. These standards represent the maximum allowable ambient concentrations for ground-level ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), respirable particulate matter (PM) (including particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter [PM₁₀] and particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter [PM_{2.5}]), and lead (Pb). Ground level O₃ is created through the reactions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the presence of sunlight. Short-term standards (i.e., for periods generally less than 24 hours) have been established for pollutants contributing to acute health effects, while long-term standards (i.e., for quarterly or annual averages) have been established for pollutants contributing to chronic health effects. The EPA has given each state the authority to adopt standards stricter than those established under the federal program; however, the state of Idaho has not set stricter standards, and as such, only the federal standards apply to proposed projects. Table 3-2 below summarizes the EPA NAAQS for federally listed criteria pollutants adopted by Idaho.

Table 3-2 Current National and State Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Pollutant	Primary/ Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Form
Carbon monoxide (CO)	Primary	8 hours	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year
		1 hour	35 ppm	
Lead (Pb)	Primary and secondary	Rolling 3-month average	0.15 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	Primary	1 hour	100 ppb	98th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
	Primary and secondary	1 year	53 ppb	Annual Mean
Ozone (O ₃)	Primary and secondary	8 hours	0.070 ppm	Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over 3 years
PM _{2.5}	Primary	1 year	12.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
	Secondary	1 year	15.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
	Primary and secondary	24 hours	35 µg/m ³	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years
PM ₁₀	Primary and secondary	24 hours	150 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years
Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂)	Primary	1 hour	75 ppb	99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
	Secondary	3 hours	0.5 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year

**Source: EPA 2020 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (40 CFR part 50) and Air Force Air Quality Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) Guide; PM = Particulate Matter*

Attainment versus Nonattainment

EPA classifies the air quality in an Air Quality Control Region (AQCR), or in subareas of an AQCR (e.g.,

counties), according to whether the concentrations of criteria pollutants in ambient air exceed the NAAQS. Areas within each AQCR are, therefore, designated as either “attainment,” “nonattainment,” “maintenance,” or “unclassified” areas for each of the seven criteria pollutants. These are defined as follows:

- Attainment area — The air quality within the area is better than the NAAQS.
- Nonattainment area — Criteria pollutant levels exceed NAAQS.
- Maintenance area — The area was previously designated as a nonattainment area but is now in attainment.
- Unclassified area — There is not enough information to appropriately classify the area, so it is considered an attainment area.

The Air Force Air Quality EIAP Guide, July 2020, further outlines the definition of attainment:

- Clearly Attainment (definitively in attainment, less than 85% of any NAAQS).
- Questionably Attainment (within 15% of any NAAQS)

Elmore County, where MHAFB is located, is designated as an attainment zone.

General Conformity Rule

The federal General Conformity rule (40 CFR Part 93 Subpart B) under the CAA applies to federal actions in nonattainment or maintenance areas. The General Conformity rule requires that a subject federal action meet the requirements of a State Implementation Plan or Federal Implementation Plan. More specifically, CAA conformity is ensured when a federal action does not:

- cause a new violation of the NAAQS,
- contribute to an increase in the frequency or severity of a violation of NAAQS, or
- delay the timely attainment of any NAAQS, interim progress milestones, or other milestone toward achieving compliance with the NAAQS.

A General Conformity analysis is not mandatory for attainment areas; however, impacts on air quality would be considered significant if the Proposed Action produced emissions that exceeded the *De Minimis* threshold levels established under the General Conformity rule, or that would lead to a violation of any federal, state, or local air regulation.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gaseous compounds that trap heat in the atmosphere. The most common GHGs emitted from human activities are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (NO_x). GHG emissions result from burning of fuels such as natural gas, diesel, and propane. To provide a single metric that embodies all GHGs, CEQ recommends that emissions are reported in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). To calculate CO₂e, the mass of emissions of each GHG is multiplied by the appropriate global warming potential (GWP) for that GHG. Current GWP are presented in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3 Current Global Warming Potential Factors

Greenhouse Gas	GWP	Common Sources
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	1	Mobile and stationary combustion
Methane (CH ₄)	25	Coal mining, fuel combustion, landfills, wastewater treatment
Nitrogen oxide (N ₂ O)	298	Fuel combustion, fertilizers

Source: CEQs' Federal Greenhouse Gas Accounting and Reporting Guidance, January 17, 2016

Current guidance for the analysis of GHG for federal agencies during the NEPA process is undergoing changes. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 13990, *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*, CEQ rescinded its 2019 Draft NEPA Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and is reviewing the 2016 Final Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in NEPA Reviews. CEQ is also in the process of reviewing the 2020 NEPA regulations to identify necessary revisions to comply with the law and meet the environmental, climate change, and environmental justice objectives of EOs 13990 and 14008. CEQ is proposing a two-phase approach to these rule changes and updates.

In the 2023 Final Guidance, CEQ recommends agencies use the projected GHG emissions associated with proposed actions to help assess potential climate change effects. They further recommend that, when considering GHG emissions and their significance, agencies should use appropriate tools and methodologies to quantify the reasonably foreseeable GHG emissions (including direct and indirect emissions) of a proposed action, the no action alternative, and any reasonable alternatives. In addition to quantifying emissions, agencies should disclose and provide context for GHG emissions and climate effects to help decision makers and the public understand proposed actions' potential GHG emissions and climate change effects. To disclose effects and provide additional context for proposed actions' emissions once GHG emissions have been estimated, agencies should apply the best available estimates of the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases (SC-GHG) to the incremental metric ton of each individual type of GHG emissions expected from a proposed action and its alternatives. SC-GHG estimates allow monetization (presented in U.S. dollars) of the climate change effects from the marginal or incremental emission of GHG emissions.

Potential impacts of the Proposed Action on air quality are considered significant if the action would:

- Increase ambient air pollution above any NAAQS;
- Contribute to an existing violation of any NAAQS;
- Interfere with or delay timely attainment of NAAQS;
- Expose people to hazardous air pollutants in large quantities; or
- Result in a substantial increase in the base's potential to emit GHG.

3.2.2 Affected Environment

Elmore County, Idaho, where MHAFB is located, is in an attainment area.

3.2.3 Environmental Consequences

3.2.3.1 Proposed Action

Short-term, insignificant effects on air quality would be expected from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Overall construction emissions were estimated to have a maximum combined annualized emission of criteria pollutants shown in Table 3-4. Compared to Elmore County's most recent available data from the EPA's National Emissions Inventory (NEI), the actions would account for less than 1 % of local air emissions.

Air emissions are expected to be generated from temporary construction-related activities. Construction does not include any new major stationary sources of air emissions, and there would not be an appreciable net increase of air emissions from stationary sources such as building heaters, paint booths, engine test stands, and fuel storage and dispensing. Stationary source emissions are calculated by ACAM and included in emissions totals. The project is expected to remain below the *De Minimis* threshold under the General Conformity rule and result in insignificant increases of GHGs as CO₂e.

Table 3-4 Total Annual Emissions Increase for Planned Project Compared to Elmore County CY20 NEI Emission Totals

Activity	Emissions (Tons per year)					
	VOC	NOx	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
All construction and permanent stationary air emissions sources ^a (CY25)	2.806	13.60	19.11	0.048	71.384	0.524
Construction emissions as % of county emissions	0.02%	0.15%	0.01%	0.03%	0.68%	0.001%
All construction and permanent stationary air emissions sources ^a (CY26)	2.694	9.895	14.052	0.032	49.164	0.397
Construction emissions as % of county emissions	0.02%	0.11%	0.01%	0.02%	0.47%	0.001%
All construction and permanent stationary air emissions sources ^a (CY27)	0.440	0.631	6.259	0.007	0.034	0.032
Construction emissions as % of county emissions	0.003%	0.007%	0.004%	0.004%	0.0003%	0.0001
All construction and permanent stationary air emissions sources ^a (CY28)	0.014	0.244	0.205	0.001	0.018	0.018
Construction emissions as % of county emissions	0.0001%	0.0028%	0.0001%	0.0006%	0.0002%	0.0001%
CY20 NEI-reported emissions for Elmore County	15969	8839	167046	172	10465	35597

^a. Estimated emissions shown are for the Proposed Action. All alternatives considered resulted in a lower estimated increase to regional emissions. Totals for all proposed actions were considered individually in the assessment.

