



Final

Environmental Assessment

Addressing Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training

Gowen Field, Cantonment Area and Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho

May
2020

Final Environmental Assessment

Addressing Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training, Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects of the three component actions that comprise the Proposed Action including the Army National Guard's: 1) approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan (RPMP), 2) modernization and infrastructure improvements identified in the RPMP for fiscal year 2018 (FY18) through FY22, and 3) optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training on the OCTC in Idaho. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 United States Code 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 1500-1508), and 32 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, Final Rule), the potential effects of the Proposed Action and Alternatives are analyzed. This EA facilitates the decision process regarding the Proposed Action and its alternatives, and is organized as follows:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Describes the Proposed Action; summarizes environmental and socioeconomic consequences; and compares potential effects associated with the two considered alternatives.

SECTION 1.0 PURPOSE, NEED, AND SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: Summarizes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, provides relevant background information, and describes the scope of the EA.

SECTION 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES: Describes the Proposed Action. Presents alternatives for implementing the Proposed Action, including applied screening criteria, alternatives retained for further analysis, and alternatives eliminated, as well as a brief explanation of the rationale for eliminating certain alternatives.

SECTION 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT: Describes relevant components of the existing environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic setting (within the Region of Influence or ROI) of the location where the Proposed Action would be implemented.

SECTION 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: Identifies individual and cumulative potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of implementing the Proposed Action through the alternatives carried forward for full analysis; and identifies proposed mitigation and best management practices, as and where appropriate.

SECTION 5.0 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSION: Compares the environmental effects of the alternatives considered and summarizes the potential individual and cumulative effects from these alternatives.

SECTION 6.0 GLOSSARY: Provides definitions of technical terms used in the EA.

SECTION 7.0 REFERENCES: Provides bibliographical information for cited sources.

SECTION 8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS: Identifies document preparer and areas of expertise.

SECTION 9.0 AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED: Lists agencies and individuals consulted during the preparation of this EA.

Prepared by: Army National Guard and Bureau of Land Management

Funding Source(s): Operations and Maintenance and MILCON (Project Numbers and Details in Appendix B)

Fiscal Years: 2018 through 2022

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SIGNATURE PAGE

LEAD AGENCY: Army National Guard (ARNG)

CO-LEAD AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM)


TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION: Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training, Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho

AFFECTED JURISDICTIONS: Ada and Elmore Counties, Idaho

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ABSTRACT: The Army National Guard (ARNG) is proposing to: 1) approve the Gowen Field and Orchard Combat Training Center's (OCTC's) Unified Facility Criteria (UFC) 2-100-01 Real Property Master Plan (RPMP), 2) implement the fiscal year 2018 (FY18) through FY22 infrastructure and development projects to ensure adequate capacities to support multiple brigade-sized units on the OCTC in accordance with the OCTC's Range Complex Training Center Level I designation, and 3) to optimize the annual training throughput on the OCTC to support the training equivalent of three BCTs at 85 percent strength (approximately 10,500 soldiers and associated equipment), per calendar year. This conforms with the OCTC's current training mission, which supports up to 10,000 soldiers per calendar year (DOI 2008). The Proposed Action is needed because the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) and ARNG lack reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to installation and training spaces that can be used to meet and sustain platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements into the future. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure the

infrastructure and facility capacities and improved range functionality to support long-term sustainability of multiple brigade-sized units training on the OCTC.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the individual and cumulative effects of implementing the three component actions that comprise the Proposed Action (Component Action 1 – Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP, Component Action 2 – Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Component Action 3 – Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) and the No Action Alternative with respect to the following resource areas: land use; air quality and climate change; noise; geology, topography, and soils; water resources; biological resources; cultural resources; social and economic resources; environmental justice; infrastructure (including transportation); and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes.

FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**ADDRESSING APPROVAL OF THE
ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER REAL PROPERTY
MASTER PLAN, MODERNIZATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS, AND OPTIMIZED ANNUAL THROUGHPUT
OF BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM TRAINING**

**IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
GOWEN FIELD, CANTONMENT AREA, AND THE ORCHARD COMBAT
TRAINING CENTER, IDAHO**

May 2020

Executive Summary

The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) prepared a Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) for Gowen Field, the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), and Cantonment Area consistent with the requirements of the Department of Defense (DoD) Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 2-100-01, *Installation Master Planning*, which provides guidance for RPMP development on DoD installations (DoD 2012) in accordance with federal law and Army Regulations.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) provides an analysis of the potential effects on the natural and human environment that would result from three distinct, but integrally-linked Component Actions (i.e., the Proposed Action):

1. **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP):** Approve the UFC 2-100-01-compliant RPMP. Army National Guard (ARNG) Master Planning reviewed and approved the RPMP on 25 September 2018.
2. **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements):** Implement the fiscal year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization development projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and OCTC to support multiple brigade-sized units and training, and allow the IDARNG to achieve the current authorized level of facilities, infrastructure, ranges, and maneuver space on Gowen Field, OCTC, and Cantonment Area to support the current and future mission requirements as a Regional Collective Training Capabilities (RCTC) Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams [BCTs]);
3. **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput):** Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams [BCTs] at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

ARNG and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are co-leading development of an EA to address these actions. BLM is a co-lead on the EA because the majority of the acreage affected (the OCTC) by the Proposed Action is located on public lands that are administered by the BLM. In 2018, ARNG and BLM entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to act as Joint Lead Agencies for this EA, and the two entities have been engaged since the initiation of the EA process.

Component Action 1 would establish the plan by which the installation and training ranges would be developed and managed into the future. **Component Action 2** would construct infrastructure and facility capacities adequate to in-process, and provide billeting and lodging, administrative support, classroom training, materiel transport, storage, and maintenance functions for troop numbers up to 10,500 or equivalent of three BCTs at 85 percent at a given time per year into the future. Additionally, the range and training areas on the OCTC lack

adequate access to water, lanes and transition points to support tank, truck, and troop movements, bivouac areas, established Range Operation Control Areas (ROCAs), modern and more fire-inhibitive targetry, simulation facilities, and data and communications capabilities to fully support the training level required of a Level I training center. Once developed at this capacity, the OCTC would also have the infrastructure and structural capacities to be used as a maneuver center of excellence for ARNG training operations. **Component Action 3** would optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three BCTs at 85 percent troop participation) with associated vehicles and equipment. The OCTC is encompassed by the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) administered by BLM. Permission to use the land area that is occupied by the OCTC was initially granted by BLM to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1953. This was the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial relationship between BLM and IDARNG, governed by MOU, which is updated every 5 years. With the provision of land and resource management accompanying ongoing training operations, IDARNG activities on the OCTC include enhancing the environmental quality of the land through revegetation efforts and conducting environmental monitoring (IDARNG 2018a). The BLM has granted Right of Way Authorizations allowing the military continued use of OCTC for their training requirements. Impacts from the continued authorization of military training within the OCTC were assessed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement published February 2008 and are managed under the BLM's *Snake River Birds of Prey NCA Resource Management Plan (RPM) and Record of Decision (ROD)* published September 2008.

Under the Proposed Action, the IDARNG would construct and operate 83 individual FY18 to FY22 RPMP projects. Many projects are similar in type, size and/or scope and are located on land with similar characteristics. Projects are categorized by development district (i.e., Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and OCTC), type of action (e.g., construction, infrastructure), and type of support provided (e.g., billeting facilities, parking, storage, ROCA). This EA constitutes the NEPA analysis for each of these 83 individual FY18 to FY22 RPMP projects. Additionally, this EA may be tiered to for future environmental analysis of brigade-level mission and training requirements.

Alternatives

Two alternatives, the Proposed Action and the No Action, and their respective primary environmental effects, are considered in this document. ARNG and the BLM considered, but decided not to fully analyze, three alternatives as outlined later in this EA.

Proposed Action. Under this alternative, ARNG would implement the proposed development projects on Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, and would optimize the annual BCT training throughput on the OCTC to support the training equivalent of three BCTs at 85 percent strength (approximately 10,500 soldiers and associated equipment) per calendar year. This conforms with the OCTC's current training mission, which supports up to 10,000 soldiers per calendar year (DOI 2008). In accordance with the Department of Army Pamphlet 350-58, *Standards in Weapons Training*, all Army Units (i.e., Active, Reserve, and National Guard [NG])

are required to maintain weapons proficiency on an annual basis. Several other Gunnery manuals, including: Training Circular (TC) 3-04.45, *Combat Helicopter Gunnery* (for attack and utility helicopters); TC 3-20.21, Training and Qualification, Crew (Stryker Gunnery); and Field Manual (FM) 3-20.21, *Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) Gunnery* specify the qualifications to be met to achieve annual proficiency. The OCTC would adequately support the training of up to 10,500 troops per year because it comprises several training areas where light and heavy maneuvers may be conducted, and range areas where crews would practice and gain certification on the various gunnery qualifications required for completion of annual BCT training.

Increases in shrub cover in the northern training areas over the past decade have precluded heavy maneuver training in those areas under the 2008 *Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP and ROD*. Because the northern training areas are no longer available to support heavy maneuvers operations, more time is required to achieve the required qualifications. Because of this, all heavy maneuvers training that would otherwise be distributed among the northern and southern training areas, are now only conducted on the Charlie (C) and Delta (D) heavy maneuver training areas (located in the southern portion of the OCTC) as well as the Small Arms Impact Area to ensure adequate space to support the associated training requirements. Because the Small Arms Impact Area also serves as the Surface Danger Zones (SDZs) of the small arms ranges, either the heavy maneuver training or the small arms training must be on standby while the other utilizes the SDZs. An SDZ is a mathematically-defined space encompassing a specified area between the firing line and the target wherein a projectile could reasonably be expected to fall short. For safety, an SDZ is kept clear of personnel and equipment during firing operations. Given these constraints, the training of each BCT unit on the OCTC would be accomplished over an averaged 45-day training period during which small arms and heavy maneuvers training would be conducted concurrently on multiple, and at times overlapping, ranges.

No Action Alternative. Under the No Action alternative, the RPMP would not be approved, the modernization and infrastructure improvements would not be achieved, optimized BCT training operations on the installation and in the OCTC would not occur, and the existing IDARNG facilities and operations would remain unchanged. Without implementation of the Proposed Action, IDARNG would continue to operate in inadequate facilities, reduced training efficiency, and hindered ability to meet mission requirements.

Environmental Consequences

Through this EA, ARNG provides a constraints-based environmental effects analysis of installation development actions projected over the next 5 years. A constraints-based approach enables ARNG to identify and evaluate environmental concerns for areas where the proposed development or operational activities would overlap or interact with environmental resources that exist on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC. The analysis draws from the knowledge gained by ARNG from extensive recent evaluations for similar types of projects to determine the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of projects that would be completed as part of the installation's development.

The IDARNG is required to offset any permanent impacts associated with proposed ROWs on BLM lands. This is accomplished through a standardized enhancement process developed by the IDARNG and BLM, as outlined in the Idaho Army National Guard Habitat Enhancement Project (DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2017-0006-EA) (USDI BLM 2018c).

With adherence to applicable Federal and state environmental laws, regulations, and permitting processes, ARNG has determined that significant adverse environmental impacts would not result from the Proposed Action. This determination is based on the findings summarized in **Table ES-1**, which presents a summary comparison of potential impacts from the alternatives. As this information indicates, in general, minor, temporary and long-term impacts would result.

The No Action Alternative, which would be a continuation of existing conditions, would not result in significant environmental impacts.

Table ES-1. Comparison of Impacts for Each Resource

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Land Use	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the land use and development strategies specified in the Real Property Master Plan (RPMP). Having and implementing the RPMP would provide an organized, efficient, and thoughtful plan resulting in beneficial impacts on land use.</p> <p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts are expected from development of a large portion of land within the installations and some surrounding from undeveloped land.</p> <p>Long term, less than significant adverse impacts on land use may occur due to noise increases associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the OCTC land use and development strategies specified in the RPMP.</p> <p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts are expected from further development of range facilities on the OCTC. Long term, minor, adverse impacts on land use may occur due to noise increases associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training.</p>	<p>No change from existing conditions, but the benefits of having an organized and efficient plan would not be realized.</p>

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Air Quality	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts would result from approval of the RPMP. Short-term, less than significant adverse impacts are anticipated from the particulate (dust) and emissions from vehicle exhaust generated during construction and demolition activities. Long-term emissions from additional facility operations and increased emissions from vehicle exhaust generated from optimized throughput of brigade combat team (BCT) training activities would increase as a result of up to a 29 percent increase of troop training annually. However, these impacts would not exceed the U.S. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) or greenhouse gas (GHG) threshold levels.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts would result from approval of the RPMP for projects located on the OCTC.</p> <p>Short-term, minor adverse impacts are anticipated from the particulate (dust) and emissions from vehicle exhaust generated during construction and demolition activities of projects on the OCTC. Long-term emissions from additional facility operations and increased emissions from vehicle exhaust generated from optimized throughput of BCT training activities would increase as a result of up to a 29 percent increase of troop training annually on the OCTC. However, these impacts would not exceed the U.S. NAAQS or GHG threshold levels.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Noise	<p>Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from implementing best management practices (BMPs) and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to reduce noise levels. Short-term, less than significant adverse increases in noise from construction and demolition activities would be expected.</p> <p>Long-term, less than significant adverse increases in training-associated noise would occur as a result of up to a 29 percent increase in troop training annually. Although the type of noise would not change, its tempo would increase in proportion to the increased number of troops trained. However, no new noise sources would be introduced. Furthermore, affected resources (i.e. wildlife) already compensate (i.e. avoid or acclimate). Adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput.</p>	<p>Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, minor adverse impacts from implementing BMPs and SOPs to reduce noise levels on the OCTC. Short-term, minor adverse increases in noise from construction and demolition activities on the OCTC would be expected.</p> <p>Long-term, minor adverse increases in training-associated noise would occur as a result of up to a 29 percent increase in troop training annually on the OCTC. Although the type of noise would not change, its tempo would increase in proportion to the increased number of troops trained. However, no new noise sources would be introduced. Furthermore, affected resources (i.e. wildlife) already compensate (i.e. avoid or acclimate). Adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Geology, Topography, and Soils	Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on geological resources from approval of the RPMP. Short-and long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on soils would be expected due to construction and demolition activities, which would disturb soils and create impervious surface areas, impacting surface erosion, fugitive dust, sedimentation, and soil productivity. The short term use of heavy equipment or vehicles for construction, long-term increase of up to 29 percent more troops associated use of vehicles, and munitions expenditures due to an increase in training operations would result in soil compaction, erosion, and fugitive dust. As reseeded would be implemented and these changes would be mostly temporary in nature, these impacts would be less than significant.	Long-term, minor adverse impacts on geological resources from approval of the RPMP for projects located on the OCTC. Short-and long-term, minor adverse impacts on soils would be expected due to construction and demolition activities, which would disturb soils and create impervious surface areas, impacting surface erosion, fugitive dust, sedimentation, and soil productivity. The short term use of heavy equipment or vehicles for construction, long-term increase of up to 29 percent more troops associated use of vehicles, and munitions expenditures due to an increase in training operations would result in soil compaction, erosion, and fugitive dust on portions of the OCTC. As reseeded would be implemented and these changes would be mostly temporary in nature, these impacts would be minor.	No change from existing conditions.

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Water Resources	Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on water resources from approval of the RPMP. Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on water resources would be expected. Construction of additional facilities and infrastructure would increase impervious surfaces, thereby, increasing the rate and volume of stormwater flow in the Region of Influence (ROI). Equipment use and maintenance associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential for groundwater contamination. However, these impacts would be less than significant through implementation of improved drainage systems and IDARNG BMPs and SOPs.	Long-term, minor adverse impacts on water resources from approval of the RPMP. Long-term, minor adverse impacts on water resources would be expected. Construction of additional facilities and infrastructure would increase impervious surfaces, thereby, increasing the rate and volume of stormwater flow in the ROI. Equipment use and maintenance associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential for groundwater contamination. However, these impacts would be minimized through implementation of improved drainage systems, IDARNG BMPs and SOPs, and BLM's RDFs.	No change from existing conditions.

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Biological Resources	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on biological resources from approval of the RPMP. Increases in construction, vehicular and munitions noise that could deter wildlife, including raptors and other special status species, from using the area in the short- and long-term, would have less than significant adverse impacts.</p> <p>Less than significant adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput. Construction activities, and pedestrian and vehicular traffic could trample or crush native vegetation in affected areas, having less than significant adverse impacts. A net development of 118 acres would occur.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, less than significant adverse impacts would be expected from land development, which would remove native vegetation from undeveloped land and increase the risk of deterioration of Proposed Critical Habitat areas for special status flora, <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>, from construction activities and subsequent spread of nonnative species. 2 acres of LEPA Proposed Critical habitat would be developed.</p> <p>Construction and demolition activities and increased training activities could increase the potential for wildfires. However, implementation of the fire management program and adherence to following fire safety protocols would minimize potential impacts.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts on biological resources from approval of the RPMP. Increases in construction, vehicular, and munitions noise that could deter wildlife, including raptors and other special status species, from using the area in the short- and long-term, would have minor adverse impacts.</p> <p>Minor adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput. Construction activities, and pedestrian and vehicular traffic could trample or crush native vegetation in affected areas, having minor adverse impacts. 156 acres would be developed, and 156 acres would be restored elsewhere.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, minor adverse impacts would be expected from land development, which would remove native vegetation from undeveloped land and increase the risk of deterioration of Proposed Critical Habitat areas for special status flora, <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>, from construction activities and subsequent spread of nonnative species. 25.4 acres of LEPA habitat and 36.2 acres of potential LEPA pollinator habitat in the HIZ would be developed.</p> <p>Construction and demolition activities and increased training activities could increase the potential for wildfires. However, implementation of the fire management program and adherence to following fire safety protocols would minimize potential impacts.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Cultural Resources	<p>Long-term, less than significant impacts on cultural resources from approval of the RPMP. No impact on known cultural resources that are eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area would be attributable to Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) activities.</p> <p>Archeological sites on the OCTC would be avoided under the Proposed Action and are protected from a distance per requirements an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan, which includes the installation of protective measures and regular monitoring at significant cultural resources.</p> <p>Indirect, less than significant adverse impacts on cultural resources could occur due to the increased potential risk of wildfire from an increase in munitions training associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training. These impacts would be minimized, as rapid firefighting response would occur from the adjacent Cantonment Area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor impacts on cultural resources from approval of the RPMP. Archeological sites on the OCTC would be avoided under the Proposed Action. Additionally, cultural resources at the OCTC are protected from disturbance per the requirements of an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan, which includes the installation of protective measures and regular monitoring at significant cultural resources.</p> <p>Indirect, minor adverse impacts on cultural resources could occur due to the increased potential risk of wildfire from increase in munitions training associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training. These impacts would be minimized, as rapid firefighting response would occur from the adjacent Cantonment area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Socioeconomics	<p>Long-term, beneficial impacts on the socioeconomic resources from approval of the RPMP. Short- to long-term, beneficial impacts on the local economy and local employment levels from increased construction-related spending and payroll and additional IDARNG employment opportunities.</p> <p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on the local economy may occur from loss of business due to improved and expanded facilities on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area. Long-term, beneficial impacts are expected from modernization of facilities and infrastructure, creating a safer environment for IDARNG personnel.</p>	<p>Long-term, beneficial impacts on the socioeconomic resources from approval of the RPMP. Short- to long-term, beneficial impacts on the local economy and local employment levels from increased construction-related spending and payroll and additional IDARNG employment opportunities.</p> <p>Long-term, beneficial impacts are expected from modernization of facilities and infrastructure, creating a safer environment for IDARNG personnel.</p> <p>The increase in vehicular traffic, troop size, and munitions and maneuvers training associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential risk of wildfires. These impacts would be minimized as rapid firefighting response would occur from the Cantonment Area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk. Adverse impacts would be minor.</p>	No change from existing conditions.
Environmental Justice	<p>Long-term less than significant, adverse impacts on environmental justice from approval of the RPMP. If populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence exist in the vicinity of the installations, long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts may occur as temporary construction noise and recurring increased training noises may deter prey animals from entering the area available to hunters.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts on environmental justice from approval of the RPMP. If populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence exist in the vicinity of the installations, long-term, minor, adverse impacts may occur as temporary construction noise and recurring increased training noises may deter prey animals from entering the area available to hunters.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Infrastructure	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from approval and implementation of infrastructure siting and development strategies specified in the RPMP. Having and implementing an RPMP would provide an organized, efficient, and thoughtful plan resulting in beneficial impacts on infrastructure.</p> <p>The short-term increase in construction-related traffic and long-term increase in training-related traffic associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would cause long-term adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure.</p> <p>Short- and long-term less than significant adverse impacts due to temporary disruptions in utilities during construction and increased consumption of utilities and solid waste creation would be expected. Enough capacity exists or will exist to support these increases and overall utility infrastructure would be upgraded and expanded.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts from approval and implementation of infrastructure siting and development strategies specified in the RPMP.</p> <p>The short-term increase in construction-related traffic and long-term increase in training-related traffic associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would cause long-term minor adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, minor adverse impacts due to temporary disruptions in utilities during construction and increased consumption of utilities and solid waste creation would be expected. Enough capacity exists or will exist to support these increases and overall utility infrastructure would be upgraded and expanded.</p>	<p>No change from existing conditions, but the benefits of having an organized and efficient plan would not be realized.</p>

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the RPMP. Less than significant, short-term adverse impacts would occur due to temporary increases in the use of hazardous materials and petroleum products and generation of waste from construction and demolition-related activities requiring additional storage and disposal capacity and asbestos abatement.</p> <p>The increases in the number of vehicles, vehicle use and subsequent maintenance, and rail spur operation associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential risk of a hazardous spill, on a 1;1 ratio with increased throughput. The current spill rate is less than 20 incidents per year and clean-up response is one to two days. Any adverse impacts would be less than significant due to implementation of the installations' spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plans.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the RPMP. Minor short-term adverse impacts would occur due to temporary increases in the use of hazardous materials and petroleum products and generation of waste from construction and demolition-related activities requiring additional storage and disposal capacity and asbestos abatement.</p> <p>The increases in the number of vehicles, vehicle use, and subsequent maintenance associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential risk of a hazardous materials spill, on a 1;1 ratio with increased throughput. The current spill rate is less than 20 incidents per year and clean-up response is one to two days. Any adverse impacts would be minor due to implementation of the installations' spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plans.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

Conclusion

The evaluations and analyses performed within this EA concluded that there would be no significant short or long-term adverse impacts on the local environment or quality of life as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action. No mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. Therefore, it is the conclusion of this EA that a FNSI is appropriate and that an EIS is not necessary for implementation of the Proposed Action.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

µg/m ³	microgram per cubic meter	BASH	Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard
°F	degrees Fahrenheit	BCT	brigade combat team
AASF	Army Aviation Support Facility	BDE	brigade
ABCT	Armored Brigade Combat Team	BES	Battlefield Effects Simulator
ACHD	Ada County Highway District	BHWG	Bird/Wildlife Hazard Working Group
ACM	asbestos-containing material	BLM	Bureau of Land Management
		BLUFOR	Friendly
ADNL	A-weighted day-night sound level	BMP	best management practice
af	acre-feet	BN	Battalion
AFA	acre-feet per annum	CAA	Clean Air Act
AFB	Air Force Base	CAB	Combined Arms Battalion
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1979	CACTF	Combined Arms Collective Training Facility
ANG	Air National Guard	CALFEX	Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise
ANL EAD	Argonne National Laboratory Environmental Assessment Division	CAN	Canister Round
ANSI	American National Standard Institute	CAS	Close Air Support
AP	Armor-Piercing	CATEX	Categorical Exclusion
APE	Area of Potential Effect	CAV	Cavalry
AR	Army Regulation	CDNL	C-weighted day-night sound level
ARNG	Army National Guard	CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979	CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
ASP	Ammunition Supply Point	CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
AST	aboveground storage tank	CGP	Construction General Permit
AT/FP	anti-terrorism/force protection	CGWA	Critical Groundwater Areas
ATHP	Ammunition Transfer Holding Points	CHSA	Consolidated Hearing Study Area
AUM	animal unit month	CO	carbon monoxide
AYST	Available Year Sustainment Training	CO ₂	carbon dioxide

CO ₂ e	carbon dioxide equivalent	FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
CWA	Clean Water Act		
DA	Department of the Army	FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
DA PAM	DA Pamphlet		
DAGIR	Digital Air-Ground Integration Range	FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
dB	decibel	FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
dBA	A-weighted decibel	FLPMA	Federal Land Policy Management Act
dBp	peak sound level	FM	Field Manual
DNA	Determination of NEPA Adequacy	FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact (for ARNG)
DNL	day-night sound level	FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact (for BLM)
DoD	Department of Defense		
DOI	Department of Interior	FSC	Forward Support Company
DPW	Division of Public Works	ft bgs	feet below ground surface
EA	Environmental Assessment	FUDS	formerly used defense sites
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	FW	Fighter Wing
EISA	Energy Independence and Security Act	FY	fiscal year
EMO	Environmental Management Office	GHG	greenhouse gases
EN BFV	Engineer Bradley Fighting Vehicle	gpd	gallons per day
EO	Executive Order	gpm	gallons per minute
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act	GPS	Global Positioning System
ERG	Eastern Research Group	GWMA	Groundwater Management Areas
ESA	Endangered Species Act	HE	high-explosive
eSAB	Enhanced Separate Armor Brigade	HEMTT	heavy expanded mobility tactical truck
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration	HHC TAC	Headquarters and Headquarters Company Tactical Command Post
FARP	Forward Arming and Refueling Point	HIZ	habitat integrity zone
FA Btry	Field Artillery Battery	HMMWV	high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle
FCC	Facility Category Code	HQ	Headquarters
		HQDA	Department of the Army Headquarters
		HUC	hydraulic unit code

HVAC	heating, ventilation, air conditioning	LRAM	Lands Rehabilitation and Maintenance
I-	Interstate	LUP	Land Use Plan
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan	LUST	leaking underground storage tank
IDANG	Idaho Air National Guard	MATES	Mobilization and Training Equipment Site
IDARNG	Idaho ARNG	MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	MFGI	Mobilization Force Generation Installation
IDDOC	Idaho Department of Commerce	mg/m ³	milligrams per cubic meter
IDFG	Idaho Fish and Game	MILCON	Military Construction
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands	MILES	Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team	mm	millimeter
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources	MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
IFV	infantry fighting vehicle	MSGP	Multi-Sector General Permit
IMD	Idaho Military Division	MSL	mean sea level
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan	MOGAS	motor gasoline
IOC	inorganic compound	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
IRP	Installation Restoration Program	MPMG	Multipurpose Machine Gun
ISU	Installation Support Unit	MPRC	Multipurpose Range Complex
ITAM	Integrated Training Area Management	MPRC-H	Multipurpose Range Complex - Heavy
IWG	Integrated Weapons Gunnery	MPTR	Multipurpose Training Range
JLUS	Joint Land Use Study	NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
kWh	kilowatt hour(s)	NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
LBP	lead-based paint	NCA	National Conservation Area
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
Leq	equivalent sound level	NG	National Guard
LEPA	<i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>	NGB	National Guard Bureau
L _{max}	maximum sound level	NGR	National Guard Regulation
LOS	Level of Service		

NHD	National Hydrography Dataset	PPA	Pollution Prevention Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act	ppb	parts per billion
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide	PPE	Personal protective equipment
NOI	Notice of Intent	ppm	parts per million
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service	PWS	Public Water System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places	PX	Post Exchange
NTC	National Training Center	QD	Quantity-Distance
NWI	National Wetland Inventory	R	Range
O ₃	ozone	RA	restricted airspace
O&M	operations and maintenance	RCOM	Range Center of Maintenance
OCTC	Orchard Combat Training Center	RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
OPFOR	Opposing Force	RCTC	Regional Collective Training Capabilities
ORTC	Orchard Readiness Training Center	RDF	required design feature
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration	RMP	Range Management Plan
P.L.	Public Law	ROCA	Range Operation Control Area
PAM	pamphlet	ROD	Record of Decision
Pb	lead	ROI	Region of Influence
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyls	ROW	right of way
PCC	Portland cement concrete	RPMP	Real Property Master Plan
pCi/L	picocuries per liter	SBCT	Stryker Brigade Combat Team
PGA	Peak Ground Acceleration	SDZ	Surface Danger Zone
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter	SEL	sound exposure level
PM ₁₀	particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter	SF	square foot (feet)
POL	petroleum, oil, and lubricants	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
POV	privately owned vehicle	SIP	State Implementation Plan
		SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
		SOC	synthetic organic compound

SONMP	Statewide Operational Noise Management Plan	USAPHC	US Army Public Health Command
SOP	standard operating procedure	U.S.C.	United States Code
SPCC	spill prevention control and countermeasure	USCB	US Census Bureau
SRM	Sustained Readiness Model	USDI	US Department of Interior
SRP	Soldier Readiness Processing	USDOE/EIA	US Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration
SRTF	Snake River Training Facility	USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
SUA	special use airspace	USGS	US Geological Survey
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	UST	underground storage tank
SY	square yard	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
TASC	Training and Audiovisual Support Center	UFC	Unified Facilities Criteria
TC	Training Circular	UTES	Unit Training Equipment Site
TISA	Troop Issue Subsistence Activity	UXO	Unexploded ordnance
TMDL	total maximum daily load	VOC	volatile organic compound
TOW	Tube Launched Optically Wire-Guided	vpd	vehicles per day
tpy	tons per year	vph	vehicles per hour
TRI	Toxic Release Inventory	WFMP	Wildland Fire Management Plan
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act	WOTUS	Waters of the United States
TT	Transient Training	WWII	World War II
TTB	tactical training base	XCTC	Exportable Combat Training Center
TUAV	Tactical Unmanned Air Vehicle		
UAS	unmanned aerial system		
UMMC	unspecified minor military construction		
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad		
US	United States		
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers		
USACHPPM	US Army Center for Health promotion and Preventive Medicine		
USAF	US Air Force		

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1. Purpose of and Need for the Action

1.1 Introduction

The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) prepared a Real Property Master Plan (hereafter referred to as the RPMP) for Gowen Field, the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), and Cantonment Area consistent with the requirements of the Department of Defense (DoD) Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 2-100-01, *Installation Master Planning*, which provides guidance for RPMP development on DoD installations (DoD 2012) in accordance with federal law and Army Regulations. This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared by the Army National Guard (ARNG) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with support from IDARNG, to address ARNG's proposal to approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP; implement proposed fiscal year¹ 2018 (FY18) to FY22² RPMP projects to construct and operate modern infrastructure and facilities on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and OCTC Range Complex; and optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of up to 10,500 soldiers per calendar year. This conforms with the OCTC's current training mission, which supports up to 10,000 soldiers per calendar year (DOI 2008). A review of the acronyms and abbreviations list, which precedes this section, and the glossary (**Section 7**) offers definitions of terms used throughout this document.

Figure 1-1 shows the general location of Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC. The OCTC lies within the BLM's approximately 485,000-acre Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA, which is public land managed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), and Public Law 103-64 (**Figure 1-1**). In 1953 the Idaho National Guard reached an agreement with the BLM that provided a five-year permit for military use (United States Department of Interior [USDI] BLM 2008). This was the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial relationship between BLM and IDARNG, governed by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is updated every 5 years. Impacts from the continued authorization of military training within the OCTC were assessed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) published in February 2008 and are managed under the BLM's 2008 *Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD)* published in September 2008 (USDI BLM 2008). The IDARNG manages the natural resources of OCTC under the *OCTC Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP)* (January 2013). The IDARNG manages cultural resources on the OCTC under the OCTC Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (NGB 2013).

¹ Fiscal year is defined for the U.S. government's budget schedule which runs from October 1 of the budget's prior year through September 30 of the year being described.

² RPMP projects are identified by the FY when funding was appropriated. ARNG appropriated funding for the projects addressed in this EA for FY18-FY22. Construction of these projects would start in 2020.

Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training
PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

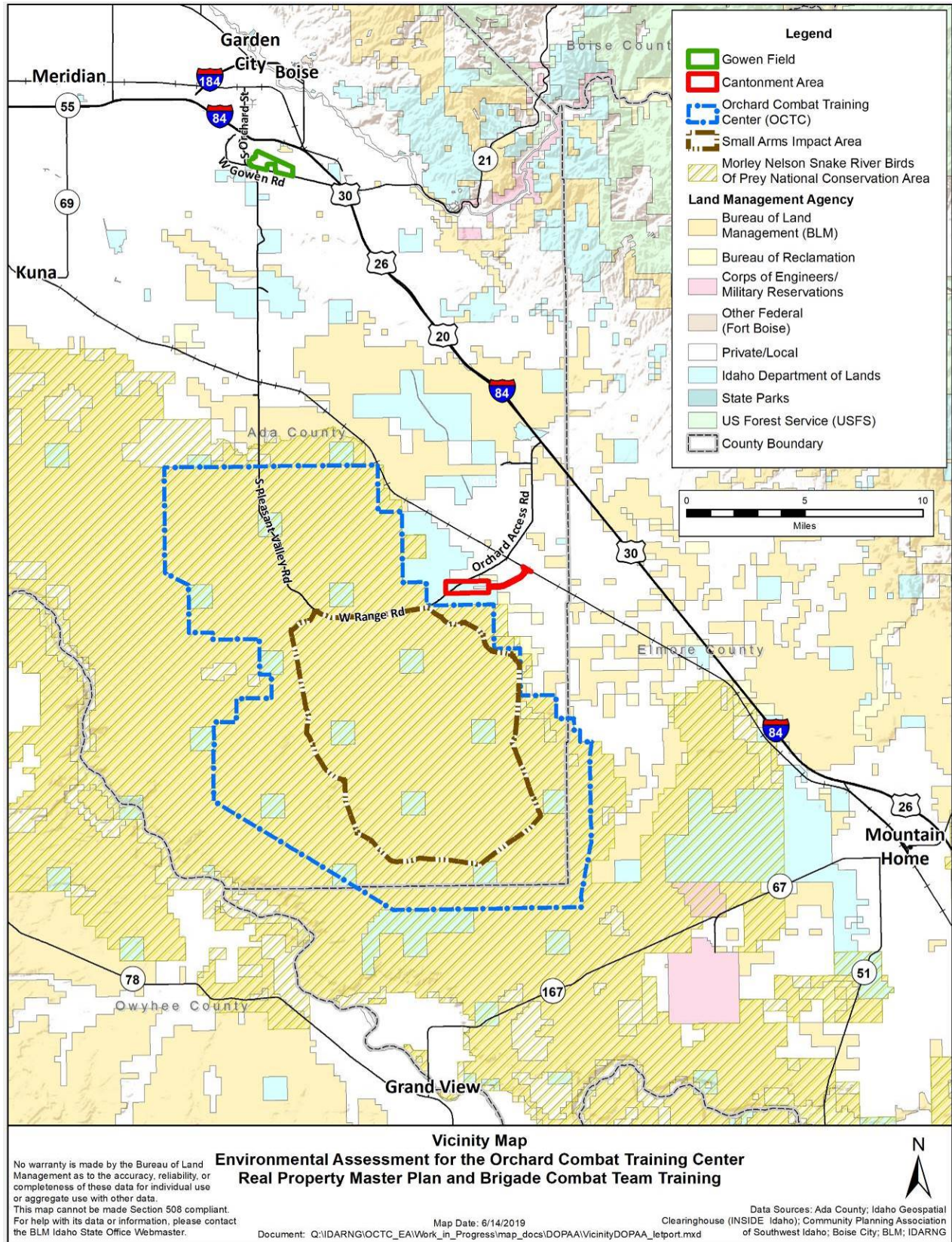


Figure 1.1. Location of Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC

The use of the OCTC for the proposed military training purposes is granted via the 2017 MOU, pursuant to Public Law 103-64 (USDI BLM and IMD 2017). Public Law 103-64 was passed in 1993 to establish the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area on BLM-administered land in the State of Idaho. In 2009, it was renamed the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA. For more than 50 years, portions of this public land have been used for military training as well as for livestock grazing and public recreation. The OCTC has continued to provide quality military training and other military support missions in this unique terrain. IDARNG conducts military training activities in the 143,307-acre OCTC (BLM-administered) under authority of the 2017 MOU.

This EA complies with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] §§ 4321–4347); the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act* (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §§ 1500–1508); *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (32 CFR § 651); and, for guidance, the 2011 *Army National Guard NEPA Handbook*, and the *BLM NEPA Handbook* (H-1790-1). The intent of NGB, ARNG, and IDARNG is to streamline NEPA compliance and facilitate the RPMP approval process by evaluating the potential impacts on the human environment of the proposed infrastructure and facilities development projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC as well as the optimized operational training throughput that these development projects would support in one integrated document.

1.1.1 Location

IDARNG and other DoD Active and Reserve Forces have conducted military training operations in the area associated with Gowen Field and the OCTC (see **Figure 1-1**) since 1953. Gowen Field is co-located with the Boise Airport, approximately 3 miles south of the downtown area of the City of Boise. Gowen Field is home to IDARNG, ARNG Joint Force Headquarters, the Air National Guard, Army Reserve, and Navy/Marine Reserve (IDARNG 2018a). Gowen Field Air National Guard Base primarily refers to the military facilities on the south side of the runways. The combined area within the airport boundaries under exclusive-use military lease encompasses approximately 570 acres of land (Gowen Strong 2019). Another 1,500 acres on the airport is under a joint-use agreement between the City of Boise and the military. The OCTC encompasses approximately 143,307 acres of predominantly BLM-administered land and is located in southwestern Idaho, approximately 13 miles south of Boise, entirely within the boundaries of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA (IDARNG 2018a). The OCTC encompasses the training ranges where heavy and light maneuvers and weapons firing activities are conducted. The Cantonment Area (referred to as “Camp Orchard”) encompasses approximately 672 acres and is located approximately 4,350 feet east of the northeastern border of OCTC on land managed by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). The Cantonment Area is the area of the installation where the barracks, various administrative and headquarters facilities, instructional facilities, PX (post exchange and base store), dining hall, chapel, maintenance facilities, motor pool, and railhead are located.

1.1.2 Background

1.1.2.1 ARNG Mission

The ARNG, as a participant in the Total Army Force, has a federal mission to provide trained units that are available for active duty in time of war or national emergency. The IDARNG has a state mission to provide military units that are organized, equipped, and trained to function when necessary to protect life and property, and to preserve peace, order, and public safety, under competent orders from authorities of the State of Idaho.

The OCTC is designated as a Regional Collective Training Capabilities (RCTC) Level I Garrison Training Center. It is capable of supporting multiple brigade-sized units and associated training and is the mobilization site for the National Guard (NG) (ARNG G1/G3 2018). The IDARNG's largest deployable unit, the 116th Cavalry Brigade, was an Enhanced Separate Armor Brigade (eSAB) until it was re-designated as an Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) in 2007 to address updated Department of Army (DA) doctrine.

A Brigade Combat Team (BCT) is a large, modular unit that may be comprised of three to seven battalions with between 240 to 750 troops per battalion. Among the BCTs (Armored, Infantry, and Stryker Brigades), the ABCT is one of the Army's largest combined arms force. Training equivalent is an adaptive measurement concept used to denote the maximum estimated number of soldiers and associated equipment to be used over one calendar year timeframe within the OCTC. Because the mission requirements and personnel numbers of individual BCTs may vary considerably from year to year a static definition based on a set number of soldiers and specified type of unit or training activity is unrealistic and difficult to define. As an example, between zero and three individual BCT units could use the OCTC to conduct military training operations within one calendar year. Based on the training equivalent standard, the total number of soldiers and associated equipment would not exceed the amount associated with three BCTs at 85 percent strength (see **Table 2-5** for a breakdown of units, training exercises, and numbers of soldiers associated with three BCTs at 85 percent). As such, several of the BCTs would have to be considerably lower than 85 percent strength. Similarly, if there were two BCTs, the total strength for each could exceed 85 percent. This adaptive management approach standardizes the measurement process to identify the maximum annual level of use that is consistent with the BLM's 2008 RMP (DOI 2008), while also allowing for the flexibility needed to meet the military training needs of the IDARNG and DOD mission.

1.1.2.2 OCTC Mission

The mission of the OCTC is to provide training lands, gunnery ranges, and Exportable Combat Training Center (XCTC; i.e., "Annual Training") facilities first to IDARNG and Army Reserve Forces, and then to other government and civilian units and organizations when possible. The OCTC is the primary training area for IDARNG-assigned units. It is also one of the largest heavy force (armor/mechanized) training areas in the United States. The OCTC provides training for both federal and state missions of IDARNG. The state mission includes supporting domestic emergency response requested through the Governor. This includes natural disasters, civil disturbance, or terrorist attacks. The President reserves the right to mobilize the NG during

times of national emergency, putting them in a federal duty status as necessary. The OCTC provides the following specific mission requirements:

- a training area for NG and Reserve Forces.
- assistance, facilities, and training areas for logistical support to units conducting Inactive Duty Training and Annual Training.
- small arms and crew-served weapons qualification ranges and facilities.
- maneuver areas suitable for training heavy armor and mechanized units.
- range facilities for M1A1 and M1A2 tank series and Bradley fighting vehicles.
- artillery gunnery and maneuver training areas.
- airspace and impact areas for AH-64 Apache attack helicopter gunnery.
- airspace and impact areas for other rotary wing door gunnery.
- organizational and direct support maintenance facilities for units conducting training.
- training areas and facilities to local law enforcement agencies, civil defense organizations, Reserve Officers Training Corps departments, public education institutions, and other civilian activities as long as no interference occurs with existing military training activities.

The authorized mission of the IDARNG ISU is to support the mobilization of multiple brigade sized teams through back-to-back rounds of training on the OCTC. To accomplish this mission, troops in the resident ABCT would complete their Annual Training and be immediately followed by up to two additional transient BCTs (or a total equivalent of 10,500 troops) that would train in successional rounds on the OCTC (ARNG 2015). Supporting this requires maintaining and allocating training areas, airspace, facilities, and ranges to support field maneuvers, live-fire exercises, testing, and institutional training. Additionally, the installation provides quality-of-life and logistical support to training units. However, Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and OCTC currently only have infrastructure and facility capacities to support the training of one brigade's worth of troops per year. With the current limitations, only the IDARNG's Resident Unit (116th ABCT) conducts brigade-level training at the OCTC per calendar year and ARNG transports brigade-sized units and associated materiel to other installations across the U.S. to enable completion of the required proficiency training. Primacy for training operations at other installations is afforded to the units based there. Because of this, visiting units must compete for range time and assets to meet and maintain proficiency requirements and may be denied access, once arrived, if the local units have training orders to be met. This practice of transporting troops and materiel to other training locations is costly and logistically challenging, and competition for range time at other locations limits the ARNG's ability to ensure adequate training and maintained brigade-level readiness over the long term.

Per National Guard Regulation 5-3 (NGR 5-3), *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, a RCTC Level I must have its own RPMP, adequate (i.e., meet Facility Category Code [FCC³]-defined amounts of) facility and infrastructure capacities to provide billeting and lodging to support multiple brigade-sized units, acreage to support defined light and heavy maneuver areas, and live-fire ranges (per Army Training Circular [TC] 25-8, *Training Ranges*) to support individual and collective training for multiple brigades (ARNG 2015, HQDA 2016).

The OCTC already partially meets the requirements listed in NGR 5-3 to support multiple sequential brigade-level maneuvers per the Level I designation and enable achievement and sustainability of the IDARNG training mission because it meets the following criteria:

- adequate acreage to support multiple brigade-level training maneuvers,
- multiple ranges including land areas that can support light and heavy maneuvers, platoon- and company-level gunnery and live fire exercises.
- a nearby partially-developed Cantonment Area with available land that can be further developed to provide the required life (housing, food, and welfare accommodations) and training support facilities for multiple brigade-sized units and materiel.

Additionally, the Cantonment Area has an established railhead and co-located Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) facility used to support transport, offloading, and on loading of military materiel. If further developed, the Cantonment Area and the OCTC could fully support the IDARNG mission and also serve as a consolidated instructional and training institution for ARNG.

To comply with the UFC 200-01-1 requirement for RPMP development and approval, complete NGR 5-3 requirements, and enable the IDARNG to meet its mission to support multiple brigades per year, the installation must have an approved RPMP, develop additional facilities and infrastructure, and update range and training area features (e.g., targetry, gathering spaces, and control center facilities) to provide the capacities required for that operating level. Toward that end, ARNG has developed an RPMP for Gowen Field and the OCTC that identifies a development/construction plan to achieve adequate life and training support facilities/capacities with the intent to optimize throughput of brigade-level training on the OCTC. The RPMP provides a consolidated list of projects that are planned and programmed over the next 5 years for the continued physical development of the installation to support BCT training missions and other readiness training and operational assignments. These plans provide for future developments of the installation to accommodate future mission and facility requirements. These plans include projects for the installation's future facility development, range improvements, utility infrastructure enhancements, development constraints and opportunities, and land use relationships.

³ Every range, course, complex, or facility has an FCC that is based on a hierarchical grouping of similar types of facilities (HQDA 2006). In accordance with Army Regulation 415-28, *Guide to Army Real Property Category Codes* and DA Pamphlet 415-28, *Guide to Army Real Property Category Codes*, all Army owned and planned facilities can be accounted for using a uniform real property category coding system.

1.1.2.3 ARNG Training Operations

During 2017, the Army transitioned its training strategy from the Army Forces Generation Model to the Sustained Readiness Model (SRM). This change was implemented in order to shift the Total Army's readiness objectives toward decisive action operations to address current and emerging near peer conventional threats and away from counterinsurgency operations, of the past, in Iraq and Afghanistan. The transition to SRM resulted in an enhanced readiness initiative for ARNG Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT) and Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCT), reducing the duration for meeting required training objectives from 5 years (Armed Forces Generation) to 4 years. Infantry Brigade Combat Teams remain at a 5-year training cycle.

The Enhanced Readiness training objectives of brigade-sized units include the following: Year 1 includes a variety of individual, squad, crew, and platoon level weapons qualifications, and crew and platoon level gunnery training for various tanks and vehicle systems, typically conducted at the units home station; Year 2 includes up to a 45-day Annual Training rotation, including an XCTC Exercise; Year 3 encompasses a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California; and Year 4 includes Available Year Sustainment Training (AYST) consisting of tank/crew table certification tables I through XII and combined arms live fire exercise (CALFEX). It is anticipated that year 2 and 4 training will be conducted at the OCTC for all ARNG ABCT and SBCTs (transient and resident BCTs) in addition to the resident ABCT year one training. **Appendix A** provides the background and detailed discussion on ARNG training operations currently conducted within the parameters of the Enhanced Training Initiative and on the OCTC. The following summarizes current conditions⁴.

In accordance with the Department of Army Pamphlet 350-58, *Standards in Weapons Training*, all Army Units (i.e., Active, Reserve, and NG) are required to maintain weapons proficiency on an annual basis. Several other Gunnery manuals, including TC 3-04.45, *Combat Helicopter Gunnery* (for attack and utility helicopters); TC 3-20.21, *Training and Qualification, Crew* (Stryker Gunnery); and Field Manual (FM) 3-20.21, *Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) Gunnery* dictate the requirements for qualification by weapon, weapon platform and/or vehicle type. Specifically, these manuals provide the Gunnery Tables (I through XII) on which each crew must certify using the high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV), M1A2 Main Battle Tank, M2A2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle, and Stryker Variant vehicle system. To be certified, each crew must certify as an individual (Gunnery Tables I and II), crew (Gunnery Tables III through VI), squad (Gunnery Tables VII through IX), and then Platoon (Gunnery Tables X through XII).

Certification for Gunnery Tables I and II is typically completed at a crew's Home Station. Certifications for Tables III through VI are conducted on a multi-purpose training range (MPTR). Gunnery Tables VII through IX are conducted on either an MPTR or a multi-purpose range complex-heavy (MPRC-H; for heavy maneuvers). Gunnery Tables X through XII are conducted on an MPRC-H. Gunnery Table XII certification on all armored vehicles is an annual training

⁴ The National Training Center at Fort Irwin CA is the only training center where BNs and Companies can be externally evaluated and certified on Company and Battalion level maneuvers training.

requirement and also a pre-requisite training prior to conducting a CALFEX, which is the ultimate exercise which integrates an armored or Stryker company's main combat systems into a live fire engagement with supporting artillery and mortar fires. Typically, this exercise integrates all of the combat platforms that will be available to a maneuver commander during combat operations and allows them an opportunity to train in this type of environment prior to combat. **Appendix A, Table A-1** lists ARNG training operations on the OCTC by the certification requirement and range on which those actions occur.

Training on the OCTC is available for resident and transient (i.e., non-IDARNG) units throughout the year. Most of operations conducted on the ranges is conducted by the Resident Unit (i.e., 116th ABCT). The Resident Unit is comprised predominantly of reserve soldiers who are still attending school and have limited availability to participate in year-round training. To accommodate this while maintaining qualifications currency, soldiers can access the ranges to meet individual qualifications from September through April (typically weekend drills), so they are able to focus solely brigade-level training during the summer months (May through August; referred to as the Summer Training Period). Approximately 20 percent of the annual operating level occurs from September through April. Approximately 80 percent of the training activities on the OCTC are conducted during the Summer Training Period. Currently the throughput of training on the OCTC is limited by the lack of facility capacities, inadequate rail operations to efficiently on- and off-load materiel, and substandard range development to accommodate sustainable, efficient training of multiple brigade-sized teams. Therefore, only the resident ABCT unit is able to complete its annual training on the OCTC per calendar year.

1.2 Purpose and Need

1.2.1 IDARNG Purpose Statement

The Proposed Action consists of three distinct, but integrally linked Component Actions. Individually, each action has its own purpose. Collectively, the purpose of these actions is to ensure the long-term sustainability of troop support, installation and range functions, and mission training capabilities by ARNG. Purpose statements for each of the three component actions follow:

1. **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP).** ARNG issued a memorandum to the ARNG Construction and Facility Management Officers in December 2015, outlining requirements for the preparation of UFC 2-100-01 compliant RPMPs for 48 specified training installations by October 1, 2018 (ARNG 2015). IDARNG has prepared the RPMP to incorporate the vision of the IDARNG Adjutant General and the facility requirements of all units and organizations assigned to or supported by Gowen Field and the OCTC. The RPMP serves as a path to ensure that planning for Gowen Field and the OCTC considers the long-term mission requirements and identifies major development and training projects proposed for execution over the next 5 years that will further meet the requirements and support the missions of the IDARNG.

A review of the RPMP was conducted by IER Master Planning, which determined that the plan meets the master plan criteria prescribed by the UFC 2-100-01 (NGB 2018).

Additionally, the ARNG is required to prepare EAs for each of its 48 UFC 2-100-01 training installations per the 26 April 2019 HQDA Memorandum entitled "Interim Guidance for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance for Real Property Master Plans (RPMPs)" (DA 2019). Therefore, a main purpose of the Proposed Action is to approve the RPMP.

2. **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements).**

The purpose of constructing the proposed FY18 through FY22 development projects is to modernize infrastructure and facility capacities to provide life and training support of multiple brigade-sized units at a given time at Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC per existing U.S. Army standards, IDARNG, and ARNG mission requirements. Details for each of these development projects are discussed in **Section 2**. With adequate infrastructure and facilities, operations on the OCTC can be increased to meet the mission requirement of the IDARNG and to meet the operating standard of a Level I training center per NGR 5-3.

3. **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput).** The purposes of increasing the brigade-level training tempo on the OCTC from one BCT up to 10,500 troops (the equivalent of three brigades operating at 85 percent strength) per calendar year are to meet the mission requirement of the IDARNG, meet the operating standard of a Level I training center (per NG 5-3), and increase the training throughput of military units necessary for sustained operational readiness and national defense by ARNG. Per PL 103-64, these actions would occur in a manner that would be compatible with the resources of the NCA.

