MEDIA RELEASE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



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U.S. AIR FORCE ISSUES NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR AIRSPACE OPTIMIZATION FOR READINESS AT MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, IDAHO

MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho – The Department of the Air Force (DAF) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Airspace Optimization for Readiness for Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB), Idaho. The Final EIS assesses potential environmental consequences of the proposal to modify existing special use airspace that would provide consistent floors for low-altitude subsonic and supersonic operations. Alternatives for subsonic operations consider operational floors at 100 feet above ground level (AGL), 300 feet AGL, and 500 feet AGL. Alternatives for supersonic operations consider floors at 5,000 feet AGL and 10,000 feet AGL. In the Final EIS, the DAF identified Alternative 1: 100-Foot AGL (for subsonic operations) Floor Across All MOAs and Alternative B: 10,000-Foot AGL Supersonic Floor Across All MOAs, as the Preferred Alternatives. The Preferred Alternatives would change the floors of the three Military Operating Areas (MOAs) over northern Nevada and the one MOA over southeast Oregon to be the same as long existing (1999) floors of the two MOAs over Idaho.

The DAF published the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in the Federal Register on March 3, 2023, which begins a 30-day waiting period before a Record of Decision can be signed. The waiting period for this Final EIS will end on April 3, 2023. A copy of the Final EIS is posted on the project website at <u>https://www.mountainhomeafbairspaceeis.com</u>. Hard copies of the Final EIS are also available for review at 51 public libraries around the airspace. A full list of these

libraries can be accessed from the project website. Libraries with a hard copy of the Final EIS include the following:

- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation Tribal Headquarters, 1036 Idaho State Highway 51, Owyhee, Nevada 89832
- Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes Tribal Headquarters, 111 North Reservation Road, McDermitt, Nevada 89421
- Boise Main Library, 715 South Capital, Boise, Idaho 83702
- Mountain Home Public Library, 790 North 10th East Street, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647
- Eastern Owyhee County Library, 520 Boise Avenue, Grandview, Idaho 83624
- McDermitt Branch Library, 175 South U.S. Highway 95, McDermitt, Nevada 89421
- State Library of Oregon, 250 Winter Street Northeast, Salem, Oregon 97301
- Ontario Community Library, 388 Southwest 2nd Avenue, Ontario, Oregon 97914

Inquiries or requests for additional information about the Final EIS should be directed to Mr. Austin Naranjo, Mountain Home Airspace Optimization EIS Project Manager, Air Force NEPA Division (AFCEC/CZN), at AFCEC.CZN.NEPACenter@us.af.mil or to the 366th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at (208) 828-6800.