CY – calendar year

General Conformity

MHAFB is in an attainment area, and as such, emissions from federal projects are not subject to General Conformity for pollutants. Although a conformity analysis is not mandatory for attainment areas, impacts on air quality could be considered significant if the Proposed Action would have emissions that exceed

the *De Minimis* threshold levels established under the General Conformity Rule, or would lead to a violation of any federal, state, or local air regulations. Therefore, an applicability assessment was done.

The analysis considered the temporary emissions generated by short-term activities associated with the renovation of existing buildings, construction of new buildings, installation of new walkways and roads, and improvements to existing roads. If the total annual net change direct and indirect emissions from an action are below the *De Minimis* levels, the action is deemed insignificant. *De Minimis* values for non-attainment shown in the 2020 EIAP guide are used.

Annual emissions estimated for the project actions fall below the General Conformity rule *De Minimis* thresholds, as shown in Table 3-5, and below the 250 ton/year Prevention of Significant Deterioration limits that would be an indicator of potentially significant air quality impacts for attainment areas. Based on estimated emissions, the Proposed Action would be considered clearly insignificant and would not contribute to a violation of any federal, state, or local air regulations.

Table 3-5 Estimated Construction Emissions for Proposed Actions and Alternatives Compared to General Conformity De Minimis Thresholds

Activity ^a	Emission (Tons per year)						Exceedance of <i>De Minimis</i> Threshold?
	VOC	NO _x	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	
Proposed Action (CY25)	2.806	13.60	19.11	0.048	71.384	0.524	No
Proposed Action (CY26)	2.694	9.895	14.052	0.032	49.164	0.397	No
Proposed Action (CY27)	0.440	0.631	6.259	0.007	0.034	0.032	No
Proposed Action (CY28)	0.014	0.244	0.205	0.001	0.018	0.018	No
No Action Alternative	0	0	0	0	0	0	No
<i>De Minimis</i> threshold ^b	100	50	100	100	100	100	-

^a Assumes all construction would be completed within a single year.

^b Air Force Base – MHAFB is located within an attainment zone therefore, *De Minimis* values used in assessment are conservatively those for non-attainment areas from EPA Table 5-2 General Conformity *De Minimis* Values.

Due to the nature of the emissions totals and short duration, implementation of the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative at MHAFB would not cause significant air quality impacts. The majority of emissions would end with the completion of construction and demolition activities, and there would be insignificant long-term effects on air quality.

Greenhouse Gases

For this analysis, increases above baseline emissions were estimated for temporary emissions sources, primarily caused by construction activities associated with implementing multiple facilities and infrastructure improvements in the Flightline Maintenance District and the Community Support District at MHAFB. As a secondary analysis, increases above baseline emissions were estimated for temporary emissions sources, primarily caused by construction activities associated with facility improvements at MHAFB. Emission calculations were completed for the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative using methodology employed by the Air Conformity Applicability Model (ACAM).

Short-term GHG emissions from construction and construction-related activities are estimated to be a maximum of 4,543.3 tons per year (tpy) or 4,121.6 metric tpy and are well below the proposed reference point of 27,563 tpy of GHG and represent approximately 0.034% of Elmore County's annual CO₂e emissions and 0.016% of Idaho's annual CO₂e emissions based on data reported to the NEI in 2020.

(Table 3-6). Because of the estimated emissions totals, short duration of project construction activity, and minimal emissions from new construction of permanent stationary air emissions sources, implementation of the proposed projects at MHAFB would not be expected to have significant air quality impact. Additionally, 78.06% of emissions produced from the Proposed Action would cease once construction is completed.

The SC-GHG of this project is expected to be \$399,600.30 during the construction phase: 0.014% of the state SC-GHG and 0.029% of the national SC-GHG. Implementation of the proposed project at Mountain Home AFB would not be expected to have significant Social Cost impact.

Table 3-6 Estimated GHG Emissions from Proposed Actions Compared to State and County Levels

Project	Estimated GHG (CO₂e) Emissions (tpy)	Percent of County's Total GHG Emissions	Percent of State's Total GHG Emissions
CY20 NEI Idaho Emissions Totals	28,256,499	-	-
CY20 NEI Elmore County Emissions Totals	13,512,798	-	47.8%
Planned Action (CY25)	4543.3	0.034%	0.016%
Planned Action (CY26)	3292.0	0.024%	0.012%
Planned Action (CY227)	996.4	0.007%	0.004%
Planned Action (CY28)	294.2	0.002%	0.001%
No Action Alternative	0.00	0.00%	0.000%

3.2.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no effects on air quality would occur. Air emissions would remain at their current baseline levels, and there would be no significant impact on air quality.

3.3 Cultural Resources

3.3.1 Regulatory Setting and Methodology

Cultural resources are prehistoric and historic sites, buildings, districts, or objects that are important to a culture or community. Cultural resources are divided into three categories: archaeological resources, architectural resources, and traditional cultural resources.

Archaeological resources are the physical remains of past cultures, often noted as places where people left artifacts or other physical evidence of their existence (e.g., arrowheads, cans, or bottles).

Archaeological resources can be classed as either sites or isolates and may be either prehistoric or historic. Isolates often contain only one or two artifacts, while sites are usually larger and contain more artifacts.

Architectural resources are standing buildings, dams, canals, bridges, and other structures.

Traditional cultural resources are associated with the cultural practices and beliefs of a living community that link that community to its past and help maintain its cultural identity. Most traditional cultural resources are associated with Native Americans. Traditional cultural resources may include, but are not limited to, archaeological resources, location of historic events, sacred areas, sources of raw materials for making tools, sacred objects, or traditional hunting and gathering areas.

Under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and various federal regulations, only significant cultural resources are considered when assessing the possible impacts of a federal action. Significant archaeological, architectural, and traditional cultural resources include those that are listed and those recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The significance of archaeological and architectural resources under NHPA is usually determined by using specific criteria (listed in 36 CFR 60.4), including: association with an important event, association with a famous individual, embodiment of the characteristics of a period, and ability to contribute to scientific research. Cultural resources must usually be at least 50 years old to be considered eligible for listing. However, more recent structures, such as Cold War era resources, may warrant protection if they manifest “exceptional significance.”

Traditional cultural resources can be evaluated for National Register eligibility as well. However, even if a traditional cultural resource is determined to be not eligible for the National Register, it may still be significant to a particular Native American tribe. In this case, such resources may be protected under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and Executive Order 13007 addressing sacred Indian sites. The significance of a Native American traditional cultural resource is determined by consulting with the appropriate Native American tribes. The area of analysis for cultural resources for the Proposed Action is MHAFB.

3.3.2 Affected Environment

All MHAFB landholdings have been surveyed for cultural resources.

Archaeological resources — None of the historic or pre-historic sites that were found within the installation fence boundary during cultural resource surveys in 1990 or 1998 were determined eligible for listing in the NRHP (ICRMP, 2022).

Architectural resources — As of January 2022, 25 built-environment (architectural) resources have been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP as individual buildings/structures, contributing elements of proposed historic districts, or both. However, none of those 25 resources are proposed to be modified under the Proposed Action.

Traditional cultural resources — No traditional cultural resources have been identified at MHAFB (MHAFB 2022b).