Component Action 3 is not guided or directed by the proposed RPMP. However, implementation of the optimized training proposed under **Component Action 3** would be reliant upon prior approval and implementation of **Component Actions 1** and **2**.

1.2.2 BLM Purpose Statement

The purpose of the action is for the BLM to respond to a request for approval of the construction, operation, and maintenance of range improvement projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

1.2.3 IDARNG Need Statement

The Proposed Action is needed to meet current and future mission requirements to provide trained and ready operational forces per *Army National Guard 2014-2020 Strategic Planning Guidance* which integrates the *2010 National Security Strategy* as it flows through DoD's 2018 *National Military Strategy* and the Department of Homeland Security's *Strategic Plan* into the service and component-specific guidance of the Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) and the NGB (ARNG 2013). IDARNG and ARNG lack reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to installation and training spaces that can be used to meet and sustain its platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements into the future. Currently, troops and materiel are transported across the United States to other installations (including ARNG, Army, and Army Reserve installations) where they must compete

with Active Duty Army and Army Reserve units for range time and assets. This compromises the training mission of IDARNG and ARNG, which in-turn, compromises operational readiness for national defense.

As indicated in **Section 1.2.1**, the individual actions, which comprise the Proposed Action, are each required and integrally linked to meet this need. The need statements for each of the component actions which comprise the Proposed Action follow:

1. **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP).** IDARNG needs to fulfill DoD Master Planning policy requirements for the approval of a UFC 2-100-01-compliant RPMP. Approval of the RPMP is also needed to help the IDARNG comply with NGR 5-3, which specifies that installations or training complexes designated as Level I training centers must have their own RPMPs. Further, the RPMP is needed to guide the IDARNG through the development of the installation and range complex in a clear, sustainable manner that supports current missions, preserves long-term military capabilities, supports the DoD's mission, and enriches the community it serves. Additionally, the format and standards prescribed by UFC 2-100-01 ensures that IDARNG's installation planning is consistent with other DoD components and uses the latest techniques in planning.
2. **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements).** Implementation of the proposed RPMP infrastructure and facility projects is needed because Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area lack the infrastructure and facility capacities adequate to in-process and provide billeting and lodging, administrative support, classroom training, materiel transport, storage, and maintenance functions for troop numbers up to three brigade-sized units at a given time per year into the future. Additionally, the range and training areas on the OCTC lack adequate access to water, lanes and transition points to support tank, truck, and troop movements, bivouac areas, established Range Operation Control Areas (ROCAs), modern and more fire-inhibitive targetry, simulation facilities, and data and communications capabilities to fully support the training level required of a Level I training center. Once developed at this capacity, the OCTC would also have the infrastructure and structural capacities to be used as a maneuver center of excellence for ARNG training operations.
3. **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput).** Increased troop numbers up to 10,500 per year participating in brigade-level training at Gowen Field and the OCTC is needed to support the IDARNG mission requirements as a RCTC Level I training center, which is, in-turn, needed to support the broader ARNG and DoD missions for maintained national defense and security.

1.2.4 BLM Need Statement

The need for the action is established under BLM's responsibility under the FLPMA, 43 United States Code (USC) § 1701 et seq. and BLM's ROW regulations, 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 2800, to respond to a request for a ROW grant for legal access and use. BLM may deny a request

This EA serves as the analysis for the BLM to issue to IDARNG ROWs on the OCTC for their use of BLM-administered land. The IDARNG would be required to offset the permanent impacts from the proposed ROWs through enhancement measures, per PL 103-64. The BLM and IDARNG developed a standardized, quantitative process to determine project impacts and the required level of enhancement in the 2017 Training MOU (Section VII [A][16]). Idaho Army National Guard Habitat Enhancement Project (DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2017-0006-EA) outlines the process and site-specific plan (USDI BLM 2018c).

1.3 Scope of the Environmental Assessment

The scope of the analysis in this EA will include evaluation of the Proposed Action and the range of alternatives and impacts in accordance with NEPA. The purpose of the EA is to inform decision makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternative.

The Proposed Action would implement 83 individual projects that include replacement of aging ranges, new facility construction, facility upgrades, facility repair and renovation, utilities upgrades, community living upgrades, infrastructure upgrades, and recreational upgrades that are expected to be implemented during the next 5 years, but could be executed earlier or later depending on funding. The assessment compiles information on constraints that might inhibit development or dictate courses of actions affecting development, improve the facility planning process, and capture ARNG's vision of what facility and infrastructure improvements are necessary to support the installation's ongoing mission.

Section 2 of this EA presents in detail the scope and locations of the Proposed Action and the range of alternatives to be considered. In accordance with CEQ regulations, the No Action Alternative provides the baseline against which the environmental impacts of implementing the range of alternatives addressed can be compared. This EA identifies appropriate best management practices (BMPs)⁵, standard operating procedures (SOPs)⁶, and conservation measures not already included in the Proposed Action to avoid, minimize, reduce, or compensate for adverse environmental impacts within individual resource discussions, with a consolidated listing in **Section 4.14**. Where relevant, environmental laws, regulations, and Executive Orders (EOs) that might apply to this project will be described in the appropriate resource areas presented in **Section 3**. The scope of the analyses of potential environmental consequences provided in **Section 4** considers direct and indirect impacts on resources.

Section 4.13 presents a consolidated listing of the BMPs and SOPs that may be implemented to reduce impacts from implementing the Proposed Action. Cumulative impacts summarizing environmental consequences of the Proposed Action in consideration with all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions are discussed in **Section 4.14**. **Section 5** provides the comparison of alternatives and conclusions of the EA. **Section 6** provides definitions of technical jargon used in this EA. References cited in this EA are listed in **Section 7**. Background

⁵ BMPs are measures or practices determined to be effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of avoiding or minimizing impacts on a resource.

⁶ SOPs are established or prescribed methods to be followed routinely for the performance of designated operations or in designated situations.

information on the preparers of this EA is included in **Section 8**. **Section 9** lists the individuals and agencies with whom the ARNG and BLM coordinated during the preparation of this EA. **Appendix A** provides a detailed description of operations and munitions expenditures associated with the Proposed Action. **Appendix B** provides the comprehensive mapbook showing the locations of the proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP modernization and infrastructure improvement projects to be addressed in this EA. **Appendix C** provides materials on interagency coordination and public involvement. **Appendix D** contains a comprehensive list of the Past and Future RPMP Projects addressed in the cumulative impacts analysis. Materials associated with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation are provided in **Appendix E**. Materials associated with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation are provided in **Appendix F**. **Appendix G** provides summarizations of the calculations used in determining the air quality impacts of the Proposed Action. **Appendix H** contains figures and tables detailing the soil types and characteristics found on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC. **Appendix I** provides supplemental information on livestock grazing operations, allotments, and seasons on the OCTC. **Appendix J** provides a copy of the BLM and IDARNG 2017 MOU to allow continued training on the OCTC. **Appendix K** provides a list of special status fauna that occur within the project area.

This EA is intended to be an assessment of the three component actions that comprise the Proposed Action in coordination with ARNG-Installations and Environmental Directorate. The collective analysis of all appropriate development projects and training activities in a single EA is intended to streamline the NEPA review process for these actions; eliminate project fractionation and segmentation; facilitate coordination of land use planning; reduce installation, reviewing agency, and major command workloads; provide cost savings; help better evaluate potential cumulative environmental effects; assist in maintaining a baseline for future analysis; and meet ARNG's planning goals.

1.4 Decision-making

ARNG and BLM are co-leading this EA because most of the acreage affected by the Proposed Action is on BLM-administered lands. ARNG and BLM entered into a MOU to act as Joint Lead Agencies, and the two entities have been engaged since the initiation of the EA process (NGB and USDI BLM 2018).

Per 10 USC 10501, the National Guard Bureau (NGB) is a joint activity of the DoD. Pursuant to DoD Directive 5105.77, *National Guard Bureau*, dated 30 Oct 2015, the NGB serves as the principal advisor to US Army on matters involving ARNG, and is responsible for implementing DoD guidance on the structure and strength authorizations of ARNG. NGB is responsible for ensuring that ARNG activities are performed in accordance with applicable policies and regulations. As such, NGB is the lead federal agency responsible for preparation of NEPA-compliant documentation on projects for which ARNG is the proponent. In that capacity, NGB is ultimately responsible for decision-making, environmental analyses, and documentation; however, the local responsibility for NEPA document preparation falls to ARNG.

This EA will analyze the potential for significant environmental effects associated with the alternatives implementing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. If the analyses

presented in this EA indicate that the Proposed Action would not result in significant environmental or socioeconomic effects, then a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be prepared by ARNG. A FNSI briefly presents the reasons why a proposed action would not have a significant effect on the human environment and why an EIS would not be necessary. Similarly, and in accordance with its NEPA compliance process, BLM would also sign a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that would signify that the selected alternative would not have a significant impact on the environment. The ARNG FNSI is a decision document; however, the BLM FONSI is not. If the Proposed Action is selected, the BLM will sign a Decision Record authorizing the issuance of a ROW grant and the ARNG will proceed with implementation.

If the analyses presented in this EA indicate that significant environmental effects would result from the Proposed Action that cannot be mitigated to insignificance, a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS would be required or no action would be taken.

1.4.1 ARNG Decision to be Made

Based on analyses conducted for this EA, ARNG will decide on one of two courses of action; either: 1) select one of the presented alternatives that satisfies the purpose and need of the project and sign a FNSI that will allow implementation of one of the project alternatives; or 2) initiate the preparation of an EIS if the findings of the EA identify significant impacts (or controversy) that would result from implementation of one of the project alternatives.

1.4.2 BLM Decision to be Made

Based on the information in the EA, BLM will decide whether to approve the proposed range construction and infrastructure actions and the associated increase in operational tempo on the OCTC. The NCA Manager is the responsible officer who will decide one of the following:

- Approve the range construction and infrastructure actions, as proposed.
- Approve the proposed construction, infrastructure, and operations on the OCTC, contingent upon ARNG incorporation of BLM-specified modifications.
- Deny the proposed construction, infrastructure, and operations on the OCTC.

If the request is approved, BLM will include any terms, conditions, and stipulations it determines to be in the public interest, and may include modifying the proposed use or changing the route or location of the proposed facilities (43 CFR § 2805.10[a][1]). In the decision process, BLM must consider how BLM's resource management goals, objectives, opportunities, and/or conflicts relate to this federal use of public lands.

Per 43 CFR § 2804.26, BLM may deny a ROW request if: (1) The proposed use is inconsistent with the purpose for which BLM manages the public lands described in [an] application; (2) The proposed use would not be in the public interest; (3) [The Applicant is] not qualified to hold a grant; (4) Issuing the grant would be inconsistent with the Act, other laws, or these or other regulations; or (5) [The Applicant does] not have or cannot demonstrate the technical or financial capability to construct the project or operate facilities within the [ROW].

IDARNG is an applicant in good standing and is qualified to hold a ROW as per 43 CFR 2803. BLM has issued IDARNG numerous ROWs with which IDARNG has complied and, when necessary, has resolved any compliance issues in a timely and responsive manner.

1.5 Public and Agency Involvement

Agency and public participation in the NEPA process promotes open communication between the proponent and regulatory agencies, the public, and potential stakeholders. All persons and organizations having a potential interest in the Proposed Action are encouraged to participate in the public involvement process.

1.5.1 Scoping Process

Scoping for an EA provides members of the public and applicable regulatory agencies with the opportunity to submit formal comments regarding the development of the Proposed Action and possible alternatives, and assists in identifying issues relevant to the EA. Scoping helps ensure that relevant issues are identified early in the NEPA process and are properly studied, minor issues do not needlessly consume time and effort, and the Proposed Action and alternatives are thoroughly developed.

Public involvement and intergovernmental coordination and consultation are essential to the NEPA process and development of an EA. Public notification of the project and the EA was provided via scoping letters and invitation to an open house public meeting was sent to an interested party list supplied by BLM on June 19, 2019. The interested party list included 90 individuals or groups. In addition, a public notice was put in the *Idaho Statesman* and *Mountain Home News*. Information about the project was also made available on the IDARNG website (<http://emomil.state.id.us/> [under Documents for Review]), or the BLM website (<https://go.usa.gov/xmhYw>).

The IDARNG, in coordination with BLM, conducted public scoping meetings in Ada and Elmore Counties:

- July 9, 2019 (Tuesday), from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Wyndham Garden Boise Airport, 3300 S. Vista Ave., Boise, ID. There were zero attendees from the public at this meeting.
- July 11, 2019 (Thursday), from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Hampton Inn Mountain Home, 3175 NE Foothills Avenue, Mountain Home, ID. Two individuals from the public attended this meeting.

Public comments were accepted until July 23, 2019. The 30-day period for public input into the scoping process closed on July 24, 2019. USEPA Region 10, ID DEQ, and the Elmore County Board of Commissioners submitted comment letters on the Proposed Action to guide analysis of impacts on environmental resources that are addressed in this EA. One general inquiry about the project from a public citizen to the ARNG point of contact for public scoping was received. **Appendix C** provides the Public Meeting Summary Report and copies of the comment letters received during the scoping period.

1.5.1.1 Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination and Consultation

An important element of the NEPA-compliant documentation process consists of a thorough interagency outreach and coordination effort. Per the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968 (42 USC § 4231[a]) and as outlined in EO 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, as amended in EO 12416, requests have been made for agency input addressing sensitive resources in the project area, as well as information on any known planned actions in the region. In compliance with NEPA requirements for public scoping, federal, state, local agencies, and tribes with jurisdiction that could be affected will be notified of the action, and offered an opportunity to provide comments and raise points for consideration to inform development of the EA. IDARNG and BLM are currently consulting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in regard to slickspot peppergrass and Proposed Critical Habitat. **Appendix C** provides all stakeholder and public involvement materials.

1.5.1.2 Issues to be Analyzed

CEQ implementing regulations state that “NEPA documents must concentrate on the issues that are truly significant to the action in question, rather than amassing needless detail (40 CFR § 1500.1[b]). CEQ regulations also state that the scoping process should be used, not only to identify significant environmental issues deserving of study, but also to deemphasize insignificant issues narrowing the scope of the EA process accordingly” (40 CFR § 1500.4[g]).

Because the Proposed Action would involve development actions on the Cantonment Area and the OCTC, and would incorporate additional BCT unit training operations on the OCTC, ARNG determined that a full impacts analysis of resource areas would be required. Resource areas that will be analyzed in this EA include: land use, air quality, noise, topography, geology, and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, infrastructure, and hazardous materials and wastes.

Additionally, BLM, NGB, and IDARNG staffed an internal interdisciplinary team (IDT) to review the Proposed Action and identify resources issues of particular concern. Each of the participating IDT members is a subject matter expert in their field and is familiar with the resources and uses within the NCA and OCTC, as well as the requirements outlined in BLM's 2008 RMP (USDI BLM 2008) and IDARNG's 2013 INRMP (IDARNG 2013a). Consideration of the IDT-identified issues was based on existing specialist reports, site surveys and experience, the extent of the geographic distribution, the intensity and duration of the effects and/or the level of public interest or resource conflict, and professional judgment.

The following lists the IDT-identified issues. Each issue is provided in the form of a question to be answered by the analysis in the EA and is listed in association with the particular resource area within this document where discussion on the topics is provided. The IDT-identified issues, while the main issues addressed in each resource area analysis, are not the only issues analyzed in this EA.

Land Use – *How will training activities impact livestock grazing operations, visual resources, and recreation in the area? Will any land use compatibility issues result with regard to existing ownership, existing land use authorizations, and/or ROWs within the project area?*

Air Quality – *How would equipment emissions from construction actions and dust associated with the proposed training impact air quality?*

Noise – *What changes to the ambient noise environment can be expected from construction actions and proposed operational impacts?*

Geology, Topography, and Soils – *How will surface disturbance impact soil erosion (Indicator: Number of acres of soil disturbance)?*

Water Resources – *Will the project impact the water quality for groundwater or surface waters (e.g., streams or rivers)?*

Biological Resources – The following issues associated with biological resources were identified for the proposed project area. Additionally, ARNG will develop a biological assessment based on the federally listed threatened species slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum* [hereafter referred to as LEPA]) and Proposed Critical Habitat for the species. ESA Section 7 consultation with the USFWS will be completed prior to a decision being made on the extent of the impact on LEPA.

Vegetation:

How will surface disturbance impact vegetation communities?

How will troop numbers and operational activities affect the risk of wildland fire?

How will the Proposed Action affect LEPA and the Proposed Critical Habitat for the species?

Wildlife:

How will surface disturbance impact prey habitat?

How will operations impact raptor foraging?

How will surface disturbance and operations affect special status fauna?

Noxious Weeds:

How will surface disturbance affect the spread of noxious weeds within the ROI?

Cultural Resources – *How will construction and operational activities impact cultural sites eligible for the National Register?*

Socioeconomics – *How will construction and operations impact social and economic factors? What risks to public health and safety would occur during project implementation and under subsequent operations?*

Environmental Justice – *How will construction and training operations impact low-income, minority, and senior populations? Will there be potential for impacts on these populations from unexploded ordnance (UXO)?*

Infrastructure – *What impacts on utilities and infrastructure (e.g., electricity, data and communications, liquid fuel supply, water supply, solid waste management, stormwater*

management, and traffic and transportation) are anticipated from implementation of the proposed construction and training operations?

Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes – *How will construction and operations impact the presence of hazardous materials?*

1.6 Related NEPA, Environmental, and Other Documents and Processes

1.6.1 NEPA Documentation

The NEPA documents identified in **Table 1-1** have been used for tiering and/or incorporation of analysis by reference within the EA. These documents have similar geographic/resource conditions or military training operations to the area and Proposed Action being analyzed.

Table 1-1. NEPA Analysis Incorporated by Reference

Agency	Date Completed	Title
BLM ¹	May 2019	IDARNG Range Master Plan 1 EA (DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2019-0003-EA) ²
IDARNG	August 2018	Proposed Digital Air-Ground Integration Range (DAGIR) Within the OCTC's Impact Area
IDARNG and BLM	2018	IDARNG Habitat Enhancement Project DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2017-0006-EA ²
Department of the Army	2013	Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Modernizing and Operating Training Ranges on Previous or Existing Range Sites on Army Training Areas.
IDARNG, BLM, USFWS, and IDL	2013	Orchard Combat Training Center Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
IDARNG	2013	Orchard Combat Training Center Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan
IDARNG and BLM	2010	Environmental Assessment for OTA Training Range Additions and Operations (11B, 17, 18, 22, 28, 29, and 29A) DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2010-0005-EA ²
IDARNG	2008	Environmental Assessment for the Orchard Training Area Facilities Development
BLM	2008	Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement.
IDARNG	2008	<i>Orchard Training Area Facilities Development EA</i> and Finding of No Significant Impact

Table Notes:

1 – The IDARNG Range Master Plan 1 EA was approved by BLM in May 2019.

2 – BLM documents can be accessed on ePlanning BLM's National NEPA Register: <https://go.usa.gov/xEUbP>

Acronyms: BLM – Bureau of Land Management, DOI – Department of Interior, IDARNG – Idaho Army National Guard, IDL – Idaho Department of Lands, USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service, NA – Not Applicable

1.6.2 Conformance with the Land Use Plan and Applicable Environmental Documents

Land use plans (LUPs) relevant to the Proposed Action primarily include those established by the BLM, and include RMPs and NCA guidance developed to ensure the appropriate protection and management of resources located on the affected land areas.

1.6.2.1 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan

Alternatives analyzed in this EA are in conformance with the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (USDI BLM 2008). Specifically, the Proposed Action is provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- **Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) *Management Objective*** P. 2-14: “Authorize military training in a manner that reduces impacts to existing shrub habitats, supports BLM habitat restoration projects, and provides modified and/or new areas to enhance military training opportunities.” ***Management Actions:***
 - “Require all military vehicles from outside the Treasure Valley area to be washed prior to entering the [OCTC].
 - Locate military assembly and bivouac areas in existing, hardened sites adjacent to designated roads in the Bravo Area and as needed throughout the rest of the [OCTC] in non-shrub sites. Where appropriate, BLM will authorize IDARNG to gravel or cinder frequently used sites.
 - Require IDARNG to avoid shrub stands with 10 percent or greater canopy cover during military training activities.
 - Restrict vehicle maneuver training to designated routes in the 22,300-acre Bravo Area. This restriction becomes effective after the authorization for an additional 4,100 acres (expanded Maneuver Area) goes into effect on land adjacent to the existing [OCTC] boundary.”
- **Lands and Realty *Management Objective*** P. 2-15: “Meet the needs of the public in a manner that minimizes impacts on resources consistent with NCA legislative requirements” and ***Management Action:*** “Include in all BLM authorizations permitting surface disturbing activities (non-grazing), requirements that (1) affected areas be reseeded with a perennial vegetative cover, and (2) surface disturbing activities should be located at least a half-mile from occupied sensitive plant habitat.”
- **Livestock Grazing *Management Objective*** P. 2-17: “Livestock grazing would be managed to maintain or enhance prey habitat and reduce competition for forage in perennial pastures between livestock and Piute ground squirrels” and ***Management Action:*** “As part of the [OCTC] Impact Area withdrawal, IDARNG would assume responsibility for livestock management in the Impact Area.”
- **Upland Vegetation *Management Action*** P. 2-10: “Require all permit holders in slickspot peppergrass habitat to conform to applicable conservation measures from the [Conservation Agreement].”

1.6.2.2 Other Applicable Documents

LUPs and designations developed by the IDARNG and other relevant entities (e.g., Ada County, Elmore County, Idaho Fish and Game [IDFG], Ada County Highway District [ACHD], and others) will also be reviewed and the compatibility of the Proposed Action with existing and planned

land use activities and other resource management procedures will be evaluated during development of the EA. The following additional land use plans, policies, and analyses were considered in the analysis for this EA:

- BLM Manual 6220, *National Monuments, National Conservation Areas and Similar Designations*
- 2000 *National Fire Plan* with the 2006 *State of Idaho Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan* (Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Interior (DOI) 2000; State of Idaho 2006)
- 2006 Candidate conservation agreement for slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) (State of Idaho, USDI BLM, IDARNG, and Nongovernmental Cooperators 2006)
- 2009 Conservation Agreement for Slickspot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) (USFWS and USDI BLM 2009)
- *Ada County Comprehensive Plan through 2025* (Ada County Government 2016)
- *Ada County Hazards Mitigation Plan* (Ada County Government 2017)
- *Ada County, Idaho Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan 2006 Update* (Ada County Government 2006)
- *Elmore County 2014 Comprehensive Plan* (Elmore County Government 2015)
- *Elmore County, Idaho Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2010* (Elmore County Government 2012)
- IDARNG 2018 *Final RPMP for Gowen Field and the OCTC* (IDARNG 2018a)
- IDARNG 2013 *Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP)* (IDARNG 2013a)
- IDARNG 2013 *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP)* (NGB 2013)
- IDARNG 2006 *Statewide Operational Noise Management Plan (SONMP)*, with 2011 and 2018 updated assessments (U.S. Army Institute of Public Health 2006, DA 2011, DA 2018)

1.6.3 Identification of Cumulative Actions

CEQ defines cumulative impacts as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.” Informed decision making is served by consideration of cumulative impacts resulting from projects that are proposed, under construction, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the reasonably foreseeable future. The following lists the project names for major past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects that, when considered together with the Proposed Action, could contribute to cumulative impacts on

resources in the proposed project areas. The comprehensive list of the past and reasonably foreseeable future RPMP projects is provided in **Appendix D**.

- Establishment of a Sustainable Water Supply for Mountain Home Air Force Base (DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2017-0002-EA)
- Habitat Enhancements on IDL and BLM Lands
- IDARNG Replacement of Lost Heavy Maneuvers Training on the OCTC with Simco East
- IDARNG Range Master Plan 1 EA (hereafter, “MP-1 EA”) addressing critical upgrades to Ranges 5, 6, and 26, Ammunition Transfer Holding Points (ATHPs), and Turning Pads
- IDARNG Construction of a Digital 3376 Air/Ground Integrated Range (DAGIR) on the OCTC
- Past (FY17 and FY18) and Future (FY23 and Beyond) RPMP Infrastructure and Facilities Modernization Projects.

The effects of these actions, combined with the effects of the Proposed Action discussed in this EA, are described in the Cumulative Effects analysis (see **Section 4.14**) for each resource addressed.

1.7 Regulatory Framework

To comply with NEPA, the planning and decision making process refers to other relevant environmental laws, regulations, and EOs. The NEPA process does not replace procedural or substantive requirements of other environmental laws; it addresses them collectively in an analysis, which enables decision makers to have a comprehensive view of major environmental issues and requirements associated with the Proposed Action. According to CEQ regulations, the requirements of NEPA must be integrated “with other planning and environmental review procedures required by law or by agency practice so that all such procedures run concurrently rather than consecutively” (40 CFR § 1500.2). The Proposed Action and alternatives would comply with relevant Federal, state, and local regulations, plans, and policies. The following lists the major federal regulations that guide ARNG actions that may occur on the OCTC, including the Proposed Action:

Public Law (P.L.) 103-64: Establishment of the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. P.L. 103-64 was enacted in 1993 to establish the Snake River Birds of Prey NCA for the purpose of managing the “conservation, protection, and enhancement of raptor populations and habitats and the natural and environmental resources and values associated therewith, and of the scientific, cultural, and educational resources and values of the public lands in the conservation area.” The Act permitted continuation of uses of the public lands within the conservation area. The Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA supports the largest and most dense population of nesting raptors known to occur in North America. Commonly occurring raptor species include prairie falcons (*Falco mexicanus*), red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*). Several sensitive bird species have been observed in the project area, including the ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) and western burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*). Davis peppergrass (*Lepidium davisii*) and

Lepidium papilliferum (hereafter referred to as LEPA) are other sensitive species historically found in the project area.

Regulations and Executive Orders Protecting Cultural Resources. The IDARNG is responsible under EO 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, and DoD Instruction 4710.02, *DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes*, to consult with Federally-recognized tribes on issues that directly involve military training activities that may affect cultural resources.

Federal agencies are required to consult with Native American tribes to “help assure (1) that federally-recognized tribal governments and Native American individuals, whose traditional uses of public land might be affected by a proposed action, will have sufficient opportunity to contribute to the decision, and (2) that the decision maker will give tribal concerns proper consideration” (U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM Manual Handbook H-8120-1). Tribal coordination and consultation responsibilities are implemented under laws and EOs specific to cultural resources, termed cultural resource authorities. Other non-specific cultural resource regulations are termed general authorities. Cultural resource authorities include: the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA); and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, as amended (NAGPRA). General authorities include: the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1979 (AIRFA); NEPA; Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; EO 13007 Indian Sacred Sites, and DoD Instruction 4710.02, within which the DoD annotated American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy is a component of DoD Instruction 4710.02. The Proposed Action complies with the aforementioned authorities.

Southwest Idaho is the homeland of two culturally and linguistically related tribes: the Northern Shoshone and the Northern Paiute. In the latter half of the 19th century, a reservation was established at Duck Valley on the Nevada/Idaho border west of the Bruneau River. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes residing on the Duck Valley Reservation today actively practice their culture and retain aboriginal rights and/or interests in this area. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes assert aboriginal rights to their traditional homelands as their treaties with the United States, the Boise Valley Treaty of 1864 and the Bruneau Valley Treaty of 1866, which would have extinguished aboriginal title to the lands now federally administered, were never ratified.

Other tribes that have ties to southwest Idaho include the Bannock Tribe and the Nez Perce Tribe. Southeast Idaho is the homeland of the Northern Shoshone Tribe and the Bannock Tribe. In 1867 a reservation was established at Fort Hall in southeastern Idaho. The Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 applies to BLM's relationship with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The northern part of the BLM's Boise District was also inhabited by the Nez Perce Tribe. The Nez Perce signed treaties in 1855, 1863 and 1868. BLM considers off-reservation treaty-reserved fishing, hunting, gathering, and similar rights of access and resource use on the public lands it administers for all tribes that may be affected by a proposed action.

The NHPA requires that prior to authorizing an undertaking, federal agencies must consider the effect of the undertaking on any properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Protection of historic properties (36 CFR 800, Protection of Historic

Properties) defines the process for implementing requirements of the NHPA, including Section 106 consultation with the appropriate SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. NHPA Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to those properties. “Cultural resources” is an umbrella term for the array of resource types (e.g., buildings, structures, objects, archaeological sites, and traditional cultural properties) that become historic properties if determined eligible for listing, or listed in, the NRHP. The NHPA Section 106 also mandates consultation with stakeholders in the identification of historic properties.

Consultation with Native American tribes on the currently proposed undertaking is concurrently being conducted with the Shoshone-Bannock and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes in accordance with BLM Manual Handbook H-8160-1, *General Procedural Guidance for Native American Consultation*, and Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the NHPA requires the ARNG commander to consult with any tribe that attaches religious and cultural significance to historic properties that could be affected by an undertaking (USDI BLM 2004). Such consultation shall be on a government-to-government basis, and shall occur through the provisions of the NHPA and 36 CFR § 800.

Both ARNG and the BLM are committed to compliance with Section 106 and will execute both BLM and ARNG protocols for meeting Section 106 requirements in accordance with the BLM’s 2012 National Programmatic Agreement and their 2014 State Protocol Agreement with the Idaho State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO). The State Protocol notes at I. B. (1), that BLM will follow Regulations 36 CFR § 800 while acting as the lead agency responsible for Section 106.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. The ESA outlines the procedures for federal interagency cooperation to conserve federally listed species and designated critical habitat. Section 7(a)(2) states that “each federal agency shall, in consultation with the Secretary, insure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their habitats.” Slickspot peppergrass (LEPA), listed as threatened under the ESA, is the only federally listed species to be evaluated in this EA.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) of 1940, as amended. This act prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from “taking” bald eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The act provides criminal penalties for persons who “take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle . . . [or any golden eagle], alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof.” The act defines “take” as “pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb.”

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA). The MBTA was passed to put an end to the commercial trade in birds and their feathers that, by the early years of the twentieth century, had severely impacted the populations of many native birds. The MBTA protects all migratory birds and their parts (including eggs, nests, and feathers). The MBTA is a domestic law that enforces treaties between the United States, Mexico, and Canada for the protection of a shared migratory bird resource. EO 13186, *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*,

enacted in 2001, requires federal agencies to consider the effect of projects on migratory birds with emphasis on species of concern. Species of concern are described by the USFWS in Birds of Conservation Concern (2008). Lands administered by the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA occur within either the Great Basin or Northern Rockies Bird Conservation Regions. Impacts to migratory birds are described under the impacts section of this document.

Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970, as amended. Specified in 42 USC §§ 7401–7671, the Clean Air Act provided the authority for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to establish nationwide air quality standards to protect public health and welfare. Federal standards, known as the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), were developed for six criteria pollutants: ozone, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead. The Act also requires that each state prepare a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for maintaining and improving air quality and eliminating violations of the NAAQS. Under the CAA Amendments of 1990, Federal agencies are required to determine whether their undertakings are in conformance with the applicable SIP and demonstrate that their actions will not cause or contribute to a new violation of the NAAQS; increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation; or delay timely attainment of any standard, emission reduction, or milestone contained in the SIP. USEPA has set forth regulations 40 CFR § 51, Subpart W, Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans that require the proponent of a Proposed Action to perform an analysis to determine if its implementation would conform with the SIP. If calculations conducted indicate that de minimis thresholds could be exceeded, a General Conformity Determination would be required to ensure compliance with the General Conformity rule, which implements 40 CFR § 51, Subpart W, as adopted in 1994 and revised in 2010.

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2. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

As indicated in **Section 1**, this EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts that may arise from the Proposed Action, which consists of the following distinct, but integrally-linked component actions: Component Action 1 - *Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP*, Component Action 2 – *Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements* (i.e., the FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects identified for construction and/or improvement of Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and OCTC infrastructure, facilities, and range features to meet Army Standards and support increased brigade-level training operations), and Component Action 3 – *Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput*, which would optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations from the existing annual average of 8,175 troops associated with the Resident Unit (116th ABCT) and transient units to train up to 10,500 troops (or the equivalent of three BCTs operating at 85 percent strength) on the OCTC per year. The proposed throughput would represent a 29 percent increase in troops trained on the OCTC per year. Individually, each of these actions support compliance and training missions of IDARNG and ARNG. Collectively, these actions support the operational sustainability of brigade-level training by ARNG and ensured ability to maintain readiness for national defense and security. The full list of projects covered by the analysis in this EA is provided in **Appendix B**.

This EA analyzes the following alternatives:

- **Proposed Action Alternative.** This alternative would implement the Proposed Action as described in **Section 2.2**
- **No Action Alternative.** The CEQ requires an assessment of potential adverse and beneficial environmental consequences that could result from implementation of potentially effective and reasonably feasible alternatives that would achieve the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, and that the No Action Alternative be analyzed to assess any environmental consequences that may occur if the Proposed Action is not implemented. Details related to the Proposed Action and its alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, are provided below.

The actions analyzed in this EA are categorized as construction and infrastructure development projects, and optimized training. For the purposes of describing the specific types of projects included as the Proposed Action, related projects are bundled into larger consolidated projects for environmental analysis. For example, development of a headquarters facility within the Cantonment Area may entail different construction components (building, sidewalks, parking, etc.) that are funded as separate projects. In this example, the individual projects are analyzed as one project for environmental analysis. All projects are listed in **Section 2.2.3** and analyzed in **Section 4**.

2.2 Proposed Action

As indicated in **Section 1.1**, three component actions comprise ARNG's Proposed Action.

Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) would approve the 2018 UFC 2-100-01 RPMP for Gowen Field and the OCTC. **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)** would implement FY18 through FY22 infrastructure and facilities modernization development projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC. **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)** would optimize the annual training throughput on the OCTC to support the training of multiple brigade-sized units per calendar year (i.e., the Proposed Action). Once implemented, the annual operating level on the OCTC would increase from training the 116th ABCT and transient units (approximately 8,100 troops) to training the equivalent of three BCTs at 85 percent strength (approximately 10,500 soldiers and associated equipment); this would be a troop throughput increase of 29 percent. **Section 2.2.1** identifies the major installation constraints identified for the installation and range areas for consideration in the analysis of impacts. Detailed discussion on the three component actions is provided in the **Sections 2.2.2, 2.2.3, and 2.2.4**, respectively.

The preliminary footprint, layout, and requirements for construction to be included in this EA are based upon USACE building standards and U.S. Army training standards. The depicted positioning of infrastructure and facilities in each development district ⁷ (i.e., Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and OCTC) is subject to change. As project details are refined, the identified projects will continue to be reviewed throughout the anticipated construction timeframe (FY18 through FY22) to assess the adequacy of the analysis contained within this document. If any of the projects listed in **Appendix B** are changed such that it exceeds the scope of analysis and coverage to be provided in this EA, additional NEPA analysis would potentially be required for that project.

2.2.1 Major Installation Constraints

The RPMP describes a constraint as anything that would limit, reduce, or detract from the OCTC's ability to meet its training mission. In this context, a constraint may include community considerations, operations and land use compatibility, infrastructure limitations, environmental, and safety considerations (IDARNG 2018a, RPMP Section 5.3). A constraints-based development approach enables ARNG to identify and evaluate environmental concerns for areas where the proposed development or operational activities could occur with minimal limitation on the training mission. The RPMP identified constraints are listed as follows:

- RPMP Section 1.6.6 provides the environmental overview and objectives for avoiding impacts on environmental resources and lists the best management practices (BMPs)

⁷ The RPMP (IDARNG 2018a) names and defines Gowen Field (RPMP Section 4.3), the Cantonment Area (RPMP Section 4.1), and the OCTC (RPMP Section 4.2) as districts partitioned into various developable areas wherein similar facilities and land uses would be developed and located. Specific project footprints for each RPMP project addressed in this EA were determined using GIS and dimensions indicated for project facilities in the RPMP Appendix C, Range Profile, and Appendix F, Installation Design Guide.

and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to be implemented to accomplish those objectives. These BMPs and SOPs are incorporated into **Section 4.13** of this EA.

- RPMP Section 5.3.1 discusses the environmental (e.g., sensitive species, vegetation, and grazing lands), cultural, and historical (culturally sensitive and/or historic areas or facilities) constraints associated with the developable areas.
- RPMP Section 5.3.2 discusses the operational constraints (e.g., environmentally sensitive areas; potential for wildfire; airspace, infrastructure, and facility limitations; lack of maneuver lands) associated with the developable areas.
- RPMP Section 5.3.3 discusses the land use constraints (e.g., land use agreements and restricted maneuver areas on the OCTC) associated with the developable areas.
- RPMP Section 5.3.4 identifies the airspace constraints (e.g., air traffic control requirements and deconfliction of airspace)

In contrast to the RPMP's concept of constraint, this EA has been prepared using a constraints-based environmental effects analysis of the FY18 to FY22 installation development actions. For the purposes of this analysis, an environmental constraint is defined as an operational factor (e.g. noise zones) or environmental feature (e.g., floodplains, cultural resources, endangered species, noise sensitive receptors, land use management requirements, and safety elements) that would be overlapped and potentially adversely affected by a proposed development action or operation. In such a case, this EA discloses the overlap, the extent of impacts on the affected environmental resource(s), and identifies required avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures (if appropriate) that would reduce impacts on those identified resources from the proposed development.

This EA uses the information obtained from extensive recent NEPA evaluations for similar types of projects to determine the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of projects that would be completed as part of the installation's development plans. The following list identifies the environmental constraints noted in the proposed development areas.

Noise Zones. Aircraft and range operations are the dominant components of the noise environment at the OCTC, Cantonment Area, and Gowen Field. Army Regulation 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement* criteria specify that noise levels in noise-sensitive land use areas are normally considered unacceptable where they exceed a day-night average sound level of 65 A-weighted decibels (DA 2007; USAPHC 2018). This threshold for general compatibility is also upheld by the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

100-year floodplain. A 100-year floodplain exists on the railhead portion of the Cantonment Area. Development in this area would require special consideration. RPMP Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 list the environmental and land use constraints associated with the developable areas.

Airfield Infrastructure, Clear Zones, and Imaginary Surfaces. Gowen airfield includes runways, overrun, apron and ramp, and arm/disarm pads. Clear zones and imaginary surfaces (airspace)

immediately surrounding the runway and airfield) are areas where non-airfield development is constrained or discouraged for airfield safety. These areas would allow only airfield improvements and projects directly associated with airfield operations. All projects within this area must be approved by the Installation Master Planner and airfield management prior to commencing any construction-related activities. On OCTC Range 3, Runway 3 supports unmanned aerial systems (UAS) flight training operations. When the runway is operational (i.e., when UAS are taking off from or landing on the runway, training activities on adjacent ranges (i.e., Ranges 1 and 10) are halted to ensure operational safety and prevent harm of personnel or aircraft. RPMP Section 5.3.2 mentions and RPMP Section 5.3.4 specifies the airspace constraints on the OCTC.

National Conservation Area (NCA). Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA lands encompass the OCTC. Continued military use, consistent with section 4(e) of Public Law 103-64, is allowed, but the increase in training must not be detrimental to the core purpose of the NCA. The OCTC contains one of the largest contiguous stands of sagebrush and native grasslands in the NCA. This habitat is critical in sustaining the raptor population associated with the NCA. Vegetation stabilization and rehabilitation efforts focus on soil retention, vegetative cover, and the restoration of native plant communities and associated habitat. The overall goal of these efforts is to monitor and address training-related impacts while maintaining raptor and raptor prey habitat. In accordance with BLM management guidelines, soils and vegetation at the OCTC require time-intensive land rehabilitation efforts particularly following heavy maneuver activities. Typically, restoration following heavy maneuver activities entails a minimum of one-year restoration during, which, the maneuver lands being restored cannot be used for military training. RPMP Section 5.3.3 specifies the land use constraints associated with developing on the NCA.

ESA Threatened Species and Associated Habitats. LEPA and Proposed Critical Habitat for the species occurs near Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and on the OCTC. Because the potential exists for a federally protected species to be affected by the Proposed Action, the USFWS will be consulted for determination of the extent of impact on this species and Proposed Critical Habitat for the species. RPMP Section 5.3.2 lists the environmental constraints associated with the developable areas.

Munitions and Range Safety Criteria. Ground and aviation maneuver activities, live fire training activities, and the use of explosive ordnances that pose dangers to soldiers and the public occur within the Impact Area in the OCTC. All use of weapons and munitions are restricted to this area. Public access to the Impact Area is prohibited. Numerous signs warn soldiers and the public to the dangers within the area. IDARNG soldiers are required to abide by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements and other applicable safety regulations, including viewing an environmental and safety video before participating in any activities on the OCTC. RPMP Section 5.3.2 lists the environmental constraints associated with the developable areas.

Cultural Resources, Historic Buildings, and Archaeological Sites. Archaeological sites protected by the NHPA occur on the OCTC and Gowen Field. Before development or training actions that

may affect these resources can begin, consultation with the SHPO and Tribes must be conducted, as appropriate. IDARNG manages cultural resources at the OCTC, Cantonment Area, and Gowen Field through the 2013 ICRMP, which supports the military mission and while ensuring compliance with federal historic preservation laws and regulations. RPMP Section 5.3.1 specifies the cultural resources constraints to be considered during development.

2.2.2 Component Action—1 – Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP

Under the Proposed Action, the RPMP would be approved and used to inform future planning and programming decisions for real property construction, renovation, maintenance, and repair at the Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC over the near term (within 5 years) and long term (20+ years) planning horizon. As noted in **Section 1.2.1**, ARNG IER Master Planning conducted a review of the RPMP in September 2018 and determined that it meets the master plan criteria prescribed by the UFC 2-100-01 (NGB 2018). To be fully compliant with UFC 2-100-01 and approved for implementation, an EA (pursuant to NEPA), at a minimum, must be completed. Approval of the RPMP would be consistent with the military use of Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC and the goals and objectives established in UFC 2-100-01. See **Section 1** and **Figure 1-1** for general location and background information on these areas.

At a minimum, the IDARNG RPMP includes the following elements to address future development of the respective subdistricts, as appropriate. Chapter and section locations within the RPMP (IDARNG 2018a) wherein the listed information can be found is provided in parentheses.

- **Vision Plan** (in RPMP Section 5) – includes a statement of the planning vision (RPMP Section 5.1), planning goals and objectives (RPMP Section 5.2) as well as an overall constraints and opportunities map(s) (RPMP Section 4), a developable area map(s) (RPMP Figures 39 and 40; Sections 4 and 5), a framework plan for the entire installation (RPMP Section 5.5, Figures 41 and 42), a land pattern matrix if applicable, and a summary future development plan (RPMP Sections 5.6 and 5.8.2).
- **Installation Development Plan** (in RPMP Section 5) – includes Area Development Plans (RPMP Section 5.8) (including detailed constraints and opportunities maps (RPMP Section 5.3), Regulating Plans (RPMP Section 5.8; RPMP Figures 41, 45, 46, and 100), Illustrative Plans (RPMP Section 5.8, RPMP Figures 40, 41, 43, and 91 through 95), Implementation Plans (RPMP Section 5.8), capacity analysis (RPMP Sections 4 and 5), and supporting sketches and renderings (RPMP Appendix F), as well as appropriate Network Plans (RPMP Section 5.9).
- **Installation Planning Standards** – installation standards for development (RPMP Sections 8 through 10 and Appendix F).
- **Development Program** – overall installation strategy for using and investing in real property; includes list of current known projects needed to support installation missions.

- **Plan Summary** – an executive summary of each the above planning products (RPMP Appendix F: Installation Design Guide).
- The RPMP would also establish the following development districts with specified land uses and associated types of development for Gowen Field (RPMP Section 4.3), the Cantonment Area (RPMP Section 5.8.1), and the OCTC (RPMP Section 5.8.2):
 - Gowen Field Development Districts:
 - Aviation – Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF), AASF maintenance facility/hangar, C12 Hangar aircraft parking, and taxiways.
 - Life Support – Administrative support facilities including barracks, dining facilities, laundry, morale, welfare, and recreation facility, and medical facility.
 - Logistics – Department of Logistics Class I and IX warehouses, and the central Issue facility warehouse.
 - Simulations – Simulation pads, covers, utilities, and facilities.
 - Cantonment Area Development Districts:
 - Administrative – Billeting, Headquarters (HQ), and administrative facilities, general purpose administrative facilities, Garrison Operations (e.g., chapel, clinic, and dining facilities), fire and emergency response facilities, engineering facilities, access and security.
 - Railhead – All railhead operations, wash facility, staging areas, rail spurs, and loading/unloading docks.
 - Logistics/Maintenance – MATES, Training and Audiovisual Support Center (TASC), Troop Issue Subsistence Activity (TISA), fuel storage facilities, vehicle maintenance, and parking.
 - OCTC Development Districts:
 - Ranges – All gunnery ranges, impact areas, Forward Arming and Refueling Point, range support facilities, and range roads.
 - Maneuver – Light and heavy maneuver lands, tactical training bases (TTBs), and tanks trails and roads.
 - Ammunition Supply Point – Administrative buildings, security, covered storage, magazines, and loading and unloading docks.

2.2.3 Component Action 2 – Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements

Component Action 2 would implement the FY18 to FY22 construction, demolition, and infrastructure projects identified in the IDARNG's UFC 2-100-01 RPMP that are required to support future mission requirements and to comply with TC-25-8 and NGR 5-3, (the operational standards for ARNG brigade-level training). The RPMP also charts a course for the IDARNG to

achieve the current authorized level of facilities, infrastructure, ranges, and maneuver space on Gowen Field, OCTC, and the Cantonment Area to support the current and future mission requirements. By attaining these authorized levels (number of buildings, ranges, and acres of maneuver land) at Gowen Field, OCTC and the Cantonment Area, these IDARNG facilities will achieve RCTC Level 1 Garrison Training Center status as well as become a Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI). An MFGI is an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigades).

The RPMP details plans for 83 individual projects to be constructed between FY18 and FY22.

Appendix B of this EA provides the mapbook showing the locations of the RPMP projects proposed over the next 5 years (IDARNG 2018a: RPMP Section 5, *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan*, Appendix C, *Range Profile*, and RPMP Appendix G, *Planning and Programming Document Charrette*). These projects include new facility construction and additions to existing range facilities; building renovations, repairs, and alterations, demolition paired with construction within the same footprint; and infrastructure, and range improvements required to support training operations. Siting and construction of new facilities would be consistent and in accordance with the Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and OCTC land use areas to maintain compatibility with or enhance existing land uses. **Table 2-1** presents the baseline and projected numbers of developed acres that would be added in each of the three proposed development districts.

RPMP Projects Analysis Approach

This EA constitutes the NEPA analysis for each of these 83 individual projects (described in Sections **2.2.3.1** [Gowen Field], **2.2.3.2** [Cantonment Area], and **2.2.3.3** [OCTC]). Projects of similar type, size, and/or scope – and that are located on land with similar characteristics - are grouped into categories and are represented by specific projects. Furthermore, these projects are categorized by development district (i.e., Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and OCTC), type of action (e.g., construction, infrastructure), and type of support provided (e.g., billeting facilities, parking, storage, ROCA). ARNG determined that these projects would present the greatest potential adverse effects that could be expected from other proposed projects of similar type and scope. The remaining projects that are not specifically discussed are smaller in scope, add less impervious surface area for the developed acres added, and their implementation would be expected to result in minimal adverse effects. Through this approach, the EA analyzes all proposed projects. Additionally, this EA will serve as a baseline for future environmental analysis of brigade-level mission and training requirements.

Additionally, in this EA, many of the FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects are bundled into larger consolidated projects for environmental analysis. Individually, these sub-projects would be developed in phases to complete the overall project as funds become available. For example, development of a headquarters facility within the Cantonment Area may entail construction of a building, associated sidewalks, and parking. Although each of those subcomponents may have a different Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and/or Military Construction (MILCON) funding association, the project is considered and described in the EA in terms of the sum of its parts, *as one project*. Additionally, for purposes of environmental analysis, the projects discussed in this EA are categorized by location, type of action (e.g., construction, infrastructure), and type of

support provided (e.g., billeting facilities, parking, storage, ROCA). Refer to the **Appendix B Mapbook** showing locations for each of the FY18 through FY22 RPMP Projects. These projects are listed and described per development district in **Sections 2.2.3.1, 2.2.3.2, and 2.2.3.3**, respectively. **Sections 3.2 through 3.12** describe the affected environments and existing conditions for each resource area, and the proposed actions are considered in the Environmental Consequences Section, specifically in **Sections 4.2 through 4.12**. Throughout **Section 4**, impacts statements identify the development area (i.e., Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, or OCTC) where impacts would be anticipated with bold font text (e.g., **within the Cantonment Area**, or, **on the OCTC**).

The Proposed Action would develop approximately 359 acres across Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, increasing the total developed footprint by approximately 277 acres (**Table 2-1**). Existing developed acres for the proposed development areas were determined by using the known land use and GIS profile for the installation and ranges. Proposed facility and infrastructure footprint acreages were determined using GIS and facility profiles as described in the RPMP Appendix C, *Range Profiles* and Appendix G, *Planning and Programmatic Document Charrette (Specific Projects)*. Following completion of proposed construction actions for proposed infrastructure and facilities under the FY18 through FY22 RPMP, the developed footprint for each development area would change as follows:

- **Gowen Field.** Gowen field is a highly-developed installation. Construction actions would develop approximately 1 acre on Gowen Field. Demolition actions would remove approximately 3 acres of development. This would result in a net decrease in the acreage (-2 acres) of developed area within the existing fenceline. All of the planned development would occur on developed land.
- **Cantonment Area.** Most of the Cantonment Area is comprised of previously-developed land. Construction actions would increase the developed footprint in this area by approximately 185 acres, representing a 74 percent increase over existing conditions. Approximately 65 acres (35 percent) of planned development would occur on developed land. The remaining approximately 120 acres would be developed on undeveloped land.

Additionally, a 435-acre parcel of minimally-disturbed, developable land (hereafter referred to as the Cantonment Expansion Area), currently owned by the IDL, may be added to the existing Cantonment Area. Although the RPMP *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan* indicated that several FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects would be developed in the Cantonment Expansion Area, the ARNG decided to relocate those projects to the Cantonment Area to avoid the potential for impacts on the LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat therein. The total acreage noted for projects planned in the Cantonment Area reflects the relocation of the previous Cantonment Expansion Area projects. Further, the ARNG and IDARNG determined that this area would be acquired to connect the Cantonment Area with the OCTC and to potentially support future development, but would remain undeveloped in the near-term. Once the ARNG and IDARNG has made the decision to proceed with the Proposed Action, the decision on

whether to proceed with acquisition of the proposed Cantonment Expansion Area would be made.

- **OCTC.** Construction actions would develop approximately 173 acres on the OCTC, representing an approximated 9 percent increase over existing conditions. Approximately 17 acres (10 percent) of the planned development would occur on developed land. The remaining approximately 156 acres of development would be on undeveloped land.

1 **Table 2-1. Baseline and Projected Acres of Developed Land per Development District**

Development District	Total Area Acreage	Baseline Developed Acres	Total Projected Acres of Development ¹	Percent Acres on Previously Developed Land	Projected Removal of Developed Acres (Demolition)	Projected Acres Temporarily Impacted During Construction	Projected Change (+/-) in Developed Acreage (Permanent)
<i>FY 18 through FY22 RPMP Projects</i>							
Gowen Field	544	296	1 ²	100	-3	0	-2 ²
Cantonment Area	672	249	185	36	0	+65	+120
Cantonment Expansion Area	435	6	0	0	0	0	0
OCTC	143,307	1,944	173	10	Less than 1 ⁴	17	+156
<i>Totals</i>			358		-3	+81	+277

Table Notes:

1 - Acreages are rounded to the nearest whole number and reflect the sum of added or removed developed area following completed construction of all proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities development projects in each area indicated. Acres reflect the percent of land area that is previously developed as determined by review of GIS data for all infrastructure and facilities on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC. These totals do not reflect disturbance that may have occurred from training over the past 50 years.

2 – Actions are anticipated to develop slightly more than 1 acre on Gowen Field, resulting in a net decrease of 2 developed acres.