3.3.3 Environmental Consequences

3.3.3.1 Proposed Action

The buildings specified to be renovated, modified, or demolished as part of the Proposed Action were previously determined to not be eligible for listing on the NRHP as historic structures. If any of the buildings are determined eligible following completion of this NEPA process but prior to MHAFB initiating construction, MHAFB would complete consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office under Section 106 of the NHPA and apply any required mitigation measures prior to the renovation, modification, or demolition of these facilities.

3.3.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, existing facilities would not be demolished, and new facilities would not be constructed. There would be no consequences to cultural resources.

3.4 Noise

Noise is defined as unwanted or objectionable sound. The effects of noise on people can include general annoyance, interference with speech communication, sleep disturbance, and, in the extreme, hearing impairment.

The standard unit employed for noise measurements is the decibel (dB). Decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale, which quantify sound intensity in a manner similar to the Richter Scale used for earthquake magnitudes. For example, an increase of three dB doubles the noise level, while a decrease of three dB halves the noise level. The human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies within the sound spectrum. Therefore, the “A-weighted” noise scale, which weights the frequencies to which humans are sensitive, is used for measurements. Noise levels using A-weighted measurements are sometimes written dB(A) or dBA; however, if A-weighting is the only range being discussed, the “A” is generally dropped. Normal speech has a sound level of approximately 60 dB. Sound levels above 120 dB can cause discomfort inside the ear and sound levels between 130 and 140 dB are felt as pain (MHAFB, 2018).

3.4.1 Regulatory Setting and Methodology

Authority for the Air Force Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) program is divided in two documents. The first is Chapter 3 of Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-1015, *Integrated Installation Planning*, which follows the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4165.57, *Air Installations Compatible Use Zones*. This instruction provides guidance to AICUZ program managers with a framework that complies with Air Force Policy Directive 32-70, *Environmental Considerations in Air Force Programs and Activities*. The second document is the Air Force Handbook 32-7084, *AICUZ Program Manager’s Guide*, which provides installation AICUZ program managers with task guidance and implementation techniques.

The MHAFB AICUZ study was updated in March 2018 due to mission and flight procedure changes, as well as improved noise modeling technology and Air Force policies (MHAFB, 2018). This study provides noise contours based on the day-night average sound level (DNL) metric and utilizes a planning noise contour.

3.4.2 Affected Environment

The highest noise levels are generated by take-off and landing of aircraft and are found on the runway at MHAFB. Noise studies, including those completed under the AICUZ program, express DNL as contours developed from various data points, including aircraft types, runway-use patterns, engine power settings, altitude profiles, flight-rack locations, airspeed, number of operations per flight track, engine maintenance, and time of day. Figure 3-1 depicts noise contours with gradient shading at MHAFB.

Noise levels at MHAFB that exceed ambient background noise come from flight operations. These high noise levels can reach 80dB and typically occur beneath the main approach and departure corridors and in areas directly adjacent to the parking ramps or aircraft staging areas. As aircraft take off and gain altitude, their contribution to the noise environment drops significantly and eventually to indistinguishable levels from ambient background noise. The height at which aircraft noise becomes indistinguishable varies depending on the aircraft and meteorological conditions.

3.4.3 Environmental Consequences

3.4.3.1 Proposed Action

Implementation of the Proposed Action would cause minor, temporary increases in noise levels, localized in the FMD and CSD during demolition and construction activities. The base is an active military facility that typically experiences high noise levels from daily flight operations. The Proposed Action would fall between the 65 and 80 dBA noise zones, as determined by the base's AICUZ program measurements (Figure 3-1).

Use of heavy equipment for site preparation and development (e.g., construction, grading, filling, demolition) would generate noise. However, the noise generated would be similar to typical construction noise, would only last the duration of the specific construction activities, and could be reduced by the use of equipment sound mufflers and restricting construction activities to normal working hours (between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.). Compared to aircraft noise, noise produced by the construction/demolition would generate more impulsive, lower, and more spaced-out noise. Major construction activities anticipated for the Proposed Action (earth removal, hauling, grading, paving, and small building construction) typically have an average noise level of 75 dB measured at 200 feet. Point source noise is reduced by 6 dB for each doubling of distance, meaning a noise level of 75 dB at 200 feet is 69 dB at 400 feet, and 63 dB at 800 feet (MHAFB, 2005). These noise levels are well within the normal noise contours in the project areas as defined by the AICUZ.

3.4.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no construction/demolition or renovations would take place, and noise levels would not increase higher than their current level.

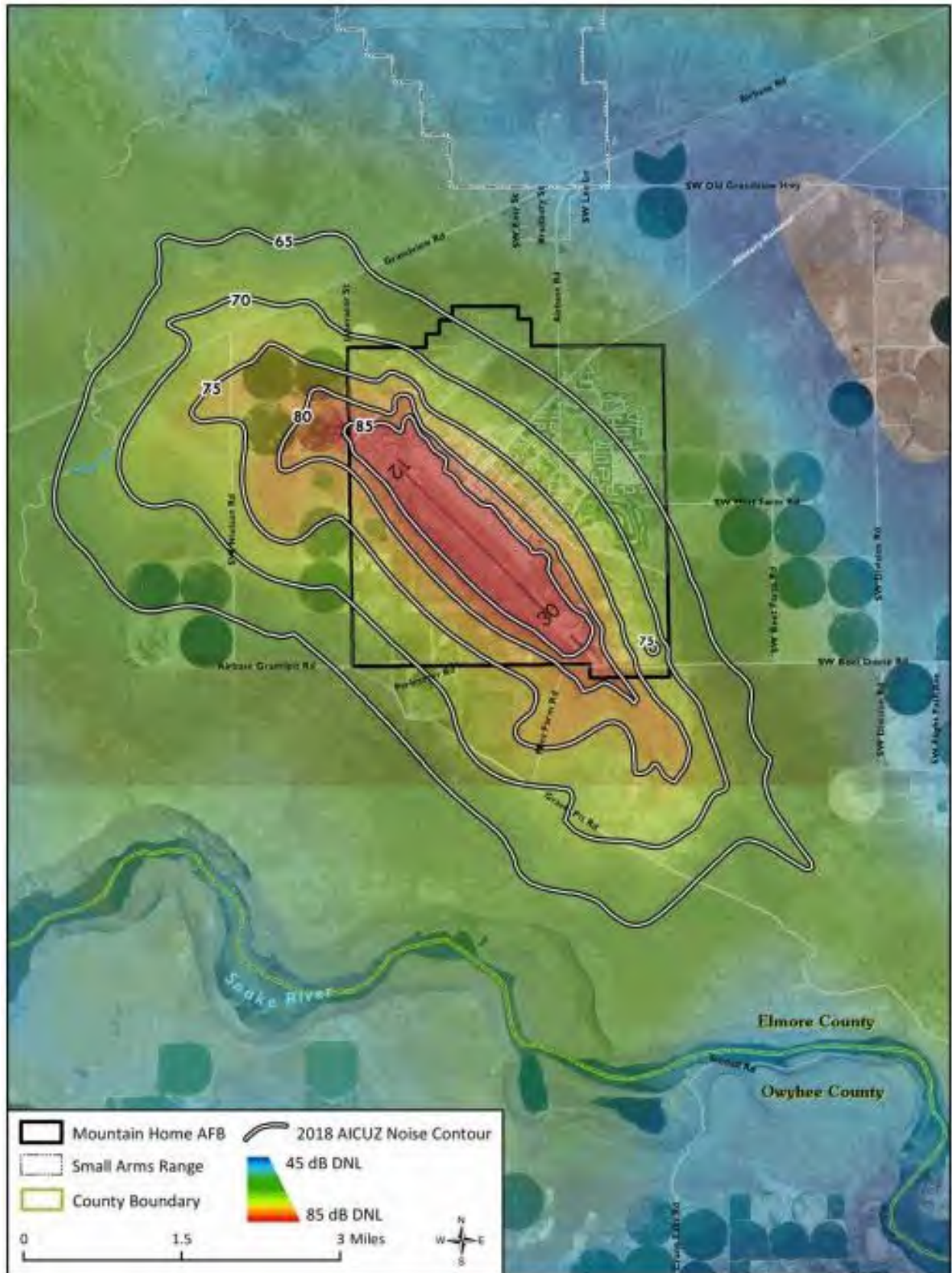


Figure 3-1 2018 Noise Contours with gradient shading (AICUZ, 2018)

4 Reasonably Foreseeable Actions and Cumulative Effects

MHAFB analyzed the potential for significant cumulative effects to resources affected by the Proposed Action and by other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities within the MHAFB installation boundary. The CEQ's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1508.1(g)(3)) state that cumulative effects "are effects on the environment that result from the incremental effects of the action when added to the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time." A cumulative effects analysis focuses on whether the Proposed Action, considered together with any known or reasonably foreseeable actions by MHAFB/DAF, other federal or state agencies, or some other entity, combined to cause a significant effect. There is no defined area for potential cumulative effects.