3 – Indicated acreages rounded to the nearest whole number. Acres estimated using GIS for the anticipated footprints for the included projects.

4 – (*) Actions would remove development from an estimated one-third of one acre from the OCTC.

Figure 2.1 and **Figure 2.2** show the project locations and environmental constraints for the proposed Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area development districts. **Figure 2.3** shows the project locations and environmental constraints for the OCTC development districts. The proposed RPMP projects shown in each figure are numbered and color-coded according to the type of action involved. Two legends are provided per figure. The main figure legend indicates the land use areas and known environmental constraints. The inset legend specifies the particular type of project that correlates with the project number indicated in the viewable image. Each project is assigned a unique number. Detailed descriptions of each RPMP project are provided in **Sections 2.2.3.1** through **2.2.3.3**.

2.2.3.1 Projects on Gowen Field

Table 2-2 provides the list of proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects on Gowen Field to be fully evaluated in the EA. **Figure 2.1** showed the locations and environmental constraints for the areas where these projects would be constructed. Few environmental constraints (i.e., airfield to the north, LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat, and 100-year floodplain to the south) are proximal to the ARNG portion of Gowen Field. None of the proposed RPMP projects would overlap those environmentally sensitive areas. All proposed facilities would be constructed and appropriately sited into development districts to maintain cohesive and efficient functional land uses per the RPMP's *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan* (both in RPMP Section 5). **Appendix B** provides the comprehensive mapbook, which shows the locations of each of these projects on Gowen Field.

1 **Table 2-2. Proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP Projects on Gowen Field**

Project ID	Type and Location of Project	FY	O&M and/or MILCON Number(s) ¹	Land Use District	Acres Temporarily Disturbed During Construction (+/-) ²	Acres Developed Permanently Added (Removed) (+/-) ²
Construction Projects						
GF-1	Replace Dry and Cold Food Storage Facilities	19	O&M: 162018279	Logistics	0	+0.33 (-0.34)
			O&M: 162019080	Logistics	0	+0.36
			O&M: 162016038	Logistics	0	+0.21
GF-2	SRP Facility Expansion	20	O&M: 162020044	Simulation	0	+0.28
GF-3	Dining Facilities, Renovation and/or Conversion to Instructional Facility	19	O&M: 162018120	Administrative	0	0
GF-6	Training Center HQ	21	MILCON: 160095	Administrative	0	0
Demolition Projects						
GF-4	Building 241 Demo	19	O&M: 162018139	Life Support	0	
GF-5	Gowen Field Demo of 23 World War II-era Wood Buildings	19	O&M: 162018131	Life Support	0	-2.51
TOTALS					0	+1.16 (-2.85)

Table Notes:

1 – Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and MILCON numbers correlate with the specified projects shown in the **Appendix B Comprehensive Mapbook**.

2 – Acreages in this table reflect GIS-estimated footprints for the proposed facilities to be constructed. These acreages are not rounded to a whole number to avoid over or under-representing impacts. Positive numbers indicate an increase in developed area. Negative numbers indicate a removal of prior-existing development.

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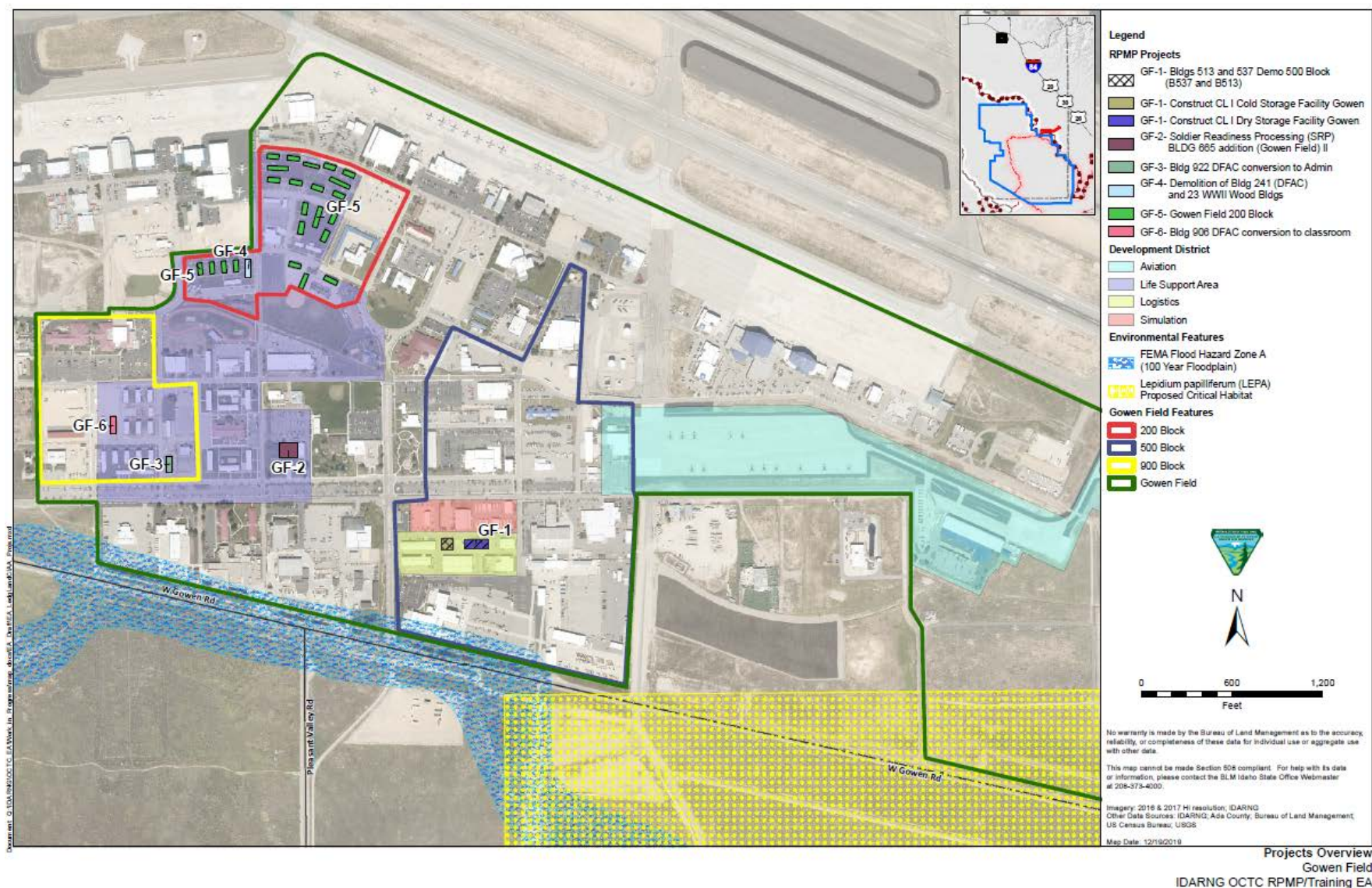


Figure 2.1. Proposed RPMP Projects and Environmental Constraints at Gowen Field

Construction Projects

- **GF-1 – Replacement of Dry and Cold Food Storage.** This project would demolish and replace Building 513 (9,500 square feet [SF]) and Building 537 (5,400 SF) within the same building footprints on Gowen Field. The dry storage and cold storage facilities would be built to replace existing facilities using the same footprints. There would be no net change in impervious surface area with this project.
- **GF-2 – Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) Facility Expansion.** This project would construct 6,000 SF of additional facility spaces onto the East, West, and South areas of the existing SRP Building, and would modify the flow of the building, to facilitate efficient throughput.
- **GF-3 – Dining Facilities (DFACs) Renovation/Conversion to Instructional Facility.** Project would remodel and convert a World War II (WWII)-era Dining Facility into an instructional facility with two classrooms. There would be no net change in impervious surface area with this project.
- **GF-6 – Training Center HQ.** This project would construct a 9700-SF Training Center Headquarters on the Cantonment Area. The project would add 97,000 SF of added facility space and 20,000 square yards of impervious surface.

Demolition Projects

- **GF-4 – Building 241 Demolition.** This project would demolish a WWII-era dining facility in the 200 Block of Gowen Field.
- **GF-5 – Gowen Field Demo of 23 WWII-era Wood Buildings.** This project would demolish 23 buildings (Buildings 201-206, 209-217, 219, 247-250 and 252-254) to remove 85,000 SF of facility spaces on removable concrete blocks, and 20,000 SF of facility spaces on concrete slabs that would also be removed. Once cleared, the area would be left as open space to accommodate future development. Future development of these sites is not identified in the RPMP.

2.2.3.2 Projects on the Cantonment Area

Table 2-3 provides the list of proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects on the Cantonment Area to be fully evaluated in the EA. **Figure 2.2** shows the locations and environmental constraints for the areas where these projects would be constructed. The following briefly describes each project. All proposed facilities would be constructed and appropriately sited into development districts to maintain cohesive and efficient functional land uses per the RPMP's *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan* (both in RPMP Section 5).

Appendix B provides the Comprehensive Mapbook showing the locations of each project proposed on the Cantonment Area. Environmental constraints are noted for the projects that would overlap or be located proximally to environmentally sensitive features or resources.

1 **Table 2-3. Proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP Projects on the Cantonment Area**

Project ID	Type and Location of Project	FY	O&M and/or MILCON Number(s) 1	Land Use District	Acres Temporarily Disturbed During Construction (+/-) 2	Acres Developed Permanently Added (Removed) (+/-) 2
Construction Projects						
CA-1	Transient Billeting Facilities	19 to 22	O&M: 162019062 MILCON: 160124 MILCON: 160153 MILCON: 160158	Administrative	0 +1.82 +1.82 +13.5	+0.50 +7.27 +7.27 +50.76
CA-2	Buildout of the MATES Complex	19 to 20	O&M: 162019063 O&M: 162018239 MILCON: 160184	Logistics/ Maintenance	0 0 0	0 +0.15 +1.31
CA-3	Instructional and Training Facilities	19	O&M: 162019061 O&M: 162018275	Administrative	0 0	+1.70 +0.14
CA-6	Brigade (BDE) Headquarters (HQ)		MILCON: 160031	Administrative	+1.04	+2.43
CA-7	BDE HQ and Storage		MILCON: 160032	Administrative	0	+0.56
CA-8	G2 Instruction		MILCON: 160192	Administrative	+0.24	+0.56
CA-9	CL I Cold Storage Building Addition	19	O&M: 162019067	Logistics/ Maintenance	+0.42	+1.67
CA-11	ORTC Fitness Center, Cantonment Physical Fitness Center	19	O&M: 162018210	Logistics/ Maintenance	0	+0.28
CA-12	DPW Admin/Trades Bays	19	O&M: 162019060	Logistics/ Maintenance	0	+0.28
CA-13	Range Control Facility	19	O&M: 162019069	Logistics/ Maintenance	+0.88	+2.05
CA-14	Access Control Point (ACP) #2	19	O&M: 162019083	Logistics/ Maintenance	0	+0.21
CA-17	Chapel	20	O&M: 162018211	Logistics/ Maintenance	0	+0.03
CA-18	RG Facility Washrack/Oil Water Separator	20	O&M: 162018055	Logistics/ Maintenance	0	+0.04
CA-19	MATES test track	20	O&M: 162014051	Logistics/ Maintenance	0	+1.45

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Project ID	Type and Location of Project	FY	O&M and/or MILCON Number(s) ¹	Land Use District	Acres Temporarily Disturbed During Construction (+/-) ²	Acres Developed Permanently Added (Removed) (+/-) ²
CA-20	MATES Solar Panel	20	O&M: 162019016	Logistics /Maintenance	0	0
CA-21	DPW maintenance Bay (Small engine repair)	21	O&M: 162021025	Logistics/ Maintenance	0	+0.3
CA-22	Police Station	20	O&M: 162018209	Administrative	0	+0.11
CA-23	New Railhead Cupula	21	O&M: 162021023	Logistics/ Maintenance	0	+0.02
Infrastructure Projects						
CA-4	Roads, Walkways, and Parking	18 to 20	O&M: 162020046	Throughout	0	+2.07
			O&M: 162019068		0	+9.67
			O&M: 162020032		0	+7.75
			O&M: 162017098		+1.61	1.61
			O&M: 162018100		0	+0.41
			MILCON: 160197		0	+2.06
CA-5	Railhead Buildout	20	MILCON: 160024	Railhead	+41.21	+13.74
CA-10	MATES Parking Lot Expansion	19	O&M: 162019064	Logistics/ Maintenance	+0.63	2.54
CA-15	Cantonment Recycling Center	19	O&M: 162018208	Logistics/ Maintenance	0	0.07
CA-16	CL Dry Storage Building Addition	20	O&M: 162020033	Logistics/ Maintenance	+1.53	+0.83
Totals					64.70	119.93

Table Notes:

1 – Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and MILCON numbers correlate with the specified projects shown in the **Appendix B Comprehensive Mapbook**.

2 – Acreages in this table reflect GIS-estimated footprints for the proposed facilities to be constructed. These acreages are not rounded to a whole number to avoid over or under-representing impacts. Positive numbers indicate an increase in developed area. Negative numbers indicate a removal of prior-existing development.

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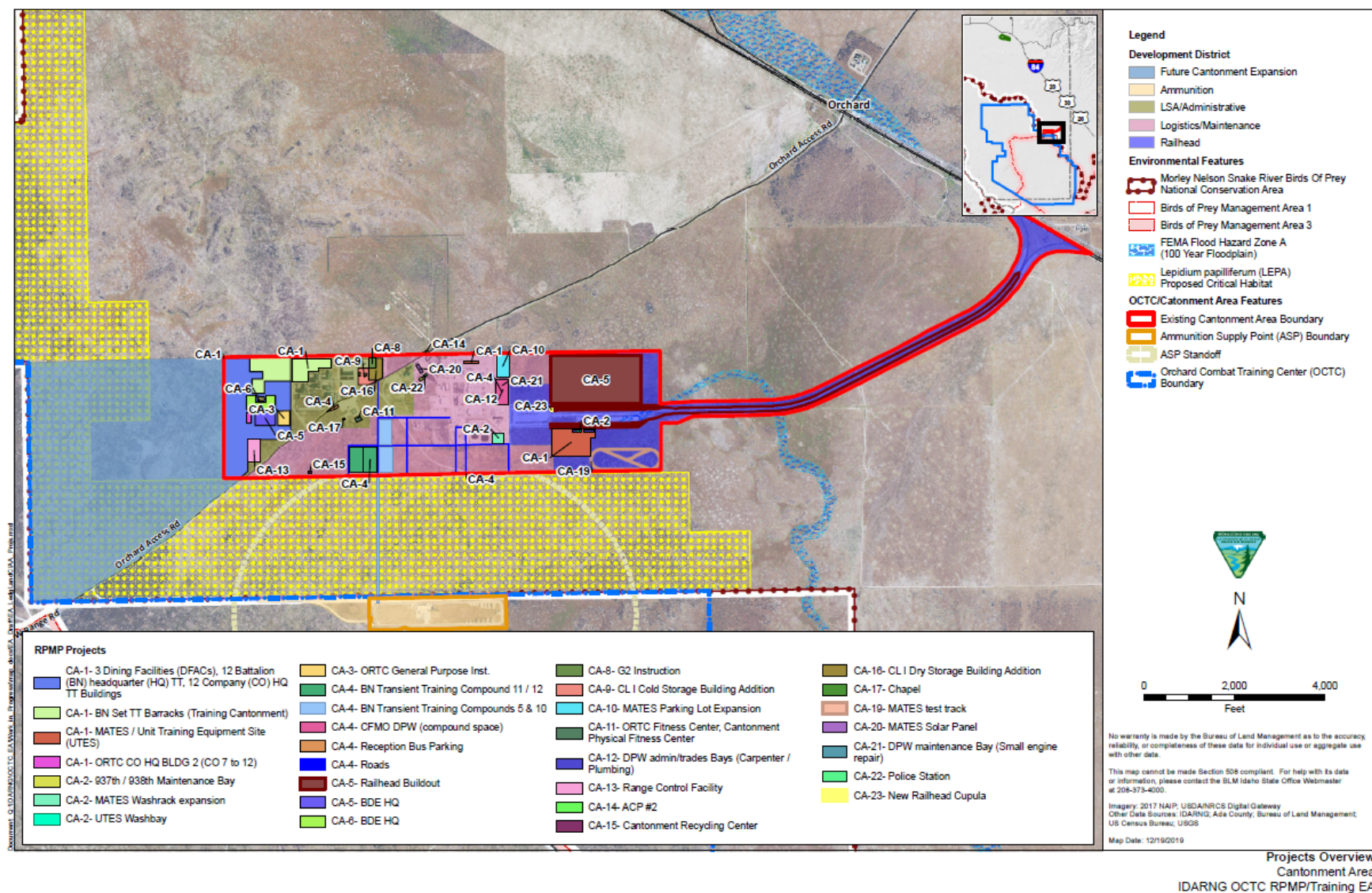


Figure 2.2. Proposed RPMP Projects and Environmental Constraints at the Cantonment Area

Construction Projects

- **CA-1 – Transient Billeting Facilities.** This project involves phased construction of several living quarters and dining facilities primarily within the northwestern portion proximal to the existing MATES complex within the Cantonment Area to provide billeting adequate to support the proposed increased throughput of troops. Specific developments would include six 4-story and two 3-story Battalion (BN) Set Transient Training (TT) barracks to provide 2,400 bed spaces. The new barracks facilities would add 381,552 SF of facility space, and 11,000 SF of impervious surface for associated walkways and parking. Also planned is construction of the required/authorized HQ facilities for up to two ABCTs to accommodate support personnel, Opposing Force (OPFOR), and enabling units. These would include construction of 12 BN HQ facilities (11,000 SF each), 12 Company HQ facilities (20,000 SF each), and 3 dining facilities (21,000 SF each). All facilities would be developed via concrete masonry unit construction administrative space. Associated parking, walkways, and aprons would add 332,100 SF impervious surface area.
- **CA-2 – Buildout of the MATES Complex.** This project would construct and/or renovate several facilities adjacent to the existing MATES complex to expand maintenance and storage facilities. These development actions would add approximately 338,415 SF of impervious surface area. Specific elements would include construction of one 34,000 SF maintenance facility with 10,845 SF associated organizational storage and parking; one 1,500 SF, stand-alone masonry Unit Training and Equipment Site (UTES) Washbay Facility to include water, waste water, and electrical, and would expand the current MATES washrack facility by approximately 57,000 SF to support Brigade set elements; and a 509,522 SF UTES Warehouse and Compound for vehicle equipment storage. Also planned is construction of a 6,000 SF metal addition to the existing 937th/938th Maintenance Bay.

Environmental Constraint: This project would involve construction immediately north of an existing septic drain field located in the southern portion of the Cantonment Area.
- **CA-3– Instructional and Training Facilities.** The project would construct: one 30,000 SF General Instruction facility with an auditorium and an associated concrete parking lot, one 8,000 SF pre-fabricated, metal building on a concrete foundation for general purpose instructional use, and one 6,000 SF Cantonment simulator facility that would be a pre-engineered, metal building on concrete slab.
- **CA-6 – Brigade Headquarters (BDE HQ).** This project would construct two standard Administrative HQ buildings each 1,100 SF totaling 22,000 SF of added facility space and 1,100 square yards of added impervious surface area.
- **CA-7 – BDE HQ Storage Facilities.** This project would construct one standard Administrative HQ facility and 4 BDE storage facilities totaling 14,300 SF of added facility space and 1,100 square yards of added impervious surface area.

- 1 • **CA-8 – G2 Instruction.** This unspecified minor military construction (UMMC) project
2 would construct a Company-sized headquarters facility for G2 instruction. The facility
3 would be 6,200 SF and would add approximately 30 square yards of concrete parking
4 pads for military equipment.
- 5 • **CA-9 – CL I Cold Storage Building Addition.** This project would construct a metal
6 building addition onto the cold storage facility measuring 65 feet by 55 feet on a concrete
7 foundation.
- 8 • **CA-11 – ORTC Fitness Center, Cantonment Physical Fitness Center.** This project
9 would construct a 100 feet by 120 feet physical fitness center. The structure would be a
10 pre-engineered metal building, to include a steel frame, corrugated roof, interior lighting,
11 with exterior spray insulation on a concrete slab.
- 12 • **CA-12 – DPW Admin Trades Bays (Carpenter/Plumbing).** This project provides a
13 maintenance area for fire/range vehicles and includes construction of a 100 feet by 120
14 feet pre-engineered metal building on a concrete slab foundation.
- 15 • **CA-13 – Range Control Facility.** This project would construct a 100 feet by 120 feet
16 administrative building. The facility would be a pre-engineered metal building on a
17 concrete foundation. The project includes utilities and a fenced gravel compound adding
18 approximately 5,000 square yards of impervious surface area.
- 19 • **CA-14 – Access Control Point (ACP) # 2.** This project would construct a 200 SF guard
20 shack, search lane, and gate across existing Orchard Access Road. The ACP facility
21 would also include security lighting and an overhead cover across road.
- 22 • **CA-17 – Chapel.** This project would construct a 150 SF chapel for transient training
23 units. Structure to be a pre-engineered metal building; includes steel frame and
24 corrugated roof, interior lighting, concrete slab.
- 25 • **CA-18 – RG Facility Washrack/Oil Water Separator.** This project would construct a 35
26 feet by 50 feet stand-alone masonry wash bay. Facility will include water, waste water,
27 and electrical totaling 1500 SF with additional 250 SF for building apron.
- 28 • **CA-19 – MATES Test Track.** This project would construct a one-mile, single-lane,
29 gravel road for test driving vehicles after repairs/maintenance.
- 30 *Environmental Constraints:* Although CA-19 would not directly overlap areas of
31 environmental constraint, some elements of the proposed developments would be
32 located immediately north of the ammunition supply point (ASP) standoff area and LEPA
33 Proposed Critical Habitat (both south of the Cantonment Area's southern border), and
34 the existing drain field located within the southern portion of the Cantonment Area.
- 35 • **CA-20 – MATES Solar Panel.** Construct and install photovoltaic solar panels per
36 guidance of the USACE's *Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program*

(USACE 2019) to help reduce DoD's energy costs on the installation, improve energy resilience/security, and to contribute to mission assurance and sustainability.

- **CA-21 – DPW Maintenance Bay (Small Engine Repair).** Provides a maintenance facility for fire and range vehicles. Project will construct a 100 feet by 120 feet pre-engineered metal building package on slab on grade concrete foundation, with a 10-foot concrete apron.
- **CA-22 – Police Station.** Construct a 30 feet by 80 feet Police Station. The structure would be a concrete masonry unit with corrugated steel roof, interior lighting, concrete slab, and interior furnishings.
- **CA-23 – New Railhead Cupula.** This project would construct a 30 feet by 35 feet tower to support railhead operations.

Infrastructure Projects

- **CA-4 – Roads, Walkways, and Parking Areas.** The project would pave existing gravel roads to concrete paving; install sidewalks for troop movement; construct gravel roads in the cantonment area; modernize existing roads in the Cantonment Area to concrete pavement; and construct troop walkways throughout the area. Projects would construct six gravel parking areas from FY19 through FY20 across the Cantonment Area. These would include the four BN TT CAB-sized (18,750 SY per compound, 75,000 SY total) gravel compounds; expansion of the MATES parking by 10,000 SY to the east; BN TT Compound 11 CAB-sized (8,000 SY) gravel compound with access trail; Construction Facility and Maintenance Office Division of Public Works 22,500 SF (2,500 SY) gravel compound; and the reception bus parking compound that would have eight 600 SF concrete pads for bus parking and adds two 6,600 SF drives (adds 2,000 SY). Gravel roads would be added around these areas as well to create a connection to the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) totaling 29,300 SY pervious surface. These projects would add approximately 116,800 SY of pervious surface area and 2,000 SY of impervious surface on the Cantonment Area.

Environmental Constraints: Although CA-4 would not directly overlap areas of environmental constraint, some elements of the proposed developments would be located immediately north of the ASP standoff area and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat (both south of the Cantonment Area's southern border), and the existing drain field located within the southern portion of the Cantonment Area.

- **CA-5 – Railhead Buildout.** The project would expand the existing railhead facility through phased construction of two additional rail sidings with seven additional spurs. Additional sidings would begin where the existing sidings split (i.e., at the "Y") at the northeastern edge of the rail line. The new sidings would run parallel one per side of the existing sidings (at an approximated 11 feet offset spacing from edge of the nearest siding) for approximately 2.5 miles. Then, as with the existing sidings, the separate sidings would converge to one siding prior to the bridge. The additional spurs (three to

the north/four to the south) will be spaced approximately 25 feet away from each other and the existing spurs. Once construction of the sidings is complete, construction of the spurs would begin. The project would also construct a vehicle marshalling yard, shipping container storage area, and operations building for the purpose loading and off-loading military vehicles, railhead to accommodate an additional train, fire station to support the additional facilities and operations of the rail and Cantonment Area, and a Company HQ Facility to support operations.

Environmental Constraint: This project would involve construction in the 100-year floodplain. Although the project would occur within the fenceline, some of these development actions would be located immediately north of the ASP standoff and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat.

- **CA-10 – MATES Parking Lot Expansion.** This project would expand the existing MATES gravel parking infrastructure by approximately 10,000 square yards to the east.
- **CA-15 – Cantonment Recycling Center.** This project would construct a 320-SF Recycling/refuse processing facility as part of the Cantonment Area's waste management infrastructure. The facility would be a pre-engineered metal building; includes steel frame and corrugated roof with compound.

Environmental Constraints: Although CA-15 would not directly overlap areas of environmental constraint, some elements of the proposed developments would be located immediately north of the ASP standoff area and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat (both south of the Cantonment Area's southern border), and the existing drain field located within the southern portion of the Cantonment Area.

- **CA-16 – CL|Dry Storage Building Addition.** This project would construct a 6,000 SF metal storage facility with a concrete foundation as part of the Cantonment Area's storage infrastructure. The project would also trench underground electrical infrastructure to the facility.

2.2.3.3 Projects on the OCTC

Table 2-4 provides the list of the proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects on the OCTC to be fully evaluated in the EA. **Figure 2.3** shows the locations and environmental constraints for the areas where these projects would be constructed. As shown in **Figure 2.3**, the OCTC is encompassed within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA. Environmental constraints on the OCTC include areas in the northeastern portion of the OCTC where LEPA and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat occurs and areas of the OCTC where cultural resources occur (cultural sites are not depicted in **Figure 2.3**). None of the proposed RPMP projects would overlap these constraint areas. The following provides brief descriptions of each project. **Appendix B** provides the comprehensive listing of projects proposed on the OCTC.

Required Design Features

Based the NCA's designating legislation, the BLM identified that authorization of ROWs within the NCA require a net benefit be achieved for the resources (natural or cultural) of the area (i.e.,

enhancement). Per the BLM's net benefit policy, for every 1 acre of NCA land that would be permanently impacted by a proposed action, 1.1 acres must be restored or enhanced elsewhere. As the IDARNG's mission is dynamic in nature, changes in infrastructure components are critical for the long-term success of the mission, which require the ability to amend existing ROW and authorization of new ROW. Per the 2017 Training MOU (in **Appendix K**) Section VII(A)(16), the IDARNG is required to:

- Obtain appropriate BLM authorization prior to construction of facilities, structures, or roads on public lands in the OCTC.
- Conduct enhancement associated with each new ROW approval per a mutually agreed process.

Section 4.13 lists the IDARNG's BMPs and SOPs, and BLM's required design features (RDFs) that would be implemented (as applicable) to avoid or minimize impacts from the proposed actions on the OCTC because it exists within the NCA on BLM-administered lands. Additional to these measures, the IDARNG would be required to offset the permanent impacts from the proposed ROW through enhancement measures, per PL 103-64. The BLM and IDARNG developed a standardized, quantitative process to determine project impacts and the required level of enhancement in the 2017 Training MOU (Section VII [A][16]). Idaho Army National Guard Habitat Enhancement Project (DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2017-0006-EA) outlines the process and site specific plan (USDI BLM 2018c).

1 **Table 2-4. Proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP Projects on the OCTC**

Project ID	Type and Location of Project	FY	O&M and/or MILCON Number(s) ¹	Land Use District	Acres Temporarily Disturbed During Construction (+/-) ²	Acres Developed Permanently Added (Removed) (+/-) ²
Construction Projects						
OCTC-1	Range Improvements/ ROCA Packages	18 to 20	O&M: 162018244 O&M: 162018084 O&M: 162018075 O&M: 162017104 O&M: 162018294 O&M: 162017068 O&M: 162018077 O&M: 162018079 O&M: 162018078 O&M: 162018083 O&M: 162018256 O&M: 162019058 O&M: 162017075	Range	0	+1.82
Infrastructure Projects						
OCTC-2	OCTC Shower Well Facility 3	19	O&M: 162019072	Range	0	+0.06
OCTC-3	Power and Data Infrastructure	19 to 20	O&M: 162018233 O&M: 162019079 O&M: 162020045 O&M: 162018310	Range	+3.54 +5.045 +5.045 +3.75	0 0 0 0
OCTC-4	Bivouac Areas	19	O&M: 162018254 O&M: 162019074	Maneuver	0	+125.00
OCTC-5	Snake River Training Facility Hutments Demolitions	19	O&M: 162018243 O&M: 162011067	Range	0	0 (-0.18)
OCTC-6	Ranges 3, 14, and 15 Support Facility Demolitions	19	O&M: 162018278 O&M: 162018281 O&M: 162011071	Range	0	0 (-0.10)

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Project ID	Type and Location of Project	FY	O&M and/or MILCON Number(s) ¹	Land Use District	Acres Temporarily Disturbed During Construction (+/-) ²	Acres Developed Permanently Added (Removed) (+/-) ²
OCTC-7	Range Repair and Targetry Upgrades for Ranges 1, 14, 14S, 36	19	O&M:162018081 O&M:162017108 O&M:162020039 O&M:162017109 O&M:162018276	Range	0	+1.95
OCTC-8	South OCTC Support Facility (IA, R10)	19	O&M: 162019082	Range	0	+1.31
OCTC-9	TTB French Expansion	19	O&M:162019078	Range	0	+22.93
OCTC-10	Pebble Beach Buildings	19	O&M:162019081	Range	0	+0.1
OCTC-11	ASP Safe Haven Compound	19	O&M: 162018311	Range	0	+0.31
OCTC-12	High Explosive Magazine Expansion Bunker 1	19	O&M: 162018295	Range	0	+0.07
OCTC-13	ASP ORG Parking	20	O&M: 162018296	Range	0	+1.73
OCTC-14	Range 3 Asphalt Apron addition, 10' per side, ALL	20	O&M: 162020009	Range	0	+0.64
OCTC-15	Range 16 Tower Infrastructure	20	O&M: 162017112	Range	0	+0.01
OCTC-16	Communication Tower on Big Foot	20	O&M: 162018234	Range	0	0
TOTALS					+17.38	155.93

Table Notes:

1 – Environmental constraints are identified in IDARNG 2018a. **Appendix B** provides the comprehensive mapbook showing the locations of the FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects.

2 – Acreages in this table reflect GIS-estimated footprints for the proposed facilities to be constructed. These acreages are not rounded to a whole number to avoid over or under-representing impacts. (*) Positive numbers indicate an increase in developed area. Negative numbers indicate a removal of prior-existing development.

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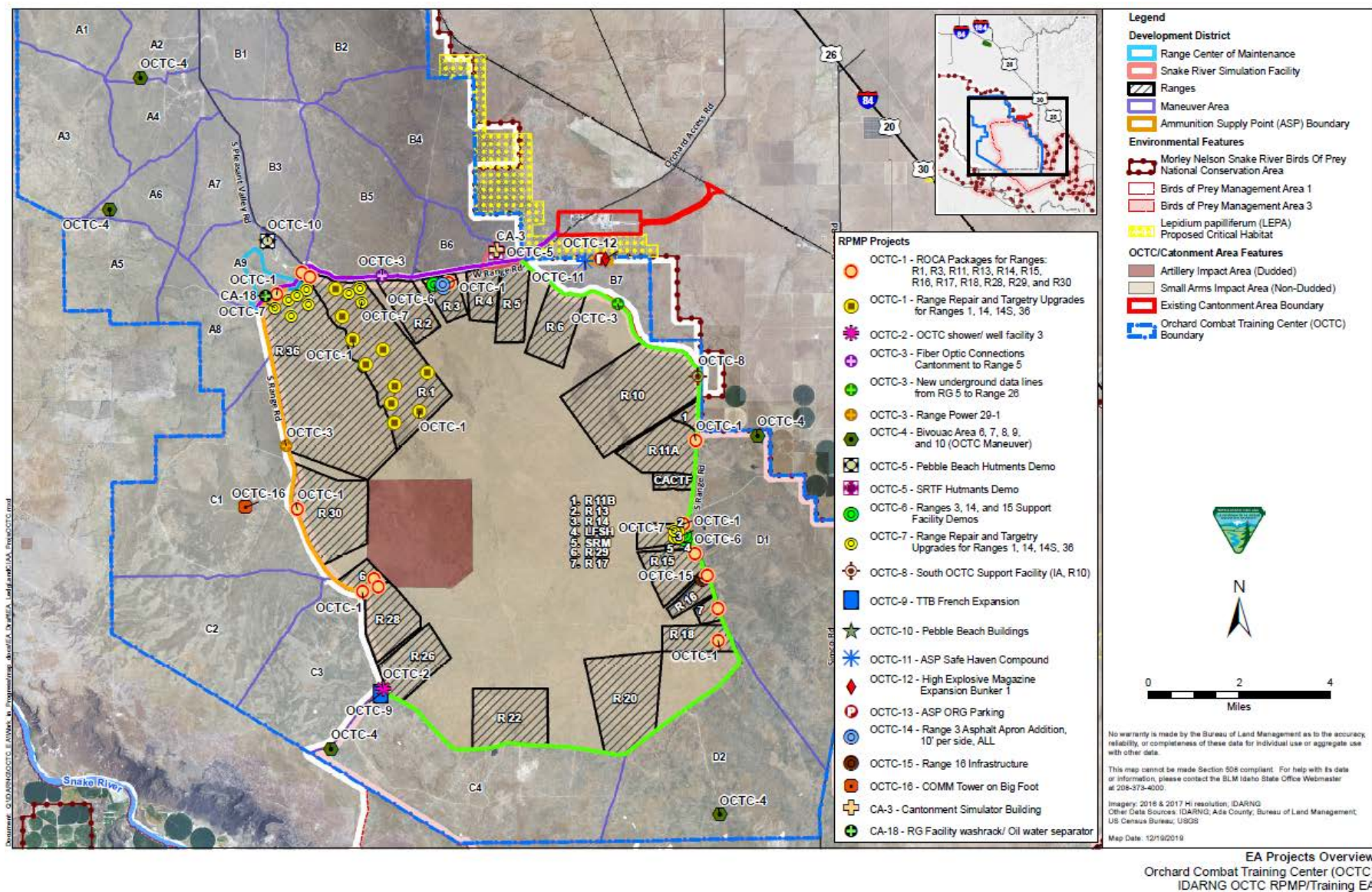


Figure 2.3. Proposed RPMP Projects and Environmental Constraints at the OCTC

Construction Projects

- **OCTC-1 – Range Improvements/ROCA Packages.** This project involves several range improvements, including restructuring range boundaries and operations within the boundaries of an existing range to optimize training efficiency in the OCTC. Specifically the western portion Range 1 (R1) would be partitioned to establish a new firing range (i.e., R36). Additionally, 12 ROCA packages would be developed including: R1 (MPRC-H), R3 (Forward Arming and Refueling Point), R11 (Combined Arms Collective Training Facility [CACTF]), R13 (Pistol Range), R14 (Integrated Weapons Gunnery [IWG]), R15 (multipurpose machine gun [MPMG]), R16 (Grenade Launcher), R17 Squad Defense), R18 (Sniper Range), R28 (Light Anti-Armor Weapons Range), R29 (Hand Grenade Familiarization and Land Navigation Course), and R36 (MPRC). The phased development of ROCA packages would be fairly standard/similar across the ranges in accordance with TC-25-8. There may be less development on some ranges and minor differences in facilities requirements based on the types of operations supported on a particular range. Packages would include construction/establishment of some combination of the following:
 - Large After-Action Review Building (17123) with 2 separate stadium seating areas for 40 soldiers.
 - Covered Bleacher Enclosure (75061) to accommodate 2 full sized bleachers, supporting a minimum of 200 soldiers.
 - Covered Mess (17139) to facilitate meal serving and consumption operations.
 - Ammunition Leading Dock (14970) raised concrete platform 15 x 30 feet to include stairs and bumper around perimeter.
 - Operations and Storage Building Large (17122) to provide space for maintenance and repair of lifting components and other range accessories.
 - Battery Building to store all and support battery charging stations to include all environmental and safety components.
 - Latrine (73075) Aerated Vault Latrine for 190 men and 35 women with dry vault holding tank (with flushable toilets)
 - Bivouac Area (17720) a minimum of six concrete slab on grade with embedded metal posts to support GP Medium Tents, electrical and lighting.
 - Demolish antiquated support facilities on the range and replace with new; upgrade/replace towers (to include heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC], electrical, roof, walls, stairs, floors and other items)
 - Water storage tank for wildfires.
 - Other Range modifications may involve repairs, expansion to existing asphalt apron, upgraded infrastructure

Infrastructure Projects

- **OCTC-2 – Shower Well Facility 3.** This project would drill a well on TTB French and install a fast-fill water line and 30 x 80-foot (2,400 SF) shower facility. The project also includes installation and use of a 5,000-gallon underground water tank and septic system.
- **OCTC-3 – Power and Data Infrastructure.** This project would involve, generally, phased trenching of data lines from the Cantonment Area to all ranges across the OCTC and installs underground electrical power from R29 to R36/1. However, one project (i.e., OCTC-16; see details in **Appendix B**) would develop a 60-foot-tall communications tower on a 100 SF concrete slab. Phased trenching and laydown of data lines would occur as follows:
 - Fiber Optic Connections from the Cantonment Area to R5 (FY19)
 - New Underground Data Lines from R5 to R26 (FY20)
 - New Underground Data Lines from the Cantonment Area to R36 (FY20)
 - Project also installs underground electrical power lines from R29 to R36/1. (FY19 to FY20)
- **OCTC-4 – Bivouac Areas.** The project would develop seven bivouac areas across the OCTC including: South OCTC Support Facility, OCTC Bivouac Areas 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Each project would entail new construction to develop a 25-acre (121,000 SY) gravel-covered gathering area at various locations in the OCTC. The Pebble Beach Bivouac Area project also entails demolition of hutments and replacement with facilities. The South OCTC Support Facility constructs a 12,000 SF administrative building.
- **OCTC-5 – Snake River Training Facility (SRTF) and Pebble Beach Hutment Demolition.** This project would demolish eight dilapidated and unusable hutments including three from SRTF B6, and 5 from Pebble Beach A9. Each hutment is 1,000 SF slab-on-grade facility.
- **OCTC-6 – Ranges 3, 14, and 15 Support Facility Demolitions.** This project would involve demolition of four facilities including: one double-wide (portable) trailer support facility (1,200 SF) on R3 with planned replacement, two buildings (slab-on-grade) totaling 1,900 SF to be replaced by ROCA standard buildings, and one (slab-on-grade) building and replacement on R15.
- **OCTC-7 – Range Repair and Targetry Upgrades for Ranges 1, 14, 14S, and 36.** As a supplement to OCTC-# (O&M 162018244), this project would repair existing underground electrical and data lines, retaining walls, berms, and target pits where they exist on Range 1. The goal of this action would be to improve and update the existing range targetry to current standards. No impervious surfaces would be added by the project. All emplacements are at-grade with berming around each. This project would also update and/or provide electrical and data infrastructure for Ranges 14 and 36 and update existing subsurface wooden target emplacements with 4.5 feet x 4.5 feet concrete emplacements, per TC 25-8.

- **OCTC-8 – South OCTC Support Facility (IA, Range 10).** This project would construct a 12,000 SF administrative building at Range 10. The facility would be a pre-engineered metal building on a concrete foundation. Project activities would include installation of utilities and a fenced 5,000-square-yard gravel compound.
- **OCTC-9 – TTB French Expansion.** This project would expand the existing 2-acre gravel-covered gathering area to 25 acres. The project would add 23 acres (111,000 square yards) of pervious material area on the OCTC.
- **OCTC-10 – Pebble Beach Buildings.** This project would construct five new 1,000-square-foot pre-engineered steel buildings on concrete slab to replace following the demolition actions described for OCTC-5.
- **OCTC-11 – ASP Safe Haven Compound.** This project would construct a 13,500-square-yard gravel parking lot with perimeter fencing.
- **OCTC-12 – High Explosive Magazine Expansion Bunker 1.** This project would entail construction of a high explosive magazine bunker (3,200 SF).
- **OCTC-13 – ASP ORG Parking.** This project would construct a 215 feet by 350 feet gravel parking area at the ASP for loading/unloading in support of operations.
- **OCTC-14 – Range 3 Asphalt Apron.** This project would improve the Range 3 asphalt and replacement of the surrounding pad. The action would replace the gravel edge around the taxiways with bituminous paving, thereby adding 2,800 linear feet of 10-foot-wide asphalt paving along the side of the existing pavement.
- **OCTC 15 – Range 16 Tower Infrastructure.** This project would trench and install electrical power lines to Range 16 and would construct a tower (15 feet high) on a 30-feet by 10-feet concrete slab at end of range (per TC 25-8 specifications).
- **OCTC-16 – Communication Tower on Big Foot.** The southwestern ranges and training areas are lower in a lower elevation than the northern ranges, preventing line-of-sight communications between the northern and southern range areas. This project would construct and operate a 60-foot-tall communication tower on Big Foot Mountain to provide the required line of sight from the northern to the southwest training areas. The project will add an impervious surface area of 100 SY.

2.2.3.4 Installation Design Standards

For this EA, FY18 through FY22 represents the timeframe of initial and ending planning and programming (allocation of funds) for the RPMP projects to be implemented. Actual construction of the proposed facilities would begin during FY20. Most of the proposed disturbance area has been previously developed from past development activities. All facilities would be constructed in accordance with standard Army design criteria, security requirements, sustainable design requirements, and applicable accessibility guidelines (per the RPMP Installation Development Plan, Installation Planning Standards, and the Range Profile).

The expanded OCTC Cantonment Area would be built to the same specifications as the recently upgraded MATES, educational, and billeting facilities. The facilities and infrastructure

requirements are based on the USACE *Operational Readiness Training Complex Standard Design, Revision 4.6* (dated August 24, 2012), developed under the direction of the Department of the Army Facilities Standardization Program (USACE 2016). USACE developed the Standard Design to provide a long-term construction program to function as a training facility for the Active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. Likewise, the Rail Spur would be constructed to the same standard as the existing railroad line.

The purpose of the Standard Design is to improve the availability to house, feed, maintain, and train soldiers, as well as reduce the financial costs of travel to and from the training site and expenses from leasing facilities for transient soldiers. The Standard Design is intended to provide parameters for basic, austere, but durable facilities with capacities to readily accommodate two BCT units back-to-back. To do this, Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC must be optimally developed to maximize training and readiness.

The proposed construction actions would adhere to NGR 415-10, *Army National Guard Facilities Construction* (dated July 25, 2003), which establishes authority to construct certain facilities either through federal contracts or through state contracts reimbursed totally or in part by the federal government (NGB 2003). This regulation establishes policy concerning programming the military construction of those buildings and supporting items for ARNG readiness centers and logistics, aviation and training facilities supportable with federal funds. Specific design/construction criteria guidance set forth in NGR PAM 415-12, *Army National Guard Facilities Allowances* and in NGB design guides apply for all projects, except where contravened by state or local requirements for projects located on non-federal property.

Additionally, NGR PAM 415-12, which establishes allowances and provides guidance to states for building space and supporting items used for programming the construction of Army National Guard facilities (NGB 2015). This pamphlet identifies the allowable space criteria for facilities supported by federal contributions to the state, either totally or in part. It gives information on general construction standards, materials, space allowances, building circulation, and other requirements directly related to programming military construction projects. This PAM describes materials that can be used for building construction and states that the design shall incorporate the use of space saving, energy-saving, alternative energy options (i.e., geothermal, radiant heat, solar electric), as well as other sustainable design features are encouraged wherever justified by Life-Cycle Cost Analysis.

Per 2016 *DA Facilities Standardization Program* (USACE 2016) and incorporated guidance from the DA Sustainable Design and Development Policy (DA 2005), facility design must meet or exceed Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) 3.0 criteria to achieve a LEED Silver rating as required by DA Sustainable Design and Development Policy. The LEED System is a standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.

Physical security measures would be incorporated into the design, including maximum feasible standoff distances from roads, parking areas, and vehicle unloading areas, per U.S. DoD minimum anti-terrorism standards for buildings in DoD Unified Facilities Criteria 4-010-01, *DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings, with Change 1*. These standards apply to the Rail Spur as well. Buildings would consist of a concrete foundation, masonry exterior, and

standing seam metal roof and would contain mechanical, electrical and communication equipment. Energy conserving features would be incorporated into the design, including energy management control systems and high efficiency motors; lighting; and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

2.2.4 Component Action 3 – Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput

The proposed optimized throughput of training on the OCTC would add training days, personnel, railhead operations, vehicles, and materiel into the existing regime for troop support and would intensify the annual tempo of brigade-level training. Brief explanations of these changes are provided in the following subsections. Although the level of brigade training operations on the OCTC would increase, the type and manner of operations would be relatively unchanged and would continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 *Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP and ROD*.

2.2.4.1 Training Days

Although training on the OCTC occurs year-round to accommodate weekend drills, the majority (approximately 80 percent) of training, including brigade-level or BCT-component-level (e.g., battalion, company, and platoon) exercises, occurs during the summer timeframe (i.e., May through August; the Summer Training Period). The total number of days to accommodate training exercises would be extended from the baseline of 45 up to 90 potentially consecutive days during the Summer Training Period. To accomplish the objective of training multiple brigade-sized units within this timeframe, the operating units would need to train back-to-back (i.e., the operational scenario wherein one brigade-sized unit would be ending its training cycle as another arrives and sets up to begin its training cycle). Additionally, to ensure this training can occur without delays, individual qualifications would have to be completed between September and April.

When conducting brigade-level exercises, each BCT operating on the OCTC will have an associated Artillery unit as part of one of its component units. Historically, Artillery units have been required to utilize previously established firing points on Range 30 and Training Areas A8, C1, C2 and C3. These points contained a surveyed point which provided a reference from which an Artillery unit would orient their weapons systems to insure that all rounds impacted in the Dudded Artillery Impact Area (see **Figure 2.4**). Advancements in Artillery firing now provide artillery systems with the ability to locate their position via Global Positioning Systems (GPS) providing each system with its own reference point. A result of this system improvement is that Artillery units are no longer constrained to the use of established firing points, such as Range 30 and the others listed. Instead they can maneuver and fire into the impact area in any of the training areas (except those which currently have heavy maneuver restrictions or those outside restricted airspace), thereby optimizing training efficiency for those units and reducing the training time required on the OCTC. In combat terms, this capability enhances their survivability on the modern battlefield and provides the artillery crews with the best skills to nest with the other BCT unit operations and training.

Although training on the OCTC would typically accommodate one brigade's worth of troops, it is possible that training of two brigade-sized units concurrently on the OCTC may be required.

Such circumstances would represent a mobilization surge and would not be representative of organic, habitual (or routine) training on the range complex. Although the operational tempo would be doubled for the duration of a mobilization surge, the training periods and maximum numbers of troops supported on the OCTC per year would not likely be exceeded. IDARNG would coordinate with BLM regarding any training requirements that would present a potential for exceeding 10,500 troops within a given year. Additionally, with the proposed improvements of infrastructure and facility capacities, and optimized operational features on the ranges, such an event would not exceed the installation's ability to accommodate both units for the required duration.

2.2.4.2 Personnel

As indicated in **Section 1.1.2**, BCTs are large, modular units comprised of several smaller units (e.g., battalions, companies, and platoons) with varied capabilities and expertise. Typically, an ABCT is comprised of up to 4,100 troops and seven battalions that include: three combined arms, one reconnaissance (cavalry), one artillery, one engineering, one brigade support battalion and a Headquarters Company. Although an SBCT would optimally be comprised of up to 4,500 troops with three infantry battalions, one reconnaissance (cavalry) squadron, one fires (artillery) battalion, one brigade support battalion, one brigade headquarters and headquarters company, one network support company, one military intelligence company, one engineer company, and one anti-tank company, the actual number of troops and types of battalions within an SBCT may vary based on training needs, resource limitations, troop numbers, and mission requirements (Congressional Budget Office 2016).

Specifically, training and certification requirements of a particular BCT (or its sub-units) may vary from year to year due to personnel changes (e.g., promotions, retirements), role transitions (e.g., personnel training on new capabilities), and the SRM training year qualifications to be met. Additionally, ARNG qualifications training is required at the unit, battalion, company, platoon, crew, and individual levels. Because of this, it is likely that some combination of personnel, within those levels that exist within a BCT, will need to participate in qualifications trainings to be certified proficient for various capabilities. Therefore, ARNG anticipates that within a given year, troops training on the OCTC would include those from the Resident Unit (116th ABCT), troop elements from one additional transient ABCT, troop elements from one additional SBCT, and troops from other small Transient Units from nearby installations.

Table 2-5 presents the baseline and projected numbers of personnel that would train on the OCTC under the Proposed Action. As proposed, the annual throughput of personnel operating on the OCTC would increase by 29 percent from the baseline of approximately 8,100 troops (derived from historical averages of troops training on the OCTC) associated with the Resident Unit (116th ABCT) and transient units up to a maximum of 10,500 troops (or the equivalent of three brigades operating at 85 percent strength) (Godfrey 2018b; Godfrey 2019).

It is rare for units to train at 100 percent strength due to personnel requirements for school, work, illnesses, and equipment maintenance issues. Because of these issues, the number of personnel that would participate in training is more realistically estimated using an assumed average actual participation rate of 85 percent of the unit total.

As shown in **Table 2-5**, the annual baseline and projected personnel numbers associated with the proposed throughput of troops on the OCTC. Data in this table are representative of possible combination of troops (units) training on the OCTC based upon historical averages and the installation's currently projected training schedule and anticipated personnel. No matter the combination of fluctuation in the numbers of troops associated with particular training units from year to year, troop numbers operating on the OCTC would not exceed the annual 10,500 maximum.

Table 2-5. Annual Baseline and Projected Personnel Numbers on the OCTC

Unit	Type Unit	Max Personnel per Unit	Baseline Number Personnel at 85 Percent Participation	Projected Number Personnel (85 Percent Participation) 1	Projected Increase/Decrease (+/-)		
Resident Units							
Aviation	AT	300+	300+	300+	0		
116th ABCT	XCTC	4,000+	3,200+	3,200+	0		
	Civilian Enablers			150+	150+		
	OPFOR			300+	300+		
	Evaluators			50+	50+		
Transient Units							
SBCT	XCTC	4,500	3,500+	3,500+	0		
	Civilian Enablers		0	150+	150+		
	OPFOR		0	300+	300+		
	Evaluators		0	50+	50+		
ABCT	AYST	4,800	0	Variable 2	Variable 2		
	CAV		0	350+	350+		
	CAB		0	400+	400+		
	CAB		0	320+	320+		
	FSC		0	150+	150+		
	HHC TAC		0	10+	10+		
	EN BFV		0	35+	35+		
	FA Btry		0	60+	60+		
	USMC Tk CO		AT	Varies	80+	80+	0
	USMC LAV CO		AT	Varies	80+	80+	0
USMC LAV CO	AT	Varies	80+	80+	0		
AC SBCT CAV	Gun/CALFEX	Varies	350+	350+	0		
NG SBCT CAV	AT-Gunnery	Varies	350+	350+	0		
Unspecified Unit Contingency 3	Variable	NA	235+	235+	0		
Total			8,175	10,500	2,325		

Source: Godfrey 2019

Table Key: Acronyms: AT – Annual Training; AYST – Available Year Sustainment Training; BLUFOR – Friendly Force; CAB – Combined Arms Battalion; CALFEX – Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise; CAV – Cavalry; EN BFV – Engineer Bradley Fighting Vehicle; FA Btry – Field Artillery Battery; FSC – Forward Support Company, HHC TAC – Headquarters and Headquarters Company Tactical Command Post; LAV CO – Light Armored Vehicle Company; NA – Not Applicable; OPFOR – Opposing Force; Tk CO – Tank Company; USMC – U.S. Marine Corps XCTC – Exportable Combat Training Center Exercise

Table Notes:

1 – Personnel numbers listed in this table represent one of many possible combinations of troops and types of training that could occur on the OCTC. No matter the combination, the actual numbers of troops training on the OCTC would remain within maximum of 10,500 troops per year. (*) – Resident aviation unit personnel assumed at 100 percent strength per year.

2 – Numbers of troops associated with visiting units may vary according to the types of training and certification requirements for those units in a given year.

3 – This number represents contingency, or available personnel spaces on the OCTC within the 10,500 maximum. This number is expected to increase or decrease annually as troop numbers associated with the training units fluctuate.

4 – USMC Units are separate from ARNG BCTs.

2.2.4.3 Railhead Operations

With improved loading/unloading areas, storage, and rail infrastructure to support more trains accessing the OCTC, railhead operations would increase from 22 trains (baseline) to 34 per calendar year (Melanese 2018a) (see **Table 2-6**). A typical train would consist of between 60 and 70 rail cars. Rail operations are conducted on land owned by the IDARNG and Idaho Department of Lands. Approximately 80 percent of train operations would be associated with transport of materiel for BCT exercises conducted from May through August (or, Summer Training Period). The remaining 20 percent of train operations would support training conducted outside of the Summer Training Period from September through April.

Upon arrival, a Transient Unit would conduct the approximated four-day railhead procedures process that entails off-loading of vehicles arriving by rail, washrack operations, Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) installation (for the units going through lanes training), and maintenance of vehicles and equipment. Following this period, two of the maneuver BNs will go to the ranges to begin training. Upon completion of training, the unit would require up to four days of railhead procedures in reverse (maintenance of vehicles/equipment, MILES de-installation, washrack procedures, and loading of vehicles on railcars) to ready materiel for transport back to the unit's Home Station.

No Transient Units would be using the MATES facility for repairs. Any repairs of transient vehicles will be made by the Field Maintenance Teams that are part of the Transient Units. If the repairs require a higher level of repair, the equipment will be evacuated from the exercise and transported to the Battalion holding areas for eventual return to the Transient Unit's home state. However, because vehicles cannot be transported by rail with full fuel tanks, Transient Units would rely on the OCTC's fuel supply to be able to conduct training.

2.2.4.4 Aircraft and Flight Hours

As shown in **Table 2-6**, no change in rotary-wing flight operations is anticipated. The proposed development actions and increases in brigade-level training operations on the OCTC would double the numbers of UAS aircraft operating on the installation throughout the year.

UAS platforms are flown year-round, during weapons qualifications training as well as during brigade-level exercises. Typically, BCT units operate large and small UAS aircraft. The AeroVironment RQ-11 Raven is an example of a small, hand-held UAS that is launched by hand and recovered after it lands on the ground. This system does not require use of a runway for operation. AAI RQ-7 Shadow is the largest UAS flown on the OCTC. This UAS must take off and land on a runway. Currently, UAS flight operations are supported by the runway located on Range 3. When these systems are taking off and/or landing, all training operations on the adjacent training ranges (i.e., Ranges 1 and 10) must be halted to prevent damage to the aircraft and ensure the safety of troops in the area. This presents risks of operational hazard, and creates cost-intensive inefficiencies in the required certificates training on those nearby ranges. During brigade-level training, UAS aircraft are flown on the OCTC as a component of training exercises (e.g., surveilling the area for OPFOR, tracking vehicle movements on the ranges) and for UAS pilot proficiency training.

Table 2-6. Annual Baseline and Projected Aircraft, Vehicles, and Trains on the OCTC

Operational Parameter	Baseline per Year	Increase/Decrease (+/-) per Year	Projected per Year
Number of Aircraft (Number of Flight Hours) ¹			
Rotary Wing UH-60 Black Hawk CH-47 AH-64	30 (300+)	0	30 (300+)
UAS ² AAI RQ-7 Shadow AeroVironment RQ-11	20 (500+)	+30 (+500)	50 (1000+)
TOTALS	50 (800+)	+30 (+500)	80 (1,300+)
Number of Vehicles			
Wheeled Vehicles ²	180+	+270	450+
Tracked Vehicles ³	720+	+1,080	1,800+
TOTALS	900+	+1,350	2,250+
Number of Trains ⁴			
Resident BCT Unit (116th ABCT) ⁵	10	0	10
Transient ABCT/SBCT Units ⁵	8	12	20
Transient Units ⁵	4	0	4
TOTALS	22	12	34

Table Key: ABCT – Armored Brigade Combat Team, SBCT – Stryker Brigade Combat Team, UAS – Unmanned Aerial System, BLUFOR – Friendly Force, OPFOR – Opposing Force, HMMWV – High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle

Table Notes:

1 – Aircraft: Numbers include the sum of fixed wing, rotary-wing, and UAS operating on the OCTC per year. Baseline flight hours reflect an estimated sum based upon the recent 5 years of data for aircraft flight operations conducted on the OCTC in IDARNG-controlled airspace. Projected flight hours for aircraft were extrapolated from the baseline using the projected numbers of aircraft (Godfrey 2018a, Godfrey 2018b).

2 – UAS flown on the OCTC include some combination of large systems such as the AAI RQ-7 Shadow, and small hand-thrown systems such as the AeroVironment RQ-11 (Godfrey 2018b). Flight hour totals reflect large UA operations; small UAS operations are not tracked by ATC.

3 – Numbers assume military wheeled vehicles and trailers (e.g., Stryker, HMMWV, and 2.5- and 5-ton trucks) (Godfrey 2018b).

4 – Numbers include all Main Battle Tanks, Infantry Fighting Vehicles, Self-Propelled Howitzers, tracked medical evacuation vehicles, engineering equipment vehicles, and Heavy Recovery vehicles (Godfrey 2018b).

5 – All rail operations data are indicated Melanese 2018a. Rail operations will be conducted on land owned by the IDARNG and Idaho Department of Lands. Rail operations to support Resident Unit operations conducted throughout the year, trains to support Transient Units operating, and trains to support operations by small units conducting operations on the OCTC outside of the Summer Training Period (May through August).

As part of a separate action that was covered by Army CATEX, *TUAS Hangar and Fixed Wing Runway Paved (MILCON 16202026)* (dated July , 2018), the OCTC's UAS runway located on Range 3 will be demolished and a new UAS runway will be constructed in an area located just outside of the OCTC's eastern border near Range 3 (ARNG 2018). ARNG determined this relocation action was critical to supporting current training safety, reducing risk of UAS mishaps on the range, and reducing training delays. Because the new runway will be located outside of the OCTC, the proposed optimizations in throughput of brigade-level training operations and associated UAS flight operations can be conducted without delays and improved operational safety.

2.2.4.5 Vehicles

The Proposed Action would require transport and use of an additional 400 tracked vehicles (e.g., tanks and armored vehicles) and by 3,000 wheeled vehicles (e.g., HMMWVs and other military vehicles) per year. The types of vehicles that would be transported to the OCTC for use by transient BCT units would be the same types of vehicles that are already used during training.

2.2.4.6 Munitions Expenditures

Depending upon the operating scenarios completed within a year, it is expected that munitions expended on the OCTC would be associated with the same types of qualifications training as identified in **Section 1.1.2.3**, and further detailed in **Appendix A. Table 2-7** summarizes the annual baseline and summary for the numbers of rounds fired on the OCTC during training operations. Projected totals represent the collective total numbers of rounds for the 116th ABCT plus troop elements of one transient ABCT, one transient SBCT, and other small units from nearby installations that are anticipated to train on the OCTC.

Munitions expenditures would vary according to the training year and qualifications to be met by each BCT unit. Analysis of impacts in this EA will be based upon the most recent (i.e., 2017), XCTC operational requirements on the OCTC and will conservatively assume that all of these operations and associated munitions expenditures would occur within one year. **Appendix A Tables A-2 through A-13** provide the baseline and projected increase (reflecting expenditures of three brigades' worth of troops) in munitions expenditures associated with the range of weaponry and associated munitions fired on the OCTC for each type of training that would be conducted under the Proposed Action. Projected totals for munitions expenditures assume an 85 percent training occupancy for each unit.

Table 2-7. Summarized Baseline and Projected Munitions Expenditures Associated with Qualifications Training on the OCTC

Qualification	Baseline		Projected	
	Number of Rounds Fired/Year			
	Blank	Live	Blank	Live
Vehicle Gunnery ¹	194,757	908,149	2,506,064	5,007,486
Small Arms ²	53,317	890,934	53,317	890,934
Mortar, Artillery, and Engineering ³	2,284	4,944	2,284	4,944
Aviation Gunnery ⁴	10,000	62,500	10,000	62,500
XCTC ⁵	503,554	0	1,503,320	0
AYST ⁶	94,040	493,003	359,274	2,105,895

Table Key: AYST – Available Year Sustainment Training, XCTC – Exportable Combat Training Center (Annual Training)

Table Notes: Projected expenditures totals assume expenditures by up to three BCTs operating at 85 percent strength in one year.

1 – Total rounds fired from HMMWVs, IFVs, and Main Battle Tanks,

2 – Total rounds fired from rifles (e.g., M16/M4 Carbine), pistols (e.g., M9 Combat Pistol), shotgun, M203/M320 Grenade Launcher, and hand-thrown grenades,

3 – Total rounds fired from: Mortar FRTR, XM1122 Howitzer, and Brigade Demolition Kits (e.g., Bangalore M1A2E1).

4 – Total rounds fired from Utility Helicopter M240H Machine Guns.

5 – Total rounds fired from HMMWVs, IFVs, and Main Battle Tanks for BLUFOR and OPFOR. Data assumes the Resident Unit conducting XCTC (per SRM Year 2) instead of AYST (per SRM Year 4).

6 – Total rounds fired from IFVs and Battle Tanks, Mortar FRTR, XM1122 Howitzer for AYST including CALFEX.

2.3 Alternatives Considered

NEPA, CEQ regulations, and 32 CFR § 651 require all reasonable alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, to be explored and objectively evaluated. Alternatives that are eliminated from detailed study must be identified along with a brief discussion of the reasons for eliminating them. For purposes of analysis, an alternative was considered “reasonable” only if it would enable ARNG and BLM to meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. “Unreasonable” alternatives are those that would not enable ARNG to meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action.

The following component action alternatives associated with the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative were considered:

- **Component Action 1 – Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP:**
 - Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP per Proposed Action
 - No Action Alternative
- **Component Action 2 – Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements:**
 - Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements Projects per Proposed Action
 - No Action Alternative
- **Component Action 3 – Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput:**
 - Proposed Action Alternative on the OCTC
 - Proposed Action on the OCTC and Simco East Training Area
 - Use of Active Army Installations
 - Maintain Dispersed Training at Existing ARNG Installations
- **No Action Alternative**

2.3.1 Alternatives Development (Screening Criteria)

ARNG uses screening criteria to establish the parameters that must be met for alternatives to be considered reasonable and sufficient to adequately support a Proposed Action. Potential alternatives for the three component actions, which comprise the Proposed Action, were evaluated against the following selection criteria that specifically apply to each component action. To be considered adequate and carried forward for analysis, the selected alternative(s) must achieve and sustain the following operational training requirements (in accordance with the NGR 5-3 and TC 25-8). Failure to enable any one of these components would be considered a failure to meet the selection standard, and elimination of the associated alternative from further consideration in the EA. Per P.L. 103-64, the Proposed Action components would be implemented in a manner that would be compatible with the resources of the NCA.

Alternatives for Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) were evaluated against the following three selection criteria:

1. **Screening Criterion 1 – Fulfills UFC 2-100-01 Requirements.** The selected alternative must comply with the UFC-2-100-01 requirements and provide all associated planning elements to ensure adequate guidance of land development and use into the future.
2. **Screening Criterion 2 – Provides Adequate Planning Guidance to Achieve Required Capacities to Support Multiple Brigade-Sized Units.** Specific to the authorized mission of IDARNG, as specified in the Table of Distribution and Allowances for the IDARNG ISU (ARNG G1/G3 2018), the selected alternative must ensure adequate planning guidance for land development and uses that would enable life and training support of two BCTs per year, back-to-back.
3. **Screening Criterion 3 – Provides Mechanism for Planning and Project Programming.** The selected alternative must provide planning elements to ensure adequate guidance and scheduling of land development and uses to support training operations into the future.

Alternatives for Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements) were evaluated against the following three criteria:

1. **Screening Criterion 1 – Consistent with Existing Land Use Plans and Requirements.** The selected alternative must comply with the existing MOU between BLM and IDARNG and the land use planning requirements and objectives as explained in **Section 1.6.3**. This criterion would include that the selected alternative must not directly impact threatened or endangered species or cultural sites (restricted areas).
2. **Screening Criterion 2 – Optimizes Use of Existing Land and Facilities.** The selected development alternative must optimize use of existing facilities, infrastructure, and developable land area for efficient and successful execution of planned development projects.
3. **Screening Criterion 3 – Provides Capacity Adequate to Support Multiple Brigade-sized Units.** The selected alternative must provide adequate capacities of facilities and infrastructure to fully enable life and training support of two BCT units simultaneously, to ensure the ability to accommodate up to three brigade-sized units (each training at 85 percent troop participation) back-to-back.

Alternatives considered for Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) were evaluated against the following five criteria:

1. **Screening Criterion 1 – Unconstrained Long Term Land Availability.** The selected alternative must provide a guaranteed and appropriate land acreage available to ARNG for a minimum of 25 years to conduct BCT training.
 - a. The land has already been acquired by IDARNG or can be acquired to support the Proposed Action.
 - b. The Master Cooperative Agreement with the lease must be a minimum of 25 years per NGR 415-5, *Army National Guard Military Construction Program Development*

and Execution, 18 July 2003; see also NG PAM 415-5, *Real Property Development Planning Procedures for the Army National Guard*, 5 October 2007.⁸

- c. State Guards normally acquire training lands by fee simple, lease, license, or permit. Gifts of property, Congressional action, or outright purchase of the property are methods for fee simple acquisition. The funding for leases is typically sourced from state Guard funds. Federal reimbursement of state land acquisition is allowed in limited circumstances.⁹ In order to meet the criteria for federal reimbursement, any funding for acquisition must have a lease commitment of at least 25 years.
2. **Screening Criterion 2 – Adequate Acreage to Support Multiple Brigade-Sized Units.** The alternative(s) must have a land area that is large enough to support Brigade-level training operations and ensure capacity to train up to three BCTs back-to-back (per NGR 5-3 and ARNG G1/G3 2018).
3. **Screening Criterion 3 – Adequate Range Capabilities to Support Multiple Brigade-Sized Units Training Back-to-Back.** The ability to support multiple brigade sized units is determined by the specified RCTC designation. To meet this standard, the selected alternative must be designated as a RCTC Level 1 Garrison Training Center and MFGI.
4. **Screening Criterion 4 – Adequate Support for Multiple-Purpose Range Training Operations.** The selected alternative must provide multiple and varied training ranges that have the acreage and development to support multi-purpose training objectives:
 - a) Maximized throughput for Platoon-level gunnery proficiency requirements (per *Gunnery Table XII: Platoon Qualifications*; HQDA 2016).
 - b) Platoon and Company-sized unit maneuvers on contiguous and/or non-contiguous ranges (per TC 25-8; HQDA 2016).
 - c) Adequate live-fire training ranges to support multiple brigade-sized units, per the NGR 5-3.
 - d) CALFEX capabilities training by multiple Company- and/or Platoon-sized units, on different ranges within the same complex, simultaneously.
 - e) Heavy maneuver training ranges to support training by multiple brigade sized units.

⁸ Department of Defense Unified Facilities Criteria 1-200-01 DoD, *Building Code (General Building Requirements)*, dated June 20, 2016, specifies that permanent construction is expected to last a minimum of 25 year design life (i.e., period of time during which the item is expected by its designers to work within its specified parameters). UFC 1-200-02 *High Performance and Sustainable Building Requirements*, dated December 1, 2016, states using a maximum 40-year building life (i.e., period of time during which the item is expected to work within its specified parameters).

⁹ When analyzing federal reimbursement of state acquisition costs, a critical factor is whether a Major Land Moratorium Waiver will be needed. See Secretary of Defense Memo, *Land Acquisition and Leasing of Office Space in the United States*, November 17, 2002. Major land acquisition is defined as the purchase, withdrawal from public domain, lease or permit from individuals or government entities; or any other type of use agreement involving more than 1,000 acres, or land whose estimated purchase price or annual lease price exceeds \$1 million. See Department of the Army, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations, Energy and Environment Memo, *Real Estate Business Clearance Process*, May 19, 2016; and, Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 4165.71, *Real Property Acquisition*, January 6, 2005.

- f) Maximized use of Training Support and Simulations and facilities infrastructure to support ongoing crew-proficiency training requirements. This would ensure a reduced need to re-train entire crews when individuals of those crews are deployed and or promoted/transitioned to new roles.

- 4. **Screening Criterion 5 – Prioritized Availability to ARNG.** The alternative(s) must ensure prioritized training spaces adequate to support training by multiple brigade sized units for ARNG. Further, the selected alternative must be fiscally and operationally sustainable over the long term, and must enable avoidance of competition with Active Component forces for maneuver space and range time.

2.3.2 Evaluated Alternatives

The Alternatives for each Component Action were evaluated against the aforementioned screening criteria to determine whether the alternative would sufficiently meet the purposes and needs specified in **Sections 1.2.1** and **1.2.3**.

As noted in **Section 2.3.1**, alternatives that fail to meet any one of the identified screening criteria would be excluded from further consideration in the EA. **Table 2-8** provides the screening matrix for RPMP approval. **Table 2-9** provides the screening matrix for alternatives relating to implementation of the infrastructure and facility improvement projects. **Table 2-8** and **Table 2-9** show that only approval of the RPMP and implementation of the proposed development projects would meet the purpose and need to modernize infrastructure and facilities on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC. Therefore, no matter the operational alternative selected, these component alternatives are carried forward. **Table 2-10** provides the screening matrix for alternatives that would enable ARNG's optimized throughput of brigade-level training on the OCTC. **Table 2-10** shows that only the Proposed Action Alternative on the OCTC passed all screening criteria indicating an ability to adequately support optimized throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC. Therefore, this operational alternative is the only to be carried forward as part of the Preferred Action Alternative.

Table 2-8. Comparison of Alternatives with Screening Criteria for Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP)

Alternative	Fulfills UFC 2-100-01 Requirements	Provides Adequate Planning Guidance to Achieve Required Capacities to Support Multiple Brigade-Sized Units	Provides Mechanism for Planning and Project Programming	Retained or Dismissed
Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP (Proposed Action)	Yes	Yes. The RPMP would include the planning elements to achieve the capacities required to support IDARNG's mission	Yes. The RPMP would include elements to ensure efficient project planning and programming.	Retained
Not Approving the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP (No Action)	No	No	No	Retained

Table 2-9. Comparison of Alternatives with Screening Criteria for Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)

Alternative	Consistent with Existing Land Use, and Planning Requirements	Optimizes Use of Existing Land and Facilities	Provides Capacity to Support Multiple Brigade-Sized Units	Retained or Dismissed
Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements (per Proposed Action)	Yes. Implementation of the RPMP development projects would comply with requirements	Yes. Plans would guide optimized use of land and facilities.	Yes. Facilities and infrastructure to be constructed would enable this capability to ensure capacity to support two BCTs back-to-back.	Retained
Not Implementing the Modernization and infrastructure Improvements (No Action)	Yes. Existing compliance with land use requirements would remain unchanged.	No	No	Retained

Table 2-10. Comparison of Alternatives with Operational Screening Criteria for Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Operational Alternative	Unconstrained Long-Term Land Availability	Adequate Acreage to Support Multiple Brigade-Sized Units	Adequate Range Capabilities to Support Multiple Brigade-Sized Units Training Back-to-Back	Adequate Support for Multiple-Purpose Range Training Operations	Prioritized Availability to ARNG	Retained or Dismissed
Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput per Proposed Action (Proposed Action Alternative)	Yes, BCT training can occur on existing OCTC lands; no additional land acquisition required.	56,409 acres	RCTC Level I	Yes. MPRC-H with nine tank lanes to support Heavy Maneuvers, CALFEX ranges, platoon-level gunnery ranges.	Yes. Primacy at the OCTC would be given to ARNG units.	Retained
Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput on the OCTC with Simco East Training Area	No. Acquisition of Simco East Training Area is not guaranteed over the long term, because the lease and funding source are not guaranteed	70,779 acres	RCTC Level I	Yes. Would provide additional maneuver training areas to OCTC.	Yes. Primacy at the OCTC would be given to ARNG units.	Dismissed
Use of Active Army Installations	Yes. Other active Army training installations exist with acreage adequate to support training by multiple BCTs.	Yes. Other training centers exist with acreage adequate to support training by multiple BCTs.	Yes. Other Active Component installations exist and could be used to support ARNG brigade-level training.	No. Other existing Level I Training Centers do not have the range development to support the required variety of proficiency training.	No. Primacy would be afforded to Active Duty Components.	Dismissed
Maintain Dispersed Training Across Existing ARNG Installations	Yes. Other ARNG Training Installations have the land area to support brigade-level training.	Yes. Other ARNG training installations have the land area to support brigade-level training.	Yes. Other ARNG Training Installations could be used to support brigade-level training.	No. Limited ability to support CALFEX training requirements and platoon gunnery training.	No. Primacy would be given to local units; thus, access to visiting units would not be ensured. Continued practice is economically and operationally unsustainable.	Dismissed
Not Optimizing the Annual BCT Training Throughput (No Action Alternative)	Yes. Training on the OCTC would continue at the existing operating levels and range uses. Other Active Army and ARNG training installations have the land area to support brigade-level training.	Yes. Other ARNG training installations have the land area to support brigade-level training.	Yes. Other ARNG training installations could be used to support brigade-level training	No. Other existing Level 1 Training Centers do not have the range development to support the required variety of proficiency training, and would be limited in their abilities to support CALFEX and platoon gunnery training.	No. Primacy at Active Army or ARNG Installations would be given to Active Duty Components and/or local ARNG units, respectively. Thus, access to visiting units would not be ensured. The continued practice is economically and operationally unsustainable.	Retained

2.3.2.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements). Under this alternative, approval of the RPMP and implementation of the proposed infrastructure and facility FY18 through FY22 development projects would occur as described for the Proposed Action. The RPMP establishes Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC as Development Districts. Within the RPMP project boundaries of these Development Districts, there are a variety of possible layout and design options with respect to the infrastructure and facilities to be constructed. However, options for development in these areas would be constrained by the amount and location of developable land within the respective development districts, presence of environmentally sensitive resources (e.g., endangered species, livestock grazing, protected habitats), and ability to maintain safety. Therefore, as noted in the RPMP, projects would be ideally-sited to avoid, or minimize to the extent practicable, impacts on nearby resources based on the constraints analysis. The portion of Gowen Field that is occupied by ARNG is highly developed and confined by the presence of the airfield, which is shared with the Boise International Airport, and areas occupied by the other entities (e.g., Marines and Air National Guard). ARNG development on the installation would, therefore, be limited by the amounts and locations of developable land within the ARNG development areas (i.e., Life Support and Logistics) where like facilities would be co-located. Specifically, the proposed development actions would involve replacement by construction of certain facilities within their existing building footprints on the 500 Block, renovation and expansion of an existing facility to incorporate additional instructional facility spaces on 900 Block, and demolition of antiquated buildings on the 200 Block would be required to accommodate development of the proposed training institute and to create space for future development needs.

Development within the Cantonment Area would be limited by the amounts and locations of developable acreage within its development districts (i.e., Administrative Support, Logistics/Maintenance, and Railhead), the need to optimize use of existing utilities and infrastructure, co-locate like facilities, and avoidance of environmentally sensitive species and Proposed Critical Habitat, which would extend up to the southern boundary of the Cantonment Area. Livestock grazing along and proximal to the boundaries of Cantonment Area is also a consideration. Further, to have the amount of developable land area required to accommodate the proposed build-out, an additional 435 acres of state-owned land located immediately west and adjacent to the Cantonment Area may be acquired from the state and developed. ARNG and IDARNG will make the decision on the acquisition after the decision to proceed with the Proposed Action is made.

Improvements of facilities and infrastructure on the OCTC would be constrained by the types and locations of developable acreage within its development districts (i.e., Ranges and Maneuver Areas) and would be tailored to the types of operations to be supported per area. Additionally, development within each range area would have to avoid encroachment on the centrally located impact area, and reduced potential for impacts on sensitive habitats and species, nearby communities, livestock grazing and public/recreational uses of BLM-administered lands in the NCA Management Area 3.

Given these constraints, the proposed construction and infrastructure improvements would be confined to the proposed sites shown in **Figure 2.1**, **Figure 2.2**, and **Figure 2.3** and would effectively represent a single development alternative. Additionally, the boundaries of the Gowen Field and Cantonment Area project areas have been configured in such a way that maximizes existing infrastructure and facilities while minimizing environmental impacts to the extent practicable.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput). To implement Component Action 3 of the Proposed Action on the OCTC, ARNG would train up to three brigade-sized units on the OCTC per calendar year in accordance with the authorized mission of the IDARNG ISU and the OCTC. It is expected that the training occupancy (or participating strength of each BCT would be at 85 percent. Therefore, the maximum number of troops that would be training on the OCTC per year would be 10,500. Increases in shrub cover over the past decade have excluded heavy maneuver training under the 2008 *Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP and ROD*. Given this constraint, the training of each BCT unit on the OCTC would be accomplished over an averaged 45-day training period during which, small arms and heavy maneuvers training would be conducted concurrently on multiple, and at-times, overlapping ranges. Heavy maneuver training would be conducted on the Charlie (C) and Delta (D) heavy maneuver training areas located in the southern portion of the OCTC as well as the 56,300-acre Small Arms Impact Area to ensure adequate space to support the associated training requirements. Because the Small Arms Impact Area also serves as the Surface Danger Zone (SDZs) of the small arms ranges, either the heavy maneuver training or the small arms training must be on standby while the other utilizes the SDZs. An SDZ is a mathematically defined space encompassing a specified area between the firing line and the target wherein a projectile could reasonably be expected to fall short. For safety, an SDZ is kept clear of personnel and equipment during firing operations. **Figure 2.4** shows the operational location for brigade-level training on the OCTC.

2.3.2.2 No Action Alternative

CEQ regulations specify the inclusion of the No Action Alternative in the alternatives analysis of a proposed action. Because IDARNG identified a need for the Proposed Action (i.e., to meet ARNG mission requirements), it is understood that taking no action does not meet the project purpose and need. The No Action Alternative is analyzed to provide a baseline of the existing conditions against which potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Action and alternative actions can be compared.

Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements). Under the No Action Alternative, approval of the RPMP would not occur. This would be out of compliance with the NGR 5-3, which specifies that an RCTC Level I must have its own RPMP.

Implementation of the following RPMPs FY18 to FY22 modernization and infrastructure improvements would not occur, including facility renovations and demolitions on Gowen Field; construction of various facilities such as barracks, administrative buildings, dining hall, chapel MATES, educational facilities, roads and sidewalks, parking and gathering areas, installation of

electrical and data/communications infrastructure, and railhead build-out on the Cantonment Area; and range improvements, including installation of electrical and data/communications infrastructure on the OCTC. As a result, infrastructure and facility capacities on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC would remain inadequate to accommodate multiple brigade-sized teams and the IDARNG ISU and OCTC would not meet their specified missions. Further, selection of the No Action Alternative would continue the existing non-compliance with the NGR 5-3 which specifies that a RCTC Level I Garrison Training Center and MFGI must have adequate facility and infrastructure capacities to provide billeting and lodging to support multiple brigade-sized units, acreage to support defined light and heavy maneuver areas, and live-fire ranges (per Army TC 25-8) to support individual and collective training for multiple brigades (ARNG 2015, HQDA 2016).

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput). Under the No Action Alternative, the types and tempo (described in **Section 1.1.2.3**) of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC would continue unchanged. This alternative would perpetuate the inability of the IDARNG ISU and the OCTC to meet their specified missions. ARNG would have to continue the costly and logistically challenging practice of transporting brigade-sized units and associated materiel to other installations across the United States to compete for range time so they can complete their required proficiency training. Because primacy for training operations at other installations is afforded to the units based there, visiting units may be denied access, once arrived, if the local units have training orders to be met. This alternative would limit ARNG's ability to ensure adequate training and maintained brigade-level readiness over the long term.

Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of
 Brigade Combat Team Training
 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

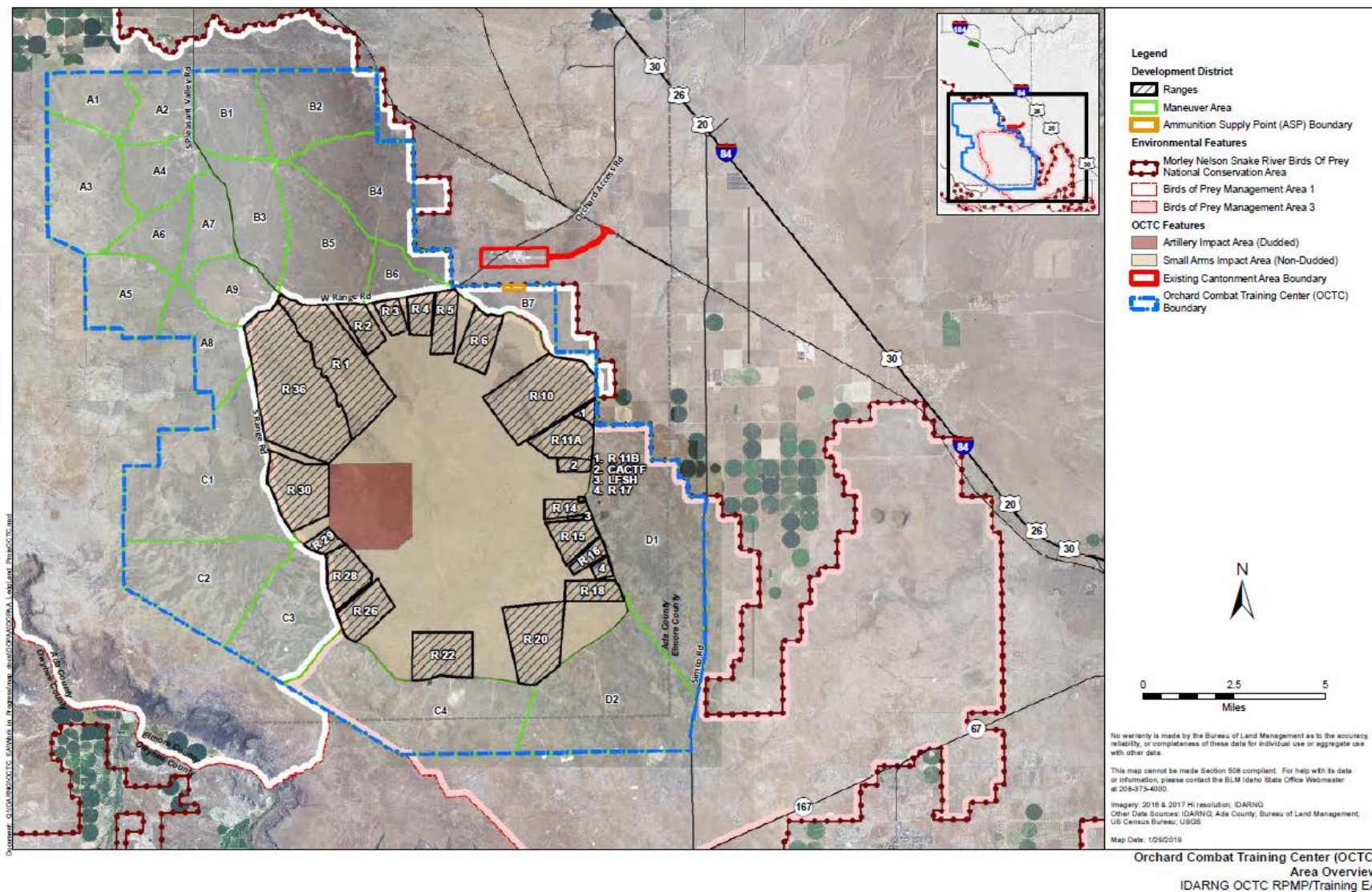


Figure 2.4. Operational Location for the Proposed Brigade-Level Training on the OCTC

2.3.3 Alternatives Eliminated From Further Consideration

Alternatives that are eliminated from detailed study must be identified along with a brief discussion of the reasons for eliminating them. For purposes of this analysis, an alternative was considered “unreasonable” if it would not enable ARNG to meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. ARNG considered the following alternatives for expanding BCT operations: 1) proposed action on the OCTC and Simco East training area; 2) compete for use of ranges at other existing active component installations; and 3) maintain dispersed training across ARNG installations. These alternatives were eliminated from further consideration because they did not meet one or more of the screening criteria specified in **Section 2.3.1. Table 2-11** provides information on the range capabilities for other Active Component and ARNG Installations that was used to determine compatibility with the operational selection criteria presented in **Table 2-10**. The following sections provide additional information on eliminated alternatives.

2.3.3.1 Proposed Action on the OCTC and Simco East Training Area

Under this alternative, the Proposed Action would be implemented on the OCTC and the Simco East Training Area. Specifically heavy maneuvers training would be redistributed from the C and D training areas and Small Arms Impact Area along the southern portion of the OCTC onto the 14,370-acre Simco East Training Area. This alternative would eliminate the current need to use the OCTC Small Arms Impact Area to have sufficient acreage to support heavy maneuver training operations. Without this operational constraint, there would be no delays in either the heavy maneuver or small arms training that would be experienced under the Proposed Action Alternative on the OCTC. Thus, the overall training period for each brigade-sized unit would be reduced from 45 to 21 days.

During 2018, IDARNG began addressing the acquisition and incorporation of the Simco East parcel in a separate NEPA action, *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Simco East Heavy Maneuver Training Area* (IDARNG 2018b). During this process, ARNG determined that the action would require a major land acquisition that could only be accomplished with available funding to support a minimum 25-year lease per NGR 415-5, which ensures a long-term investment in the facilities and infrastructure (between 25 and 40 years) per DoD UFC 1-200-01 and UFC 1-200-02. Current funding limitations have constrained ARNG’s ability to pursue acquisition of the Simco East property beyond a short-term (approximately one year) lease. Because a long-term lease cannot be not guaranteed at this time, ARNG decided to postpone completion of the *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Simco East Heavy Maneuver Training Area* until an adequate funding source can be secured. Based on these decisions, ARNG further determined that the Proposed Action Alternative on the OCTC with the Simco East Training Area cannot be considered a viable operational alternative at this time. Therefore, it does not meet screening criterion 1, and no further consideration of this operational alternative is provided in this EA.

2.3.3.2 Compete for Use of Ranges at Other Existing Active Component Installations

In accordance with Army planning policy and regulations, ARNG evaluated other existing Active-duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve installations nationwide; with a focus on Active Component installations to determine their potential suitability for supporting the needs

associated with the Proposed Action. The use of only Active Component installations would meet all of the training requirements as show in **Table 2-11**; however ARNG units would not be the priority for training at these installations and ranges. This would result in limiting the capability of ARNG to carry out its assigned mission and maintain training readiness and the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action described in **Section 1.2**. Because of range scheduling conflicts, distance, and limited available maneuvering space, the use of Active Component sites would potentially cause ARNG units to risk not meeting training requirements and to lose valuable training time. Therefore, this alternative was eliminated from further consideration because it does not meet screening criterion 5, as outlined in **Section 2.3.1**.

2.3.3.3 Maintain Dispersed Training across ARNG Installations

ARNG considered and evaluated maintaining its current methodology of utilizing dispersed training by utilizing existing ARNG installations. In accordance with Army planning policy and regulations, ARNG evaluated whether utilizing the fewer other existing National Guard installations nationwide which could support the training needs associated with and accomplished via implementation of the Proposed Action. The use of fewer available training locations would limit the capability of ARNG to carry out its assigned mission to provide adequate training facilities and the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action described in **Section 1** would be compromised. In addition, most of the identified facilities could not meet screening criterion number 3 for the use of Conducting Company sized Maneuver and CALFEX requirements simultaneously. Use of fewer sites would potentially cause ARNG units to risk not meeting all training requirements, as well as excessive training time lost during travel to and from appropriate training centers and ranges. The dispersed training alternative does not meet screening criteria 3 and 5 in **Section 2.3.1**, and, therefore, was removed from further consideration.

Table 2-11. Summary of Alternatives for ARNG Operational Assets

Installation Alternative	Acreage 1,2	Range Capability for Brigade-Level Training 2,3	Support for Multiple Purpose Training					Unconstrained Availability to ARNG (YES/NO) 5
			Training Range Types (Total Number of Lanes) 4	CALFEX Capabilities				
				PLT		CO		
Camp Atterbury, IN 6	21,188	Level I	MPMG, MPTR	I	A	I	A	NO
Camp Blanding, FL 6	50,464	Level II	CACTF, UAC, MPMG, LFSH, ISBC, MRFR, CLF	I	A	I	A	NO
Camp Grayling, MI 6	51,508	Level II	LFSH	I	A	I	A	NO
Camp Ripley, MN 6	30,919	Level II	MPRC-H (6 lanes), MPMG, QTR, CLF, DMPTR	I	A	I	A	NO
Camp Roberts, CA 6	23,051	Level I	MPTR (4 lanes), CACTF	I	A	I	A	NO
Camp Shelby, MS 6	9,754	Level I	MPRC-H (6 lanes), CACTF, MPTR	I	A	I	A	NO
Fort Chaffee, AR 6	44,322	Level II	MPRC-H (6 lanes), CACTF, LFSH, ISBC, CLF, DMPTR	I	A	I	A	NO
Fort Pickett, VA 6	23,135	Level II	MPTR (3 lanes), CACTF	I	A	I	A	NO
OCTC, ID 6	56,409	Level I	MPRC-H (9 lanes) Simulation training facilities would be developed through RPMP.	I	A	I	A	YES
Fort Stewart, GA 7	38,955	ND	2 DMPRCs (6 lanes) DMPTR (1 lane) MPRC-H (3 lanes) 7 MPTRs (8 lanes)	I	A	I	A	NO
Fort Hood, TX 7	116,135	ND	DMPRC (3 lanes) MPRPC-H (3 lanes) 3 MPTRs (3 lanes)	I	A	I	A	NO

Source: Godfrey 2018c

Acronyms: I – Infantry, A – Armor, CACTF – Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, CLF – Convoy Live Fire Ranges, CALFEX – Combat Armor Live-Fire Exercise, DMPTR – Digital Multi-Purpose Training Range, ISBC – Infantry Squad Battle Courses; LFSH – Live Fire Shooting Houses; UAC – Urban Assault Course; MRFR – Modified Record Fire Range; PLT – Platoon, CO – Company, BDE – Brigade, MPRC-H – Multi-Purpose Range Complex – Heavy; MPMG – Multi-Purpose Machine Gun; MPTR – Multi-Purpose Training Range, ND – Not Designated

Table Notes: 1 – Adequate acreage to support multiple brigade-sized units is specified at 21,000 acres or more per the NGR 5-3 (ARNG 2015). 2 – Red cells indicate lack of capability, capacity, or availability. Green cells indicate adequate capability, capacity, or availability. 3 – RCTC Level I can accommodate training and life support requirements for up to three brigade-sized units. RCTC Level II can accommodate training and life support requirements for one brigade sized unit. 4 – Total number of lanes would support tank and armored vehicles. 5 – Y – indicates availability without constraints. N – indicates inadequate or constrained. (e.g., competition for range time or assets) availability to ARNG. 6 – ARNG Training Installation. 7 – Active Army Installation.

2.3.4 Identification of the Preferred Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative is the alternative which best meets the purpose and need statements specified in **Sections 1.2.1** through **1.2.4**, as well as all selection criteria listed in **Section 2.3.1**. The Preferred Alternative in this EA is the Proposed Action Alternative on the OCTC.

2.3.5 Alternatives' Impacts Comparison Matrix

Table 2-12 notes the anticipated environmental impacts for the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives.

Table 2-12. Comparison Matrix of Environmental Impacts of the Evaluated Alternatives

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Land Use	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the land use and development strategies specified in the Real Property Master Plan (RPMP). Having and implementing an RPMP would provide an organized, efficient, and thoughtful plan resulting in beneficial impacts on land use.</p> <p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts are expected from development of a large portion of land within the installations and some surrounding from undeveloped land.</p> <p>Long term, less than significant adverse impacts on land use may occur due to noise increases associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the OCTC land use and development strategies specified in the RPMP.</p> <p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts are expected from further development of range facilities on the OCTC. Long term, minor, adverse impacts on land use may occur due to noise increases associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training.</p>	<p>No change from existing conditions, but the benefits of having an organized and efficient plan would not be realized.</p>

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Air Quality	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts would result from approval of the RPMP. Short-term, less than significant adverse impacts are anticipated from the particulate (dust) and emissions from vehicle exhaust generated during construction and demolition activities. Long-term emissions from additional facility operations and increased emissions from vehicle exhaust generated from optimized throughput of brigade combat team (BCT) training activities would increase as a result of up to a 29 percent increase of troop training annually. However, these impacts would not exceed the U.S. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) or greenhouse gas (GHG) threshold levels.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts would result from approval of the RPMP for projects located on the OCTC.</p> <p>Short-term, minor adverse impacts are anticipated from the particulate (dust) and emissions from vehicle exhaust generated during construction and demolition activities of projects on the OCTC. Long-term emissions from additional facility operations and increased emissions from vehicle exhaust generated from optimized throughput of BCT training activities would increase as a result of up to a 29 percent increase of troop training annually on the OCTC. However, these impacts would not exceed the U.S. NAAQS or GHG threshold levels.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Noise	<p>Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from implementing best management practices (BMPs) and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to reduce noise levels. Short-term, less than significant adverse increases in noise from construction and demolition activities would be expected.</p> <p>Long-term, less than significant adverse increases in training-associated noise would occur as a result of up to a 29 percent increase in troop training annually. Although the type of noise would not change, its tempo would increase in proportion to the increased number of troops trained. However, no new noise sources would be introduced. Furthermore, affected resources (i.e. wildlife) already compensate (i.e. avoid or acclimate). Adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput.</p>	<p>Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, minor adverse impacts from implementing BMPs and SOPs to reduce noise levels on the OCTC. Short-term, minor adverse increases in noise from construction and demolition activities on the OCTC would be expected.</p> <p>Long-term, minor adverse increases in training-associated noise would occur as a result of up to a 29 percent increase in troop training annually on the OCTC. Although the type of noise would not change, its tempo would increase in proportion to the increased number of troops trained. However, no new noise sources would be introduced. Furthermore, affected resources (i.e. wildlife) already compensate (i.e. avoid or acclimate). Adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Geology, Topography, and Soils	Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on geological resources from approval of the RPMP. Short-and long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on soils would be expected due to construction and demolition activities, which would disturb soils and create impervious surface areas, impacting surface erosion, fugitive dust, sedimentation, and soil productivity. The short term use of heavy equipment or vehicles for construction, long-term increase of up to 29 percent more troops associated use of vehicles, and munitions expenditures due to an increase in training operations would result in soil compaction, erosion, and fugitive dust. As reseeded would be implemented and these changes would be mostly temporary in nature, these impacts would be less than significant.	Long-term, minor adverse impacts on geological resources from approval of the RPMP for projects located on the OCTC. Short-and long-term, minor adverse impacts on soils would be expected due to construction and demolition activities, which would disturb soils and create impervious surface areas, impacting surface erosion, fugitive dust, sedimentation, and soil productivity. The short term use of heavy equipment or vehicles for construction, long-term increase of up to 29 percent more troops associated use of vehicles, and munitions expenditures due to an increase in training operations would result in soil compaction, erosion, and fugitive dust on portions of the OCTC. As reseeded would be implemented and these changes would be mostly temporary in nature, these impacts would be minor.	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Water Resources	Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on water resources from approval of the RPMP. Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on water resources would be expected. Construction of additional facilities and infrastructure would increase impervious surfaces, thereby, increasing the rate and volume of stormwater flow in the Region of Influence (ROI). Equipment use and maintenance associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential for groundwater contamination. However, these impacts would be less than significant through implementation of improved drainage systems and IDARNG BMPs and SOPs.	Long-term, minor adverse impacts on water resources from approval of the RPMP. Long-term, minor adverse impacts on water resources would be expected. Construction of additional facilities and infrastructure would increase impervious surfaces, thereby, increasing the rate and volume of stormwater flow in the ROI. Equipment use and maintenance associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential for groundwater contamination. However, these impacts would be minimized through implementation of improved drainage systems, IDARNG BMPs and SOPs, and BLM's RDFs.	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Biological Resources	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on biological resources from approval of the RPMP. Increases in construction, vehicular and munitions noise that could deter wildlife, including raptors and other special status species, from using the area in the short- and long-term, would have less than significant adverse impacts.</p> <p>Less than significant adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput.</p> <p>Construction activities, and pedestrian and vehicular traffic could trample or crush native vegetation in affected areas, having less than significant adverse impacts. A net development of 118 acres would occur.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, less than significant adverse impacts would be expected from land development, which would remove native vegetation from undeveloped land and increase the risk of deterioration of Proposed Critical Habitat areas for special status flora, <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>, from construction activities and subsequent spread of nonnative species. 2 acres of LEPA Proposed Critical habitat would be developed.</p> <p>Construction and demolition activities and increased training activities could increase the potential for wildfires. However, implementation of the fire management program and adherence to following fire safety protocols would minimize potential impacts.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts on biological resources from approval of the RPMP. Increases in construction, vehicular and munitions noise that could deter wildlife, including raptors and other special status species, from using the area in the short- and long-term, would have minor adverse impacts.</p> <p>Minor adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput. Construction activities, and pedestrian and vehicular traffic could trample or crush native vegetation in affected areas, having minor adverse impacts. 156 acres would be developed, and 156 acres would be restored elsewhere.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, minor adverse impacts would be expected from land development, which would remove native vegetation from undeveloped land and increase the risk of deterioration of Proposed Critical Habitat areas for special status flora, <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>, from construction activities and subsequent spread of nonnative species. 25.4 acres of LEPA habitat and 36.2 acres of potential LEPA pollinator habitat in the HIZ would be developed.</p> <p>Construction and demolition activities and increased training activities could increase the potential for wildfires. However, implementation of the fire management program and adherence to following fire safety protocols would minimize potential impacts.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Cultural Resources	<p>Long-term, less than significant impacts on cultural resources from approval of the RPMP. No impact on known cultural resources that are eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area would be attributable to Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) activities.</p> <p>Archeological sites on the OCTC would be avoided under the Proposed Action and are protected from a distance per requirements an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan, which includes the installation of protective measures and regular monitoring at significant cultural resources.</p> <p>Indirect, less than significant adverse impacts on cultural resources could occur due to the increased potential risk of wildfire from an increase in munitions training associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training. These impacts would be minimized, as rapid firefighting response would occur from the adjacent Cantonment Area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor impacts on cultural resources from approval of the RPMP. Archeological sites on the OCTC would be avoided under the Proposed Action. Additionally, cultural resources at the OCTC are protected from disturbance per the requirements of an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan, which includes the installation of protective measures and regular monitoring at significant cultural resources.</p> <p>Indirect, minor adverse impacts on cultural resources could occur due to the increased potential risk of wildfire from increase in munitions training associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training. These impacts would be minimized, as rapid firefighting response would occur from the adjacent Cantonment area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Socioeconomics	<p>Long-term, beneficial impacts on the socioeconomic resources from approval of the RPMP. Short- to long-term, beneficial impacts on the local economy and local employment levels from increased construction-related spending and payroll and additional IDARNG employment opportunities.</p> <p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on the local economy may occur from loss of business due to improved and expanded facilities on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area. Long-term, beneficial impacts are expected from modernization of facilities and infrastructure, creating a safer environment for IDARNG personnel.</p>	<p>Long-term, beneficial impacts on the socioeconomic resources from approval of the RPMP. Short- to long-term, beneficial impacts on the local economy and local employment levels from increased construction-related spending and payroll and additional IDARNG employment opportunities.</p> <p>Long-term, beneficial impacts are expected from modernization of facilities and infrastructure, creating a safer environment for IDARNG personnel.</p> <p>The increase in vehicular traffic, troop size, and munitions and maneuvers training associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential risk of wildfires. These impacts would be minimized as rapid firefighting response would occur from the Cantonment Area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk. Adverse impacts would be minor.</p>	No change from existing conditions.
Environmental Justice	<p>Long-term less than significant, adverse impacts on environmental justice from approval of the RPMP. If populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence exist in the vicinity of the installations, long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts may occur as temporary construction noise and recurring increased training noises may deter prey animals from entering the area available to hunters.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts on environmental justice from approval of the RPMP. If populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence exist in the vicinity of the installations, long-term, minor, adverse impacts may occur as temporary construction noise and recurring increased training noises may deter prey animals from entering the area available to hunters.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Infrastructure	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from approval and implementation of infrastructure siting and development strategies specified in the RPMP. Having and implementing an RPMP would provide an organized, efficient, and thoughtful plan resulting in beneficial impacts on infrastructure.</p> <p>The short-term increase in construction-related traffic and long-term increase in training-related traffic associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would cause long-term adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure.</p> <p>Short- and long-term less than significant adverse impacts due to temporary disruptions in utilities during construction and increased consumption of utilities and solid waste creation would be expected. Enough capacity exists or will exist to support these increases and overall utility infrastructure would be upgraded and expanded.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts from approval and implementation of infrastructure siting and development strategies specified in the RPMP.</p> <p>The short-term increase in construction-related traffic and long-term increase in training-related traffic associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would cause long-term minor adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, minor adverse impacts due to temporary disruptions in utilities during construction and increased consumption of utilities and solid waste creation would be expected. Enough capacity exists or will exist to support these increases and overall utility infrastructure would be upgraded and expanded.</p>	<p>No change from existing conditions, but the benefits of having an organized and efficient plan would not be realized.</p>

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the RPMP. Less than significant, short-term adverse impacts would occur due to temporary increases in the use of hazardous materials and petroleum products and generation of waste from construction and demolition-related activities requiring additional storage and disposal capacity and asbestos abatement.</p> <p>The increases in the number of vehicles, vehicle use and subsequent maintenance, and rail spur operation associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential risk of a hazardous spill, on a 1;1 ratio with increased throughput. The current spill rate is less than 20 incidents per year and clean-up response is one to two days. Any adverse impacts would be less than significant due to implementation of the installations' spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plans.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the RPMP. Minor short-term adverse impacts would occur due to temporary increases in the use of hazardous materials and petroleum products and generation of waste from construction and demolition-related activities requiring additional storage and disposal capacity and asbestos abatement.</p> <p>The increases in the number of vehicles, vehicle use and subsequent maintenance associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential risk of a hazardous spill, on a 1;1 ratio with increased throughput. The current spill rate is less than 20 incidents per year and clean-up response is one to two days. Any adverse impacts would be minor due to implementation of the installations' spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plans.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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3. Affected Environment

This section describes the existing conditions of environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic resources that would be affected if the Proposed Action was implemented. It provides a baseline from which potential impacts are identified. **Section 4**, Environmental Consequences, identifies potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the identified project alternatives on each of the resource areas presented in this section.