4.1 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

The effects to air quality, cultural resources, and noise would be localized and temporary, as described in Section 3. Therefore, only those reasonably foreseeable projects that would occur around the same time and in the same area (the MHAFB installation boundary) as the Proposed Action could potentially have combined effects with the Proposed Action. Reasonably foreseeable projects are listed in Table 4-1. Past or present projects with effects to air quality, cultural resources, and/or noise were already included in the affected environment and are therefore not discussed in this section.

Table 4-1 Reasonably Foreseeable Projects

Project	Project Summary	Implementation Date	Relevance to Proposed Action
Establishment of a Sustainable Water Supply for MHAFB (BLM and US Air Force 2017)	The project would consist of establishing a new sustainable water supply conveyed via predominantly linear underground infrastructure to a proposed Water Treatment Facility to be established within the installation boundary. An EA was completed for this project in September 2017 and concluded with a Finding of No Significant Impact.	Currently being rescoped.	The project would include construction activities within the MHAFB installation boundary.
Forging Sabre Biennial Exercises at MHAFB (MHAFB 2021b)	MHAFB initiated Forging Sabre exercises beginning in 2021 and occurring every other year thereafter. Components of each Forging Sabre exercise include construction, facility modifications, personnel increases, aircraft operations, ground operations, and munitions use. All facilities, aircraft operations, ground operations, and munitions use during exercises occur on military or joint civil-military use property, or within military ranges that currently support similar operations. An EA completed for this project in April 2021 concluded with a Finding of No Significant Impact.	Currently Active	This project includes construction and facility modifications within the installation boundary of MHAFB.
Qatar Emiri Air Force F-15QA Beddown (MHAFB 2022a)	MHAFB proposes to support QEAF F-15QA beddown beginning in 2024. Components of the beddown would include construction, facility modifications, personnel increases, aircraft operations, ground operations, and munitions use. All facilities, aircraft operations, ground operations, and munitions use during exercises would occur on military or joint civil-military use property, or within military ranges that currently support similar operations. An EA completed for this project in March 2022 concluded with a Finding of No Significant Impact.	Planned for 2024	This project would include construction and facility modifications within the MHAFB installation boundary.

BLM = Bureau of Land Management; EA = environmental assessment; MHAFB = Mountain Home Air Force Base; QEAF = Qatar Emiri Air Force

4.2 Assessment of Cumulative Impacts by Resource

4.2.1 Air Quality

Effects from the Proposed Action on air quality in the project area would be *De Minimis*, or negligible, as described in Section 3.2.3.1. Therefore, there would be no cumulative effects to air quality, and no air quality thresholds would be crossed as a result of the Proposed Action when considered together with reasonably foreseeable projects.

4.2.2 Cultural Resources

The Proposed Action would not affect cultural resources, as explained in Section 3.3.3.1. Therefore, there could not be any cumulative effects from the Proposed Action.

4.2.3 Noise

The Proposed Action would create noise consistent with exposure levels already present within the installation boundary at MHAFB. All three reasonably foreseeable projects would contribute to noise levels on the base. However, thresholds for sensitive noise receptors would not be exceeded when the other projects are considered in combination with the Proposed Action. Furthermore, not all the reasonably foreseeable projects will be built or in progress at the same time as the Proposed Action, thus reducing the likelihood again of exceeding thresholds for sensitive noise receptors. Therefore, no significant cumulative effects would be expected from the Proposed Action when considered together with the reasonably foreseeable projects.

5 References

- DAF 2023 *Mountain Home Air Force Base*. Official United States Air Force Website. <<https://www.mountainhome.af.mil/About-MHAFB/Gunfighter-Mission/>>. Accessed January 2023.
- MHAFB 2005. *Final Environmental Assessment for Demolition and Reconstruction of Specified Facilities on Mountain Home AFB, Idaho*. May.
- MHAFB 2007. *Final Environmental Assessment for Republic of Singapore Air Force F-15SG Beddown*, Mountain Home AFB. March.
- MHAFB 2017. *Installation Development Plan*, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. April.
- MHAFB 2018 *Mountain Home Air Force Base Air Installations Compatible Use Zones Study*. March.
- MHAFB 2021a. *District Development Plan Update Flightline Maintenance District for QEAF Beddown with supporting QEAF UPH and Family Housing Development Nodal Plans*. November.
- MHAFB 2021b. *Final Environmental Assessment for Forging Sabre Biennial Exercises at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho*. April.
- MHAFB 2021c. *U.S. Air Force Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. Mountain Home Air Force Base, Small Arms Range, Saylor Creek Air Force Range, Juniper Battle Range, and other Mountain Home Range Complex sites*.
- MHAFB 2022a. *Final Environmental Assessment Qatar Emiri Air Force F-15QA Beddown*, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. March.
- MHAFB 2022b. *Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan*, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. January.

6 LIST of PREPARERS

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Years of Experience: 16

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BA Anthropology, University of Minnesota
Years of Experience: 20

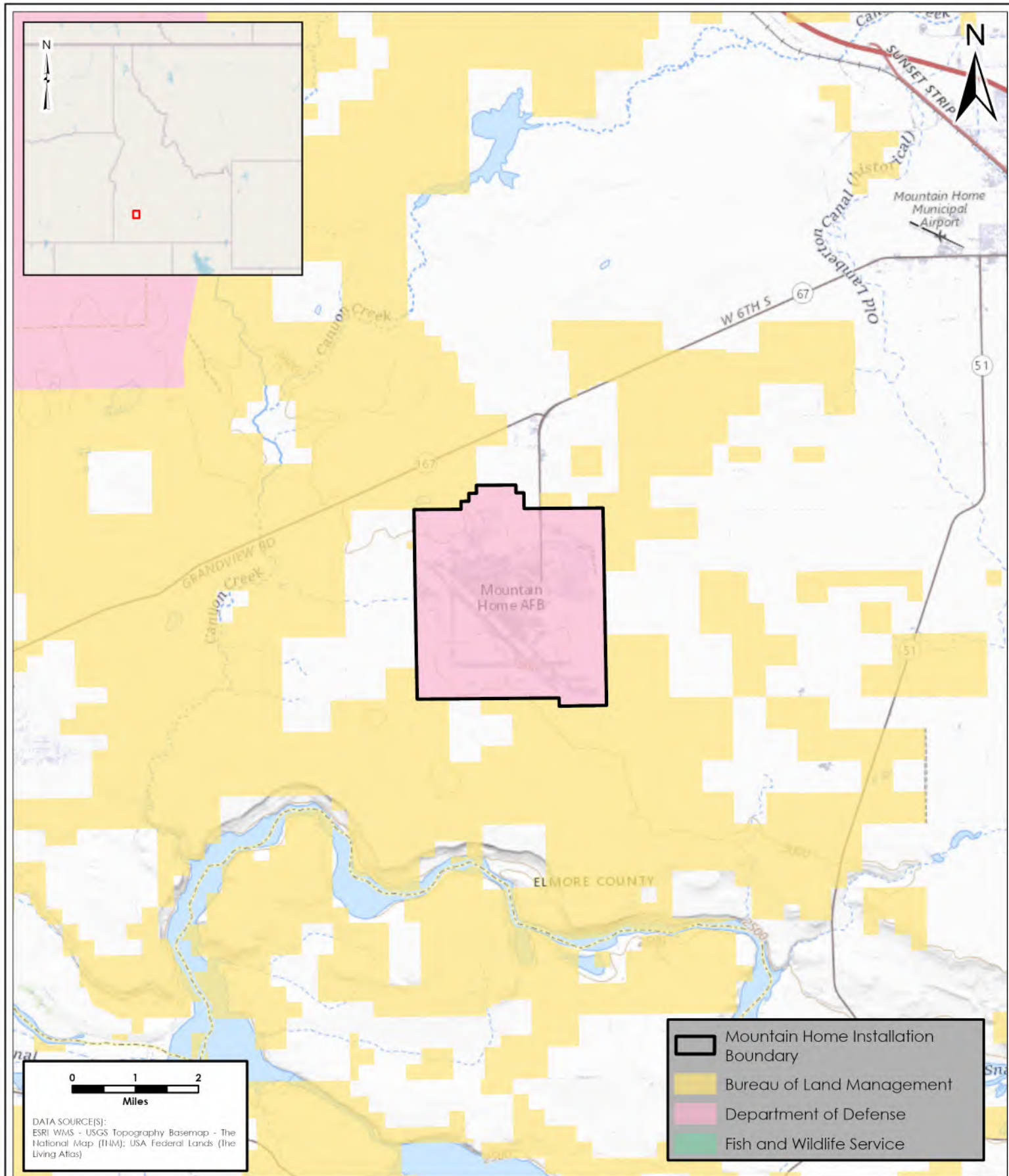
Appendix A: Interagency/Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP) Scoping Documents

Appendix A-1: IICEP Point of Contact (POC) List

	First Name	Last Name	Title	Street Address	City	State	Zip-Code	Work Phone	Fax Number	Email
Tribal Stakeholders										
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation	Tino	Batt	Chairman	PO Box 306	Fort Hall	ID	83203-0306	(208) 478-3700	(208) 237-0797	tbatt@sbtribes.com
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, Nevada	Brian	Mason	Tribal Chairman	PO Box 219	Owyhee	NV	89832-0219	(208)759-3100	(208) 759-3103	mason.brian@shopai.org charisse.soucie@burnspaiute-nsn.gov
Burns Paiute Tribe	Charisse	Soucie	THPO	100 Pasigo Street	Burns	OR	97720-2442	(541) 573-8066	(541) 573-2012	
Burns Paiute Tribe	Diane L.	Teeman	Chairperson	100 Pasigo Street	Burns	OR	97720-2442	(541) 573-2088	(541) 573-2323	bptribalcouncil@burnspaiute.onmicrosoft.com
Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation	Dennis	Alex	Chairperson	2575 Commerce Way	Ogden	UT	84401	(435) 734-2286	(435) 734-0424	ggover@nwbsoshone.com
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation, Nevada and Oregon	Tildon	Smart	Chairman/ Administrator	PO Box 457	McDermitt	NV	89421-0457	(775)532-8259	(775) 532-8903	tildon.smart@fmpst.org
Local Stakeholders										
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Tricia	Canaday	SHPO Administrator/ SHPO Deputy	210 Main Street	Boise	ID	83702	(208) 488-7462		tricia.canaday@ishs.idaho.gov
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Ashley	Molloy	Historic Preservation Review Officer	210 Main Street	Boise	ID	83702	(208) 488-7463		ashley.molloy@ishs.idaho.gov
Mayor's Office	Rich	Sykes	Mayor of Mountain Home	160 S 3rd E St	Mountain Home	ID	83647	(208) 587-2104		mayor@mountain-home.us

Appendix A-2: Tribal Scoping Letters and Attachments

Attachment 1: Project Location



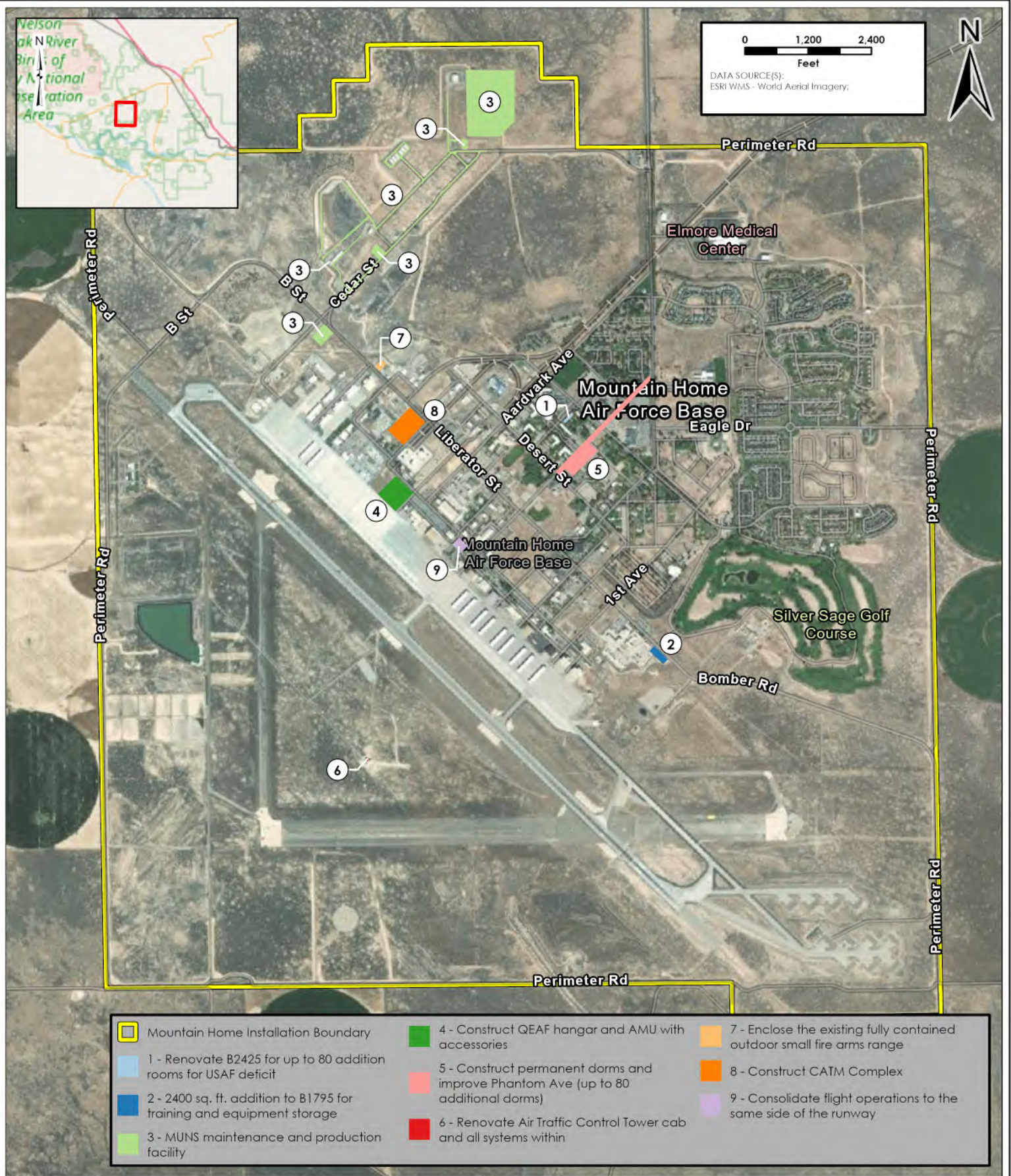
Project Location

Environmental Assessment
Mountain Home Air Force Base
Elmore County, Idaho

FIGURE
NUMBER

1

Attachment 2: Proposed Action



Proposed Action			
Environmental Assessment Mountain Home Air Force Base Elmore County, Idaho			FIGURE NUMBER
			2



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO

11 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Tildon Smart
Chairman/Administrator
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort
McDermitt Indian Reservation, Nevada and Oregon
PO Box 457
McDermitt, NV 89421-0457

FROM: Sheri L. Robertson
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St.
MHAFB, Idaho 83648

SUBJECT: Scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act
for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts at Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Elmore County, Idaho

Honorable Tildon Smart,

Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and assess potential environmental effects associated with a variety of on-base improvement and construction/demolition projects. This EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR § 1500-1508, as revised May 2022), and the US Air Force implementing regulations for NEPA (32 CFR § 989).