3.1 Location Description

The Region of Influence (ROI) to be assessed for impacts from implementation of the Proposed Action includes Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC. The combined area within the Boise Airport boundaries under exclusive-use military lease encompasses approximately 570 acres of land (IDARNG 2018a). Another 1,500 acres on the Airport is under a joint-use agreement between the City and the military. However, for the purposes of this EA, Gowen Field primarily refers to the IDARNG facilities on the south side of the runways. The OCTC, including the associated Cantonment Area, encompasses approximately 143,307 acres of land and is located in southwestern Idaho, approximately 13 miles south of Boise, entirely within the boundaries of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA (IDARNG 2018a). The Cantonment Area (referred to as “Camp Orchard” in the RPMP) encompasses approximately 672 acres is located approximately 4,350 feet due from its east boundary to the OCTC and approximately 2,650 feet north of the OCTC.

Access to the various site locations on OCTC within the NCA would be gained via entry through prescribed access control points (ACPs) at each location, and using established roads or trails, as appropriate for the identified project.

The lands east of the Cantonment Area and OCTC portion of the ROI are primarily BLM-administered public land, some state land, and small portions of privately owned agricultural land and rangelands (see **Figure 1.1**). Scattered private residences are located within 0.5 mile to the southeast of the ROI, becoming denser the closer one gets to the city of Mountain Home, which is located approximately 2 miles to the east. The Mountain Home Municipal Airport is roughly 1 mile to the east, and the Mountain Home AFB is roughly 3.5 miles to the south of the ROI. Irrigated agriculture is located to the north of the project area. Two gravel pits are located adjacent to the northeast corner of the ROI roughly 0.3 and 1 mile from the ROI boundary.

The proposed project area would occur in southeastern Ada County, within the Snake River Basin ecoregion typified by xeric intermontane basin and range lands that are considerably lower and more gently sloping than the surrounding ecoregions (Purdue University 2018). The climate is semi-arid and characterized by hot, dry summers with an average total annual precipitation of 11.73 inches. The average annual maximum temperature is 65.4 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and average annual minimum temperature is 42.6°F (NOAA 2018).

3.2 Land Use

Issue statements: *How will training activities impact livestock grazing operations, visual resources, and recreation in the area? Will any land use compatibility issues result with regard to existing ownership, existing land use authorizations, and/or ROWs within the project area?*

3.2.1 Definition of the Resource

The term land use refers to real property classifications that indicate either natural conditions or the types of human activity occurring on a parcel. In many cases, land use descriptions are codified in master planning and local zoning laws. Two main objectives of land use planning are to ensure orderly growth and compatible uses among adjacent property parcels or areas. However, there is no nationally recognized convention or uniform terminology for describing land use categories. As a result, the meanings of various land use descriptions, labels, and definitions vary among jurisdictions. Natural conditions of property can be described or categorized as unimproved, undeveloped, conservation or preservation area, and natural or scenic area. A variety of land use categories result from human activity. Descriptive terms for human activity land uses often include residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, institutional, and recreational.

In appropriate cases, the location and extent of a proposed action is evaluated for its potential impacts on a project area and adjacent land uses. The foremost factor affecting a proposed action in terms of land use is its compliance with any applicable land use or zoning regulations. Other relevant factors include matters such as existing land use within the project area, the types of land uses on adjacent properties and their proximity to a proposed action, recreational and visual resources in the vicinity, the duration of a proposed activity, and its permanence.

Recreational resources refer to dispersed, unstructured activities, such as target/recreational shooting, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and rock climbing, which occur across the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA.

Aesthetic and visual resources refer to the natural and manmade features of the proposed project area's landscape and include cultural resources and historic landmarks, landforms of particular beauty or significance, water surfaces, and vegetation.

Together, these features form the overall impression that a viewer receives of an area or its landscape character.

3.2.2 Regulatory Overview

Land uses are regulated by management plans, policies, zoning ordinances, and regulations that determine the types of use(s) allowed. These designations typically also serve to protect specially designated or environmentally sensitive uses.

On-Installation Land Use Planning

Related to land use is the issue of property ownership. Depending on the use, location, and ownership of a particular land parcel, that parcel could be subject to regulation by federal, state,

or local government entities, or any combination of entities. Leasing of property, easements, and other property agreements may also limit or control how land can be used.

Land uses are regulated by all levels of government through zoning restrictions; conditional use permits; and a variety of federal, state, regional, and local policies. Laws and regulations governing land use are often highly site specific. Under the Doctrine of Federal Supremacy, based upon the federal supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution (Article VI, Section 2), the Federal government, including the Army and federally owned ARNG land, is not subject to State or local land use or zoning regulations unless specifically consented to by Congress. The Federal government does take land use and zoning policies into consideration and cooperates with State and local agencies to avoid conflicts when possible. The Army is considerate of the following laws, regulations, and planning policies in its land use planning actions:

- **AR 210-20, *Real Property Master Planning for Army Installations* (May 16, 2005).** Army installation land use planning is focused on providing facilities (i.e., training installations) that support an overall quality environment for military forces needed to maintain national security. In contrast with the wide variety of land use and zoning classifications typically used by local jurisdictions, Army planning relies on 12 land use classifications: airfields, maintenance, industrial, supply/storage, administration, training/ranges, unaccompanied personnel housing, family housing, community facilities, medical, outdoor recreation, and open space. This EA focuses on the designated land use categories specified in the OCTC RPMP for each Land Use District: Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.
- **Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (P.L. 94-579; 43 USC 35).** The BLM, along with the National Forest Service and National Park Service, are commissioned in FLPMA to not only preserve the natural resources on the lands they manage, but also to enable multiple uses on those lands. 'Multiple use' is defined in the Act as "management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people." The FLPMA addresses topics such as land use planning, land acquisition, fees and payments, administration of federal land, range management, and right-of-ways on federal land. The FLPMA has specific objectives and time frames in which to accomplish these objectives.
- **Idaho Department of Commerce (IDDOC) *Public Draft Idaho Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)* (May 2010).** Army land use planning on Gowen Field and the OCTC is considerate of the IDDOC 2010 *Public Draft JLUS*, which was established by military and community stakeholders across the state to protect the viability of current and future missions at military installations and range complexes located within the state, while at the same time guiding growth, sustaining the economic health of the region, and protecting public health and safety (IDDOC 2010).

A MOU has existed between the BLM and IDARNG regarding the OCTC since 1979. The 2002 MOU had an established 30-year term to be reviewed at 5-year intervals. Subsequent MOUs in

2010 and 2017 allowed for continued military training activities at the OCTC (USDI BLM and IMD 2010, USDI BLM and IMD 2017).

3.2.3 Land Use ROI

The ROI for land use in this EA includes Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, OCTC, and land areas in between, and includes the immediately surrounding areas within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA. This ROI is primarily based on the size and extent of the ARNG's Proposed Action. Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area are located completely within Ada County, Idaho. The majority of the OCTC lies within Ada County, and a small portion lies within Elmore County to the southeast. **Figure 1.1** shows the project location and land ownership within the proposed project area.

3.2.4 Existing Conditions

Gowen Field is considered developed land (USGS 2019; IDARNG 2013a). The Cantonment Area and the OCTC, located in the Snake River Plain, are primarily semi-desert or covered with introduced and native vegetation. Along the Snake River Plain, the winters are particularly cold, with an average daily minimum of 24.0°F in January, while the summers are dry and hot, with an average daily maximum of 89.0°F. The mean temperature in Boise is 52.1°F (IDARNG 2013a).

The Boise Mountains are located to the northeast and the Owyhee Mountains are to the southwest of the ROI. The rain shadow of the Owyhee Mountains essentially divides the OCTC in half such that the southern half consistently receives less rainfall than the northern half, with an average annual precipitation between 1990 and 2010 of 7.1 inches and 8.0 inches, respectively. In the area, the predominant winds originate from the northeast and the north-northwest, with a secondary influence from the south-southwest and the southeast. Average annual wind speed is 8.7 miles per hour (IDARNG 2013a).

Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC support military training activities associated with the IDARNG mission. Specific mission requirements for the OCTC and its supporting installations (Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area) include, but are not limited to, the following provisions:

- A training area for National Guard and Reserve Forces,
- Assistance, facilities, and training areas for logistical support to units conducting inactive duty training and annual training,
- Small arms and crew-served weapons qualification ranges and facilities,
- Maneuver areas suitable for training heavy armor and mechanized units,
- Range facilities for M1 Abrams tank series and Bradley fighting vehicles,
- Providing for artillery gunnery and maneuvers,
- Providing for AH-64 Apache attack helicopter gunnery,

- Organizational and direct support maintenance facilities for units conducting training, and
- Training areas and facilities to local law enforcement agencies, civil defense organizations, Reserve Officers Training Corps departments, public education institutions, and other civilian activities as long as no interference occurs with existing military training activities.

3.2.4.1 Gowen Field

Gowen Field is located 3 miles south of downtown Boise, Idaho, adjacent to the Boise Airport. Gowen Field is the home to the IDARNG Joint Force Headquarters and a support base for all permanent and Transient Units at the OCTC and Cantonment Areas. (IDARNG 2018a).

Installation/Site Land Use

Gowen Field is shared by IDARNG and the Idaho Air National Guard (IDANG), as well as Army Reserves and Navy/Marine Reserves. IDANG facilities occupy the northern and eastern segments of Gowen Field, while IDARNG facilities occupy the southwestern portion of the installation (IDARNG 2018a). Facilities on Gowen Field are used for administration, classrooms, billeting, medical services, equipment maintenance, and mobilization activities to facilitate and support training operations for all OTA transient, rotational, and schoolhouse field events (IDARNG 2018c). While there are currently no officially established land use development districts on Gowen Field, facilities are largely grouped according to compatibility (IDARNG 2018a)

Surrounding Land Use

The portion of Ada County surrounding Gowen Field is classified as public/government lands and agriculture with some intermixed commercial, retail and office, and public state lands. Boise Airport, a joint civil-military airport, is directly adjacent to Gowen Field to the north. West and southeast of Gowen Field are industrial centers. Rangeland land borders Gowen Field to the south.

Future Surrounding Development

Ada County anticipates converting a large portion of the public/government lands in the area surrounding Gowen Field into industrial lands, with limited commercial and retail (IDDOC 2010).

3.2.4.2 Cantonment Area

The Cantonment Area consists of IDL owned lands to the east of the OCTC (IDDOC 2010).

Installation/Site Land Use

A majority of the Cantonment Area and the proposed Cantonment Expansion Area are owned and leased to IDARNG by IDL. A small portion of the Cantonment Area is privately-owned land that is leased by IDARNG (see **Figure 1.1**). The Cantonment Area is used for training, maintenance, and administrative support for military training activities on the OCTC. Administrative facilities, the MATES, TASC, TISA, and railhead operations comprise the

developed portion of the Cantonment Area and are grouped according to compatibility (IDARNG 2018a). The Cantonment Area is 672 acres, with approximately 240 acres developed.

Surrounding Land Use

To the northeast of the Cantonment Area, the surrounding lands are privately owned. The majority of the surrounding lands are IDL-owned and BLM-administered. Military training, livestock grazing, and recreation occur in the areas adjacent to the Cantonment Area. The IDL manages grazing on state lands within, and adjacent to the Cantonment Area. Available records indicate that grazing on state lands in this area has been permitted through state leases since 1975 (IDL 2018). The current grazing lease (G-600161) allows grazing through 2025. The Cantonment rail spur crosses several private parcels where grazing is likely to occur. Little recreation occurs on lands immediately adjacent to the existing Cantonment Area due to the proximity to the intensively managed OCTC facility.

Future Surrounding Development

The existing character of land use in the area adjacent to the Cantonment to the east, south, and west is expected to continue. Residential and commercial encroachment is a concern in the area to the north of the Cantonment Area (mostly north of Interstate I-84) where several planned communities have been proposed but not developed.

3.2.4.3 OCTC

The OCTC consists of 143,307 acres of land on a relatively flat plateau between several prominent natural features, namely the Snake River to the south, the Owyhee Mountains at a distance to the west, and the Boise Ridge at a distance to the north. The majority (135,236 acres) of OCTC land is publicly owned and administered by the BLM, while 7,474 acres of OCTC land is owned by the IDL and the remaining 680 acres is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (IDDOC 2010). Under the BLM land use plan, the OCTC is classified as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class IV. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. All proposed actions within the OCTC would meet the VRM Class IV objectives. The land surrounding the OCTC is managed by the BLM as a Class III Visual Resource, which means it has moderate visual quality (USDI BLM 2008; USDI BLM 1986). Current land uses within and near the proposed development area on the OCTC primarily consists of military training, recreation, and livestock grazing, which have been ongoing for decades. IDARNG training on the OCTC is allowed through the continued renewal of the MOU between the BLM and IMD (USDI BLM and IMD 2017).

Installation/Site Land Use

Military training in the OCTC area has been occurring since 1941 (IDARNG 2018a). Current day training on the OCTC provides for maneuver, aviation, and weapons training. Maneuver training is conducted on 21 identified Maneuver Areas outside the Impact Area and one inside the Impact Area (see **Figure 2.4**). Maneuver areas cover approximately 89,800 acres; are primarily

outside the Impact Area; and are used for vehicle driver familiarization, armored vehicle crew maneuver proficiency, scout squad proficiency, platoon and company-level tactics and maneuver, and other combat support training.

The Impact Area is located at the center of the OCTC and has 20 active firing ranges on 53,500 acres (see **Figure 2.4**). It serves as the target area for helicopter, small arms, artillery, tank, and mortar firing. A fenced, smaller, core area within the Impact Area is referred to as the Artillery Impact Area. Artillery and mortar firing from designated positions within the Impact Area and maneuver sectors are directed to this particular target area. All weapons firing is conducted within the Impact Area to protect human safety and control the effects of training related fires on the landscape, with the exception of designated artillery and mortar firing positions outside the Impact Area that target the Artillery Impact Area. Functioning ammunition (i.e., high explosives) are only permitted to be fired into this area (IDARNG 2018a).

The Impact Area is closed to public access through an Ada County Ordinance, which BLM recognizes. Though the area is not fenced, there are signs along the Impact Area boundary every 650 feet to warn the public and troops of the danger in that area. The smaller Artillery Impact area is fenced as a safety precaution for IDARNG personnel, livestock, and ranchers who may have permission to enter the Impact Area. Non-IDARNG personnel are required to have an authorized escort any time they enter the Impact Area, and all activities must be coordinated with Annual Training Site staff (IDARNG 2018c). The remainder of OCTC is open to public use for grazing, hunting, off-road vehicle activity and other recreational use as approved by BLM.

Gunnery ranges within the Impact Area are classified by three general types: a Tank and Infantry Fighting Vehicle Range from which tanks and infantry fighting vehicles, in stationary positions, fire at stationary, moving, and pop-up targets; Specialty Weapons Ranges used for firing pistols, rifles, machine guns, mortars, light anti-armored vehicle weapons, and grenade launchers; and a state-of-the-art MPRC-H. The MPRC-H has both moving and stationary targets with an electronic scoring system. Most ranges have a tower structure for viewing and evaluating gunnery activity. Helicopter landing pads are also located adjacent to each range.

The majority of the facilities and infrastructure associated with military training activities within the OCTC and outside the Cantonment Area are found within the Impact Area or directly adjacent to it. The intent of the orientation and proximity of these facilities relative to the Impact Area is to consolidate impacts to a defined area in order to protect human safety, and to limit the effects of high frequency/intensity training disturbances to surrounding habitat. The consolidation of facilities and infrastructure is one of the primary reasons that the OCTC has high quality natural and cultural resources within the NCA, including the largest contiguous stand of native shrub habitat.

Surrounding Land Use

East of the OCTC is a small residential community, Cleft, and a small private airport, P and R Field, approximately 2.5 miles from the OCTC. The Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area, which encompasses the OCTC and surrounding land area was established in 1971 by Public

Land Order 5133 to protect one of the densest known nesting populations of raptors in North America. As a result of Public Land Order 5133, the OCTC training boundary at the time was considerably reduced. During the following years, the BLM conducted a research program to study habitat needs of raptors and determined the importance of foraging habitat on bench lands north of the Snake River Canyon. Based on this research, the Snake River Birds of Prey Area was established by Public Land Order 5777 in 1980. Congress enacted Public Law 103-64 in 1993, which provided permanent protection of the area through designation as an NCA. Section 1(B) of the Act specifically provides for “continued military use, consistent with the requirements of section 4(e) of this Act, of the OCTC by reserve components of the Armed Forces” (USDI BLM 2008).

Management responsibility for the NCA resides with the BLM Boise District, Four Rivers Field Office. Under PL 103-64, use of the OCTC by the IDARNG as a military training center is authorized under the 2010 MOU between the BLM and the IMD. Continued authorization of military training within the OCTC is managed in accordance with the 2017 MOU between BLM and IMD and the BLM’s 2008 Snake River NCA RMP and ROD (USDI BLM and IMD 2017, USDI BLM 2008).

Livestock Grazing. The OCTC is encompassed within the BLM’s Sunnyside Spring/Fall and Sunnyside Winter livestock grazing allotments (USDI BLM 2008). The Sunnyside Spring/Fall allotment is used by permittees from April 1 through June 30 for 8,008 animal unit months (AUMs) and then from October 16 through February 28 for 5,063 AUMs with 3 permittees. The Sunnyside Winter allotment is used from December 16 through February 28 for 11,279 AUMs with 3 permittees. IDARNG routinely coordinates with livestock operations between four and six months prior the start of each grazing season to identify which among the permittees will turn out their livestock in the coming season. This practice is done to ensure turnout of livestock onto the grazing areas would not coincide with training operations (IDARNG 2019d). On the Sunnyside Spring/Fall allotment, operators typically turn out their livestock through the month of April, but this wanes in May as the temperature increases and grazing lands dry out. Operators would not turn out their cattle as late as June, when there would be insufficient vegetation to graze. **Appendix I** provides the BLM grazing allotments and associated grazing seasons. The IDL also manages livestock grazing on state lands within, and adjacent to the OCTC under lease G600161. A livestock drift fence divides the northern and southern portions of the OCTC along the northern boundary of the Charlie Training Area, crossing the northern boundary of the Artillery Impact area and the northern boundary of the Echo Training Area. Grazing is permitted in the northern portion of the OCTC during the summer and the southern portion during the winter. The grazing areas are accessible to ranchers via the access roads in the southwestern area.

Recreation. The IDL manages recreation, if permitted, on state lands within, and adjacent to the OCTC. Managing outdoor recreation activities on adjacent lands associated with the NCA and OCTC is primarily the responsibility of the BLM (IDARNG 2013a) except for the Impact Area (including the Artillery Impact Area), which is designated as an off-limits area. Because no exterior fenceline prohibits public access in most areas, public recreational activities can commonly occur in the remainder of the OCTC. Signs are in place to warn the public of hazards

created by training, but training site personnel will often alert public citizens of training hazards if they see them in the area.

Recreational pursuits that occur in the area include activities such as bird watching, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, hiking, exploring, geocaching, hunting (in season), and target/recreational shooting (IDARNG 2013a; IDARNG 2018c).

Future Surrounding Development

The existing character of land use in the area adjacent to the OCTC to the east, south, and west is expected to continue. Encroachment is a concern in the area to the north of the OCTC (primarily north of I-84) where several planned communities have been proposed, although none are in development at this time. Increased recreational use and illegal dumping in the northern portion of the OCTC is occurring and is expected to continue as the local and regional population continues to increase.

3.3 Air Quality

Issue statement: *How would equipment emissions from construction actions and dust associated with the proposed training impact air quality?*

3.3.1 Definition of the Resource

Air pollution is the presence in the outdoor atmosphere of one or more contaminants (e.g., dust, fumes, gas, mist, odor, smoke, or vapor) in quantities and of characteristics and duration such as to be injurious to human, plant, animal life or to property, or to interfere unreasonably with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property. Air quality as a resource incorporates several components that describe the levels of overall air pollution within a region, sources of air emissions, and regulations governing air emissions. The following paragraphs discuss the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), local ambient air quality, General Conformity, Greenhouse Gas emissions, and Federal and State of Idaho regulatory requirements.

3.3.2 Regulatory Overview

The USEPA and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) regulate air quality in the State of Idaho. As noted in **Section 1.7**, The CAA (42 USC §§ 7401–7671q), as amended, gives USEPA the responsibility to establish the primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (40 CFR § 50) that set acceptable concentration levels for seven criteria pollutants. These standards represent the maximum allowable ambient concentrations for ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), respirable particulate matter (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). Short-term standards (i.e., 1-, 8-, and 24-hour periods) have been established for pollutants contributing to acute health effects, while long-term standards (i.e., annual averages) have been established for pollutants contributing to chronic health effects.

Each state has the authority to adopt standards stricter than those established under the federal program; however, the State of Idaho follows the federal standards for all pollutants that would be emitted under this Proposed Action. **Table 3-1** presents the USEPA NAAQS for federally listed criteria pollutants and the additional state-only standards.

Attainment Versus Nonattainment. The USEPA 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” for each of the seven criteria pollutants. Attainment means that the air quality within an area is better than the NAAQS; nonattainment indicates that criteria pollutant levels exceed NAAQS; maintenance indicates that an area was previously designated nonattainment but is now attainment; and an unclassified air quality designation by USEPA means that there is not enough information to appropriately classify an area, so the area is considered attainment. In accordance with the CAA, each state or commonwealth must develop a State Implementation Plan, which is a compilation of regulations, strategies, schedules, and enforcement actions designed to move the state or commonwealth into compliance with all NAAQS.

General Conformity. The General Conformity Rule (40 CFR § 93) applies only to federal actions in nonattainment or maintenance areas that are:

- Not deemed exempt from, or presumed to conform to, the subject requirements
- Not governed under the Transportation Conformity Rule
- Above the *de minimis* criteria pollutant emissions thresholds.

The General Conformity rule requires that a federal action described above must 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 violations of NAAQS; or delay the timely attainment of any NAAQS, interim progress milestones, or other milestones toward achieving compliance with the NAAQS.

Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration. Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations apply in attainment areas to a major stationary source, (i.e., source with the potential to emit 250 tons per year (tpy) of any criteria pollutant, or 100 tpy for special types of sources), and a significant modification to a major stationary source, (i.e., change that has a net increase of 0.6 tpy for lead, or 10 tpy to 100 tpy depending on the criteria pollutant). Additional PSD permitting thresholds apply to increases in stationary source greenhouse gas emissions. PSD permitting can also apply to a proposed project that is a modification with a net emissions increase to an existing PSD major source and (1) the proposed project is within 6.2 miles (10 km) of national parks or wilderness areas (i.e., Class I Areas), and (2) regulated stationary source pollutant emissions would cause an increase in the 24 hour average concentration of any regulated pollutant in the Class I area of 1 microgram per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) or more (40 CFR § 52.21[b][23][iii]). PSD regulations also define ambient air increments, limiting the allowable increases to any area’s baseline air contaminant concentrations, based on the area’s class designation (40 CFR § 52.21[c]).

Table 3-1. National and State Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Primary Standard		Secondary Standard
		Federal	Idaho	
CO	8-hour ^a	9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)	Same	None
	1-hour ^b	35 ppm (40 mg/m ³)	Same	None
Pb	Rolling 3-Month Average ^b	0.15 µg/m ³ ^c	Same	Same as Primary
NO ₂	Annual ^d	53 ppb ^e	Same	Same as Primary
	1-hour ^f	100 ppb	Same	None
PM ₁₀	24-hour ^g	150 µg/m ³	Same	Same as Primary
PM _{2.5}	Annual ^h	12.0 µg/m ³	Same	15 µg/m ³
	24-hour ^f	35 µg/m ³	Same	Same as Primary
O ₃ ⁱ	8-hour	0.070 ppm ^j	Same	Same as Primary
SO ₂	Annual	0.030 ppm	Same	None
	1-hour ^k	75 ppb ^k	Same	None
	3-hour ^l	--	Same	0.5 ppm
	24-Hour	0.14 ppm	Same	None
Fluorides ^o	Annual ^m	--	40 ppm	Same as Primary
	Bimonthly ⁿ	--	60 ppm	Same as Primary
	Monthly ^b	--	80 ppm	Same as Primary

Sources: USEPA 2019a, IDEQ 2019a

Table Key: ppm = parts per million; ppb = parts per billion; mg/m³ = milligrams per cubic meter; µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter

Table Notes: Parenthetical values are approximate equivalent concentrations.

- a) Not to be exceeded more than once per year.
- b) Not to be exceeded.
- c) Final rule signed October 15, 2008. The 1978 lead standard (1.5 µg/m³ as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved. The USEPA designated areas for the new 2008 standard on November 8, 2011.
- d) Annual Mean.
- e) The official level of the annual NO₂ standard is 0.053 ppm, equal to 53 ppb, which is shown here for the purpose of cleaner comparison to the 1-hour standard.
- f) 98th percentile, averaged over 3 years.
- g) Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years.
- h) Annual mean, averaged over 3 years. Standard proposed by EPA to be reduced to between 12 and 13 µg/m³
- i) The 1-hour ozone standard was revoked federally in April 2009.
- j) Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over 3 years. The 8-hour standard was lowered from 0.075 ppm to 0.070 ppm in October 2015, effective December 2015.
- k) 99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years.
- l) Final rule signed June 2, 2010. The 1971 annual (0.3 ppm) and 24-hour (0.14 ppm) SO₂ standards were revoked in that same rulemaking. However, these standards remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, where the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standard are approved. USEPA originally designated areas for the new 2010 standard on October 4, 2013, with a second and third set of designations effective September 12, 2016, and April 9, 2018.
- m) Dry basis, annual arithmetic mean.
- n) Dry basis, monthly concentration for two consecutive months.
- o) Not a criteria pollutant.

Title V Requirements. Title V of the CAA Amendments of 1990 requires states and local agencies to permit major stationary sources. A Title V major stationary source has the potential to emit criteria air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants at levels equal to or greater than Major Source Thresholds. Major Source Thresholds vary depending on the attainment status of an ACQR. The purpose of the permitting rule is to establish regulatory control over large, industrial-type activities and monitor their impact on air quality. Section 112 of the CAA lists hazardous air pollutants and identifies source categories that are subject to emission control requirements.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gaseous emissions that trap heat in the atmosphere. These emissions occur from natural processes and human activities. The most common GHGs emitted from human activities include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, and nitrous oxide. GHGs are primarily produced by the burning of fossil fuels and through industrial and biological processes. Scientific evidence indicates a trend of increasing global temperature over the past century due to an increase in GHG emissions from human activities. The climate change associated with this global warming is predicted to produce negative environmental, economic and social consequences across the globe.

Draft guidance from CEQ, dated June 21, 2019 which is the most recent federal guidance regarding GHG emissions under NEPA, recommends that federal agencies consider both the potential impacts of a proposed action on climate change, as indicated by its estimated GHG emissions if they can be easily or practically estimated with decent accuracy. The guidance clearly states that a separate cumulative effects analysis is not needed if the estimated GHG impacts are appropriately compared and contextualized to local, regional, national, or sector-wide emission estimates (CEQ 2019). The guidance also emphasizes that agency analyses should be commensurate with projected GHG emissions and climate impacts, and should employ appropriate quantitative or qualitative analytical methods to ensure useful information is available to inform the public and the decision-making process in distinguishing between alternatives. Mitigation measures do not need to be included in the analysis. The guidance does not include a specific emissions amount or threshold that should be used in determining significance, instead leaving that determination up to the document preparers. Previous draft CEQ guidance recommended that agencies consider 27,563 tons (25,000 metric tons) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions on an annual basis as a reference point below which a quantitative analysis of GHG is not recommended unless it is easily accomplished based on available tools and data (CEQ 2014). The 25,000 metric tons per year is not considered a potential indicator of significance for this Project because it only has a reference to a reporting level for stationary sources and has no real air quality significant impact basis. Therefore, a more appropriate level of 75,000 metric tons per year increase in CO₂e emissions is used. This level is used under the USEPA PSD permitting program for assessing whether GHG best available control technology would be required to be implemented for modifications to stationary sources that also exceed the 250 tons per year for criteria pollutants. Although the 75,000 metric tons per year increase under the PSD regulatory program applies only to stationary sources, it is being applied to mobile source emissions as a potential indicator of significance because there currently are no GHG annual emissions regulatory thresholds for mobile sources.

3.3.3 Air Quality ROI

Air quality in a given location is defined by the concentration of various pollutants in the atmosphere. A region's air quality is influenced by many factors including the type and amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, the size and topography of the air basin, and the prevailing meteorological conditions. For this EA, the ROI for analysis of air quality includes the project area where development and training activities would occur (i.e., Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and OCTC) and the surrounding communities in Ada and Elmore counties.

Idaho has three nonattainment areas, none of which are located near the areas of interest for this assessment. Idaho also has several maintenance areas, two of which are located at or near the ROI. Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the majority of the OCTC are located within Ada County (**Figure 3.1**). Parts of the OCTC also exist within Elmore County.

The northern portion of Ada County has been classified as the following (USEPA 2019b):

- Attainment-Maintenance for the 1987 PM₁₀ NAAQS
- Not Classified-Maintenance for the 1971 CO NAAQS
- Attainment/Not Classified for all other criteria pollutants.

This portion of Ada County is within the "Boise-Northern Ada County, Idaho" attainment-maintenance area, in AQCRs 63 and 64. The remainder of Ada County is in attainment or not classified for all criteria pollutants, in AQCR 63. Elmore County is in attainment or not classified for all criteria pollutants. IDEQ maintains PM₁₀ and CO monitoring stations in northern Ada County in and around Boise. The nearest PM₁₀ monitor is located approximately 25 miles north of the Cantonment Area.

Gowen Field is located within the maintenance areas, while the Cantonment Area, OCTC are located within the attainment or not classified portion of Ada County. Additionally, Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area and parts of the OCTC are all within 62 miles of the Sawtooth Wilderness Area, which is designated as a Class I area protected by the Regional Haze Program (USEPA 2019c).

The General Conformity Rule specifies threshold emissions levels by pollutant to determine the applicability of conformity requirements for a federal or federally funded project. Because Gowen Field is located within the maintenance areas, any federal projects here should be evaluated with respect to the appropriate *de minimis* criteria pollutant emissions thresholds. **Table 3-2** identifies the applicable General Conformity emissions thresholds for CO and PM₁₀ maintenance areas.

Table 3-2. General Conformity *de minimis* Emissions Thresholds

Pollutant	Status	Classification	<i>de minimis</i> Limit (tpy)
CO	Nonattainment/ maintenance	All	100
PM ₁₀	Nonattainment/ maintenance	Not Applicable	100

Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of
Brigade Combat Team Training
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

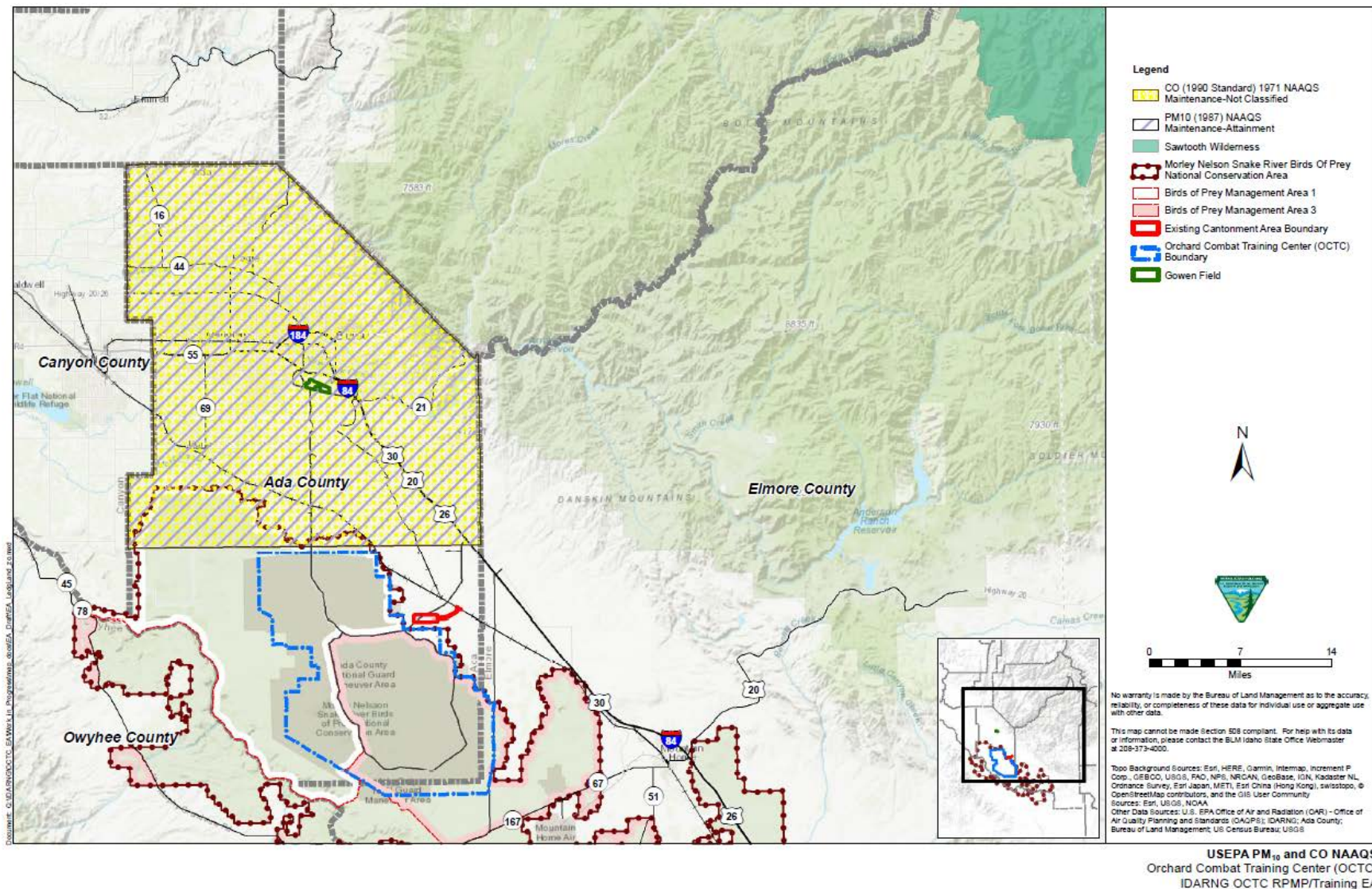


Figure 3.1. Air Quality Maintenance and Attainment Areas near the Project Area

Because the Cantonment Area, and OCTC are not within nonattainment or maintenance areas, General Conformity does not apply to federal actions taken at these locations. However, the General Conformity *de minimis* limits can still serve as useful comparisons when examining the air emissions from projects located outside of nonattainment or maintenance areas. Additionally, a second tier analysis in attainment areas can also be used to assess the impacts of the project on air quality in attainment areas. This second tier analysis uses the ratio of each pollutants emissions increases to each pollutants county wide inventory and then applying that percent increase to the most recent available ambient monitoring data and comparing to the ambient standards.

3.3.4 Existing Conditions

3.3.4.1 Gowen Field

As noted above, Gowen Field resides within two Boise-Northern Ada County, Idaho maintenance areas, and as such emissions from federal projects would be subject to General Conformity, if applicable. Air emissions are expected to only be generated from temporary construction and demolition related activities, as no increase in aircraft activity from Gowen Field is expected as part of the operational changes associated with this action and the new construction consists primarily of replacements for currently existing buildings.

3.3.4.2 Cantonment Area

As noted above, the Cantonment Area resides outside of the Boise-Northern Ada County, Idaho maintenance areas, and as such emissions from federal projects would not be subject to General Conformity if applicable. Air emissions are expected to be generated from both the temporary construction and demolition related activities and permanently as part of the expanded training operations to be conducted nearby at the OCTC as well as from the newly constructed facilities to be located within the Cantonment Area.

3.3.4.3 OCTC

As noted above, the OCTC resides outside of the Boise-Northern Ada County, Idaho maintenance areas, and as such emissions from federal projects would not be subject to General Conformity if applicable. Air emissions are expected to be generated from both the temporary construction and demolition related activities and permanently as part of the expanded training operations to be conducted at the OCTC as well as from the newly constructed facilities to be located at the OCTC.

3.4 Noise

Issue statement: *What changes to the ambient noise environment can be expected from construction actions and proposed operations?*

3.4.1 Definition of the Resource

Sound is a physical phenomenon consisting of vibrations that travel through a medium, such as air, and are sensed by the human ear. Noise is defined as any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with communication, is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise

intrusive. Human response to noise varies depending on the type and characteristics of the noise, distance between the noise source and the receptor, receptor sensitivity, and time of day. Noise is often generated by activities essential to a community's quality of life, such as aircraft operations, construction, or vehicular traffic.

Sound varies by both intensity and frequency. Sound pressure level, described in decibels (dB), is used to quantify sound intensity. The dB is a logarithmic unit that expresses the ratio of a sound pressure level to a standard reference level. Hertz are used to quantify sound frequency. The human ear responds differently to different frequencies. "A-weighting", measured in A-weighted decibels (dBA), approximates a frequency response expressing the perception of sound by humans. Sounds encountered in daily life and their sound levels are provided in **Table 3-3**.

Table 3-3. Common Sounds and Their Levels

Outdoor	Sound Level (dBA)	Indoor
Motorcycle from rider's position	100	Rock band
Gas lawnmower at 3 feet	90	Food blender at 3 feet
Downtown (large city)	80	Garbage disposal
Heavy traffic at 150 feet	70	Vacuum cleaner at 10 feet
Normal conversation	60	Normal speech at 3 feet
Quiet urban daytime	50	Dishwasher in next room
Quiet urban nighttime	40	Theater, large conference room

Source: Harris 1998

The sound pressure level noise metric describes steady noise levels, although few noises are constant; therefore, additional noise metrics have been developed to describe noise including:

- **Maximum Sound Level (L_{max})** is the maximum sound level in decibels. For example, when an aircraft is directly overhead.
- **Equivalent Sound Level (L_{eq})** is the average sound level in decibels of a given event or period of time.
- **Sound Exposure Level (SEL)** is a measure of the total energy of an acoustic event. It represents the level of a 1-second long constant sound that would generate the same energy as the actual time-varying noise event such as an aircraft overflight. SEL provides a measure of the net effect of a single acoustic event, but it does not directly represent the sound level at any given time.
- **Day-night Sound Level (DNL)** is the average sound energy in a 24-hour period with a 10 dB penalty added to the nighttime levels. Because of the potential to be particularly intrusive, noise events occurring between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. are assessed a 10 dB penalty when calculating DNL. DNL is a useful descriptor for aircraft noise because: (1) it averages ongoing yet intermittent noise, and (2) it measures total sound energy over a

24-hour period. DNL provides a measure of the overall acoustical environment, but as with SEL, it does not directly represent the sound level at any given time.

- **Peak Sound Level (dBP)** is the maximum instantaneous sound level that occurs during an acoustic event. The peak noise levels provide the absolute maximum sound level for an individual acoustical event, not an average over several events or over a period of time. Although not a good descriptor of the overall noise environment, peak levels relate well to the level of concern and possibility of complaints among people after an individual impulsive noise event.

3.4.2 Regulatory Overview

The Noise Control Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-574) directs federal agencies to comply with applicable federal, state, and local noise control regulations. Aircraft and military training activities are specifically exempt from the act. In 1974, USEPA provided information suggesting continuous and long-term noise levels in excess of DNL 65 dBA are normally unacceptable for noise-sensitive land uses such as residences, schools, churches, and hospitals. Both the City of Boise and Ada County maintain noise ordinances, but neither set strict not-to-exceed sound levels. The State of Idaho does not maintain a state-wide noise regulation. There are no regulations directly applicable to any components of the Proposed Action.

3.4.2.1 Military Noise Environment and Land Use Compatibility

The military noise environment typically consists primarily of three types of noise: transportation noise from aircraft and vehicles, noise from firing at small-arms ranges, and impulsive noise from large-caliber weapons firing and demolition operations. AR 200-1 defines recommended noise limits from ARNG activities for established uses of land with respect to environmental noise (see **Table 3-4**). Three noise zones are defined in the regulation:

- Noise Zone I: Relatively quiet noise environment. Acceptable for housing, schools, medical facilities, and other noise-sensitive land uses.
- Noise Zone II: Moderately loud noise environment. Normally not recommended for housing, schools, medical facilities, and other noise-sensitive land uses.
- Noise Zone III: Loud noise environment. Not recommended for housing, schools, medical facilities, and other noise-sensitive land uses.

Table 3-4. Noise Limits and Noise Zones for Land Use Planning

Noise Zone	General Level of Noise	Small-Arms (dBP)	Aircraft (ADNL)	Large-Caliber Weapons and Demolition (CDNL)	Recommended Uses
I	Low	< 87 dBP	< 65 dBA	< 62 dBC	noise-sensitive land uses acceptable
II	Moderate	87–104 dBP	65–75 dBA	62–70 dBC	noise-sensitive land uses normally not recommended
III	High	> 104 dBP	> 75 dBA	> 70 dBC	noise-sensitive land uses not recommended

Source: DA 2007

Table Key: ADNL= A- weighted day night sound level; CDNL = C-weighted day night sound level; dBC = decibels relative to the carrier

3.4.2.2 Potential for Complaints Regarding Large-Caliber Weapons and Demolition Noise

The use of explosives and large-caliber weapons are common causes of complaints among people living near military installations. Community annoyance due to noise is generally assessed by averaging levels over a protracted period using DNL. However, this approach can be misleading because it does not assess community noise effects due to relatively infrequent, yet loud, impulsive noise events. For example, for a demolition range at which several hundred charges are detonated each year, peak sound levels can exceed 140 dB in areas where annual DNL values indicate that noise levels are recommended (i.e., within Noise Zone I) for residential land use. Peak noise contours provide the absolute maximum sound level for the loudest acoustical event, not an average over several events or over a period of time like the DNL. Although not a good descriptor of the overall noise environment like the DNL, peak levels better indicate the possibility of complaints among people living near the boundary of an installation after an individual event. **Table 3-5** outlines risk of noise complaints guidelines using peak noise levels for impulsive noise.

Table 3-5. Risk of Noise Complaints by Level of Noise

Risk of Noise Complaints	General Description of Individual Demolition Event	Large-caliber Weapons and Demolition (dBP)
Low	Audible and distant	< 115 dBP
Medium	Clearly audible	115–130 dBP
High	Loud	130–140 dBP

Source: DA 2007

3.4.3 Noise ROI

The ROI for noise analysis in this EA includes Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, the OCTC, and the areas immediately bordering the OCTC out to a distance of 3 miles from the shared OCTC border. This ROI was based upon the size and extent of the ARNG's proposed developments and training operations and the U.S. Army Public Health Command's (USAPHC's) 2019 noise analysis addressing the proposed modernization of military operations on the OCTC (USAPHC 2019).

3.4.4 Existing Conditions

3.4.4.1 Gowen Field

IDARNG's Boise AASF is located at Gowen Field on the Boise Airport property. The predominant noise sources on Gowen Field include civilian and multi-branch military flight operations out of the joint airfield with the Boise Airport. Highway vehicular traffic and noise from interspersed construction projects throughout the nearby communities are also common. Over 165,000 annual commercial and general aviation air operations dominate the noise environment at the airport. IDARNG operations from Gowen Field make up a very small percentage of overall Boise Airport activity and do not contribute appreciably to the overall noise at the airport.

(USACHPPM 2006). The Boise AASF is located within the 70 ADNL or Noise Zone II for the Boise Airport (City of Boise 2015).

The IDARNG aircraft stationed and supported at the Boise AASF include the UH-60 Blackhawk and UH-72 Lakota helicopters. In addition, other transient Army, Air National Guard, Marine Corps, and Air Force aircraft utilize the facilities at Gowen Field. Studies (Rylander 1974, Rylander 1988) have found that a good predictor of annoyance for facilities with 50 to 200 operations per day, such as the AASF, is the maximum level of the noisiest events. The maximum noise levels for U.S. Army aircraft are listed in **Table 3-6** (USAF 2018). These maximum levels are compared with the levels listed in **Table 3-7** to determine the percent of the population highly annoyed. While noise levels may be lower at flight tracks with fewer than 50 operations per day, it is a tool in providing some indication of the percent of people who might be annoyed by overall aircraft operations at Gowen Field. Notably, as indicated above, although individual overflights may annoy some individuals, IDARNG operations from Gowen Field make up a very small percentage of overall Boise Airport activity and do not contribute appreciably to the overall noise at the airport (USACHPPM 2006).

Table 3-6. Maximum Noise Levels of Aircraft

Slant Distance (Feet AGL)	Maximum Noise Level (dBA)								
	Gowen Field Residential Aircraft			Gowen Field Transient Aircraft					
	IDARNG UH-60	IDARNG UH-72	ID Air National Guard A-10	USMC AH-1	Army AH-64	Army CH-47D	Army OH-58D	USAF UH-1	USAF F-15
200	91	91	109	93	92	98	89	91	97
500	83	83	100	85	83	89	81	83	89
1,000	76	76	92	79	77	83	74	76	82
2,000	69	70	82	72	70	77	67	70	74
5,000	58	60	68	61	59	67	56	60	63
10,000	48	52	58	52	50	59	47	52	53

Source: USAF 2018

Table 3-7. Percentage of Population Highly Annoyed From Aircraft

Maximum Noise Level (dBA)	Percentage Highly Annoyed
70	5
75	13
80	20
85	28
90	35

Sources: Rylander 1974, Rylander 1988

The IDARNG Statewide Operational Noise Management Plan (SONMP) is the primary tool ARNG uses to analyze noise impacts and land use compatibility on and around IDARNG facilities (USACHPPM 2006). The SONMP includes noise contour footprints associated with operations taking into account both location and intensity. Management practices are then implemented to isolate and minimize noise based on findings within the SONMP (USACHPPM

2006). As outlined in the SONMP, except when necessary for takeoff or landing, no person may operate an aircraft below the following altitudes:

- Over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open air assembly of persons, an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft.
- An altitude of 500 feet above the surface, except over open water or sparsely populated areas. In those cases, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure.

3.4.4.2 Cantonment Area

In the Cantonment Area, the predominant noise sources include railhead operations, aircraft flight operations, and operational noise from firing operations being conducted on the OCTC. Existing noise levels (L_{eq} and DNL) without military training activities were estimated for the surrounding areas using the techniques specified in the American National Standard *Quantities and Procedures for Description and Measurement of Environmental Sound Part 3: Short-term measurements with an observer present*. **Table 3-8** outlines the land use category and the estimated background noise levels without military training activities within the Cantonment Area and for nearby areas (American National Standards Institute [ANSI] 2013). Noise levels from military training activities are outlined in **Section 3.4.2.1**. The areas surrounding the Cantonment Area are remote and could have background levels substantially lower than those shown, particularly at night.

Table 3-8. Estimated Background Noise Levels

Example Land Use Category	DNL	Leq (dBA)	
		Daytime	Nighttime
Rural or remote areas	<49	<48	<42
	49	48	42
Quiet suburban residential	52	53	47
	52	53	47
Quiet commercial/ industrial	58	58	52
	59	60	54

Source: ANSI 2013

3.4.4.3 OCTC

On the OCTC, baseline noise is predominantly generated by live fire activity, tank and vehicular transport, and aircraft overflights. The noise generated by military aircraft and weapons extends to areas outside the installation boundary. Though not subject to local noise policies or ordinances, the OCTC has no existing activities that conflict with local standards and guidelines related to human health and safety.

Large Caliber Weapons and Demolition Noise. Large-caliber weapons and demolitions are assessed using large-caliber and demolition noise levels (CDNL) for land use planning and peak levels to evaluate the potential for concern and complaint. Existing CDNL noise contours are shown in **Figure 3.2**. CDNL Noise Zone III extends into small area of state and private land

along the eastern boundary. Noise Zone II extends beyond the OCTC eastern and western boundaries in a combination of federal, state and private lands. Much of the area affected by the training noise is undeveloped, scattered residential and agricultural land use. Noise Zones III and II near Range 10 extend approximately 0.4 and 0.8 mile, respectively, beyond the eastern boundary. Noise Zone II extends approximately 0.8 and 0.7 mile beyond the southern and western boundaries, respectively.

Within Noise Zones II and III, the land is primarily used for agricultural purposes and does not contain any noise-sensitive land uses. During periods of intense training, the short-term CDNL at a particular range would be larger than that depicted here. Such periods of intense activity can lead to complaints, particularly when artillery firing takes place at night when people are more likely to be at home and background noise levels are lower. However, the remote location of OCTC coupled with the scarcity of nearby residences has resulted in few noise complaints¹⁰ (USACHPPM 2006).

The existing large-caliber weapons peak level contours are shown in **Figure 3.3**. Under unfavorable weather conditions¹¹, peak sound levels between 115 and 130 dB extend beyond the boundary approximately 1.9 miles to the east, south, and west. Peak sound levels above 130 dB extend beyond the boundary less than 0.7 mile. The contours indicate that a moderate probability of receiving noise complaints exists for these areas; however, there are no noise-sensitive receptors in either area. Although the activity may be audible in the homes in the Northwest Harper Road and South Cinder Butte Road areas, the peak noise levels indicate a low risk of complaints.

Maneuvers Training Noise. Military vehicle maneuvers occur along unpaved roads and various off-road areas within Area C, Area D, and the Small Arms Impact Area. Vehicle maneuvers occur during both daytime and nighttime hours, making vehicle noise an issue of concern for maneuver training close to the installation boundaries. Maximum sound level for Army tactical vehicles at both 50 and 100 feet is outlined in **Table 3-9**. Military vehicles, dominated by HMMWVs, light trucks, and medium trucks, produce noise levels comparable to construction equipment and heavy trucks, and are less noisy than other sources of military noise such as aircraft, small arms, and heavy artillery.

¹⁰ IDARNG provides a hotline number on the installation's website (<https://imd.idaho.gov/contact-us/>) that members of the public can call with inquiries or to express concerns. Since 2012, IDARNG has received ten complaint calls from nearby community members including seven noise complaints, two inquiries about existing and future operations, and one report of a damage to personal property (IDARNG 2019a). Of the seven noise complaints received, six were related to firing operations conducted on the ranges, and one noise complaint could not be attributed to IDARNG training activities.

¹¹ A noise modeling analysis determines the noise contours using the noise-generating operational parameters that an action may involve as well as "unfavorable weather conditions", which include wind direction, temperature, and air pressure that enhance sound propagation away from its source toward populated areas. This method provides a reasonably conservative assessment of noise impacts in an area.