Please find a summary table of projects to be included in the proposed action of the EA. A map of the project area is attached to this letter.

Table 1: Proposed Action project summary table.

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3	n/a	Construct MUNS Maintenance/ Production Facility	MUNS maintenance and production facility	Construction
4	n/a	Construct hangar and AMU	Construct hangar and AMU with accessories	Construction

5	n/a	Permanent Dorms and Improvements to Phantom Ave	Construct permanent dorms and improve Phantom Ave (up to 80 additional dorms)	Construction
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Abbreviations: No. – Number, n/a – not applicable, Ref. – Reference, Bldg. – Building, AMU – Aircraft Maintenance Unit, SF – Square feet

Mountain Home AFB respectfully requests any information or specific comments your organization or agency may have regarding the proposed action or project area. Please provide any comments, concerns or relevant background or supporting information within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter to Beth Burgess, NEPA and Cultural Resource Manager at Mountain Home AFB, via email at **tabitha.burgess@us.af.mil** or standard mail using the address below.

Mountain Home Air Force Base
Attn: Beth Burgess
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

Sincerely,

SHERI L. ROBERTSON, CIV, DAF
Chief, Environmental Management



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO

11 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Diane L. Teeman
Chairperson
Burns Paiute Tribe
100 Pasigo St
Burns, OR 97720-2442

FROM: Sheri L. Robertson
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St.
MHAFB, Idaho 83648

SUBJECT: Scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act
for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts at Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Elmore County, Idaho

Honorable Diane L. Teeman,

Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and assess potential environmental effects associated with a variety of on-base improvement and construction/demolition projects. This EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR § 1500-1508, as revised May 2022), and the US Air Force implementing regulations for NEPA (32 CFR § 989).

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Mountain Home Air Force Base
Attn: Beth Burgess
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

Sincerely,

SHERI L. ROBERTSON, CIV, DAF
Chief, Environmental Management



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO

11 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Dennis Alex
Chairperson
Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation
2575 Commerce Way
Ogden, UT 84401

FROM: Sheri L. Robertson
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St.
MHAFB, Idaho 83648

SUBJECT: Scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act
for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts at Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Elmore County, Idaho

Honorable Dennis Alex,

Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and assess potential environmental effects associated with a variety of on-base improvement and construction/demolition projects. This EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR § 1500-1508, as revised May 2022), and the US Air Force implementing regulations for NEPA (32 CFR § 989).

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Mountain Home Air Force Base
Attn: Beth Burgess
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

Sincerely,

ROBERTSON.S
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SHERI L. ROBERTSON, CIV, DAF
Chief, Environmental Management



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO

11 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Tino Batt
Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
PO Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

FROM: Sheri L. Robertson
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St.
MHAFB, Idaho 83648

SUBJECT: Scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act
for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts at Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Elmore County, Idaho

Honorable Tino Batt,

Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and assess potential environmental effects associated with a variety of on-base improvement and construction/demolition projects. This EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR § 1500-1508, as revised May 2022), and the US Air Force implementing regulations for NEPA (32 CFR § 989).

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Mountain Home Air Force Base
Attn: Beth Burgess
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

Sincerely,

SHERI L. ROBERTSON, CIV, DAF
Chief, Environmental Management



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO**

11 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Brian Mason
Tribal Chairman
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation,
Nevada
PO Box 219
Owyhee, NV 89832-0219

FROM: Sheri L. Robertson
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St.
MHAFB, Idaho 83648

SUBJECT: Scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act
for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts at Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Elmore County, Idaho

Honorable Brian Mason,

Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and assess potential environmental effects associated with a variety of on-base improvement and construction/demolition projects. This EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR § 1500-1508, as revised May 2022), and the US Air Force implementing regulations for NEPA (32 CFR § 989).

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Mountain Home Air Force Base
Attn: Beth Burgess
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

Sincerely,

SHERI L. ROBERTSON, CIV, DAF
Chief, Environmental Management



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO

11 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Charisse Soucie
THPO
Burns Paiute Tribe
100 Pasigo St
Burns, OR 97720-2442

FROM: Sheri L. Robertson
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St.
MHAFB, Idaho 83648

SUBJECT: Scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act
for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts at Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Elmore County, Idaho

Dear Charisse Soucie,

Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and assess potential environmental effects associated with a variety of on-base improvement and construction/demolition projects. This EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR § 1500-1508, as revised May 2022), and the US Air Force implementing regulations for NEPA (32 CFR § 989).

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Mountain Home AFB respectfully requests any information or specific comments your organization or agency may have regarding the proposed action or project area. Please provide any comments, concerns or relevant background or supporting information within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter to Beth Burgess, NEPA and Cultural Resource Manager at Mountain Home AFB, via email at **tabitha.burgess@us.af.mil** or standard mail using the address below.

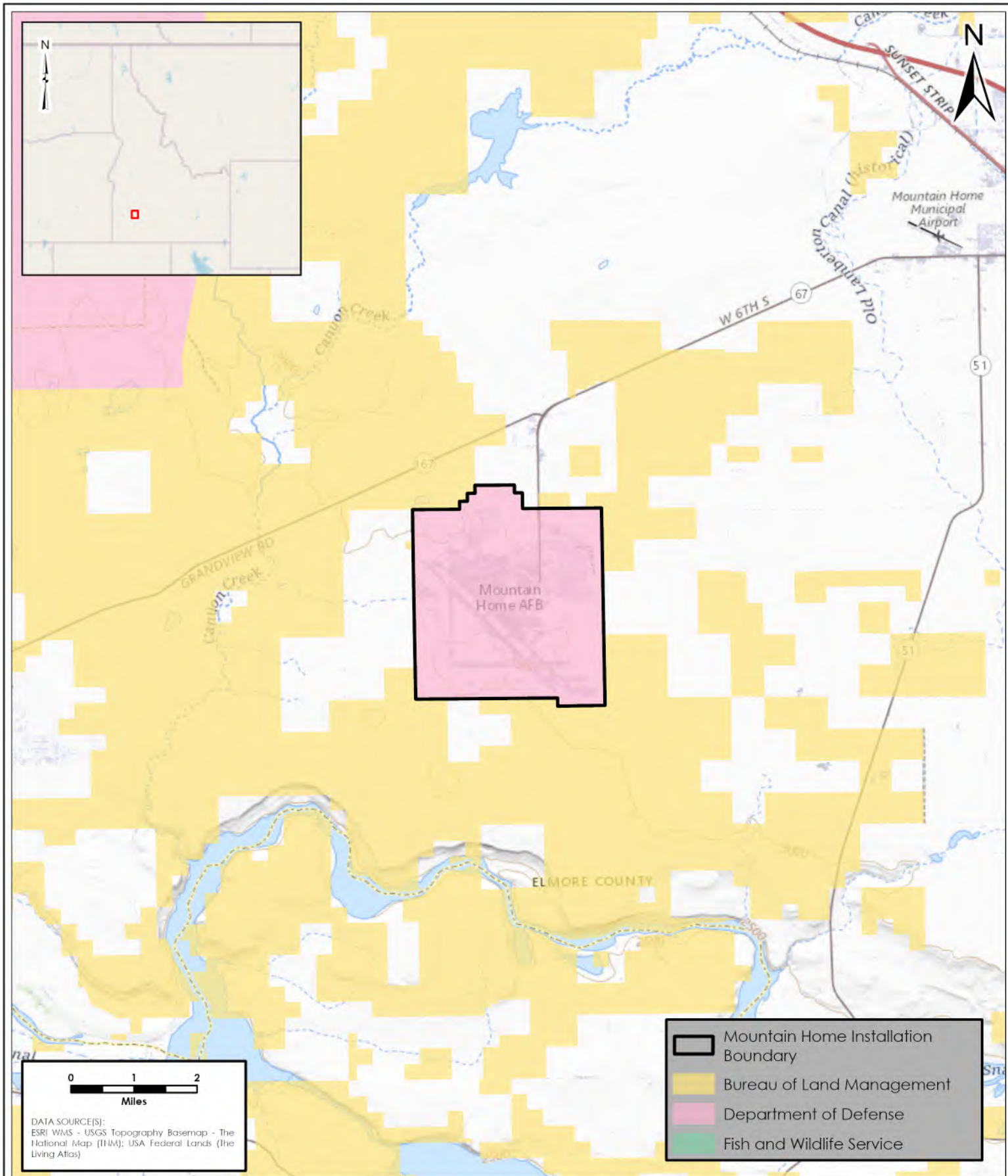
Mountain Home Air Force Base
Attn: Beth Burgess
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

Sincerely,

SHERI L. ROBERTSON, CIV, DAF
Chief, Environmental Management

Appendix A-3: Local Stakeholder Scoping Letters and Attachments

Attachment 1: Project Location



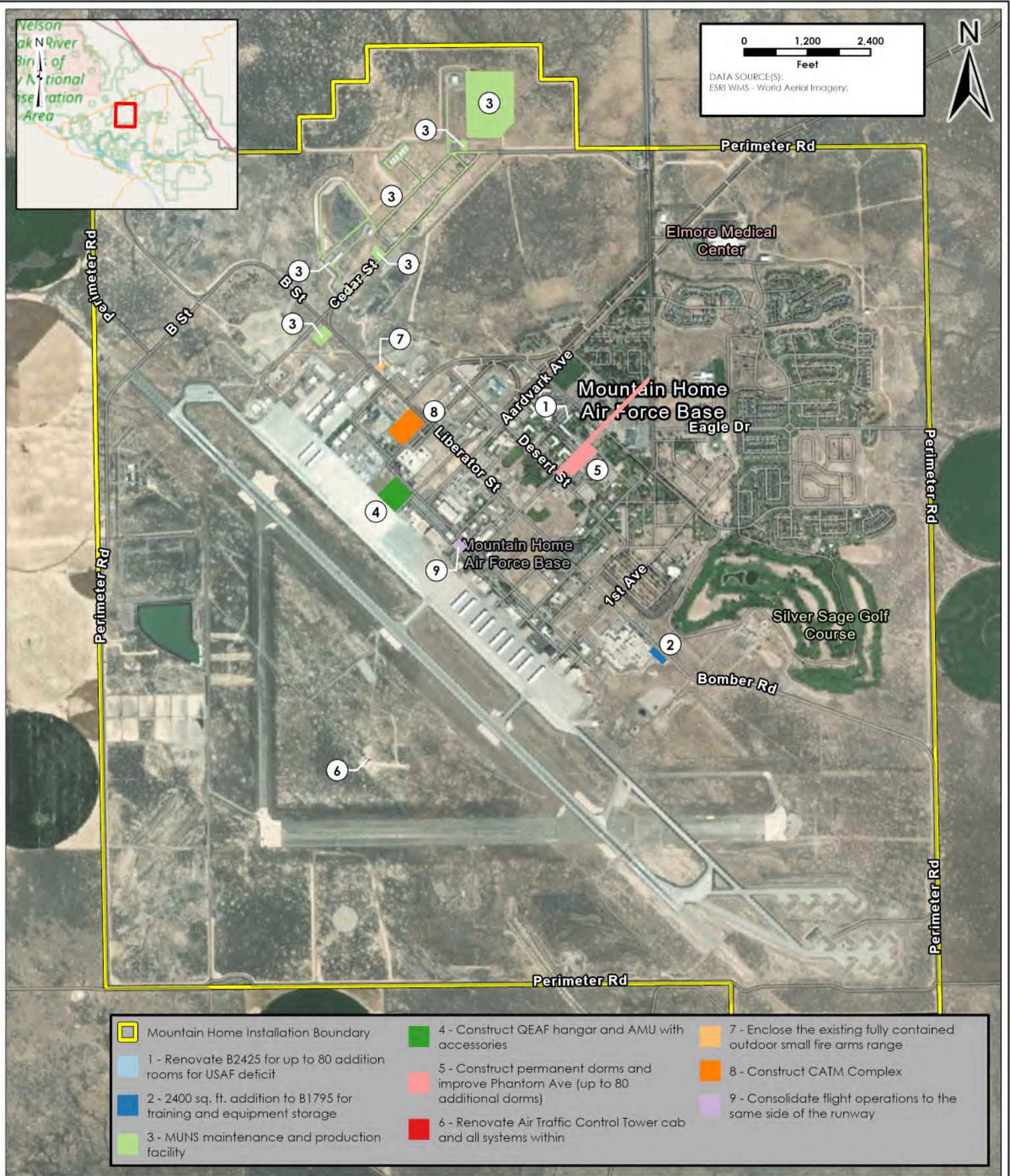
Project Location

Environmental Assessment
Mountain Home Air Force Base
Elmore County, Idaho

FIGURE
NUMBER

1

Attachment 2: Proposed Action



	Proposed Action			
	Environmental Assessment Mountain Home Air Force Base Elmore County, Idaho		FIGURE NUMBER 2	



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO

15 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ashley Molloy
Historic Preservation Review Officer
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
210 Main Street
Boise, ID 83702

FROM: Sheri L. Robertson
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St.
MHAFB, Idaho 83648

SUBJECT: Coordination under the National Historic Preservation
Act for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts at Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Elmore County, Idaho

Dear Ashley Molloy,

Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and assess potential environmental effects associated with a variety of on-base improvement and construction/demolition projects. This EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR § 1500-1508, as revised May 2022), the US Air Force implementing regulations for NEPA (32 CFR § 989), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA; 16 U.S.C. 470), and regulations implementing NHPA at 36 CFR § 800.

This letter is to notify you and your organization of the proposed improvements at Mountain Home AFB and establish early coordination under NHPA. As the EA is developed, Mountain Home AFB will coordinate and consult with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office pursuant to governing laws and regulations protecting historic and pre-historic cultural resources within the project area. Please find a summary table of projects to be included in the proposed action of the EA. A map of the project area is attached to this letter.

Table 1: Proposed Action project summary table.