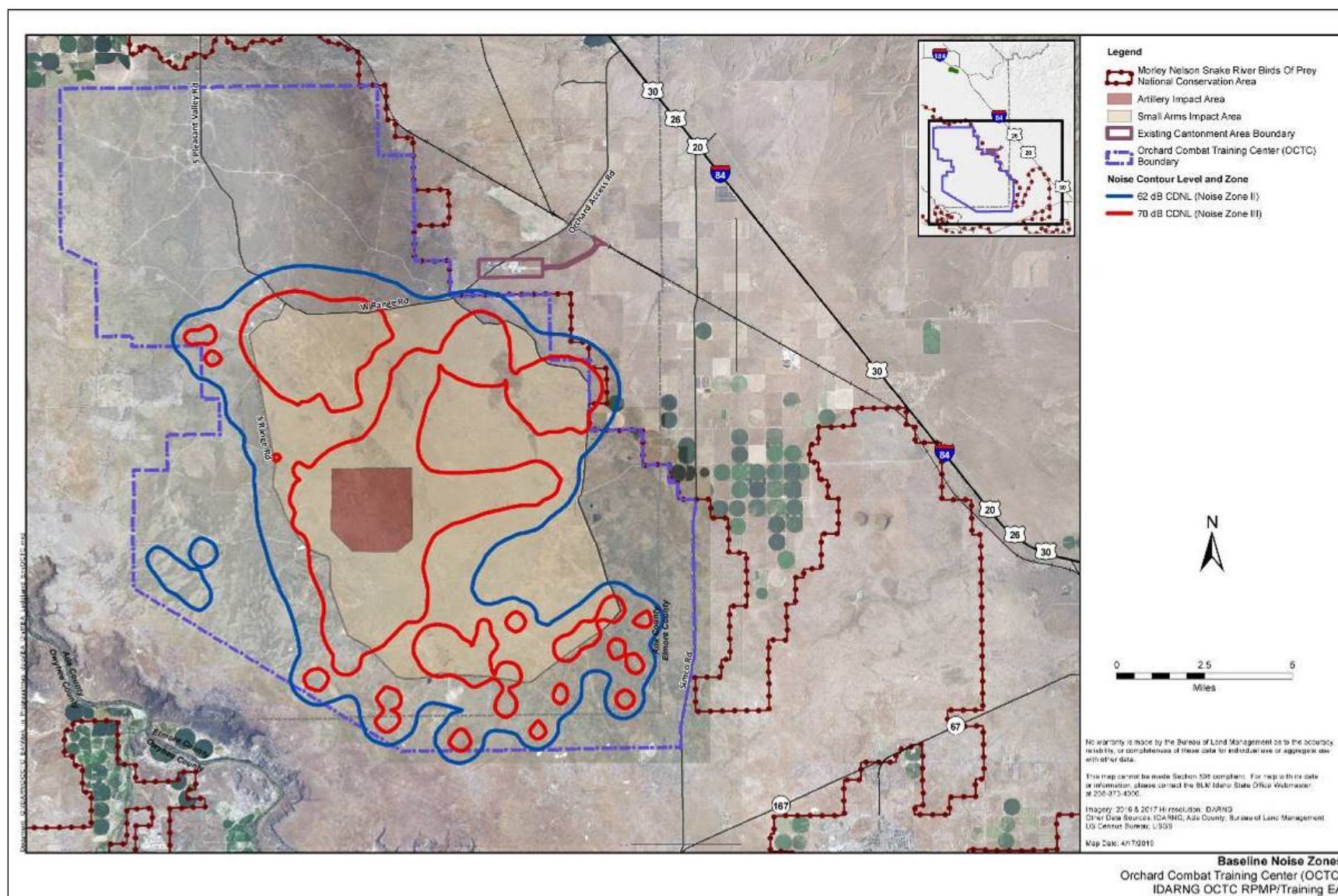


Figure 3.2. Existing Large-Caliber and Demolition CDNL Noise Contours

Because vehicle speeds are low during most maneuver activities and vehicles tend to be relatively dispersed during off-road maneuvers, maneuver activities produce hourly average noise levels of less than 55 dBA at a distance of about 500 feet, with brief peaks of 65 to 70 dBA when an individual vehicle was driven nearby. These noise levels would be more intrusive during nighttime hours. There are very few (if any) residences or other noise sensitive areas within 500 feet of the installation boundary near Area C, Area D, or the Small Arms Impact Area. As such, noise from maneuvers activities do not cause appreciable effects off-post, as the area adjacent to the OCTC in these areas is primarily undeveloped or agricultural land.

Table 3-9. Maximum Sound Levels for Army Tactical Vehicles

Equipment Type	Maximum Sound Level (dBA)	
	50 feet	100 feet
Howitzer M109	95.6	91.6
D-8K Bulldozer	92.2	86.5
M548 Cargo Carrier	85.0	79.0
M88 Recovery Vehicle	96.8	91.5
M113 Personnel Carrier	86.8	81.9
ABLV Bridge Launcher	95.9	90.5
M1A1 Tank	89.4	84.9

Source: ARNG 2000

Aircraft and UAS Noise. Although there are no aircraft stationed at OCTC, air operations are conducted on OCTC by Army helicopters similar to those at Gowen Field (OH-58, UH-60, CH-47, AH-1W and AH-64). Because of the low number of aircraft operations at OCTC, there is not enough aircraft noise to generate noise contours greater than 65 dBA DNL; however, there is the potential that aircraft could cause a noise complaint while entering or exiting the OCTC airspace (USACHPPM 2006). These effects are similar in nature and overall level to those from individual overflights near the AASF at Gowen Field, but take place in and around the OCTC which is surrounded by primarily undeveloped, rural, and agricultural areas. Pilots specifically avoid operating directly over homes while flying to and from OCTC.

Existing noise associated with the operation of UASs is comparable to small armored ground vehicles such as HMMVWs and medium trucks in the field. Because of their relatively low levels of noise, they are not commonly accounted for in determining the effects of training activity noise on communities and individuals living adjacent to Army installations. In general, UASs are quieter, normally operate at much higher altitudes, and are used less frequently than helicopters. Individual UAS overflights generate distinct acoustical events that have minor effects when close to the ground.

The Shadow UAS is often used at OCTC for tactical reconnaissance during ground maneuver training has a noise level of approximately 85 dBA at 200 feet during its run up operations. The loudest part of a UAS's landing and takeoff cycle is the run-up before takeoff which was used as a reasonable worst-case for in-flight operations (see **Table 3-10**). Once a UAS reaches approximately 3,000 feet AGL, it no longer can be heard from the ground (Roop 2004). Due to its size and the size of its engine, the RQ-11 Raven is quieter than the Shadow, and is

comparable in loudness to a small piece of yard equipment. Because of the airspace restrictions and their limited levels of noise, no residences, communities, or sensitive noise receptors experience any notable impacts from the existing UAS activities at the installation.

Table 3-10. Maximum Sound Level from Shadow UAS

Slant Distance (feet)	Shadow UAS
200	85
500	76
1,000	70
2,000	63
5,000	52
10,000	43

Source: Roop 2004

Table Note: Overall sound level during run-up used as a reasonable worst-case for in-flight operations.

Small Arms Noise. Small arms (small-caliber, 20mm or smaller) ranges are primarily around the perimeter of the impact area. Noise Zone II (>87 dB Peak) and Noise Zone III (>104 dB Peak) are entirely within the OCTC boundary except for an overlap to small agricultural area east of the OCTC. Noise from small arms training is audible in some off-post areas, but is compatible with the surrounding areas (USACHPPM 2006).

3.5 Geology, Topography, and Soils

Issue statement: *How will surface disturbance impact soil erosion?*

3.5.1 Definition of the Resource

The *geologic resources* of an area comprise all soils and bedrock materials. Environmental aspects to be considered include stratigraphy, topography, soils and sediments, engineering properties of the materials, seismic hazards, slope stability, earthworks, mineral resources, unique landforms, and geological conditions that might limit development, influence contaminant distribution and migration, or influence groundwater resources.

Soils refers to the upper layer of unconsolidated material on the surface of the earth that is capable of supporting plant life. For mapping purposes, soils are typically described as series, associations, or complexes as defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Soil series represent the lowest category of the NRCS system of soil taxonomy. Soil series are commonly used to name the dominant or co-dominant soils represented on detailed soil maps, and they provide the most readily available detailed characterization of a soil.

Soil associations and complexes consist of two or more kinds of component soils or soils and miscellaneous areas plus allowable inclusions. Components of soil associations are large enough to be delineated individually at a scale of 1:24,000, and soil complexes consist of components that are too small to be individually delineated at that scale.

Soil surveys present a systematic examination, description, classification, and mapping of soils in an area. Soil surveys are classified according to the kind and intensity of field examination. The National Cooperative Soil Survey is responsible for developing and implementing standards for describing, classifying, mapping, writing, and publishing information about the soils of a specific area and for presenting this information in soil surveys.

Prime farmland refers to soils that have a combination of soil and landscape properties that make them highly suitable for cropland and, therefore, especially valuable for agriculture, such as high inherent fertility, good water-holding capacity, and deep or thick effective rooting zones. Under the Farmland Protection Policy Act, agencies are encouraged to conserve prime or unique farmlands when alternatives are practicable.

Wind erodibility groups predict the susceptibility to wind erosion, and range from 1 (high susceptibility) to 8 (low susceptibility). Although wind erodibility groups were originally designed for cultivated areas, soil disturbance of nearly any kind (e.g. tank maneuvering) can have the same effect of breaking down soil structure to liberate fine fractions and causing erosion (Hess 2015).

The *whole soil erodibility factor* (K-factor) indicates the erodibility of the soil from sheet and rill erosion, modified by the presence of rock fragments. K-factor values range from 0.02 (low) to 0.69 (high). Values less than 0.22 are considered of low risk, 0.23-0.44 is moderate risk, and 0.45 or greater is considered high risk. Although sheet and rill erosion are of limited concern in the project area due to low annual precipitation, severe surface erosion can occur during unusually heavy precipitation events, and developed areas are more susceptible than intact areas.

3.5.2 Regulatory Overview

Applicable Army and other Federal regulations for geologic and soil resources are listed below.

- AR 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement (13 December 2007).
- Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98; 7 USC 4201).
- Energy Independence and Security Act (Public Law 110-140)

Other applicable laws and regulations may include the following:

- Local building codes related to restrictions due to geologic hazards, soil types, or topography that set minimum standards and that vary with the type of structure, its size, shape, and intended use.
- Federal and State laws protecting mineral rights.
- State and local laws regarding protection of geologic resources.
- Applicable Federal and State stormwater management and erosion regulations (i.e., National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirements).
- Federal and State laws protecting wetlands (i.e., hydric soils).

3.5.3 Geology, Topography, and Soils ROI

The ROI for geology, topography, and soils encompasses the boundaries of Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the boundaries of the OCTC. This ROI is primarily based on the size and extent of the ARNG's Proposed Action.

3.5.4 Existing Conditions

The affected environment related to geology and soils is discussed in the following subsections per location:

- Physiography and Topography
- Geology
- Petroleum and Mineral Resources
- Soils

3.5.4.1 Gowen Field

Physiography and Topography. Gowen Field is in the eastern Boise Valley, an incised river valley in the western end of the Snake River Plain. Gowen Field is on the fourth terrace above the Boise River, named Gowen Terrace (Othberg 2015). The topography at Gowen Field gently slopes downward to the west with elevations between 2,820 and 2,860 feet above sea level.

Geology. Gowen Field lies atop Pleistocene and Pliocene gravels that form Gowen Terrace. The gravel of Gowen Terrace layer consists of pebble and cobble gravels poorly sorted within a coarse sand matrix (Othberg 2015, Othberg and Stanford 1992). The gravel layer is up to 13 feet thick, overlies fine-grained Tertiary basin fill, and is mantled with 3 to 7 feet of loess (Othberg and Stanford 1992). According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the area around Boise is at a low to moderate risk for earthquake activity, with a Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA) of 12 percent standard gravity (2 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years) (Petersen et al. 2014). The terrain is relatively level and is not at risk of mass slope failure.

Petroleum and Mineral Resources. No petroleum or mineral resources have been developed at Gowen Field and no such resources are known to occur at the installation (Idaho Geological Survey 2019).

Soils. Soils in the Gowen Field ROI were mapped from the NRCS soil mapping website (NRCS 2019a). A summary and map of the soils found within the Gowen Field ROI are found in **Appendix H**. Soils at Gowen Field consist primarily of Elijah silt loam and Elijah silt loam-Urban land complex, which are both derived from loess (NRCS 2019a). A very small proportion (less than 2 percent) of Tindahay fine sandy loam is also present and is derived from alluvium and/or eolian deposits. These stream terrace soils are well-drained to somewhat excessively drained and have a low to moderate available water capacity (NRCS 2019a). A duripan (silica-cemented hardpan) layer is typically present in Elijah soils between 20 and 40 inches below the ground surface. NRCS estimates depth to the water table is more than 80 inches at Gowen Field (NRCS 2019a). Nearby monitoring wells show depth to first groundwater in the Gowen Field

area to be greater than 200 feet below ground surface (City of Boise 2019). Additional details on groundwater resources at Gowen Field are provided in **Section 3.4.4.1**.

The soils at Gowen Field are moderately to highly susceptible to wind and water erosion. Wind erodibility groups for these soils fall between 3 and 5, and K-factors for the soils are between 0.24 (moderately susceptible) and 0.49 (highly susceptible). Although some soils at Gowen Field are considered prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance if irrigated, the area is not irrigated or available for agriculture.

3.5.4.2 Cantonment Area

Physiography and Topography. The Cantonment Area is within the 20,000-square-mile physiographic feature known as the Snake River Plain. Topography in this region is bedrock-controlled and characterized by gentle terrain with basalt ridges, buttes, and cinder cones (Collett 1980). The topography within the Cantonment ROI is relatively level, with elevations between 3,130 and 3,200 feet above sea level. An intermittent drainage flows northeasterly from the southwest corner of the Cantonment Area.

Geology. The geology in the Cantonment Area consists primarily of Pleistocene volcanic basalts interbedded and underlain at depth by Tertiary and Quaternary “Idaho Group” lacustrine sediments with phreatomagmatic materials (Servais 2005, as cited in Hess 2015). These basalts are typically overlain with 3 to 7 feet of loess. The railhead area extends into an area of quaternary fluvial and lake sediments. According to the USGS, the area around the Cantonment Area is at a low to moderate risk for earthquake activity, with a PGA of 12 percent standard gravity (2 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years) (Petersen et al. 2014). The terrain is relatively level and is not at risk of mass slope failure.

Petroleum and Mineral Resources. The Cantonment Area does not contain any known substantial mineral resources.

Soils. Soils in the Cantonment Area were mapped from the NRCS soil mapping website (NRCS 2019b). A summary and map of the soils found within Cantonment Area are found in

Appendix H. The most common soil types in the Cantonment Area are Power-Purdam complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Chilcott-Purdam-Bowns complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes; and Chilcott-Catchell-Chardoton complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes (NRCS 2019b). Together these soils comprise 81.7 percent of the Cantonment Area. These loam and silt loam soil types are found primarily on lava plains and have parent material of mixed alluvium, loess, and/or colluvium. These soils are well-drained and available water capacity is sometimes low, but generally moderate to high (NRCS 2019b). NRCS estimates depth to the water table is more than 80 inches (NRCS 2019b). The MATES municipal water well is 479 feet below ground surface. Depth to duripan or bedrock is typically 20 to 80 inches or more.

Soils along the railroad spurs are slightly different from the remainder of the Cantonment Area. These soils consist of the Lankbush-Jenness complex, 1 to 3 percent slopes; Chardonton-Xeric Natrargids silty clay loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes; and Lankbush-Chardoton complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes (NRCS 2019b). These lava plains soils are a mix of silt loam, sandy loam, and silty clay loam and have alluvium parent material. These soils are well-drained and have very

low to high water capacity. These soils are generally deeper than the rest of the Cantonment Area with more than 80 inches to restrictive features. The depth to the water table is also more than 80 inches (NRCS 2019b). Similar to Gowen Field, depth to groundwater in Cantonment Area is expected to be greater between 300-500 feet below ground surface (see **Section 3.4.4.2**).

Soils in the Cantonment Area have moderate to high susceptibility to water erosion, with K-factor values between 0.28 and 0.55. Soils also have moderate to high susceptibility to wind erosion, with wind erodibility group values between 3 and 6. Although NRCS (NRCS 2019b) identifies some of the soil series at the Cantonment Area as prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance if irrigated, none of these soils are irrigated or have been irrigated in the recent past. Further, a portion of the Cantonment Area has been heavily developed and soils in developed areas are not considered prime farmland.

3.5.4.3 OCTC

Physiology and Topography. The OCTC is within the Snake River Plain, with elevations ranging from 2,860 to 3,500 feet above mean sea level. Basalt ridges, buttes, cinder cones, and lava tubes occur throughout the low rolling hills of the OCTC. Three significant cinder cones and buttes occur within the OCTC: Christmas Mountain, Big Foot Butte, and Cinder Cone Butte. Christmas Mountain and Big Foot buttes are on the western side of the OCTC, and Cinder Cone Butte is near the eastern boundary (IDARNG 2013a). Lava pressure ridges, along with flow variations and edges, created numerous smaller hills. Several lava caves are also present (Russell 1902 as cited in IDARNG 2013a). The Snake River Canyon, a deep gorge bisecting the Snake River Plain for more than 500 miles, is located 2.4 to 5.0 miles from the southern and western boundaries of the OCTC.

Geology. As with the Cantonment Area, the OCTC is dominated by Pleistocene volcanics interbedded and underlain at depth by Tertiary and Quaternary “Idaho Group” lacustrine sediments with phreatomagmatic materials. Duripans and Pleistocene basalt occur commonly at depths of less than 60 inches (Harkness 2000, as cited in Hess 2015). Basalt outcrops occur throughout the area.

The OCTC is at low risk for geologic hazards. There are no known active landslide or slump features within the OCTC. Mass failure including landslides and slumping is a function of slope gradient, soil water content, and soil depth. Slopes within the OCTC are commonly less than 15 percent and, considering the very arid conditions, not at risk of mass slope failure (Hess 2015). Faulting on the Snake River Plain usually parallels the east-west axis of the plain. However, there is no evidence of major faulting on the OCTC (CH2M HILL 1988, as cited in IDARNG 2013a). According to the USGS, the area around the OCTC is at a low to moderate risk for earthquake activity, with a PGA of 10 to 12 percent standard gravity (2 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years) (Petersen et al. 2014).

Petroleum and Mineral Resources. The OCTC has no known substantial mineral resources. Formerly, four cinder quarries located on the OCTC were used by the IDARNG to obtain material for road surfacing and range firing pads. Two of these quarries are depleted and have

been reclaimed. Cinder Cone Butte and one small quarry south of it are still available for use. However, the quality of cinders available has limited usefulness for roadbeds in the OCTC.

Soils. Soils in the OCTC were mapped from the NRCS soil mapping website (NRCS 2019c, NRCS 2019d). A summary and map of the soils found within the project area is provided in **Appendix H**. Most soils in the area formed in loess and/or volcanic ash over alluvium or colluvium (NRCS 2019c, NRCS 2019d). Duripans and Pleistocene basalt commonly are at a depth of less than 60 inches. The soils on cinder cones formed in loess and volcanic ash mixed with cinders (Harkness 2000 as cited in IDARNG 2013a). Soils are principally loam and silt loam texture, with clayey or sandy soils sometimes found with depth. The most common soil types in the OCTC are the Chilcott-Catchell-Chardoton complex, the Tadpole-Corder complex, and the Chilcott-Catchell-Banbury complex, which together comprise 48 percent of the OCTC (NRCS 2019c, NRCS 2019d). These soils are well-drained and most components have very low to moderate water capacity. Typical depths are 10 to 40 inches to duripan or bedrock. However, the Chardoton and Tadpole component soils can reach depths exceeding 80 inches to bedrock and have a high water capacity.

The majority of soils in the OCTC are highly susceptible to sheet and rill erosion with K-factor values typically 0.49 or higher (NRCS 2019c, NRCS 2019d). Although sheet and rill erosion are of limited concern in the project area due to low annual precipitation, significant surface erosion can occur during unusually heavy precipitation events. Resistance to sheet and rill erosion can be further reduced by fire, loss of vegetative cover, habitat conversion to invasive annual grasses and forbs, and loss of biological soil crusts (thin layer on soil surface formed by living organisms and their by-products, creating a crust of soil particles bound together by organic materials).

The majority of soils in the OCTC are moderately resistant to wind erosion with wind erodibility groups of 5 and 6. A very small percentage of OCTC soils (<0.1) has a wind erodibility group of 3 (NRCS 2019c, NRCS 2019d). However, most of the soils in the OCTC ROI are susceptible to forming fugitive dust and are likely to become suspended in air if disturbed. As with sheet and rill erosion, susceptibility to wind erosion and formation of fugitive dust can be increased by activities such as fire, loss of vegetative cover, mechanical disturbance, and habitat conversion to invasive annual grasses and forbs that break down soil aggregates and the biological soil crusts that form in the OCTC. Biological soil crusts enhance soil stability, moisture retention, and site fertility. Decline of biological soil crusts can lead to increased areas of bare ground, erosion, and susceptibility to invasive annuals. Biological soil crusts are described as 'severely depleted' in the NCA (USDI BLM 2008).

Although silt-dominated soils such as those in the OCTC tend to show stability and strength when dry, the soils of the OCTC are relatively unconsolidated and are structurally rather weak when dry (Collett 1980 as cited in IDARNG 2013a). With a moisture content above 15 percent, there is a pronounced decrease in supporting capacity, to as low as 0.25 tons per square foot (Spangler and Handy 1982 as cited in IDARNG 2013a). Most soils in the north half of the OCTC have low resistance to compaction, whereas most soils in the south half have moderate resistance to compaction (NRCS 2019c, NRCS 2019d).

The OCTC does not contain prime farmland. Although NRCS (NRCS 2019c, NRCS 2019d) identifies some of the soil series in the OCTC as prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance if irrigated, none of these soils are irrigated or have been irrigated historically.

3.6 Water Resources

Issue statement: *Will the project impact the water quality for groundwater or surface waters (e.g., streams or rivers)?*

3.6.1 Definition of the Resource

Water resources are natural and man-made sources of water available for use by and for the benefit of humans and the environment. Hydrology concerns the distribution of water resources through the processes of evapotranspiration, atmospheric transport, precipitation, surface runoff and flow, and subsurface flow. Hydrology is affected by climatic factors such as temperature, wind direction and speed, topography, and soil and geologic properties.

3.6.2 Regulatory Overview

Groundwater. Groundwater is water that flows or seeps downward and saturates soil or rock, supplying springs and wells. Groundwater quality and quantity are federally regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 USC 300[f] et seq., as amended). Idaho holds the legal authority to adopt ambient groundwater quality standards and administer the Ground Water Quality Plan and to promulgate rules as necessary to administer such programs per Idaho Administrative Code 58.01.11, the Groundwater Quality Rule.

The Idaho Groundwater Act (Idaho Code Title 42, Chapter 233a and 233b, as amended) provides the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) the authority to designate Groundwater Management Areas (GWMA) and Critical Groundwater Areas (CGWAs). Water right applications within a CGWA may be denied and users may need to report water use and diversion information (IDWR 1999). A GWMA is an area of a groundwater basin that may be approaching CGWA conditions. Water rights applications within a GWMA may be approved only after confirmation that prior water rights will not be injured (IDWR 1999).

Nitrate is the most common contaminant in Idaho's ground water and can cause health problems if consumed at concentrations exceeding drinking water quality standards. To protect public health and improve groundwater quality, IDEQ maintains a list of nitrate priority areas. An area is considered a nitrate priority area if 25 percent of the wells sampled in the area have at least 5 mg/L, which is one-half the drinking water standard for nitrate, 10 mg/L. IDEQ assists in developing management strategies related to the land uses in nitrate priority areas (IDEQ 2014).

Surface Water. Surface water resources generally consist of wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams. Surface water is important for its contributions to the economic, ecological, recreational, and human health of a community or locale.

IDARNG and the BLM are required to comply with all federal, state, interstate, and local requirements, administrative authority, as well as process and sanctions with respect to the control and abatement of water pollution.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS) are defined under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended, as (1) traditional navigable waters, (2) wetlands adjacent to navigable waters, (3) non-navigable tributaries of traditional navigable waters that are relatively permanent where the tributaries typically flow perennially or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months), and (4) wetlands that directly abut such tributaries.

The IDEQ implements the CWA in Idaho via Idaho Administrative Code 58.01.02—*Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements* (IDEQ 1996).

IDEQ assigns designated uses to specific water bodies, based on Idaho water quality rules and Section 305(b) of the CWA. Section 305(b) requires that each state conduct water quality surveys to determine a water body's overall health, including whether or not basic uses are being met. The CWA requires Idaho to recognize existing uses, which are uses that are or were actually attained in a water body on or after November 28, 1975, whether or not they are designated uses. If a water body does not have designated uses, the water body has presumed use protection, which are cold water aquatic life and contact recreation.

Waters are designated as impaired if they do not meet federal water quality criteria and are placed on the §303(d) list. Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to develop water quality improvement plans, a total maximum daily load (TMDL), for waters failing to support their beneficial uses due to identifiable and quantifiable pollutants. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a substance that can be assimilated by a water body without causing impairment. Idaho's most recently approved list of impaired waters is included in the 2016 Integrated Report (IDEQ 2016b). IDEQ assesses TMDLs on a subbasin level, addressing pollutants and water bodies within a hydrologic subbasin in a single document. The subbasins are based on USGS fourth-field hydraulic unit codes (HUC).

The CWA (33 USC 1251, et seq., as amended) facilitates the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of surface waters through the NPDES program, which establishes federal limits on the amounts of specific pollutants that can be discharged to bodies of water. The NPDES regulates the discharge of point source (i.e., end of pipe) and nonpoint sources (i.e., stormwater) of water pollution.

USEPA issued a final rule for the CWA concerning technology-based Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Construction and Development point source category. All NPDES stormwater permits issued by USEPA or states must incorporate requirements established in the final rule. As of February 1, 2010, all new construction (or demolition) sites that disturb 1 or more acres of land are required to meet the non-numeric effluent limitations, and effective erosion and sedimentation controls must be designed, installed, and maintained.

Stormwater. The USEPA currently administers the federal Construction General Permit (CGP) in Idaho for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities from land disturbing activities (clearing, grading or excavation), or where construction materials or equipment are located. The USEPA expects that compliance with permit conditions will result in stormwater discharges that adhere to federal water quality standards. This permit authorizes stormwater discharge construction site runoff where the following conditions are met:

- Land disturbing activities are equal to, or greater than 1 acre of total land.
- Construction activities involve less than 1 acre of total land area, but are part of a common plan of development or sale equal to or greater than 1 acre of land.
- The project is located in an areas where USEPA is the permitting authority.
- As designated by USEPA, stormwater discharges include: stormwater runoff, snowmelt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage associated with construction activities.

USEPA oversees the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for industrial stormwater discharge in Idaho. In addition, construction or demolition that necessitates a permit also requires preparation of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to discharge stormwater and a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) during construction.

Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) (42 USC 17094) established new stormwater design requirements for federal construction projects that disturb a footprint greater than 5,000 SF. These regulations have been incorporated into DoD UFC 3-210-15, *Low Impact Development* (DoD 2016). Under these requirements, designers must maintain or restore predevelopment conditions for temperature, rate, volume, and duration of flow to the maximum extent technically feasible. Modeling to determine predevelopment hydrology must include site-specific factors such as soil type, ground cover, and ground slope. Site design would incorporate stormwater retention and reuse technologies such as bioretention areas, permeable pavements, cisterns/recycling, and green roofs to the maximum extent technically feasible. Post-construction analyses would be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the as-built stormwater reduction features.

Floodplains. Floodplains are areas of low-level ground present along rivers, stream channels, large wetlands, or coastal waters. Floodplain ecosystem functions include natural moderation of floods, flood storage and conveyance, groundwater recharge, and nutrient cycling. Floodplains also help to maintain water quality and are often habitat for a diverse array of plants and animals. In their natural vegetated state, floodplains slow the rate at which the incoming overland flow reaches the main water body.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) protects floodplain under EO 11988, *Floodplain Management*. FEMA defines the 100-year floodplain as the area that has a 1 percent chance of inundation by a flood event in a given year. FEMA partners with tribal nations, states, and communities through the Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning program to identify flood hazards, assess flood risks, and provide accurate data to guide stakeholders in taking effective mitigation actions that result in safer and more resilient communities. These data are

incorporated into Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which support the National Flood Insurance Program and provide the basis for community floodplain management regulations and flood insurance requirements.

Ada County Development Services administer floodplain development permitting for actions in Ada County floodplains that are beyond the Boise City Limits. According to the Ada County Zoning Ordinance for Flood Hazard Overlay Districts (Ada County Code 8-3F) a no rise certificate and a floodplain permit may be necessary before commencing construction.

Certain facilities, such as information technology centers, inherently pose too great a risk to be in either the 100- or 500-year floodplain. Federal, state, and local regulations often limit floodplain development to passive uses, such as recreational and preservation activities, to reduce the risks to human health and safety.

Wetlands. Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated with ground or surface water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil conditions. They are important natural systems support a number of important biological functions, some of which include water quality improvement, groundwater recharge, nutrient cycling, wildlife habitat provision, and erosion protection. Wetlands are protected as a subset of “the waters of the United States” under Section 404 of the CWA. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas” (33 CFR § 328). Section 401 of the CWA gives states and regional boards the authority to regulate through water quality certification any proposed federally permitted activity that could result in a discharge to water bodies, including wetlands. The state may issue certification with or without conditions, or deny certification for activities that might result in a discharge to water bodies. EO 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, requires that Federal agencies avoid new construction in wetlands, unless the agency finds there is no practicable alternative to construction in the wetland, and the proposed construction incorporates all possible measures to limit harm to the wetland. Additionally, wetlands in Idaho are protected by the IDEQ, which sets a state goal of no overall net-loss of nontidal wetlands acreage and functions. IDFG is the lead state agency for addressing wetland issues and management. The USACE, IDWR, and IDL established a joint process for activities impacting jurisdictional waterways that require review and/or approval of both the USACE and State of Idaho to ensure compliance with CWA Section 401 and Section 404 compliance.

3.6.3 Water Resources ROI

The ROI for water resources includes groundwater, surface water, and floodplains within the boundaries of Gowen Field the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC. The ROI of potential effects to water quality or groundwater may extend beyond the boundaries of these installations.

3.6.4 Existing Conditions

3.6.4.1 Gowen Field

Groundwater. Gowen Field is located within the Boise Front GWMA (IDWR 1999). Approximately 17 groundwater wells are documented within the Gowen Field installation (IDWR

2018). A shallow groundwater aquifer at a depth of 150 to 190 feet below ground surface (ft bgs) and a deep groundwater aquifer at a depth of 350 ft bgs underlie Gowen Field (City of Boise 2010). The Boise River likely recharges the deep aquifer while irrigation is believed to recharge the shallow aquifer (City of Boise 2010).

Surface Water and Wetlands. Wetlands and other WOTUS are present at Gowen Field (see **Figure 3.4**). A central drainage ditch crosses the installation from east to west. Upstream of Gowen Field, the central drainage ditch crosses the southeast corner of the Boise Air Terminal (USGS 2016). Downstream of Gowen Field, the central ditch continues westward, discharges into a basin located northwest of the intersection of Dorman Street and Kennedy Street, and then into a series of basins in the northwest corner of the intersection of Gowen and Orchard roads. These basins drain to Fivemile Creek, which outlets to Fifteen Mile Creek and eventually Boise River (USGS 2016). These sections of the central ditch and Fivemile Creek are each categorized as intermittent streams (USGS 2016).

The Ada County water feature data layer (Ada County 2000) identifies the same two streams at Gowen Field, the central ditch and Fivemile Creek. In addition, the Ada County water feature layer identifies a third canal located between the southern extent of Gowen Field and Gowen Road, as well as one small pond in the same location. The receiving waters, if any, of the third canal and pond are unknown. Gowen Field is located within the Boise River (Lower) Subbasin (HUC 17050114), and specifically the Fivemile Subbasin. The beneficial uses for the central ditch and Fivemile Creek are designated for cold water aquatic life and recreational uses. IDEQ categorizes the central ditch and Fivemile Creek as not supporting for secondary contact recreation (IDEQ 2015).

The Lower Boise River TMDLs for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and sedimentation/siltation regulate each of these tributaries to the Lower Boise River (USEPA 2015). **Table 3-11** summarizes the water quality problems of each stream within Gowen Field

A query of the USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) identified potential two riverine wetlands within Gowen Field (USFWS 2017). One riverine wetland is associated with the Gowen Field central ditch. The second mapped wetland is associated with Fivemile Creek. Downstream of Gowen Field, the NWI identifies four freshwater pond wetlands that correspond to the receiving basins of the central canal.

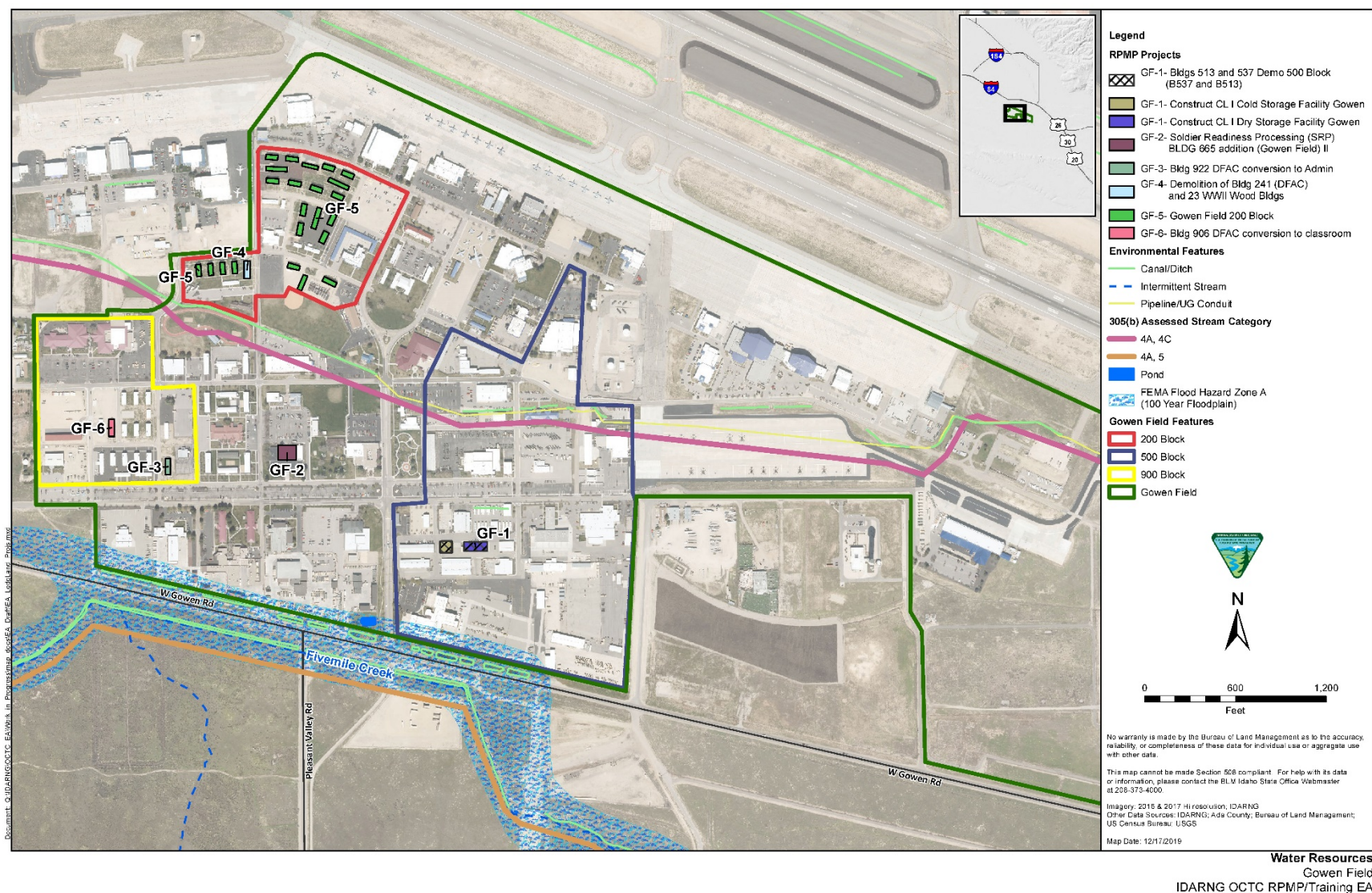


Figure 3.4. Surface Water Features at Gowen Field

Table 3-11. Gowen Field Surface Water Summary

Water Body	NHD Category ¹	Beneficial Use(s)	Supporting Status	305b Category Code ²
Unnamed Tributary to Fivemile Creek (Central Ditch)	Intermittent	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting; Low flow alterations	4c
		Secondary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting; <i>E. coli</i>	4a
Fivemile Creek	Intermittent	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not supporting, 303d listed; Unknown cause, Chlorpyrifos, and Sedimentation and Siltation	5, 4a
		Secondary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting; <i>E. coli</i>	4a

Table notes:

1 – NHD = National Hydrology Dataset

2 – The 305B category code is as follows:

Category 1 – Waters wholly within a designated wilderness or wholly within 2008 Idaho's Roadless Rule then Wild Land Recreation and presumed to be fully supporting all beneficial uses.

Category 2 – Waters fully supporting those beneficial uses that have been assessed. Insufficient (or no) data and information available to determine if the remaining uses are attained.

Category 3 – Insufficient data to determine if any beneficial uses are being met.

Category 4 – Waters not supporting one or more beneficial uses, but they do not require development of a total maximum daily load (TMDL). Category 4 waters fall within three subcategories: 4a TMDL completed and approved by EPA; 4b Pollution controls in place and expected to meet water quality standards; and 4c Impairment caused by pollution, not a pollutant

Category 5 – Waters not meeting applicable water quality standards for one or more beneficial uses by one or more pollutants and an EPA approved TMDL is needed; Category 5 waters make up the §303(d) list of impaired waters.

Stormwater. The topography at Gowen Field generally slopes southwest toward Fivemile Creek, which flows from east to west approximately paralleling Gowen Road. Overland flow from the southern portion of Gowen Field flows to several infiltration ponds located between Gowen Field and Gowen Road (IDARNG 2018a). A central drainage ditch with intermittent flow crosses the Installation from east to west.

The IDANG NPDES permit mandates covering areas to limit exposure of stormwater to oil, equipment, materials, or other contaminants. ANG maintains a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan to monitor stormwater discharge, manage stormwater, and comply with the IDEQ NPDES general stormwater discharge permit. Discharge from the majority of the BOI property is authorized by a MSGP for industrial activities stormwater discharge. (City of Boise 2018).

USEPA regulates Industrial stormwater via MSGPs for operations associated with facility names Gowen Field (Army) (IDR050004) and Idaho Army National Guard at Gowen Field (IDR053237) (USEPA 2019e). The Gowen Field (Army) facility (ID050004) is associated with two monitored outfalls, 001 and 002, which eventually discharge to Fivemile Creek (USEPA 2019f).

Floodplains. The FEMA FIRM panels encompassing Gowen Field indicate two flood zone categories across the installation (FIRM panels 16001C0286H and 16001C0280G) (FEMA 2003). FEMA classifies most of Gowen Field as zone X, area of minimal flood hazard. One delineated 100-year floodplain categorized flood zone A crosses along the southern property boundary of Gowen Field and is associated with Fivemile Creek.

3.6.4.2 Cantonment Area

Groundwater. The Cantonment Area is located completely within the Mountain Home GWMA (see **Figure 3.4**) (IDWR 1999).

Groundwater beneath the Cantonment Area is found within Western Snake River Plain Aquifer at a suspected depth of approximately 300 to 500 ft bgs (IDWR 2018). Two wells are located within the Cantonment Area (see **Figure 3.4**). The wells were installed in 1992 and 2012, with reported static water levels of 479 ft bgs (IDWR 1992) and 491 ft bgs, respectively (IDWR 2012). Pump tests conducted in 2012 and 2017 indicate that aquifer drawdown for the second well was approximately 114 feet at a pumping rate of 248 gallons per minute (gpm) in 2012 and 93 feet at 225 gpm in 2017. Additional details on these groundwater wells, water use, and water supply can be found in the infrastructure discussion (**Section 3.11**)

The wells within the Cantonment Area are managed as a non-transient non-community Public Water System (PWS) (PWS ID 4010234) with IDEQ.

A Source Water Assessment Report conducted for the MATES facility was completed in 2002 (IDEQ 2002). The existing well at the facility at the time of assessment was moderately susceptible to inorganic compounds (IOCs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), synthetic organic compounds (SOCs), and microbial contaminants. No VOCs or SOCs have ever been discovered in the well. The IOCs arsenic, chromium, fluoride, and nitrate have been detected in routine samples, but at levels safely below each respective maximum contaminant level, as established by the USEPA (IDEQ 2002). The PWS is not within a nitrate priority area. The findings indicate that potential contaminant sources within a zero to 10-year travel zone are landfills and major roads (IDEQ 2016a).

The primary water quality issue facing the Cantonment water facilities is the relatively frequent detection of bacteria within the water system. The detected bacteria are thought to originate from within the distribution system rather than the groundwater supply. IDARNG was instructed to implement disinfection best practices, establish a drinking water protection plan, and respond to spills on Range Road and the petroleum land farm (see Hazardous Materials discussion **Section 4.12.2**) (IDEQ 2002). The most recent violations of drinking water standards were for fecal coliform in 2011 and chlorine in 2016 (USEPA 2019d).

The Orchard Readiness Training Complex (ORTC), a support installation attached to MATES that serves as housing, feeding, and area of operation for training units at the OCTC, also has a potable water well. IDARNG completed pump tests on the ORTC well as part of water study for a Water System Master Plan (SPF Water Engineering 2019). Water samples collected during the pump tests conducted in July 2017 indicated that the ORTC well produces water that meets primary drinking water requirements and is acceptable for use in a non-transient, non-community water system without treatment. The water entering the tank is treated with hypochlorite to prevent harmful bacteria in the tank or distribution system.

Surface Water and Wetlands. The Cantonment Area is located within the C.J. Strike Reservoir Subbasin (HUC 17050101) (USGS 2016). No perennial streams occur within the existing or proposed Cantonment Area boundaries. The USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)

identifies one unnamed intermittent stream located west of the existing Cantonment Area (USGS 2016) in the proposed Cantonment Expansion Area (see **Figure 3.5**). The Ada County Assessor database identifies the same water body and classifies it as an unnamed ephemeral stream (Ada County 2000) (see **Table 3-12**). IDEQ identified the same water body as an unnamed and unassessed tributary to Squaw Creek (305b category 3) (IDEQ 2016b).

The project area contains no mapped wetlands or perennial water bodies (USFWS 2017).

Table 3-12. Cantonment Area Surface Water Summary

Water Body	NHD Category ¹	Beneficial Use(s)	Supporting Status	305b Category Code ²
Unnamed Tributary to Squaw Creek	Intermittent	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Unassessed	3
		Secondary Contact Recreation	Unassessed	3

Table Notes:

1 – NHD = National Hydrology Dataset

2 – 305 Category 3 indicates insufficient data to determine if any beneficial uses are being met.

An intermittent drainage is located approximately 0.2 mile from the Rail Spur ROW, and drains to the south. The closest surface water body to the project area is Indian Creek Reservoir, which is located approximately 6.5 miles northeast of the Cantonment Area.

Stormwater. The stormwater system at the Cantonment Area drains to borrow ditches to retain on-site to evaporate, and percolate. Stormwater is not directed to the sanitary wastewater system. The rail line includes a bridge and ditch system that conveys stormwater generated at the railroad loading and unloading areas to a ditch system that drains east and south of the trail yard (Melanese 2018a). No stormwater is discharged to WOTUS, and therefore, the facility does not have a MSGP.

Floodplains. One flood zone category A floodplain is located at the far eastern extent of the railhead area (FIRM panel 16001C0625H) (FEMA 2003). The floodplain is associated with the unnamed intermittent drainage that is 0.2 miles from the Rail Spur ROW, as mapped in NHD (USGS 2016).

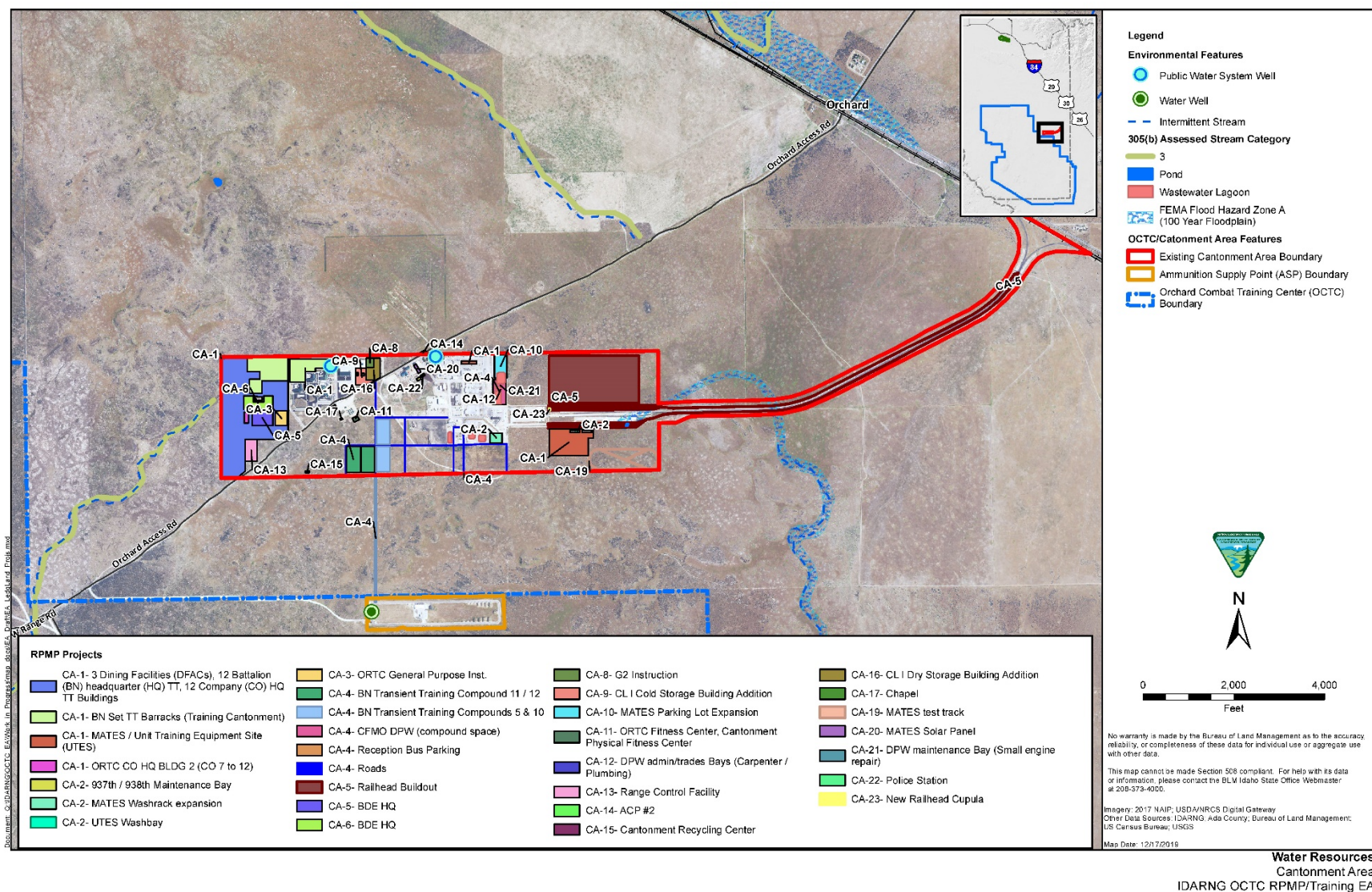


Figure 3.5. Surface Water Features at the Cantonment Area

3.6.4.3 OCTC

Groundwater. Groundwater is generally encountered 900 ft bgs or more (IDARNG 2018a). The Mountain Home GWMA extends across approximately the eastern half of the OCTC. The portion of the OCTC within Elmore County overlaps the Cinder Cone CGWA (**Figure 3.6**) (IDWR 1999).

IDARNG currently operates and holds the groundwater rights for three groundwater wells within the OCTC located at the ASP, Snake River Training Facility (SRTF), and Range Center of Maintenance (RCOM) facility (IDWR 2018). The ASP and SRTF wells are tested regularly, but do not qualify as a PWS. The well located at the RCOM facility is managed as a non-transient, non-community PWS. Additional details on these groundwater wells, water use, and water supply can be found in the infrastructure discussion (**Section 3.11**).

Surface Water and Wetlands. The OCTC contains only intermittent streams that typically run for a few hours, four to five times annually depending on storm events. There are no springs or year-round sources of water. However, there are several watering holes filled annually for livestock (IDARNG 2018a).

Playa lake beds within the OCTC hold some water during the spring, but they are routinely dry by May or June. Annual precipitation declines from 7 to 12 inches per year in the north to 5 to 8 inches per year in the south (IDARNG 2018a). The OCTC contains no wetlands (IDARNG 2018a).

The OCTC spans portions of Boise River (Lower) subbasin (HUC 17050114), the C.J. Strike Reservoir Subbasin (HUC 17050101), and Snake River (Middle) - Succor Creeks Subbasin (17020103). Streams within these subbasins are assigned one or more of the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, primary or secondary contact recreation, and drinking water supply.

Of the few intermittent streams identified within the OCTC, four stream systems are non-supporting for cold water aquatic life or secondary contact recreation, or both. Streams not supporting or unassessed for supporting each beneficial use are summarized in **Table 3-13**. All other intermittent streams within the OCTC are listed as fully supporting beneficial uses (305b Category 2) and are not included in **Table 3-13**. The Lower Boise River TMDL also regulates the unsupporting streams within the OCTC (**Figure 3.6**) (USEPA 2015).

Stormwater infrastructure does not exist in the OCTC. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces follows surface topography and infiltrates pervious surfaces.

Floodplains. FEMA FIRM maps identified no mapped floodplains within the OCTC (FEMA 2003).

Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of
Brigade Combat Team Training
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

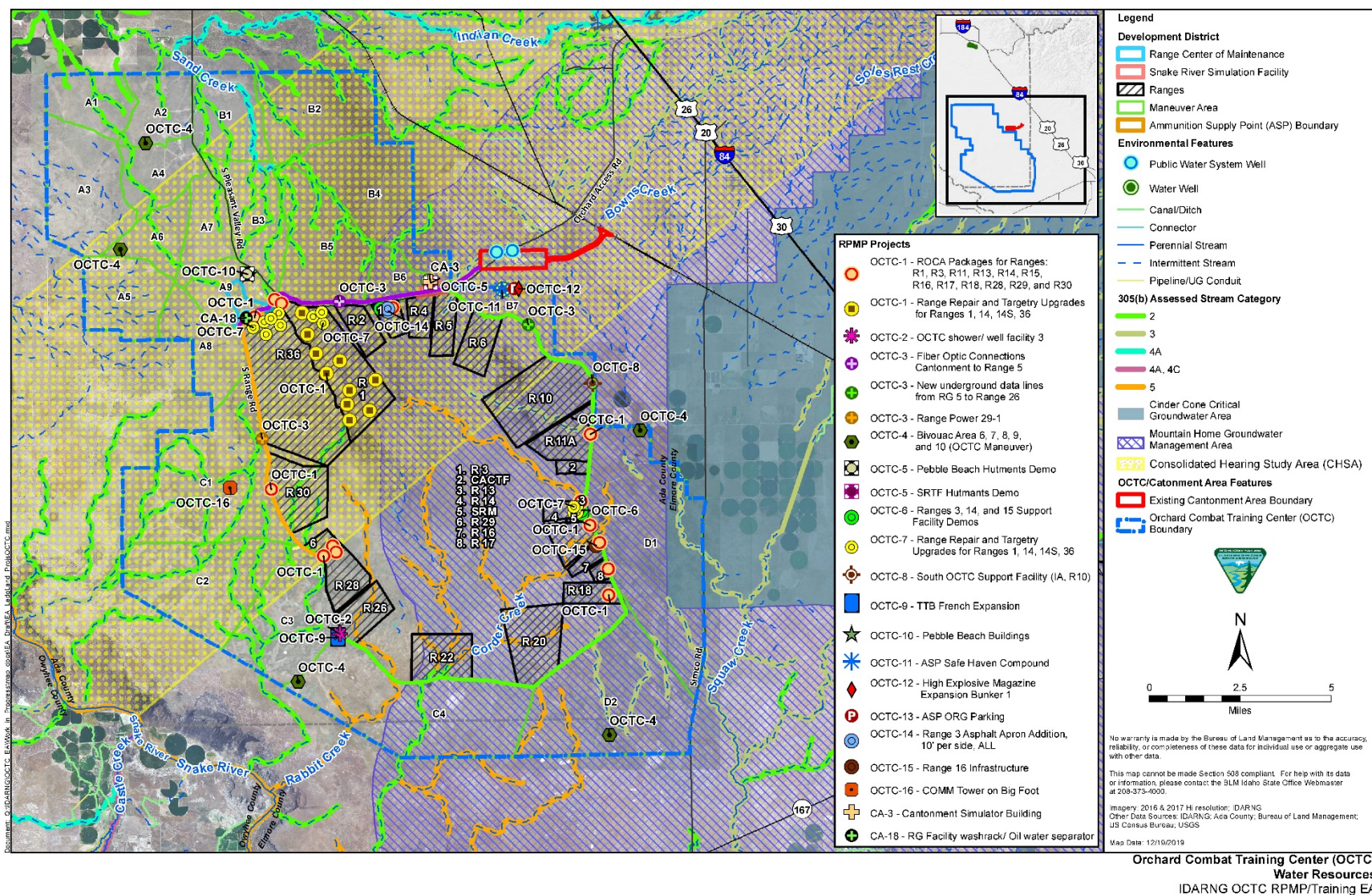


Figure 3.6. Surface Water Features at the OCTC

Table 3-13. OCTC Surface Water Summary

Water Body	NHD Category ¹	Beneficial Use(s) ²	Supporting Status ³	305b Category Code ^{4,5}
Squaw Creek System	Intermittent	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Assessed	3
		Secondary Contact Recreation	Not Assessed	3
Corder Creek System	Intermittent	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not supporting, 303d listed for sedimentation/Siltation	5
		Secondary Contact Recreation	Not supporting, 303d listed for <i>E.-coli</i>	5
Rabbit Creek System	Intermittent	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not supporting, 303d listed for sedimentation/Siltation	5
		Secondary Contact Recreation	Fully Supporting	2
Unnamed Tributary to Indian Creek	Intermittent	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not supporting for sedimentation/Siltation	4a
		Secondary Contact Recreation	Fully Supporting	2

Table notes:

1 – NHD = National Hydrology Dataset

2 – The 305B category code is as follows:

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Category 2 – Waters fully supporting those beneficial uses that have been assessed. Insufficient (or no) data and information available to determine if the remaining uses are attained.

Category 3 – Insufficient data to determine if any beneficial uses are being met.

Category 4 – Waters not supporting one or more beneficial uses, but they do not require development of a total maximum daily load (TMDL). Category 4 waters fall within three subcategories: 4a TMDL completed and approved by EPA; 4b Pollution controls in place and expected to meet water quality standards; and 4c Impairment caused by pollution, not a pollutant

Category 5 – Waters not meeting applicable water quality standards for one or more beneficial uses by one or more pollutants and an EPA approved TMDL is needed; Category 5 waters make up the §303(d) list of impaired waters.

3.7 Biological Resources

Issue statements:

Vegetation:

- 1) *How will surface disturbance impact vegetation communities?*
- 2) *How will troop numbers and operational activities affect the risk of wildland fire?*
- 3) *How will the Proposed Action affect LEPA and the Proposed Critical Habitat for the species?*

Wildlife:

- 4) *How will surface disturbance impact prey habitat?*
- 5) *How will operations impact raptor foraging?*
- 6) *How will surface disturbance and operations affect special status fauna?*

Noxious Weeds:

- 7) *How will surface disturbance affect the spread of noxious weeds within the ROI?*

3.7.1 Definition of the Resource

Biological resources include native or naturalized plants and animals and the habitats in which they exist. Protected and sensitive biological resources include federally listed (endangered or threatened), proposed, and designated or Proposed Critical Habitat; Species of Concern managed under Conservation Agreements or Management Plans; and state-listed species.

3.7.2 Regulatory Overview

Section 1.7 describes the regulatory framework for protection of biological resources addressed in this EA including the policies, regulations, and statutes protective of threatened and endangered species (see ESA), migratory birds (see MBTA), bald and golden eagles (see BGEPA), and raptors and prey species and their habitats occurring within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA (see Public Law 103-64).

3.7.3 Biological Resources ROI

The analysis area, or ROI, for biological resources in this EA is bordered by I-84 to the north and east and ID-167 to the south. The Snake River, Swan Falls Road, and Cloverdale Road border the ROI to the west. This 480,858-acre area encompasses Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, the OCTC, and the immediately surrounding areas including the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA (**Figure 3.7**). The ROI consists of the project area (buildings, facilities, and any other land parcels that may be directly affected by the Proposed Action) and those areas within the vicinity of the proposed project area, as defined in **Figure 3.7**, which could be affected by the Proposed Action. Existing ROWs within the ROI affect approximately 55,000 acres of land to support various utility pipelines and corridors (e.g., gas, electricity, water, and communications), training, rail, and grazing areas (USDI BLM 2019a). The private lands within the area are generally associated with residential and commercial developments, state correction facilities, mineral extraction, and livestock grazing. The majority of the northern and eastern portion of the area is associated with residential and commercial development. There are a number of scattered single home sites scattered throughout, with a large planned development in the northwest corner proximal to Gowen Field. In this area, the Syringa Valley project covers roughly 600 acres and is expected to be fully built out with 2,000 residential units over several years. The area south of the railroad tracks is primarily used for livestock grazing with isolated residents scattered throughout and a private motocross park. Discussion in this section is focused on the resource issues specified in **Section 3.7** and considers only those flora or fauna species that actually occur within the ROI.

3.7.4 Existing Conditions

3.7.4.1 Vegetation

The biological resources ROI occurs within the Snake River Plain ecoregion. Within the ROI, the Treasure Valley and Mountain Home Uplands ecological sections occur. The Treasure Valley ecological section has irrigated cropland, pastureland, and rapidly growing cities, suburbs, and industries. Crops include wheat, barley, alfalfa, sugar beets, potatoes, and beans. The Mountain Home Uplands ecological section is arid and shrub- and grass-covered. It is mostly rangeland

and is sparsely populated. Local relief ranges between flanking foothills and the Magic and Treasure valleys. Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), medusahead wildrye (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), and sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) occur there. The vegetation community associated with this ecoregion is classified as Southern Xeric Shrubland and Steppe (McGrath et al., 2002).

General Flora. Within the ROI, there are nine mapped habitats (**Table 3-14**) encompassing approximately 480,562 acres of vegetated land cover. **Figure 3.7** shows the vegetation and land cover types across the biological resources ROI. Within the ROI, undisturbed vegetation is characterized by sagebrush-steppe with species such as Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*), Thurber's needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*). Perennial bunchgrasses such as the bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*) are commonly found in the understory of these habitats (USFWS 2011).

Table 3-14. Land Cover Types in the Biological Resources ROI

Habitat Type	Acreage	Percent of Area
Grassland	263,485	54.8
Sagebrush	98,669	20.5
Shrub-steppe	51,842	10.8
Grassland-Agricultural	38,158	7.9
Developed	10,461	2.2
Savanna	8,976	1.9
Sparsely Vegetated	7,167	1.5
Wetland-marsh	1,268	<1
Water	536	<1
Total	480,562	100%

Sources: NatureServe 2016; Spaete and Glenn 2014

Figure 3.7 shows the various habitats throughout the ROI and their relative suitability for raptor nesting and raptor prey populations. Sagebrush communities provide the highest-quality raptor prey habitat (Tinkle et al. 2016). Potential raptor nesting habitat includes native and nonnative grasses (i.e., grasslands), agricultural fields, trees associated with residential and commercial development in the northern portion of the ROI (i.e., savanna), shrubs other than sagebrush (i.e., shrub-steppe), and wetland-marshes which occur in low frequency throughout the ROI.

Within the proposed development areas, the Gowen Field is co-located along the southern boundary of the Boise Airport, approximately 3 miles south of Boise. This area is highly developed with low amounts of naturalized vegetation communities, although native vegetation does occur along the eastern portion of the Gowen Field. The Cantonment Area is occupied by the nonnative cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) or considered sparsely vegetated. Sandberg bluegrass is dominant along the western boundary of the Cantonment Area. The 435 acres of the Cantonment Expansion Area is undeveloped and comprised of invasive annual grasses, invasive annual graminoids and forbs, as well as Sandberg bluegrass, shadscale saltbush (*Atriplex confertifolia*), sagebrush, and cheatgrass.

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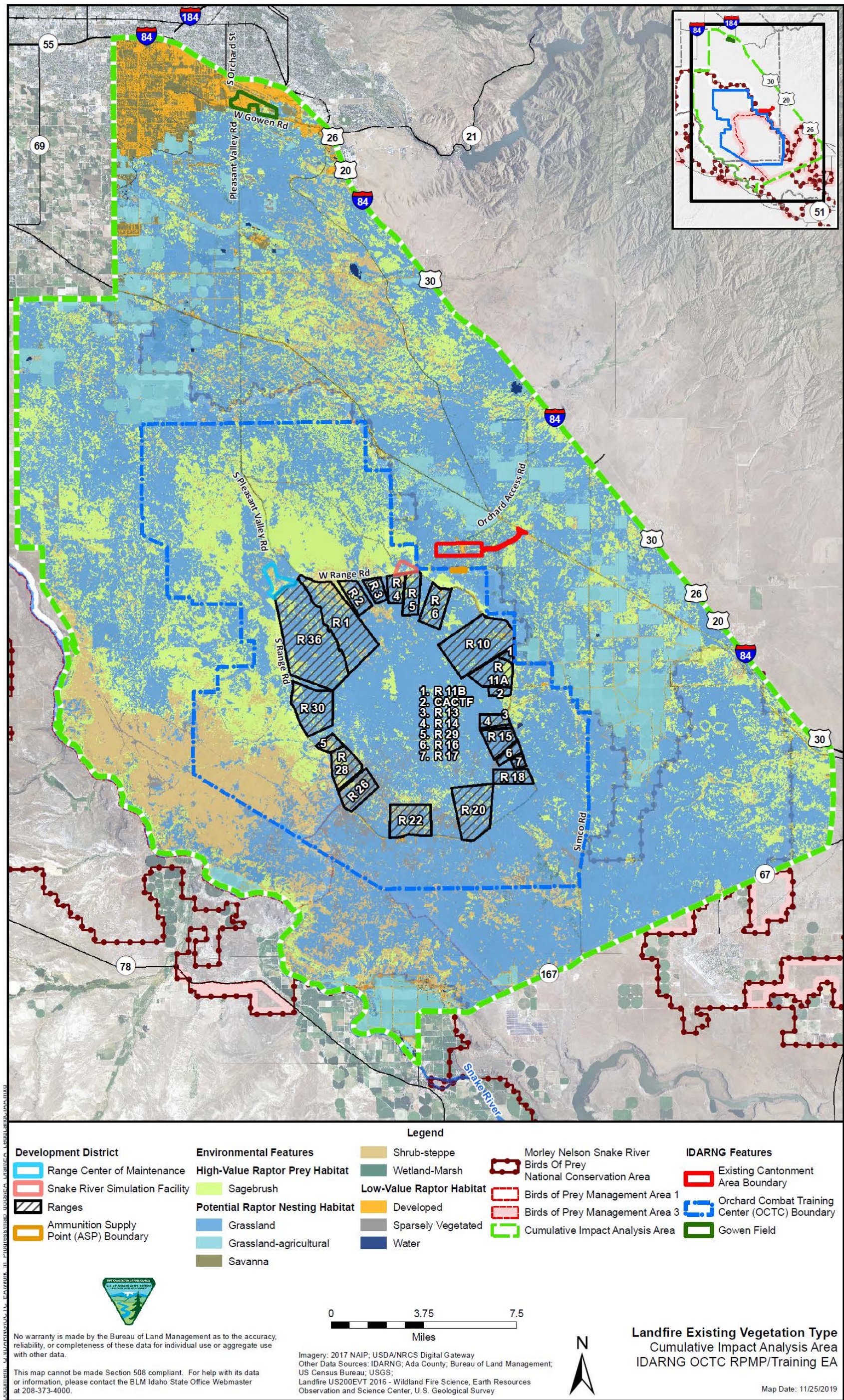


Figure 3.7. Vegetation within the Biological Resources ROI

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The 143,307-acre OCTC is largely undeveloped and vegetation within this area primarily consists of native species with areas of invasive annual graminoids and forbs such as cheatgrass, as well as sagebrush-steppe species (e.g., Sandberg bluegrass). Approximately 31,413 acres (32 percent) of the sagebrush within the ROI occurs within the OCTC. Of the sagebrush acreage on the OCTC, approximately 27,303 acres (87 percent) of sagebrush is located within the northern and western Training Areas, and the remaining approximately 4,110 acres (13 percent) are intermittently dispersed across the ranges (where the proposed OCTC FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects would be constructed) and impact areas (which span nearly 54,000 acres).

Special Status Flora. IDARNG, in coordination with BLM, are responsible for plant species that are federally listed as threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate under the ESA and Idaho- and BLM-listed species of conservation concern (IDARNG 2013). LEPA, listed as threatened, is the only federally-listed flora species that occurs within and near the ROI. LEPA Element Occurrences¹² (LEPA EOs) are documented within Ada County including the area within the southeastern portion of Gowen Field, as well as within the northeastern portion of the OCTC (see **Figure 2.2** and **Figure 2.3**), and can be used to determine where the plant occurs currently or has occurred historically. The largest EO within the OCTC (7,160 acres) and the only EO in proximity to RPMP projects is EO27, which has some of the highest recorded densities of LEPA throughout its range (Kinter et al. 2014). All of EO27 is off limits to heavy maneuver training and off-road military travel to protect LEPA occurrences as well as potential habitat for the species (IDARNG 2013). In addition, the IDARNG's Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan identifies fire suppression priorities with the first being protection of life and property and the second, protection of LEPA EOs and Wyoming big sagebrush habitat types, which are essential to the species (IDARNG 2013).

LEPA grows within specific environmental microsites, called slick spots, which can be mapped and surveyed to determine the potential for the species, or its seeds, to exist within a given area (i.e., Potential Habitat). These areas of Potential Habitat can be further qualified as Occupied Habitat, LEPA Habitat, or Unoccupied Habitat based on the presence or absence (i.e., occupancy) of the species through surveys. Definitions of LEPA habitat terms are described briefly below:

- Potential Habitat - Areas within the known range of LEPA that have certain general soil and elevation characteristics that indicate the potential for the area to support slickspot peppergrass, although the presence of slick spots or the plant is unknown. These areas meet the following criteria:
 - Natric and natric-like soils forming “slick spots,” and associated soil series, or phases thereof, which support Loamy 7-13-inch precipitation zone -Wyoming big

¹² An “*Element Occurrence*” is an area of land and/or water in which a species or natural community is, or was, present. An Element Occurrence should have practical conservation value for the associated *Element* (i.e., the protected species) as evidenced by potential continued (or historical) presence and/or regular recurrence of that species at a given location.

sagebrush Ecological Sites (Major Land Resource Areas 11—Snake River Plains and 25—Owyhee High Plateau)

- 2,200 to 5,400 feet elevation.
- Occupied Habitat - A LEPA EO and the 0.5-mile HIZ buffer
- Habitat Integrity Zone (HIZ) - A 0.5-mile buffer surrounding an Element Occurrence. This Zone allows for potential conservation or restoration of native habitat to provide for insect pollinators. This area may or may not include LEPA Habitat or Unoccupied Habitat, as defined below.
- LEPA Habitat - Areas with Wyoming big sagebrush ecological site conditions that, through initial standardized BLM surveys, have documented slick spot microsites (natric and natric-like soil types) between 2,200 feet and 5,400 feet elevation in southwest Idaho. LEPA Habitat includes areas with slick spots of unknown occupancy due to insufficient or disqualifying species surveys.
- Unoccupied Habitat - LEPA habitat where the presence of LEPA plants has not been detected through BLM Stage 2 and 3 Surveys (i.e., assumed non-occupancy). Due to the species' biology, multiple years of targeted, standardized surveys are needed to determine reasonable lack of occupancy.
- BLM Stage 2 and 3 Surveys - Standardized survey methods to document LEPA occurrences in areas of unknown occupancy. Surveys that meet Stage 3 Survey standards and result in no observations of the species are considered sufficient to declare an area as Unoccupied Habitat (USBLM 2010). These BLM survey standards have been accepted by the USFWS as standard practice in determining occupancy of the species.

The majority of projects under the RPMP resulting in development of undeveloped areas would occur in LEPA Unoccupied Habitat (255 acres, 92 percent). For projects that occur outside Unoccupied Habitat, the majority would occur in LEPA Habitat (25 acres) and only one project would have slight overlap (0.4 acres) with LEPA EO27. In addition to categorizing habitat based on occupancy of the species, LEPA EOs also have a 0.5 mile buffer, termed the Habitat Integrity Zone (HIZ), which is meant to maintain or improve habitat integrity and pollinator populations necessary for species conservation. A small portion of projects (36 acres) would result in development of undeveloped areas of the HIZ surrounding EO27. Critical habitat receives protection under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act through the prohibition of Federal agencies carrying out, funding, or authorizing the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Critical habitat designations identify, to the extent known using the best scientific data available, habitat areas that provide essential life-cycle needs of listed species. On February 12, 2014, the Service amended the 2011 critical habitat proposal to include recently discovered habitat locations that met critical habitat designation criteria (79 CFR 8402-8413). Final designation of critical habitat for LEPA has not yet occurred.

Approximately 11,294 acres of critical habitat was proposed for the species in 2011 (76 CFR 27184-27215). Approximately 310 acres (less than 3 percent) of Proposed Critical Habitat is

located within the ARNG's proposed development areas. These 310 acres include the 294-acre Cantonment Expansion Area that may be acquired as part of the IDARNG to support the Proposed Action. There is no LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat within the OCTC boundary due to exclusion under the approved Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and associated Endangered Species Management Plan (76 Fed. Reg. 90, pg. 19), as specified by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2004. There are 2,996 acres of LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat located along the north east boundary of the OCTC and south of the Cantonment Area (**Figure 3.8**). Two RPMP projects extend just outside the OCTC towards the Cantonment Area and would develop 1.3 acres of undeveloped Proposed Critical Habitat in the biological resources ROI. Permanent development of 1.3 acres would equate to 0.04 percent of the entire 2,996 acres of Proposed Critical Habitat along the north east boundary of the OCTC. **Figure 3.8** shows the Proposed Critical Habitat areas within the biological resources ROI. Not pictured are the LEPA HIZs or LEPA EOs. More detail on the status of LEPA and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat can be found in the Biological Assessment prepared for this action. For the purposes of protecting sensitive information on the elemental occurrences and point observations of the species, the BA is not included with this EA but will be maintained on file with the EA Administrative Record.

There are three BLM- and state-listed special status flora species that have the potential to occur within or near the project area (see **Table 3-15**). All three of the BLM- and state-listed flora species have been documented within the OCTC. No data have indicated occurrence of these species within the Cantonment Area or Gowen Field.

- Davis' peppergrass (*Lepidium davisii*) occurs within playas on the OCTC. All playas and buffer zones around them are off-limits to all military training and have been for at least 12 years, this species is protected from damage that may result from military training. Native species have been hand-seeded around Davis' peppergrass-occupied playas, and this practice will continue until a buffer of native species has been established around all such playas (IDARNG 2013).
- The desert pincushion (*Chaenactis stevioides*) occurs in the southern half of OCTC in years when there is above-average spring and early summer rainfall. When it is present, most of the OCTC has hundreds of thousands of plants of this species. IDARNG management activities consist of maintaining off-limits areas to protect these plants (IDARNG 2013).
- The wovenspore lichen (*Texosporium sancti-jacobi*) occurs on hundreds of acres in OCTC, nearly all of which are in good condition Wyoming big sagebrush habitat that are already protected from military training inside the areas of documented LEPA element occurrences. These species grow near each other in many of their occurrences, both inside and outside OCTC. Therefore, since the 1991 inception of IDARNG's management and protection of areas of LEPA element occurrences, this lichen species has also been protected (IDARNG 2013).

Table 3-15. BLM and State-Listed Species of Concern Known to Occur in or Near the ROI

Species	General Habitat Description and Phenology	IDFG/BLM Rank
Davis' peppergrass (<i>Lepidium davisii</i>)	Mostly barren hard bottom playas, but sometimes with a few shadscale and silver sage (<i>Artemisia cana</i>) plants, surrounded by big sagebrush, four-wing saltbush (<i>Atriplex canescens</i>) and Sandberg bluegrass habitat, from 2,903-5,905 feet elevation.	S3/Type 3
Desert pincushion (<i>Chaenactis stevioides</i>)	Open, usually sandy sites in salt desert shrub, primarily, big sagebrush, horsebrush (<i>Tetradymia glabrata</i>), four-wing saltbrush and Indian ricegrass (<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>) communities, to 3,937 feet elevation.	S2/Type 4
Wovenspore lichen (<i>Texosporium sancti-jacobi</i>)	Well-decomposed humus, flat or north-facing slopes in especially old clumps of Sandberg's bluegrass, on big sagebrush – Thurber's needlegrass – bluebunch wheatgrass sites, from 2,887-3,280 feet elevation.	S2/Type 2

Table Key:

S2: Imperiled—at risk because of restricted range, few populations (often 20 or fewer), rapidly declining numbers, or other factors that make it vulnerable to range-wide extinction or extirpation.

S3: Vulnerable—at moderate risk because of restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors that make it vulnerable to range-wide extinction or extirpation.

Type 2: These species are experiencing significant declines throughout their range with a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their rarity and/or significant endangerment factors.

Type 3: These species are globally rare with moderate endangerment factors. Global rarity and inherent risks associated with rarity make these species imperiled.

Type 4: These species are generally rare in Idaho with small populations or localized distribution with currently low threat levels. Due to small populations and habitat area, certain future land uses in proximity could significantly jeopardize these species.

Noxious Weeds. Noxious weeds are defined in the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 as “any living stage (including but not limited to, seeds and reproductive parts) of any parasitic or other plant of a kind, or subdivision of a kind, which is of foreign origin, is new to or not widely prevalent in the United States, and can directly or indirectly injure crops, other useful plants, livestock, or poultry or other interests of agriculture, including irrigation, or navigation or the fish and wildlife resources of the United States or the public health.”

Invasive species are harmful, non-native plants that damage our economy and environments. Invasive flora can move into and dominate both natural and managed systems by disrupting the ability of those systems to function sustainably. They are highly competitive, persistent, and can create monocultures that could eliminate Idaho's biological diversity.

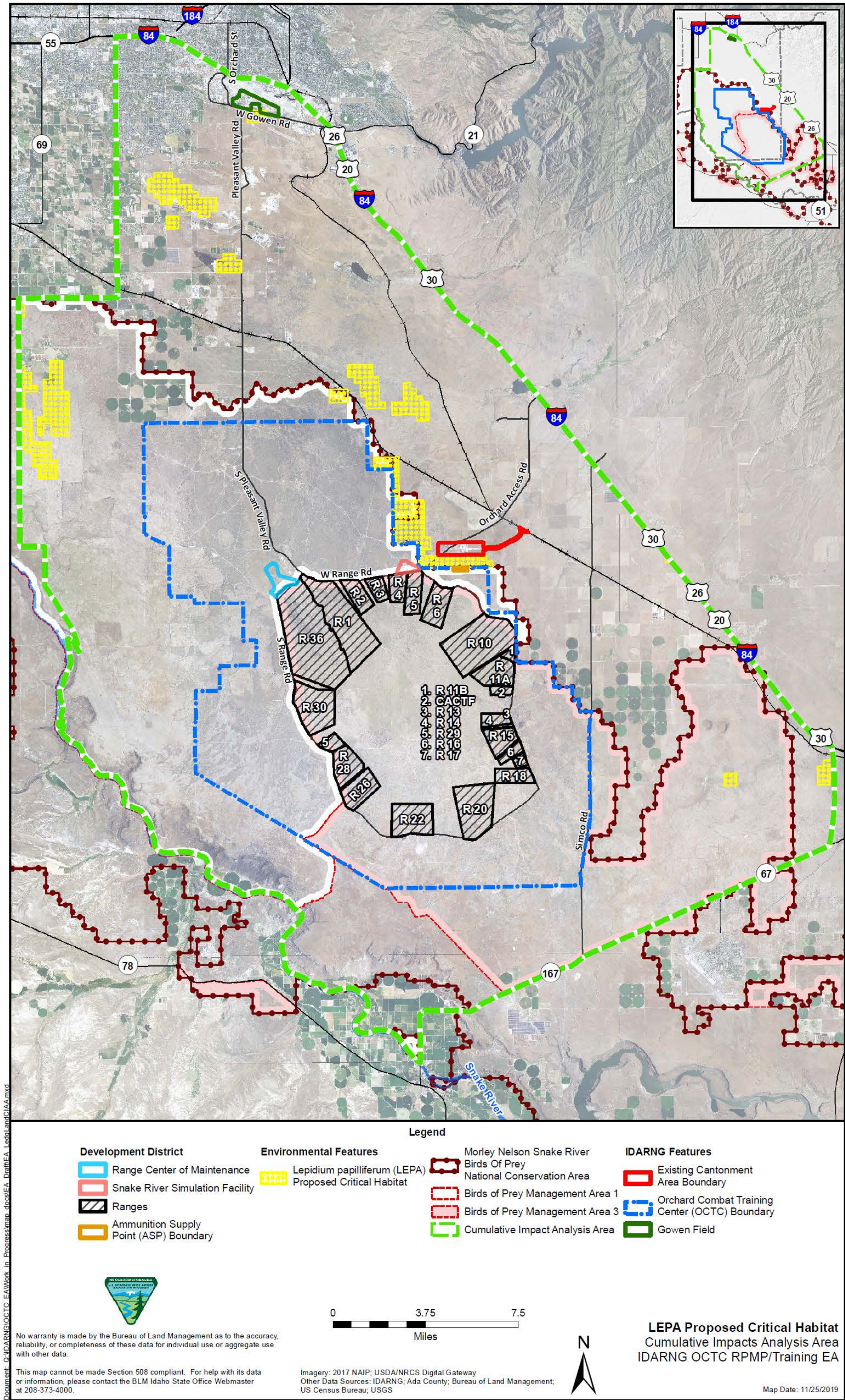


Figure 3.8. Slickspot Peppergrass (LEPA) Proposed Critical Habitat

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The following laws and regulations pertain to noxious and invasive species control:

- Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (7 USC 2801 et seq.)
- Federal Pest Plant Act (7 USC 150a et seq.)
- E.O. 13112, Invasive Species
- Idaho Statute 22-24 (Noxious Weeds)
- Idaho Administrative Procedures Act 02.06.02 Noxious Weed Rules
- IDARNG Regulation 350-12

Five Idaho-listed noxious weeds and 11 invasive species have been documented on the OCTC (see **Table 3-16**) (IDARNG 2013). Many noxious weeds and invasive species were introduced into the area in contaminated crop seed and livestock feces and sheep coats, and have invaded the damaged rangeland.

Table 3-16. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species Known to Occur within the ROI

Species	Status	IDA Category
Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	Idaho Noxious Weed	Containment
Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Clasping pepperweed (<i>Lepidium perforlatum</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Curvseed butterwort (<i>Ceratocephala testiculata</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Halogeton (<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Medusahead rye (<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Prostrate knotweed (<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Puncture vine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)	Idaho Noxious Weed	Containment
Rush skeletonweed (<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>)	Idaho Noxious Weed	Containment
Russian thistle (<i>Salsola kali</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Scotch thistle (<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>)	Idaho Noxious Weed	Containment
Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)	Idaho Noxious Weed	Containment
Spreading wallflower (<i>Erysimum repandum</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Tall tansymustard (<i>Descuriana sophia</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Tall tumbledmustard (<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>)	Invasive Species	NA
Whitetop (<i>Lepidium draba</i>)	Idaho Noxious Weed	Containment

Sources: IDARNG 2013; IDA 2019

Notes: NA = Not Available, IDA = Idaho Department of Agriculture

The Idaho Department of Agriculture has four categories of noxious weeds: 1) Prohibited Genera, 2) Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR), 3) Control, and 4) Containment (IDA 2019). The Containment category species that do occur within the ROI are routinely treated on the OCTC to prevent spread. No prohibited genera, EDRR, or control species have been documented within the ROI. To further avoid the spread of noxious weeds, IDARNG and construction teams would continue to follow the IDARNG's BMPs and SOPs and BLM's RDFs, as specified in **Section 4.13**.

Wildland Fire. Wildland fire is both a threat to natural resources and, if used properly, a valuable ecosystem management tool. The fire season in the region typically starts in May and ends in mid-October; however, fires can occur as early as March and as late as December

during particularly dry years. Fire on the OCTC is primarily controlled through a network of fuel breaks throughout the area that are maintained annually. A very small proportion of burned acres is attributed to prescribed burning, which is typically used for fuels management along fencelines, target areas, and firebreaks. There are some areas within the OCTC that are susceptible to fire, and may burn every year. These areas include the livestock “drift” fence, which divides the spring/fall grazing allotment area on the north from the winter allotment area on the south. Tumbleweeds gather along the fenceline each year, providing large areas of flammable material. Various target areas on individual ranges are likely to burn during training activities. Training Site personnel prepare prescribed burn plans addressing these areas and coordinate with BLM fire staff each spring. Long-range scheduling of prescribed burning is not feasible as wildfire and annual burning conditions greatly affect burning schedules. However, the spring burning season minimizes the disturbance to wildlife and is most effective if completed before May when Annual Training events and the fire season begin. For purposes of effective burning and fire control, proper temperature conditions, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, and fuel moisture must normally be met prior to burning. Training Site personnel staff, seasonal firefighters, and Natural Resources personnel receive appropriate fire management/suppression training from qualified BLM or National Interagency Fire Center trainers before participating in prescribed burning.

To minimize the impact of wildland fire on military training lands, the IDARNG established a fire management program that, over time, has evolved with the training programs on the OCTC. Implementation of the fire management program on the OCTC substantially reduced the numbers and magnitudes of fires on the OCTC (Argonne National Laboratory Environmental Assessment Division [ANL EAD] 2004). Currently, the training on the OCTC adheres strictly to the IDARNG’s Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan (IWFMP; IDARNG 2013a) with the goal of preventing, suppressing, and monitoring wildfires, regardless of origin, across the OCTC and any land the IDARNG uses for military training. The 2013 IWFMP is modeled after BLM’s Fire Management Plan and is designed to meet military and BLM requirements for the proper management of wildland fuels and fires while contributing to the preservation of the NCA.

An analysis of the fire history on the OCTC from 1997 through 2017 showed that the frequency of fire events between years in that area oscillated widely (e.g., 284 events in 1997, 32 in 2015, and 513 in 2017) (**Figure 3.9**) (IDARNG 2018e). Although a majority (estimated 90 percent) of the fires reported on the OCTC were associated with munitions expenditures igniting vegetation within the Impact Area during training operations, results of the analysis did not indicate a correlation between the numbers of soldier-training-days (the numbers of troops actively training on the ranges throughout a year) and the number fires or numbers of acres burned on the OCTC for a given year. From 2009 to 2016, IDARNG IWFMP assets responded to approximately 1,050 fires within the OCTC (USDI BLM 2018a). From 1995 to 2013, an average of 3,378 acres (6 percent of the total area) within the Impact Area burned annually with a low of 6 acres burned in 2004 and a high of 23,500 acres in 1996 (Warner 2014). During training activities, OCTC firefighters are staged to monitor training and extinguished any subsequent fires immediately (IDARNG 2013). Due to the proximity of staging stations to potential fire areas, the average response time (time from dispatch to arrival) for the OCTC firefighters is between 5 and 10 minutes.

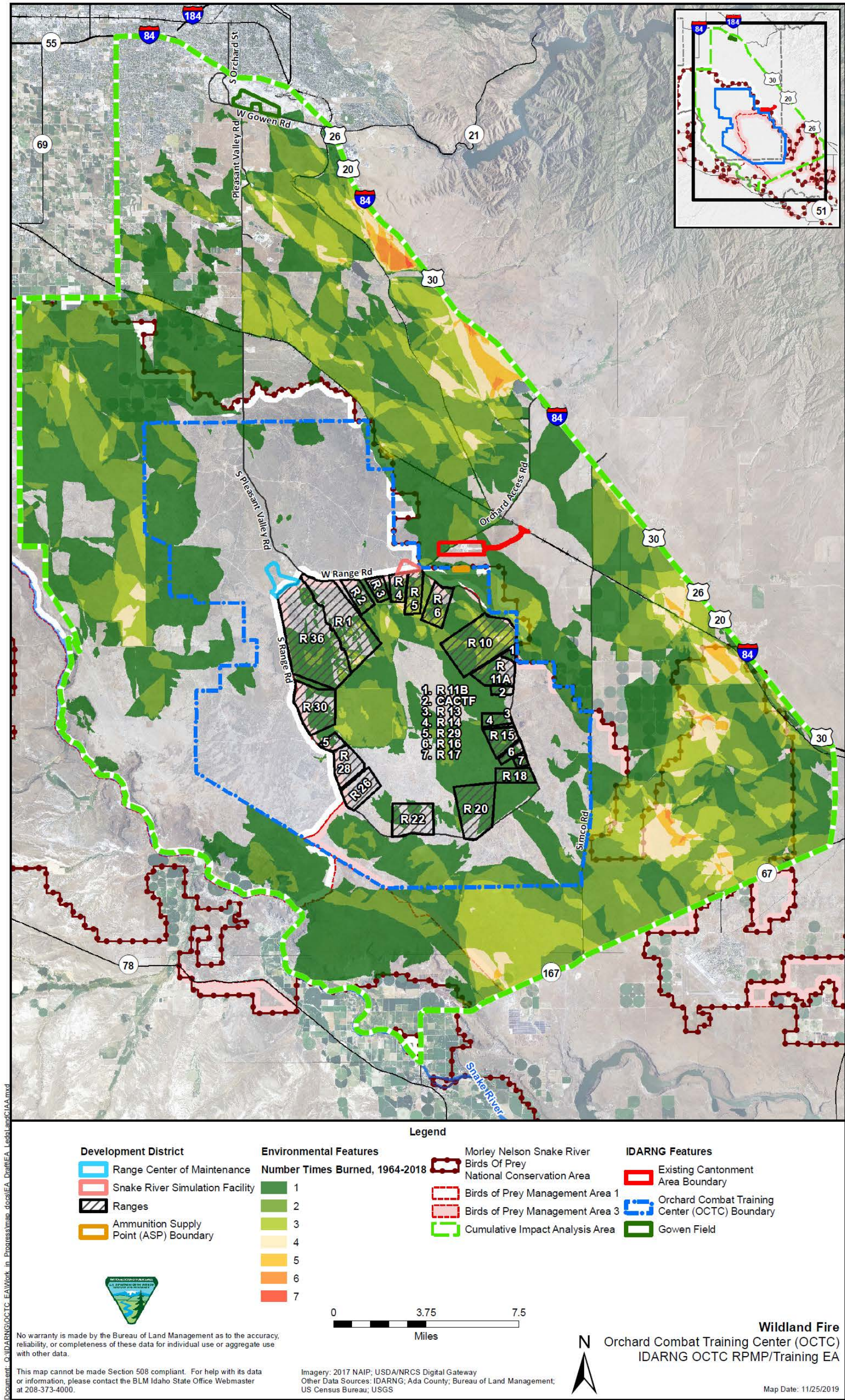


Figure 3.9. History of Wildland Fire in the Biological Resources ROI

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3.7.4.2 Wildlife

Issue Statement 1: *How will surface disturbance impact prey habitat?*

Issue Statement 2: *How will operations impact raptor foraging?*

Issue Statement 3: *How will surface disturbance and operations affect special status fauna?*

Fire suppression, road building, military training, recreation and grazing throughout the ROI have resulted in habitat modification and fragmentation and have changed the distribution and abundance of wildlife species within the biological resources ROI. The following sections describe the federally listed fauna species with the potential to occur within or near the project area as well as the state- and BLM-listed species of conservation concern, NCA special status species, as well as a section devoted to the discussion of raptors and their prey habitat.

Special Status Fauna. IDFG and BLM routinely review wildlife species, their population trends, habitat distribution, and abundance, and prioritize species protection measures. On BLM-administered lands, all offices are to “...manage Bureau sensitive species and their habitats to minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of the species or to improve the condition of the species habitat” (6840.2.C). BLM Manual 6840 further describes BLM sensitive species (listed in **Appendix K**) that require special management consideration to avoid potential future listing under the ESA (USDI BLM 2008).

- Type 1—Species with one of the following status designations under ESA: endangered, threatened, essential experimental population, or critical habitat
- Type 2—BLM Idaho Sensitive Species, including USFWS proposed and candidate species, ESA-listed species delisted during the past 5 years, and ESA nonessential experimental population; also includes species designated by the BLM Idaho State Director (IDFG 2017).

Idaho-listed sensitive species are species that IDFG recognized as requiring special management consideration to avoid potential future listing under the ESA and that have been identified in accordance with procedures set forth in IDFG State Wildlife Action Plan (IDFG 2017). BLM and IDFG list special status animal species found within the NCA (**Appendix K**).

Suitable habitat does not exist within the ROI for 35 of the 58 species. Of the remaining 23 species, 13 species have a low potential of suitable habitat, 7 have a medium potential of suitable habitat, and 2 are highly likely to have suitable habitat (Warner 2014). Species with low potential habitat present would not likely be impacted by activities within the ROI. Medium potential habitat species that likely forage, and high potential habitat species that nest within the ROI are listed in **Table 3-17**. Both the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and the long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*) have high potential to nest and forage in grassland areas of the OCTC and are common in the area. IDARNG and IDFG annual surveys suggest stable local populations for both species (IDARNG 2014, as cited in Warner 2014).

1 **Table 3-17. BLM and State-listed Species with Potential to Occur within the ROI**

2	Species	Potential Habitat Present	Habitat	IDFG/BLM Rank	Populations Present in ROI?	Closest Areas
	Brewer's sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	Medium	Shrub-steppe obligate species, closely associated with big sagebrush (IDFG 2005a).	Protected Nongame/Type 2	Yes (spring/summer only)	OCTC, Cantonment Area, north of OCTC
	Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	High	Occupies grasslands, shrub-steppes, and savannas. They also occur in other open areas such as agricultural lands, old fields, extensive forest clearings, airports, golf courses, and spacious residential zones (Howard 1996).	Protected Nongame/Type 2	Yes (spring/summer only)	OCTC, east of OCTC
	Ferruginous hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)	Medium	Inhabits flat and rolling terrain in grassland or shrub-steppe regions, typically avoiding high elevation, forest interior, and narrow canyons (IDFG 2005b).	Protected Nongame/Type 2	Yes (spring/summer only)	Throughout ROI, OCTC
	Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	Medium	Inhabits open country from barren areas to open coniferous forests. They are primarily in hilly and mountainous regions, but also in rugged deserts, on the plains, and in tundra (Tesky 1994).	Protected Nongame/Type 2	Yes (year round)	Throughout ROI, OCTC
	Long-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	High	Nests in open short-grass or mixed-prairie habitat with level to slightly rolling topography, avoiding areas with trees, high-density shrubs, and tall, dense grasses. In Idaho, this species forages predominately in grassland, but may switch to plowed fields and wet pastures if grasslands become too tall or dense after high spring rainfall (IDFG 2005c).	Protected Nongame/Type 2	Yes (spring/summer only)	Throughout ROI, OCTC
	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Medium	Inhabits various landscapes, including mountains, river corridors, marshes, lakes, coastlines, and cities. In Idaho, peregrines are associated with mountains, major river corridors, reservoirs and lake basins (IDFG 2005d).	S2	Yes (NA)	Gowen Field, OCTC, Cantonment Area
	Prairie falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>)	Medium	Inhabits primarily open settings, especially in mountainous areas, steppe, plains or prairies.	Protected nongame/ Type 2	Yes (year round)	Gowen Field, OCTC, Cantonment Area, throughout ROI
	Sage sparrow (<i>Amphispiza belli</i>)	Medium	Sagebrush obligate associated with shrublands dominated by big sagebrush with a perennial bunchgrass understory (Holmes and Johnson 2005).	Protected Nongame/Type 2	Yes (spring/summer only)	Throughout ROI, OCTC
	Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	Medium	Nests in open habitats including grasslands, sagebrush, marshes, and tundra (Wiggins 2004).	Protected Nongame/Type 2	Yes (year round)	OCTC, Cantonment Area, throughout ROI

Raptors and Prey/Prey Habitat.

In addition to the fauna species that have been documented within the ROI during previous surveys, a number of special status raptors and their associated prey (see **Table 3-17**) and other species of conservation concern (see **Table 3-18**), have the potential to occur in the ROI including the proposed development areas. The species identified in **Table 3-19** occurring in the biological resources ROI are likely to occur due to the high quality sagebrush habitat, although the areas of the proposed development are in proximity to ongoing human; habitat for these species may exist within the ROI as well as near the Cantonment Area and OCTC where infrastructure and facilities would be constructed and operated.

There are 25 raptor species that use the NCA during some portion of their life cycles. Sixteen species nest in the NCA, and the remaining nine occur there during migration or in winter. Prairie falcons (*Falco mexicanus*), golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), northern harriers (*Circus hudsonius*), and American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) are the most common diurnal species. Several owl species are also common, including the barn owl (*Tyto alba*), great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), and burrowing owl, but being nocturnal, except for the burrowing owl, their occurrence is much less noticeable than the diurnal species. Of the 16 nesting raptor species, 10 are year-round residents. Winter visitors include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) (USDI BLM 2008). Raptor prey in the NCA includes a variety of species, such as insects, jackrabbits (*Lepus* sp.), geese, and carp. Even fawn mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) are taken by golden eagles on rare occasions.

Table 3-18. Raptor and Prey Species Commonly Observed within or near the Biological Resources ROI

Raptor Species		
Burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)* †	Ferruginous hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)* †	Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)* †
Northern harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) †	Prairie falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>) †	Red-tailed hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>) †
Rough-legged hawk (<i>Buteo lagopus</i>) †	Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)* †	-
Prey Species		
Black-tailed jackrabbit (<i>Lepus californicus</i>)	Chisel-toothed kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys microps</i>)	Deer mouse (<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>)
Great Basin pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus parvus</i>)	Least chipmunk (<i>Tamias minimus</i>) †	Northern grasshopper mouse (<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>)
Nuttall's cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>)	Ord's kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>)	Piute ground squirrel (<i>Spermophilus mollis</i> ssp. <i>idahoensis</i>) †
Western harvest mouse (<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>)	-	-

Source: IDARNG 2013

Table Key: (*) – BLM Special Status Species; (†) – IDFG Protected Species

The term “keystone species” is used to note species that can dramatically alter the structure and dynamics of ecological systems and through predator/prey, competitive and mutualistic interactions with other species. By causing physical disturbance, keystone species can have a disproportionately large effect on habitat structure, species composition, and biochemical processes. In the NCA’s loess soils and in some lakebed sediments, the Piute ground squirrel is the keystone prey species in the NCA (BLM 2008a).

On the OCTC, the jackrabbit and Piute ground squirrel are considered to be the critical prey species for raptors that forage in the area. The NCA’s RMP and Record of Decision (2008) listed wildlife species potentially found in the biological resources ROI as regionally and state-wide imperiled. Under this plan, special conservation emphasis is given to the prairie falcon and Piute ground squirrel. Black-tailed jackrabbits in the Great Basin rely on shrubs for cover and foraging (Simes et al. 2015). Grasses and forbs, including native perennial and nonnative annual species, comprise the bulk of their diet during the spring and summer and switches to shrubs in the winter (Fagerstone et al. 1980). Loss of shrub cover is believed to be an important factor contributing to observed decreases in black-tailed jackrabbits throughout the NCA.

Past studies conducted in the NCA have documented the importance of native plant communities in supporting stable Piute ground squirrel populations; winterfat and Wyoming big sagebrush communities supported higher densities of squirrels in comparison to annual grass communities. Native plant communities are also relatively more stable or resistant to annual fluctuations in precipitation or during periods of drought. Areas dominated by annual grasses would support Piute ground squirrels, however, the density of squirrels in these areas would fluctuate from year to year due to the relatively high variability in annual grass production at low elevations (Steenhof et al. 2006; Tinkle et al. 2016; Yensen et al. 1992; Sharpe & Van Horne 1998).

Table 3-19. Other Special Status Species with Potential to Occur within the Biological Resources ROI

Bird Species	
American white pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>) [†]	American kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>) [†]
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)* [†]	Brewer’s sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)* [†]
Loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)* [†]	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [†]
Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)* [†]	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrines anatum</i>) [†]
Sage sparrow (<i>Amphispiza belli</i>)* [†]	Swainson’s hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>) [†]
Reptile Species	
Longnose snake (<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>)* [†]	Western ground snake (<i>Sonora semiannulata</i>)* [†]
Mojave black-collared lizard (<i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i>)* [†]	-
Mammal Species	
Greater sage-grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>)*	Fringed myotis (<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>)* [†]
Pygmy rabbit (<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>)*	Spotted bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>)* [†]
Townsend’s big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)* [†]	-

Source: IDARNG 2013

Table Key: (*) – BLM Special Status Species; (†) – IDFG Protected Species

Ferruginous hawks are a migratory species that arrive in the NCA in late February to begin breeding activities. In the OCTC, ferruginous hawks nest on artificial nest platforms that were specifically built for the species, or on power poles. There are several ferruginous hawk nesting platforms within and directly adjacent to the OCTC that are occupied every year, but no natural nesting substrate within the ROI other than the Snake River canyon rim. Prairie falcons are a migratory raptor species that breeds in the NCA, occupying the area from late January through July. They typically nest on cliffs, outcroppings, or pinnacles in cavities and ledges. No nesting habitat occurs near the proposed development and training areas within the biological resources ROI. In the NCA, the raptor breeding season occurs from January through July for a variety of species. Foraging generally occurs from April through mid-July. Resident and migrant raptors will forage within the ROI to provide for their brood.

Migratory Birds of Concern/Golden and Bald Eagles

The IDARNG environmental staff conducts year-round surveys for the presence of all migratory bird species, emphasizing raptor and sagebrush-obligate species (e.g., sagebrush sparrows, Brewer's sparrow, and sage thrashers). Site-specific surveys are also conducted to record the presence or use of an area, and are conducted prior to all training exercises and construction activities. Training exercises and construction activities with the potential to adversely impact bird species are relocated or modified following the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. All bird species found on the OCTC nest during early spring (IDARNG 2013). Bald eagles occasionally pass through the OCTC (1 or 2 sightings per year) but rarely forage on the OCTC. Golden eagles forage year-round throughout the NCA; however, they nest south of the OCTC on cliff faces in the Snake River Canyon. A key prey species of golden eagles, the black-tailed jackrabbit, is closely associated with high-quality sagebrush habitat, which is not found in the proposed development areas within the biological resources ROI (Warner 2014).

3.8 Cultural Resources

Issue statement: *How will construction and operations activities impact cultural sites eligible for the National Register?*

3.8.1 Definition of the Resource

Cultural resources include archeological resources (both pre-contact and historic), historic architectural resources, and traditional cultural properties, which are important to Native American tribal members for their subsistence, economic, religious/spiritual, medicinal, historical, and other values. The ROI (defined in **Section 3.8.3**) is not within an area with sensitive paleontological resources (NGB 2013); therefore, this resource is not discussed further.

3.8.2 Regulatory Overview

For the purposes of this EA, cultural resources include historic properties as defined by the NHPA; cultural items as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, as amended (NAGPRA); archeological resources as defined by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA); sacred sites as defined in Executive Order 13007 (to

which access is afforded under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1979 [AIRFA]); and collections and associated records as defined in 36 CFR § 79. While multiple laws address the protection of cultural resources (see **Section 1.7**), the primary regulatory driver for a proposed action (undertaking) is Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR § 800. Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties in the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Historic properties are cultural resources that are generally 50 years of age or older. Historic properties are determined eligible for listing in the NRHP if they are properties: **(a)** that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or **(b)** that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or **(c)** that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or **(d)** that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Both ARNG and BLM are committed to compliance with Section 106 and will execute both BLM and ARNG protocols for meeting Section 106 requirements in accordance with the BLM's 2012 National Programmatic Agreement and their 2014 State Protocol Agreement with the Idaho SHPO. The State Protocol notes at I. B. (1), that BLM will follow Regulations 36 CFR § 800 while acting as the lead agency responsible for Section 106.

IDARNG manages cultural resources on the OCTC under their ICRMP (NGB 2013). IDARNG's MOU with the BLM requires protection and monitoring of certain cultural resources on the OCTC (USDI BLM and IMD 2017). IDARNG and BLM have also agreed to an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan (IDARNG 2018d) for the OCTC that establishes protective measures for archaeological sites that have been determined eligible by SHPO, BLM, and the IDARNG, including the following:

- Establishment of a 164-foot buffer around all NRHP-eligible cultural sites, marked on IDARNG training maps as an Off Limits Area
- Signage, fencing, and physical barriers around NRHP-eligible cultural sites
- Cultural impact prevention and environmental sustainment brief for all training units, identifying off limits areas, prohibited activities, and reporting protocols.

The Proposed Action falls within the traditional territories of the Northern Shoshone, Northern Paiute, and Northern Bannock Tribes. IDARNG and the BLM are consulting with these Tribes in compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA, and in accordance with BLM Manual Handbook H-8160-1, *General Procedural Guidance for Native American Consultation*, the IDARNG ICRMP, DoDI 4710.02, *Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes*, and Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*. Consultation with the Tribes was initiated by sending letters to Tribal officials and through the BLM Wings and Roots Native American Consultation process. Information on the Tribal consultations is provided in **Appendix F**.

3.8.3 Cultural Resources ROI

The ROI for cultural resources encompasses the boundaries of Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area (including the future Cantonment expansion), and the boundaries of the OCTC. This ROI is primarily based on the size and extent of the ARNG's Proposed Action. These boundaries also comprise the APE for the purposes of NHPA Section 106 compliance.

3.8.4 Existing Conditions

3.8.4.1 Gowen Field

Gowen Field was constructed as an Army air base in 1941. It was named in honor of Lt. Paul R. Gowen of Caldwell, Idaho, who died in 1938 when the plane he piloted crashed near the Panama Canal. The mission of the base was to train crews in the operation of medium bomber aircraft and reconnaissance aircraft for the Army Air Command (NGB 2013). Gowen Field closed briefly in 1946 following the end of WWII, but reopened later that year as the new home of IDANG and IDARNG.

IDARNG has conducted archaeological, historic architecture, and cultural landscape studies of Gowen Field (NGB 2013, Eschenbrenner 2019d). All undeveloped acres have been surveyed for archaeological resources, and none were identified. A cultural landscape study, including historic architectural assessments, was completed in 1995 and another architectural assessment of WWII- and Cold War-era buildings was completed in 2010. The installation contains three buildings that are individually eligible for listing in the NRHP (NGB 2013). IDARNG consults with the Shoshone-Paiute and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on a regular, government-to-government basis and specifically regarding proposed actions. Neither Tribe has identified any sacred sites or resources of traditional cultural or religious significance on Gowen Field.

3.8.4.2 Cantonment Area

Before the arrival of Euroamericans to the region in the early 1800s, Southwest Idaho was the homeland of two culturally and linguistically related tribes: the Northern Shoshone and the Northern Paiute. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes also have ties to southwest Idaho. In the latter half of the 19th century, the Duck Valley Reservation was established for the Northern Shoshone and Paiute Tribes on the Nevada/Idaho border west of the Bruneau River, and in 1867, the Fort Hall Reservation was established in southeastern Idaho for the Northern Shoshone Tribe and the Bannock Tribe. Although bands of the Bannock, Shoshone, and Paiute were confined to various reservations, they continued to use cultural and natural resources of southern Idaho, and still use traditional, cultural and natural resources that they have used for centuries (NGB 2013). The Cantonment Area and the OCTC lie within traditional lands used by the Northern Shoshone, Northern Paiute, and Northern Bannock Tribes.

Euroamerican trappers first explored the Snake River Plain in the early 1800s. The first migrant roads to Oregon were established by the mid-1830s, though it is unlikely any of the migrant trains or associated cattle herds passed through the Cantonment Area or OCTC (NGB 2013). The Grandview-Boise Wagon Road, which intersects the Cantonment Area and OCTC, operated for a short time in the 1870s and early 1880s. After the opening of the Oregon Short

Line Railroad between Mountain Home and Caldwell, Union Pacific established a way station at Orchard, at the east end of Cantonment Area's railhead area. A small farming and ranching community developed around the way station. Several homestead claims were filed on lands within and adjacent to the Cantonment Area and OCTC; however, all lapsed due to lack of development (NGB 2013). Ranching continued in the Cantonment Area until IDARNG began using the area in 1993 with completion of the MATES.