Ref. No.	Bldg. No.	Project Title	Description	Project Type
1	2425	Renovate Dormitory	Renovate existing unusable dormitory to add an additional 80 rooms	Renovation
2	1795	Addition for Cowboy Control	4,786 SF addition to provide additional space to support current mission requirements	Renovation/Construction (cowboy control)

3	n/a	Construct MUNS Maintenance/ Production Facility	MUNS maintenance and production facility	Construction
4	n/a	Construct hangar and AMU	Construct hangar and AMU with accessories	Construction
5	n/a	Permanent Dorms and Improvements to Phantom Ave	Construct permanent dorms and improve Phantom Ave (up to 80 additional dorms)	Construction
6	3600	Renovate Control Tower	Renovate Air Traffic Control Tower cab and all systems within	Renovation
7	n/a	Construct new CATM Complex	Construct a new 28 lane indoor shooting range and associated support area. Upon completion, existing CATM complex would be demolished	Construction/Demolition
8	n/a	Consolidate Flight Operations	Construction of a new ATCT on the other side of the flightline. Upon completion, existing ATCT would be demolished	Construction/Demolition

Abbreviations: No. – Number, n/a – not applicable, Ref. – Reference, Bldg. – Building, AMU – Aircraft Maintenance Unit, SF – Square feet

Mountain Home AFB respectfully requests any information or specific comments your organization or agency may have regarding the proposed action or project area. Please provide any comments, concerns or relevant background or supporting information within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter to Beth Burgess, NEPA and Cultural Resource Manager at Mountain Home AFB, via email at **tabitha.burgess@us.af.mil** or standard mail using the address below.

Mountain Home Air Force Base
Attn: Beth Burgess
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

Sincerely,

SHERI L. ROBERTSON, CIV, DAF
Chief, Environmental Management



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO

15 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Tricia Canaday
Deputy SHPO
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
210 Main Street
Boise, ID 83702

FROM: Sheri L. Robertson
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St.
MHAFB, Idaho 83648

SUBJECT: Coordination under the National Historic Preservation
Act for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts at Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Elmore County, Idaho

Dear Tricia Canaday,

Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and assess potential environmental effects associated with a variety of on-base improvement and construction/demolition projects. This EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR § 1500-1508, as revised May 2022), the US Air Force implementing regulations for NEPA (32 CFR § 989), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA; 16 U.S.C. 470), and regulations implementing NHPA at 36 CFR § 800.

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Mountain Home Air Force Base
Attn: Beth Burgess
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

Sincerely,

SHERI L. ROBERTSON, CIV, DAF
Chief, Environmental Management



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
366TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON (ACC)
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO

11 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Rich Sykes
Mayor
City of Mountain Home
160 S 3rd E St
Mountain Home, ID 83647

FROM: Sheri L. Robertson
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St.
MHAFB, Idaho 83648

SUBJECT: Scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act
for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and
Community Support Districts at Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Elmore County, Idaho

Honorable Rich Sykes,

Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to examine and assess potential environmental effects associated with a variety of on-base improvement and construction/demolition projects. This EA is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR § 1500-1508, as revised May 2022), and the US Air Force implementing regulations for NEPA (32 CFR § 989).

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Mountain Home AFB respectfully requests any information or specific comments your organization or agency may have regarding the proposed action or project area. Please provide any comments, concerns or relevant background or supporting information within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter to Beth Burgess, NEPA and Cultural Resource Manager at Mountain Home AFB, via email at **tabitha.burgess@us.af.mil** or standard mail using the address below.

Mountain Home Air Force Base
Attn: Beth Burgess
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648

Sincerely,

SHERI L. ROBERTSON, CIV, DAF
Chief, Environmental Management

Appendix A-4: Responses to Scoping Letters



8 June 2023



Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

Janet Gallimore
Executive Director
State Historic
Preservation Officer

Administration:
2205 Old Penitentiary Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83712
208.334.2682
Fax: 208.334.2774

Idaho State Museum:
610 Julia Davis Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83702
208.334.2120

**Idaho State Archives
and State Records
Center:**
2205 Old Penitentiary Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83712
208.334.2620

**State Historic
Preservation Office:**
210 Main St.
Boise, Idaho 83702
208.334.3861

**Old Idaho Penitentiary
and Historic Sites:**
2445 Old Penitentiary Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83712
208.334.2844

HISTORY.IDAHO.GOV

Beth Burgess
Mountain Home Air Force Base
366 CES/CEIE
1100 Liberator St., Bldg. 1297
Mountain Home AFB, ID 83648
tabitha.burgess@us.af.mil

Via Email

**RE: Coordination under the National Historic Preservation Act
for Improvements in the Flightline Maintenance and Community
Support Districts at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Elmore
County, Idaho / SHPO Rev. No. 2023-558**

Dear Beth:

Thank you for consulting with our office on the above-referenced project. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is providing comments to the Department of the Air Force pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR § 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

It is our understanding that the scope of the undertaking will generally include flightline maintenance and community support development at the Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) in Elmore County, Idaho.

Based on the information received 23 May 2023, our office is concerned there may be historic properties affected by the proposed undertaking. To be in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as outlined in 36 CFR § 800), MHAFB will need to clearly define the area of potential effects (APE) for the undertaking (36 CFR § 800.16(d)). The map provided to initiate consultation does not delineate an APE. MHAFB will also need to include a more robust and detailed project description, as well as plans for new construction activities for our office to understand the entirety of the undertaking.

MHAFB will need to identify historic properties within their APE per 36 CFR § 800.4 and document those results in a Cultural Resources Survey Report. Idaho Historic Sites Inventory (IHSI) or Archaeological Survey of Idaho

(ASI) forms that are older than 10 years must be updated, and newly recorded historic properties must be documented on the appropriate IHSI or ASI forms; or within the Idaho Cultural Resource Information System (ICRIS) when it is available (~November 2023).

Following the identification of historic properties, MHAFFB will need to apply the assessment of adverse effect (36 CFR § 800.5) to historic properties. MHAFFB will need to take into consideration those direct and indirect effects, including reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance, or be cumulative, as stated in 36 CFR § 800.5(a)(1).

Please include a list of interested parties that MHAFFB has contacted, and any correspondence summarized within the report or consultation letter (e.g., Preservation Idaho, Elmore County Historic Preservation Commission, Elmore County Historical Society, Idaho Military History Museum, or Warhawk Air Museum).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Do note that our office **requires digital copies** of all Section 106 consultations. Submit all consultation materials (report, site forms, databases, GIS files, etc.) to shpo@ishs.idaho.gov or via ICRIS, if available. For all future submissions to this office, please review the SHPO Coversheet instructions and complete the SHPO [Compliance Review Checklist](#).

Please note that our response does not affect the review timelines afforded to other consulting parties. Additionally, the information provided by other consulting parties may cause us to revise our comments. If you have any questions or the scope of work changes, please contact me via phone or email at 208.488.7463 or ashley.molloy@ishs.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

Ashley L. Molloy, M.A.
Historical Review Officer
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

RE: Mountain Home Air Force Base

BURGESS, TABITHA G CIV USAF ACC 366 CES/CEIE <tabitha.burgess@us.af.mil>

Fri 6/2/2023 6:24 AM

To: Tiffany Belt <tbelt@mountain-home.us>

Cc: Marty Anderson <manderson@mountain-home.us>; Jared Baxter <JBaxter2@bbch-llc.com>

Thank you for your response and comments.

V/R,

Beth (208) 828-8003/DSN 728-8003

-----Original Message-----

From: Tiffany Belt <tbelt@mountain-home.us>

Sent: Thursday, June 1, 2023 9:16 AM

To: BURGESS, TABITHA G CIV USAF ACC 366 CES/CEIE <tabitha.burgess@us.af.mil>

Cc: Marty Anderson <manderson@mountain-home.us>

Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Mountain Home Air Force Base

Beth,

Good morning; the City of Mountain Home is in support of these projects as these projects do not have any adverse environmental impacts. These projects improve operational effectiveness, installation resilience and enhance the quality of life for Airmen assigned to MHAFB.

Respectfully,

Tiffany

Tiffany Belt

City Clerk/ HRO

City of Mountain Home

City Hall

P.O. Box 10

160 South 3rd East

Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

T (208) 587-2104

F (208) 587-2110

www.mountain-home.us <<http://www.mountain-home.us/>>