As of November 2019, 100 percent of the Cantonment Area has been surveyed for archaeological resources, including the MATES, the future expansion area, and the area south of the Cantonment Area to the edge of the OCTC (Eschenbrenner 2019a, Eschenbrenner 2019b, Eschenbrenner 2019e). Previous archaeological surveys identified 12 archaeological resources in the Cantonment Area, of which, 3 are eligible for listing in the NRHP and 1 needs additional data to determine NRHP eligibility. The latter site is considered eligible for NRHP listing for the purposes of this analysis. IDARNG conducted an archaeological survey in 2019 of project areas identified in the RPMP, including the projects at the Cantonment Area described in **Section 2.2.3.2** (Eschenbrenner 2019a). Two archaeological sites were identified in or adjacent to project footprints proposed under Component Action 2, both of which are not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

No structures or buildings were present at the Cantonment Area prior to IDARNG construction of the MATES. Therefore, no historic architectural surveys have been performed and no such resources or facilities approaching 50 years old occur in the ROI. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have not identified any sacred sites or resources of traditional cultural or religious significance at the Cantonment Area.

3.8.4.3 OCTC

The cultural context of the OCTC is similar to that described for the Cantonment Area in **Section 3.8.4.2**. Military training has occurred on the Snake River Plain since WWII, when the Army Air Command established three practice-bombing ranges in the area in 1941 (NGB 2013). IDARNG began negotiating for use of the OCTC in 1951 and began training there in 1953.

As of May 2019, a total of 312 archeological sites have been identified on the OCTC. The first large-scale archaeological inventory of the OCTC occurred in 1984, which resulted in the identification of 70 archaeological sites, of which 28 were determined significant and requiring protection (NGB 2013). In 2005, IDARNG began a comprehensive resurvey of the OCTC designed to update information about known archaeological resources, reevaluate those resources, and resurvey areas that may have been overlooked during previous work based on changes in archaeological standards and practices. As of November 2019, 120,899 acres (85 percent) of the OCTC have been surveyed, resulting in the identification of 242 of the archaeological sites now known to exist on the OCTC (Fruhlinger 2019; Eschenbrenner 2019e). Of these, 46 are eligible for listing in the NRHP and 1 needs additional data to determine NRHP eligibility (Eschenbrenner 2019c). The latter site is considered eligible for the purposes of this analysis. IDARNG conducted an archaeological survey in 2019 of OCTC areas identified for development with FY18 through FY22 RPMP Projects on the OCTC described in **Section**

2.2.3.3. Two archaeological sites are within the proposed RPMP FY18 through FY22 project footprints proposed under Component Action 2, of which one is eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The OCTC contains few structures and buildings and no historic architectural surveys or evaluations have been conducted at the OCTC. No NRHP-eligible historic architectural resources have been identified on the installation.

The Shoshone-Paiute and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have been consulted regarding the presence of sacred sites and/or traditional cultural properties at the OCTC (see **Appendix F**). Although the tribes have not identified such resources, they have expressed great concerns about the impacts from training and development activities on the known cultural sites that exist on the OCTC.

3.9 Socioeconomics

Issue statements: *How will construction and operations impact social and economic factors? What risks to public health and safety would occur during project construction and under subsequent operations?*

3.9.1 Definition of the Resource

Socioeconomics. Socioeconomics encompasses economies and social elements such as population levels and economic activity. Factors that describe the socioeconomic environment represent a composite of several interrelated and nonrelated attributes. There are several factors that can be used as indicators of economic conditions for a geographic area, such as demographics, median household income, unemployment rates, percentage of families living below the poverty level, employment, and housing data. Data on employment identify gross numbers of employees, employment by industry or trade, and unemployment trends. Data on personal income in a region are used to compare the before and after effects of any jobs created or lost as a result of a proposed action. Data on industrial, commercial, and other sectors of the economy provide baseline information about the economic health of a region.

Socioeconomic issues addressed in this EA include demographics, regional employment and economic activity, regional income and expenditures, and health and safety.

Health and Safety. A healthy and safe environment is one in which there is no (or an optimally reduced) potential for death, serious bodily injury or illness, or property damage. Health and safety addresses matters such as *workers' health and safety* (e.g., during demolition activities and facility construction) and *public safety* (e.g., during demolition and construction activities and during subsequent operation of facilities). Every state ARNG (within the state ARNG Safety Office) has a health and safety expert on staff that is experienced with OSHA requirements.

Safety and accident hazards can often be identified and reduced or eliminated. Necessary elements for an accident-prone situation or environment include the presence of the hazard itself together with the exposed (and possibly susceptible) population. The degree of exposure depends primarily on the proximity of the hazard to the population. Activities that can be hazardous include transportation, maintenance and repair activities, and activities that occur in

extremely noisy environments. Any facility or human-use area with potentially corrosive or explosive material creates an unsafe environment for nearby populations. Activities in these areas must adhere strictly to handling, transport, storage, and disposal protocols to ensure the safety of personnel on the installation and populations occurring nearby off-installation. Areas requiring road detours, lane blockages, increased presence of construction vehicles, and the creation of dense traffic to accommodate demolition and/or construction activities can create areas potentially unsafe for pedestrians, or potentially more risky for the on-installation commute. Extremely noisy environments can mask verbal or mechanical warning signals such as sirens, bells, or horns.

Health and safety issues addressed in this EA include public safety and protection of children, construction safety, and Army occupational safety.

3.9.2 Regulatory Overview

3.9.2.1 Socioeconomics

Socioeconomics are used to describe the human interests and values shaping public lands management, identify the effects of proposed actions on communities and economies, and promote the economic and social sustainability of communities near the public lands (USDI BLM 2019b).

3.9.2.2 Health and Safety

OSHA was established in 1970 by 29 USC 651 to ensure worker and workplace safety. Employers are to provide a workplace free of safety and health hazards, such as exposure to toxic chemicals, excessive noise levels, mechanical dangers, heat or cold stress, or unsanitary conditions. This is done through establishing safety standards, inspections, training, and providing educational materials.

Occupational Safety. Safety can be improved by following regulatory requirements designed for the benefit of employees and through implementation of operational practices that reduce risks of illness, injury, death, and property damage. The health and safety of onsite military and civilian workers are safeguarded by numerous DoD and Army regulations designed to comply with standards issued by the OSHA and USEPA. These standards specify the amount and type of training required for industrial workers, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing, engineering controls, and maximum exposure limits for workplace stressors. OSHA standards, which are found in 29 CFR §§ 1900–1910 and 1926, were developed to promote a safe working environment. These standards establish general environmental controls, including use of PPE, wherever necessary because of hazards, processes, or the environment. OSHA standards limit exposure to noise, ionizing and nonionizing radiation, and toxic and hazardous substances and establish requirements for handling and storing compressed gases and flammable liquids.

Army Occupational Safety. Occupational safety considers issues associated with facility construction and renovation, addresses airfield and non-airfield operations, and maintenance activities that support base operations. Occupational safety considerations typically also include

land use compatibility on- and off-installation and emergency response capabilities. The following general information is relevant to the Proposed Action discussed in this EA.

DoD Directive 4715.1E, *Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health*, and AR 385-10 provide industrial and general occupational safety guidance for implementation of the OSHA standards in 29 CFR. The purpose of these guidance documents is to minimize loss of DoD and Army resources and to protect personnel from occupational deaths, injuries, or illnesses by managing risks. DoD Manual 6055.9-M, *DoD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards: General Explosives Safety Information and Requirements* applies to all Army activities, establishes the size of the clearance zone based upon Quantity-Distance (QD) criteria or the category and weight of the explosives contained within the facility. Areas that require QD safety zones include munitions facilities, firing ranges, and FAA restricted areas. Implementation of these regulatory requirements and procedures ensures there is minimal risk to the health and safety of installation personnel, as well as the general public, from installation-related operations and activities. Implementation of these standards ensure Army workplaces meet federal safety and health requirements.

DoD implements UFC during the planning and design of all new buildings to ensure efficiency, sustainability, and life safe requirements are met and maintained. Upon inspection, buildings on DoD installations are determined to be adequate or inadequate as compared with the standards, and are either updated or replaced, as necessary. Building design guides used by USAF implement the standardized planning and development of new buildings and facilities. UFC 4-010-01, *DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings*, provides the anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) requirements for facilities on military installations. The intent of AT/FP and design guidance is to improve security, minimize fatalities, and limit damage to facilities in the event of a terrorist attack. Many military installations, including the alternatives considered in this EA, were developed before such considerations became a critical concern. Thus, under current conditions, many units are not able to completely comply with all present AT/FP standards. However, as new construction and modification of facilities occurs, AT/FP standards will be incorporated to the maximum extent practicable.

The AR 385-10, *The Army Safety Program* (September 3, 2009), implements OSHA requirements through prescribing policy, responsibilities, and procedures to protect and preserve Army personnel and property against accidental loss. It provides for safe and healthful workplaces, procedures, and equipment critical to Army operations and activities.

The health and safety of on-site military and civilian workers are safeguarded by numerous DoD and Army regulations designed to comply with standards issued by the OSHA and the USEPA. These standards specify the amount and type of training required for industrial workers, the use of protective equipment and clothing, engineering controls, and maximum exposure limits for workplace stressors, among other elements.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment has overall responsibility for the Army's Human Health and Safety programs. AR 385-10 (establishes DA policy, responsibilities, and procedures to protect and preserve Army personnel and property against accidental loss; provides for public safety incident to Army operations and activities and safe

and healthful workplaces, procedures, and equipment; and assures statutory and regulatory compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 USC 651) as implemented by EO 12196, *Occupational Safety and Health Programs for Federal Employees* (February 26, 1980). This AR applies to all Army components, including ARNG, as well as Army civilian employees.

Per the ARNG NEPA Handbook, this socioeconomics analysis addresses socioeconomics, health and safety, and the protection of children. Specifically, discussion of the baseline for sociological and economic conditions include the following elements: population and demographics, employment and economic activity, housing, education, recreation, local expenditures, population demographics, public and occupational health and safety, and protection of children. Discussion on the protection of children will focus on those areas likely frequented by youths within the areas of proposed development and/or training activities.

Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Program. Another military health and safety issue is the hazard presented by birds and wildlife to aviation operations. The focus of the BASH program is to prevent wildlife-related aircraft mishaps and reduce the potential for wildlife hazards to aircraft operations. Accomplishing this goal requires knowledgeable natural resources management on and adjacent to installation airfields. Per Army policy, all ARNG installations with airfields or significant aircraft activity should maintain an installation-specific BASH Plan consistent with AR 95-2, *Air Traffic Control, Airfield/Heliport, and Airspace Operations* (April, 30 2016) and AR 385-10, *The Army Safety Program* (February 24, 2017), as applicable.

3.9.3 Socioeconomics ROI

The ROI for socioeconomics and health and safety analysis includes Ada and Elmore Counties, with discussion emphasis on the RPMP Development Areas (i.e., Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC) and immediately bordering areas. This ROI is primarily based on the size and extent of the ARNG's Proposed Action.

3.9.4 Existing Conditions

3.9.4.1 Socioeconomics

Population. Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC are largely located within Ada County. The OCTC also occupies a small portion of Elmore County. Ada County is the most populous county in Idaho and is continuing to grow. From 2010 to 2017, Ada County experienced an increase in population of 16.4 percent, and in 2017 had a population of 456,849 (USCB 2018). Major reasons for continued growth in Ada County include its economic health, concentration of high-technology industrial employers, and outdoor lifestyle (IDARNG 2017). Elmore County experienced a population decline of 1 percent from 2010 to 2017, and had a population of 26,823 in 2017 (USCB 2018).

Regional Employment and Economic Activity. As well as being the more populous of the two counties in the ROI, the median household income in Ada County, in 2016 dollars, was higher at \$58,099. Elmore County has a median household income of \$44,444. Elmore County has a

higher poverty rate at 13.9 percent than Ada County at 10.8 percent. Approximately 66 percent of the total population of Ada County is in the civilian labor force, or 301,520 people. In Elmore County, approximately 53 percent of the total population, or 14,216 people, is in the civilian labor force. Total employment or number of people working in Ada County is 194,215, and 4,303 in Elmore County (USCB 2018). **Table 3-20** provides statistics regarding the demographics of the labor force and revenue and profits for industries within Ada and Elmore Counties.

Personal income in Ada County, as of 2016, was approximately \$21.3 billion in 2017 dollars (Headwaters Economics 2018a). Personal income in Elmore County was approximately \$949.3 million in 2017 dollars (Headwaters Economics 2018b). Retail sales in Ada County were approximately \$5.7 billion in 2012, while retail sales in Elmore County were approximately \$256 million in 2012 (USCB 2018). IDARNG provides a total of 3,842 jobs in Idaho and contributes \$289,514,000 to the Idaho economy through direct, indirect, and induced impacts, a breakdown of which is shown in **Table 3-21** (Gardner and Harris 2018).

Table 3-20. Employment by Industry in Ada and Elmore Counties, as of 2016

Industry	Ada County	Elmore County
Non-Services Related		
Farm	1,775	852
Forestry, fishing, & agricultural services	546	171
Mining (including fossil fuels)	921	37
Construction	18,230	411
Manufacturing (including forest products)	17,936	638
Services Related		
Utilities	1,120	41
Transportation & warehousing	7,581	314
Wholesale trade	13,007	137
Retail trade	33,742	1,241
Information	4,749	88
Finance & insurance	16,746	227
Real estate and rental and leasing	17,627	387
Professional and technical services	22,982	~295
Management of companies	3,633	~1
Administrative & waste services	24,865	329
Educational Services	5,440	147
Health care & social assistance	38,484	947
Arts, entertainment, & recreation	7,030	99
Accommodation & food services	21,919	835
Services, except public admin	14,291	579
Government	36,156	5107

Source: Headwaters Economics 2018a, Headwaters Economics 2018b

Table Note: All employment data are reported by *place of work*. Estimates for data that were not disclosed are indicated with tildes (~)

Table 3-21. Economic Contributions of IDARNG Operations in Idaho

Impact Type	Employment	Labor Income	Output
Direct Impacts	3,842	\$138,299,000	\$146,151,000
Indirect Impacts	1,851	\$39,684,000	\$70,576,000
Induced Impacts	2,219	\$40,431,000	\$72,787,000
Total Idaho Impacts	7,912	\$218,414,000	\$289,514,000

Source: Gardner and Harris 2018

Note: Employment includes all full, part-time, and seasonal jobs in Ada, Elmore, and Canyon Counties.

All estimates in 2017 dollars.

Housing. Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC do not contain any residential communities, but Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area contain barracks that provide temporary housing for IDARNG and out of state ARNG personnel in training on the OCTC. No children reside on any of the installations. **Table 3-22** contains statistics about the housing in Ada and Elmore Counties at large.

Table 3-22. Housing for Ada and Elmore Counties

Housing Demographic	Ada County	Elmore County
Housing units 2017	180,722	12,505
Owner-Occupied housing unit rate (2013–2017)	68.3%	57.9%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units (2013–2017)	\$219,900	\$145,200
Median selected monthly owner costs – with a mortgage (2013–2017)	\$1,336	\$1,147
Median selected monthly owner costs – without a mortgage (2013–2017)	\$399	\$304
Median gross rent (2013–2017)	\$910	\$777
Building permits 2017	5,942	38

Source: USCB 2018

Education. In the counties of Ada and Elmore, the percentage of persons 25 years or older that graduated from high school or higher are 95 percent and 86 percent, respectively. The percentage of persons 25 years or older that graduated with a bachelor's degree or higher is 37 percent and 17 percent (USCB 2018).

Demographics. The majority of the population within Ada and Elmore Counties (greater than 90 percent) consists of persons identifying as white alone (including those of Hispanic or Latino ancestry). Persons below the age of 18 make up 24.8 percent of the total population of Ada County, which is equivalent to approximately 113,299 children. Persons under the age of 18 make up 8 percent of the total population of Elmore County, which is approximately 6,974 children (USCB 2018). A detailed breakdown of demographics is provided in **Table 3-23**.

Table 3-23. Demographic Distribution of Ada and Elmore Counties

Population Demographic	Ada County	Elmore County
Total Population	456,849	26,823
Age		
Persons under 5 years, percent	6.1%	8.0%
Persons under 18 years, percent	24.8%	26.0%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	13.0%	12.4%
Gender		
Female persons	49.9%	47.5%
Race		
White persons alone	92.0%	87.5%
Black or African American alone	1.4%	3.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.8%	1.5%
Asian alone	2.8%	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.2%	0.4%
Two or More Races	2.9%	3.7 %
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	7.9%	16.4%

Sources: USCB 2018, IDARNG 2017

Note: Estimates as of July 1, 2017.

3.9.4.2 Health and Safety

The Cantonment Area and the OCTC are in a rural, isolated area and, outside of training exercises, the most common safety risk is roadway traffic. The OCTC and Cantonment Area are approximately 21 driving miles from the City of Boise and 28 driving miles from Mountain Home (via I-84 and South Orchard Access Road). During BCT training operations, troops are transported to the Cantonment Area and OCTC by bus (individual vehicles are not allowed). Transportation infrastructure is further addressed in **Section 3.11**.

Gowen Field is adjacent to the Boise Airport on the outskirts of Boise, Idaho. Common safety risks in this area come from air and roadway traffic. The surrounding roadways are generally flat and mostly straight. Air traffic at the Boise Airport is regulated by the FAA, while air traffic at Gowen Field is regulated by IDARNG. Flight operations out of Gowen Field are conducted in accordance with existing USAF flight safety and BASH protocols.

In the area immediately surrounding Gowen Field, the only area children are likely to frequent is a sports complex. Children may also participate in recreational pursuits occurring on the OCTC or in the surrounding areas. However, training does not occur on Gowen Field.

Public access is prohibited in the Impact Area (including the small arms and artillery impact areas) of the OCTC. Posted signage warns the public and soldiers of the danger in the accessible portion of the OCTC to ensure public safety. Training site personnel approach public citizens in the area to alert them of imminent training. All use of weapons and munitions, including small arms, machine guns, grenades, mortars, C4 demolitions, parachute flares, TOW missiles, and artillery, occur only within the Impact Area, but ground and aviation maneuver

training may occur outside the Impact Area. UXO are present on the range, which are residual munitions that have been fired but not detonated. IDARNG personnel continuously monitor the Impact Area for UXO, and an expert explosive ordinance disposal team is dispatched to any identified UXO.

Safety concerns for IDARNG personnel on the OCTC include ground and aviation maneuver activities, live fire training activities designated by Safety Danger Zone (SDZ), and the use of explosive ordnance. In order to confine the use of weapons and munitions to the Impact Area, all live fire activities are restricted to specified SDZs and monitored/enforced by Range Control. A SDZ is that segment of the range that is endangered by a particular type of weapon or weapon system firing. Range Control, in coordination with BLM, enforces military training activities that occur within the OCTC (IDARNG 2018c). IDARNG personnel, including soldiers, are required to abide by OSHA requirements and other applicable safety regulations (IDARNG 2018c). Safety training on subjects such as wildlife, human health, wildfires, recreational shooting in the area are required prior to soldiers participating in activities in the OCTC.

Within the NCA, wildfires pose a threat to health and safety on the OCTC, Cantonment Area, and surrounding landscape. As noted in the **Section 3.7.4.1** discussion on *Wildland Fire*, a majority (estimated 90 percent) of the fires reported on the OCTC are associated with munitions expenditures igniting vegetation within the Small Arms Impact Area during training operations. During training activities, OCTC firefighters are staged to monitor training and extinguished any subsequent fires immediately (IDARNG 2013). Due to the proximity of staging stations to potential fire areas, the average response time (time from dispatch to arrival) for the OCTC firefighters is between 5 and 10 minutes. IDARNG has primary responsibility for responding to all fires within the OCTC and can support fires adjacent to the OCTC boundary, if requested. The Orchard Rural Fire Department and IDARNG Range Control provide fire and rescue service to the OCTC, while Ada County's Sheriff's Department provides police protection. A wildfire suppression program for military training activities is implemented through IDARNG's WFMP (IDARNG 2013a).

3.10 Environmental Justice

Issue statements: *How will construction and training operations impact low-income, minority, and senior populations? Will there be potential for impacts on these populations from UXO?*

3.10.1 Definition of the Resource

Environmental justice analyses involve identifying whether a proposed action would result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority, low-income, and senior populations. Consideration of environmental justice concerns includes the race, ethnicity, and poverty status of populations in the area within which potential impacts from a proposed action could occur. Similarly, potential impacts on senior citizens should also be evaluated. Activities occurring near areas that could have higher concentrations of seniors during any given time, such as assisted living facilities or health care centers, might further intensify potential impacts on this group. To the extent to which seniors might be impacted, disproportionate impacts are inherent due to their inherent vulnerabilities. To determine whether an action would result in disproportionately

high and adverse impacts, the analysis should identify whether minority and/or low-income populations are present in the area, and, if these types of communities are present, evaluate whether high and adverse human health or environmental effects would disproportionately affect the identified populations.

For purposes of this EA, Environmental Justice demographic indicators are defined as follows:

Minority Population – The CEQ defines minority populations as members of the following population groups: Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and multi-race that includes one of the aforementioned races; and Hispanic or Latino (CEQ 1997). The United States Census Bureau (USCB) considers race and Hispanic or Latino origin (ethnicity) as separate concepts and these data are recorded separately. Data that inform the EJScreen Tool include the county- and Census block-level results from the American Community Survey 5-Year Census Estimates (2012-2016) (USEPA 2019g). As defined by the CEQ, the environmental justice area of impact is considered to have a minority low-income population if the percentage of persons characterized as being a minority within the area of impact is either greater than 50 percent, or is meaningfully greater than the community of comparison. CEQ also states, “A minority population also exists if there is more than one minority group present and the minority percentage, as calculated by aggregating all minority persons, meets one of the above-stated thresholds” (CEQ 1997).

Low-income Population – The percent of a block group’s population in households where the household income is less than or equal to twice the federal “poverty level” (USEPA 2019g). The Federal poverty threshold of 2016 for an individual under 65 years old was \$12,486 (USCB 2019).

Senior Population - The percent of a population that is older than age 64 (USEPA 2019d).

For the purposes of this environmental justice analysis, a conservative approach was used to identify potential environmental justice populations. It is assumed that if the percentages of minority, low-income, and senior populations within the identified census blocks are more than 10 percentage points higher than those of the community of comparison (e.g., County), there is likely an environmental justice population of concern.

The community of comparison is the smallest jurisdiction for which U.S. Census data are collected that encompasses the footprint of impacts for all resource areas. Such information aids in evaluating whether a proposed action would render vulnerable any of the populations targeted for protection. Data used to assess impacts on minority, low-income, and senior populations include the county- and census block group-level results from the 2010 U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Census Estimates (2012-2016), and the USEPA’s EJScreen mapping and screening tool. The EJScreen database is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports which reflect the USEPA’s *Final Guidance on Considering Environmental Justice During the Development of an Action* (USEPA 2019g).

3.10.2 Regulatory Overview

On February 11, 1994, EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, was issued. EO 12898 requires each Federal agency to identify and address whether their proposed action results in disproportionately high and adverse environmental and health impacts on low-income or minority populations. The EO was created to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no groups of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, state, tribal, and local programs and policies. This EO also requires that each Federal agency conduct its programs, policies, and activities that substantially affect human health and the environment in a manner that ensures that such programs, policies, and activities do not have the effect of excluding persons (including populations) from participating in, denying persons (including populations) the benefits of, or subjecting persons (including populations) to discrimination under such programs, policies, and activities because of their race, color, or national origin.

A Presidential memorandum accompanying EO 12898 states that existing federal statutes should be used to evaluate environmental justice concerns. One of the referenced statutes is NEPA, and the memorandum highlights the importance of NEPA in addressing environmental hazards in minority and low-income communities. The memorandum states that “each Federal agency shall analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic and social effects, of Federal actions, including effects on minority communities and low-income communities”, when such analysis is required by NEPA.

3.10.3 Environmental Justice ROI

The ROI for environmental justice analysis includes the Census Block Groups 160010021001, 160010105011, 160010105031, and 160399604002, which contain Gowen Field, the OCTC and the Cantonment Area (**Figure 3.10**). The communities of comparison are Ada and Elmore Counties, which encompass the census block groups of the ROI.

3.10.4 Existing Conditions

Table 3-24 lists the environmental justice populations located within the census block groups potentially affected by the Proposed Action.

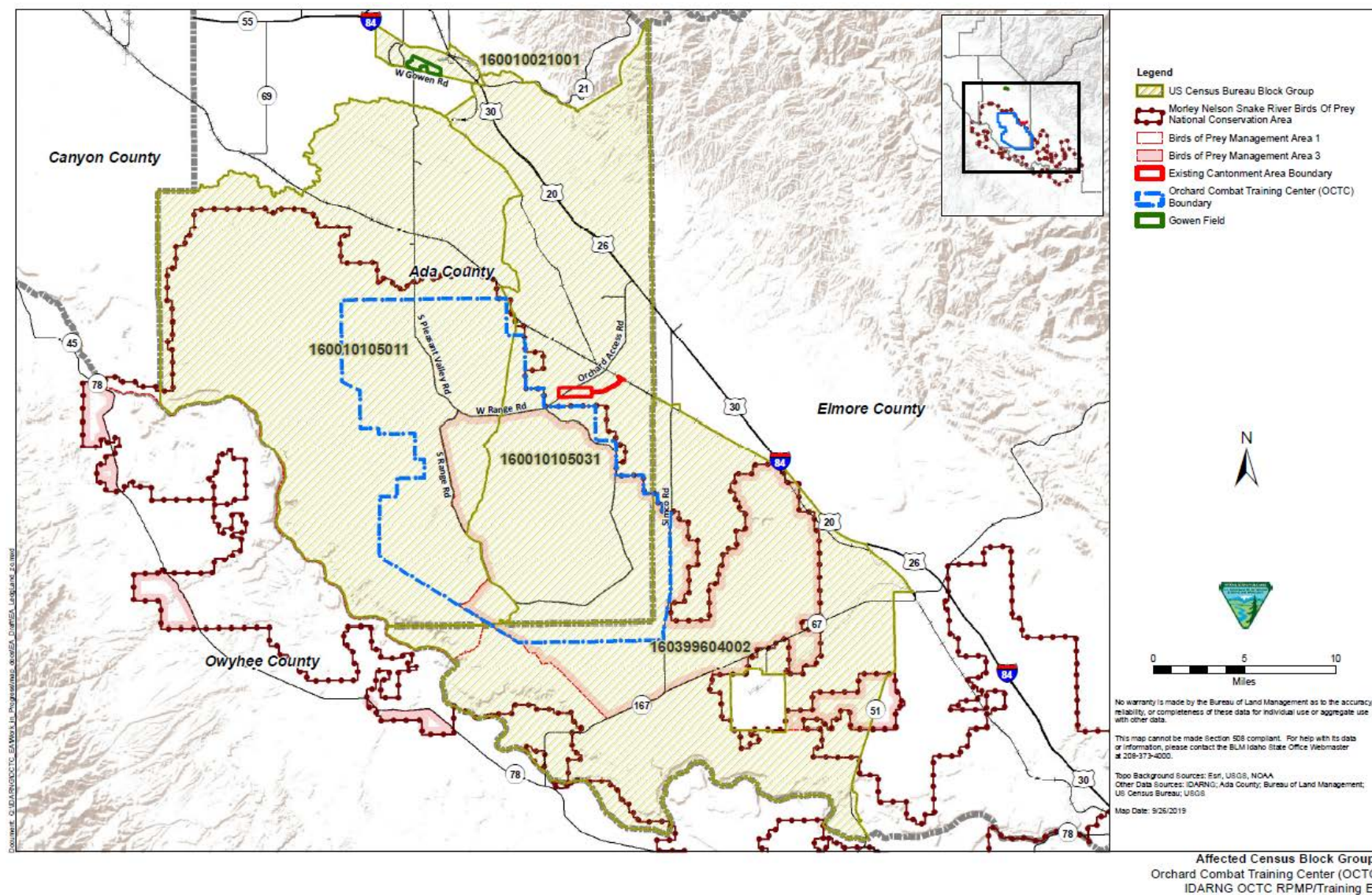


Figure 3.10. Census Block Groups Located Near the Project Area

Table 3-24. Environmental Justice Populations Proximal to the Project Area

Census Data Unit	County	Total Population	Percent Minority	Percent Low-Income	Percent Senior
Census Block Group Data					
160010021001	Ada	359	3	24	24
160010105011	Ada	6,520	22	12	6
160010105031	Ada	4,705	24	28	7
160399604002	Elmore	874	40	26	19
County Data					
Ada County	-	425,798	14	29	13
Elmore County	-	26,103	26	42	12

Source: USEPA 2019g

Key: **Bold** indicates the census block group is considered to be an environmental justice population because the percentage of minority, low-income, or senior residents either exceeds 50 percent of the total population or is more than 10 percentage points greater than the percentage of minority, low-income, or senior residents in the community of comparison (county).

3.10.4.1 Gowen Field

Census Block Group 160010021001 includes Gowen Field and Boise Airport, and extends approximately 1.5 to 2 miles to the southeast and northwest of Boise Airport in Ada County. The minority population is 3 percent of the census block group population, which is less than 50 percent and lower than the minority population of Ada County. The low-income population makes up 24 percent of the census block group's population, which is less than 50 percent and slightly lower than Ada County's low income population. The senior population is 24 percent of the census block group population, which is less than 50 percent but greater than 10 percentage points higher than the senior population of Ada County. There are no data to indicate whether populations that principally rely on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence reside in or near the project area.

Only IDARNG personnel live on Gowen Field. However, there are residential communities on the western end of the Census Block Group 160010021001 and in the areas to the west, north, and east of the census block group, which include several schools. A large shopping center occupies the northwestern corner of the census block group. There is a sports complex just outside the southeastern edge of the census block group.

3.10.4.2 Cantonment Area

The Cantonment Area lies within Census Block Group 160010105031, which occupies the southeastern corner of Ada County, bordering Elmore County and encompassing the eastern half of the OCTC and the area up to the southern outskirts of Boise. The minority population makes up 24 percent of the census block group's population, which is 10 percent higher than the minority population of Ada County. The low income population makes up 28 percent of the census block group population, which is approximately equal to the low income population of Ada County at large. The senior population is 7 percent of the census block group's population, which is lower than that of Ada County. There are no data to indicate whether populations that principally rely on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence reside in or near the project area.

During training operations, IDARNG personnel reside on the Cantonment Area. A largely rural area makes up the Census Block Group containing the Cantonment Area. Within that rural area are a few isolated rural residences and farms.

3.10.4.3 OCTC

The OCTC is located within two Census Block Groups in Ada County: 160010105011 and 160010105031, and one in Elmore County: 160399604002. Census Block Group 160010105011 contains the western half of the OCTC and extends to the southwestern outskirts of Boise, encompassing the northwestern portion of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA. The minority population makes up 22 percent of the census block group's population, which is less than 50 percent but higher than the minority population of Ada County. The low income population makes up 12 percent of the population, which is less than the low income population of Ada County at large. The senior population is 6 percent of the census block group's population, which is less than that of Ada County's senior population.

In Census Block Group 160010105031, the minority population makes up 24 percent of the census block group's population, which is less than 50 percent but higher than the Ada County minority population. The low income population is lower than 50 percent and similar to that of Ada County's low income population, making up 28 percent of the census block group's population. The senior population is 7 percent of the census block group's population, which is less than 50 percent and that of Ada County's senior population.

Within Census Block Group 160399604002, the minority population is higher than that of Elmore County, but less than 50 percent, making up 40 percent of the census block group's population. The low income population makes up 26 percent of the census block group's population, which is less than that of Elmore County's low income population and less than 50 percent. The senior population is 19 percent of the census block group's population, which is less than 50 percent but higher than that of Ada County.

There are no data to indicate whether populations that principally rely on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence reside in or near the project area.

No one resides on the OCTC. However, there are small communities, farms, and isolated residences within the surrounding area.

3.11 Infrastructure

Issue statements: What impacts on utilities and infrastructure (e.g., electricity, data and communications, liquid fuel supply, water supply, solid waste management, stormwater management, and traffic and transportation) are anticipated from implementation of the proposed construction and training operations?

3.11.1 Definition of the Resource

Infrastructure consists of the systems and physical structures that enable a population in a specified area to function. Infrastructure is wholly human-made, with a high correlation between the type and extent of infrastructure and the degree to which an area is characterized as "urban"

or developed. The availability of infrastructure and its capacity for expansion are generally regarded as essential to the economic growth of an area. The infrastructure components discussed in this section include utilities, solid waste management, airfield, road, and rail transportation.

Utilities include water supply, sanitary sewer and wastewater systems, electrical supply, natural gas supply, and communications systems (liquid fuel supply is addressed in **Section 3.12**, Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes).

Solid waste management primarily relates to the availability of systems and landfills to support the residential, commercial, and industrial needs of a population.

The airfield and airspace management includes all pavements, runways, overruns, aprons, ramps, and arm/disarm pads that are associated with aircraft maintenance and aircraft operations. Airspace discussion in this EA would include any controlled, uncontrolled, or special use airspace (SUA) that is used by the ARNG during flight operations. SUA consists of airspace within which specific activities must be confined, or wherein limitations are imposed on aircraft not participating in those activities. SUAs are established in a coordinated effort with the FAA to maintain safety through separation of military and civilian flights.

Transportation includes major and minor roadways that feed into the installation and the security gates, and roadways and parking areas on the installation. Public transit, rail, and pedestrian networks are also elements of transportation.

3.11.2 Regulatory Overview

Water Supply. As described in **Section 3.6.4**, IDEQ regulates PWSs in Idaho per USEPA standards. USEPA defines three types of PWS. Community water systems supply water to the same population year-round, such as municipalities. Non-transient non-community water systems supply water to at least 25 of the same individuals at least six months per year, such as schools or office buildings. A transient non-community water system supplies water to a facility where individuals do not remain for long periods of time, such as campgrounds.

Water supply for groundwater quality and quantity are federally regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 United States Code [USC] 300[f] et seq., as amended). The Idaho Groundwater Act (Idaho Code Title 42, Chapter 233a and 233b, as amended) provides the IDWR the authority to designate GWMA and CGWAs. Water right applications within a CGWA may be denied and users may need to report water use and diversion information and may be approved only after confirmation that prior water rights will not be injured (IDWR 1999). A GWMA is an area of a groundwater basin that may be approaching CGWA conditions. IDWR also created a Consolidated Hearing Study Area (CHSA) in January 2012 to consolidate a series of protested and unprotested water rights applications to evaluate water supply in the Western Snake River Plain Aquifer. These cases are currently under review. Applications for new or transferred water rights within the boundaries of the CHSA may be subject to the resulting agreement.

The IDWR manages the allocation and distribution of water rights. Water rights are the authorization to use water in a prescribed manner or beneficial use, rather than owning the water itself. IDWR administers water rights via seven water districts across Idaho. The water districts adjudicate abandonment, application for, or changes to water rights.

Sanitary Sewer and Wastewater Systems. Any facility that generates wastewater must dispose of it through a wastewater treatment and disposal system. Such systems are either centralized (e.g., large-scale sewer system such as in cities) or decentralized (e.g., on-site septic system). IDEQ is responsible for overseeing wastewater management for systems over 2,500 gallon per day or more, while the Idaho Public Health Districts oversee and permit on-site wastewater systems less than 2,500 gallons per day.

Electrical Supply. Idaho Power provides transmission services on a non-discriminatory basis under its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)-approved open access transmission tariff and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

Natural Gas Supply. Intermountain Gas Company is a subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc., provides natural gas utility service and is regulated by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

Solid Waste. The State of Idaho defines solid waste in the Solid Waste Management Rules (IDAPA 58.01.06). Solid waste is any garbage or refuse, sludge from a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility and other discarded material including solid, semisolid, or contained gaseous materials resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations and from community activities. It does not include solid or dissolved materials in domestic sewage, or solid or dissolved material in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges that are point sources subject to certain permits, or source, special nuclear, or by-product material (IDEQ 2019b).

Transportation. Roads near the ROI are characterized as primary, secondary, tertiary, or unimproved. Primary roads, such as interstates, are designed to move traffic and are not necessarily designed to provide access to all adjacent properties. Primary and secondary roads are overseen by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and often maintained by the relevant state department of transportation. In this case, the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) maintains the primary roadways (primarily Interstate I-84) surrounding the ROI.

Secondary roads are arterials, such as state routes, designed to facilitate traffic movement. Secondary roads service minor traffic generators such as community and commercial areas, hospitals, and schools. Secondary roads may be overseen and maintained by a state department of transportation, a county, or municipality. In this case, ITD, ACHD or the IDARNG maintain the secondary roads near the ROI.

Tertiary roads are often county roads, or other federal land agency roads. Unimproved roads are slightly used passageways that have not been improved through paving, adding gravel, or compacting. Tertiary and unimproved roads may be overseen and maintained by a variety of

agencies. In this case the tertiary or unimproved roads are maintained by ACHD, IDARNG, or the BLM.

Traffic congestion is often measured by Level of Service (LOS), which describes the quality of service to the road user. LOS can be calculated for both roadways and intersections. The LOS ranges from A to F, where LOS A represents free flow, low traffic density, ideal operating conditions and LOS F represents gridlock or conditions unacceptable to most drivers. A roadway becomes congested as traffic demand approaches 500 vehicles per hour (vph) in one direction (ACHD 2018a).

The Federal Railroad Administration regulates domestic railroads, which are primarily operated by private companies. In this case, the Union Pacific Railroad Corporation operates the railroad lines surrounding the ROI.

As a federal agency, IDARNG pedestrian facilities must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Airspace. FAA rules apply to the entire National Airspace System. Controlled airspaces are actively directed and managed by air traffic controllers and typically exist around airports and at certain altitudes. All other airspace not actively managed by air traffic controllers is considered uncontrolled. FAA criteria apply to all airport facilities. However, the FAA Advisory Circular 150/5300-13 regulates airfields that are joint-use between civilian and military operations. Air National Guard airspace infrastructures and flight operations, whether fee-owned or leased, are subject to DoD UFC criteria, specifically UFC 3-260-01, Airfield and Heliport Planning and Design (IDANG and IDARNG 2019). The FAA rules regulating UAS operations cover a broad spectrum of commercial and government uses for drones weighing less than 55 pounds, excluding model aircraft (14 CFR § 107).

3.11.3 Infrastructure ROI

The ROI for infrastructure includes Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, the OCTC, and the immediately surrounding areas where infrastructure connections may exist. The infrastructure information contained in this section provides a brief overview of each infrastructure component and comments on its existing general condition at the installation.

3.11.4 Existing Conditions

This following subsections describe utilities, solid waste, transportation, and existing airspace and airfield management elements for each area of the ROI. Utilities include water supply and water rights, electrical supply, liquid fuel supply, natural gas supply, wastewater systems, stormwater drainage, and communications systems. Solid waste describes refuse, recycling, and other solid waste disposal. The transportation services described in this section include roadways, traffic, and pedestrian facilities within and connecting the areas of the ROI. Airspace and airfield management describes airspace, airfield operations, runways, taxiways, aprons, and aircraft maintenance.

3.11.4.1 Gowen Field

Established in 1941, Gowen Field is a National Guard installation located on the south side of the Boise Air Terminal (FAA Identifier: BOI; also known as Boise International Airport). Servicing both the Air National Guard (ANG) and ARNG, Gowen Field is the only joint military installation in Idaho. The combined area within the airport boundaries under exclusive-use military lease is 576 acres. Another 1,500 acres on the airport is under a joint-use agreement between the City of Boise and the military (City of Boise 2010).

Utilities

Water Supply. Suez provides water to the installation and maintains the distribution system. The existing water distribution system provides the required level of domestic maximum day demand volume and fire-flow requirements for current, short-range and long-range building construction (IDANG and IDARNG 2019). The source water is drawn from groundwater wells within a deep aquifer fed by Boise River (City of Boise 2010).

Wastewater system. Gowen Field discharges wastewater to the City of Boise wastewater system. The existing wastewater system provides the required level of service for current, short-range, and long-range building construction. The City of Boise maintains the wastewater system on the installation (IDANG and IDARG 2019).

Electrical power. Idaho Power Company provides electricity to the installation. The existing electrical distribution system provides the required level of service for current, short-range, and long-range building construction. Backup generators are in place to support essential functions in the case of a power outage (IDANG and IDARNG 2019).

Natural gas. Intermountain Gas Company supplies natural gas serving the base. All owned buildings are on one main meter (IDANG and IDARNG 2019).

Fuel Supply. The ANG manages a single fuel supply contract at Gowen Field. Other agency vehicles are able to refuel at the ANG station with appropriate federal identification (Melanese 2019).

Data and Communications. A fiber optic system is located in the airport for communications and is connected with the City of Boise's Wide Area Network (City of Boise 2010).

Solid Waste Management. Gowen Field generates solid waste in the form of trash, industrial wastes, and construction debris. Solid wastes are collected and recycled or disposed of at a certified landfill by a certified waste contractor (IDANG and IDARNG 2019). In order to meet Air Force Instruction 20-7047 requirements, Gowen Field installments are required to track tonnages and costs (direct and indirect) for all diversion/recycling streams, including construction and demolition debris. According to the assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Logistics 27 April 2012 memorandum, Air Force Policy on Achieving Efficiencies Through Pollution Prevention and Waste Elimination, 65 percent (by weight) of nonhazardous solid waste must be diverted from landfill disposal by 2020 excluding C&D debris, with interim goals to divert 55 percent by 2015 and 60 percent by 2018. This goal is tracked using the Air Force Environmental Management System (IDANG and IDARNG 2019).

During FY18, IDARNG disposed approximately 335 tons of solid waste from Gowen Field (IDARNG 2019e). Solid waste generated through demolition and construction are managed as a separate waste stream and managed by the construction contractor (Melanese 2019).

Transportation

No primary roads are located within Gowen Field. The primary access road for Gowen Field is West Gowen Road to the south, which splits into South Orchard Street to the west. Secondary roads within Gowen Field include West Guard Street, West Harvard Street, General Manning Avenue, South Byrd Street, South Ingalls Street, and South Lindbergh Street among others. Pleasant Valley Road, which turns into South McConnell Road and then West Range Road, provides access between Gowen Field and the OCTC and the Cantonment Area.

Pedestrians are served by a network of sidewalks throughout the base. Some areas lack adequate pedestrian connectivity. Base pedestrian activity is concentrated most heavily in command and support areas in the center of the installation and the Regional Training Institute on the west side of the installation. Vehicle parking spaces are evenly distributed across the installation. The installation has authorized parking for 805 privately owned vehicles (POVs) and 370 government-owned vehicles (GOVs) (IDANG and IDARNG 2019).

Airspace and Airfield Management

At Gowen Field, runways and taxiways are shared by commercial, private, and military aircraft flying out of BOI. FAA controllers in the Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower control ground movements of both civil and military aircraft on the Airport. IDANG operates a ramp tower to facilitate the movement of military aircraft on the IDANG apron (City of Boise 2010).

3.11.4.2 Cantonment Area

Utilities

Water Supply. The Cantonment Area is located completely within the Mountain Home GWMA, as well as the CHSA (see **Figure 3.4**).

Two groundwater wells supply water to the Cantonment Area. Well 1 was installed at the MATES facility in 1992. Well 2 was installed in the ORTC in 2012. Reported static water levels of each well were of 479 ft bgs (IDWR 1992) and 491 ft bgs (IDWR 2012), respectively. Well water can be stored in two tanks with a combined volume of 350,000 gallons (SPF Water Engineering 2019).

The Cantonment Area wells are managed jointly as non-transient non-community PWS (PWS ID 4010234). **Section 3.6** provides additional details on the drinking water quality for these wells and the PWS.

The Cantonment Area is located within Water District 161, the Western Region that is hydraulically connected to sources of water in the Snake River Basin (IDWR 2019a). IDARNG holds groundwater rights for the initial well in the MATES area, in addition to shared water rights between the second well in the Cantonment Area and the ASP. This area and the OCTC are located within an 11-mile Consolidated Hearing Study Area (CHSA) along the I-84 corridor near

the Ada County/Elmore County line wherein water rights applications for planned communities and irrigation projects area consolidated based upon geographic location (SPF Water Engineering 2019). Approval of rights transfers and appropriations in the CHSA is contingent upon whether the projected consumptive use by the applicants would exceed the area's annual recharge requirement). Per the associated IDWR water study for the CHSA, 7,440 acre-feet (af) per year was determined to be the net annual recharge for the study area and is considered the maximum additional consumptive use that can be authorized within the study area. In 2009, prior to establishment of the CHSA, the IDWR approved an application for transfer of water rights to combine these water rights for the Cantonment Area to support existing consumptive requirements. The combined annual water right for the Cantonment Area and ASP is approximately 50.5 million gallons per year (gallons/year) or 155 acre-foot per annum (AFA) for industrial, domestic, and fire protection for the specified use area. **Table 3-25** summarizes the details of beneficial uses and the corresponding annual water usage at the Cantonment Area and ASP.

The available water well flow data pose some challenges to estimating current water demand. A portion of distributed water from the wells is consumed at the Cantonment Area and roughly correlates with wastewater flow measurements. A portion is also transported by water hauler to the OCTC to facilitate field operations and dust control. Thus, water use rates depend not only on number of personnel present, but the distribution of personnel between the Cantonment Area and the OCTC, which is seasonal. As described in **Section 2.2.4.1**, peak personnel occurs during the Summer Training Period (May through August) when most people are in field training in the OCTC. Furthermore, the water use rate varies by activity. Water use per person is greater for facility use at the Cantonment Area than for field training use at the OCTC.

Table 3-25. Cantonment Area and ASP Groundwater Rights Summary

Water Right ID	Diversion Points/ Well Locations	Priority Date	Decreed Date	Available Date Range	Beneficial Use(s)	Water Right (gallons/year)	Water Right (AFA)
61-10124	Cantonment Area/MATES and Orchard Access Rd UPRR Crossing	3/01/1954	10/26/2000	Mar 1 – Nov 1	Domestic	28,493,070	87.5
61-7246B	Cantonment Area/ORTC and ASP	12/16/1975	10/26/2000	Jan 1 – Dec 31	Industrial, Domestic, and Fire Protection	21,980,368	67.5
Total Cantonment Area Water Right						50.5 million	155

Sources: IDWR 2019b, IDWR 2019c

Based on water flow data from the Cantonment Area wells collected over 385 days between September 28, 2017, and March 5, 2018, IDARNG estimated water use rates of 64 gallons per day (gpd) per person for facility use at the Cantonment Area with 14 gpd required per person for field training operations at the OCTC (SPF Water Engineering 2019). Based on these approaches, current annual water use to support training on the OCTC throughout the year

including brigade level training for the Resident ABCT and transient units (approximately 8,100 soldiers) during the Summer Training Period would range between approximately 256,000 gpd and 403,000 gpd (with variability depending on the number of training days). This equates to consumption of approximately 13 million gallons per year [41 af]).

Wastewater. Two wastewater treatment facilities exist within the Cantonment Area: one for wash water generated by vehicle wash racks and one for sanitary sewage generated by both MATES and ORTC operations. Floor drains in the maintenance areas of the MATES facility drain to the sanitary sewer system, while sand/grease traps and oil/water separators are used at the maintenance areas to prevent oil pollutants from entering the lined sanitary evaporative wastewater lagoon and drip system (IDARNG 2018a).

Lagoons may be pumped to subsurface leaching treatment fields. Under the current wastewater treatment demand, only the lagoons have been used, which can hold 3 million gallons of wastewater, leaving capacity for future demand (Melanese 2019). The current system can support 932 beds at the ORTC, utilized for a maximum of 9 months a year and an additional 130 beds elsewhere. This equates to an average influent flow capacity of 59,427 gpd (SPF Water Engineering 2017a).

Flow meters at two lift stations record wastewater flow generated at the Cantonment Area. Lift station 1 pumps wastewater from the ORTC and MATES facilities. Lift Station 2 pumps only from the railhead facilities. With the exception of inflow from the vehicle wash station, wastewater flow is a reasonable proxy for potable water use at the Cantonment Area facilities. The existing annual wastewater flow was estimated to be approximately 33,000 gpd (SPF Water Engineering 2019).

Electricity. Idaho Power provides the Cantonment Area with electrical services. Annual Electricity use for the period of May 2018 to May 2019 for all 25 of the metered locations at the Cantonment Area and OCTC totaled 4,535,527 kilowatt hours (kWh). During this period peak electricity use across all metered facilities occurred during January (484,179 kWh) and declined to the minimum in June (95,269 kWh) before rising again and remaining above 320,000 kWh each month for the remainder of the year (IDARNG 2019c). The MATES facility also includes an emergency power generator.

Natural Gas. An existing natural gas line and overhead power line each parallel Orchard Access Road. Idaho Intermountain Gas provides natural gas. Annual natural gas use for the period of June 2018 to June 2019 for all 11 of the metered locations at the Cantonment Area totaled 133,836 centum cubic feet (CCF). During this period peak natural gas use across all metered facilities occurred during January (27,639 CCF) and declined to the minimum in August (1,705 CCF) before rising back to 26,354 CCF by December (IDARNG 2019c).

Data and Communications. Qwest provides telephone service to the Cantonment Area facilities.

Fuel. Fuel oil and propane are supplied by subcontractors (Baun 2018). The Cantonment Area includes fuel storage within both above ground storage tanks (ASTs) and underground storage

tanks (USTs). The fuel types and details of fuel storage facilities located within the Cantonment Area are summarized in **Section 3.11.4.2**.

Currently, the DLA delivers fuel by truck to UST and AST at the Cantonment Area. Each training unit brings their own fueler trucks and tank trucks to fill up at the Cantonment Area and then shuttle to field operations for training (Melanese 2019).

Bulk fuel use at the Cantonment Area for 2018 totaled 377,770 gallons of diesel and 44,193 gallons of gasoline. Gasoline use remained relatively constant throughout the year, ranging from 7,246 gallons in April to 1,072 gallons in September. Diesel fuel use varied more throughout the year, ranging from 50,560 gallons in July to 11,359 gallons in November. As a general trend, diesel use remaining above approximately 30,000 gallons during each summer training month (IDARNG 2019c). Based on active BCT training and routine fueling operations during 2018, fuel use from 2018 was considered the best baseline conditions available for determining existing conditions (Sitko 2019).

Solid Waste Management. Training units collect waste materials generated during training exercises and then sort the waste among material types into metal containers with 6 to 30 cubic yards capacity for handling solid wastes. Visiting units often contract their own refuse removal contractor and dispose of refuse in dumpsters temporarily placed at one or more TTB (Melanese 2019). Waste collection and disposal data for the Cantonment Area and OCTC are not separated by the contractor, and are therefore presented as a combined total in this EA. During FY18, the IDARNG disposed of approximately 213 tons of solid waste from the Cantonment Area and OCTC (IDARNG 2019e).

Once at the Cantonment Area, refuse, recyclables, and hazardous materials are managed as separate waste streams and hauled to a regulated landfill facility or the appropriate disposal facility (Stout and Associates 2004). Class V solid waste such as munitions and explosive materials and dunnage are addressed separately through the ammunition and munitions distribution system and managed separately by ASP personnel (IDARNG 2018). Demolition and construction waste are managed independently by the construction contractor as a separate waste stream (Melanese 2019).

Transportation

Roads. The primary roadway near the Cantonment Area is Interstate 84 (I-84), a multi-lane, divided interstate (see **Figure 2.2**). Orchard Access Road (Exit 71 on I-84) approximately 20 miles southeast Boise is the primary access to the Cantonment Area. Orchard Access Road is a secondary, paved county road maintained by ACHD (Baun 2018). It is a two lane rural road with one travel lane in each direction and minimal paved shoulders. Traffic on Orchard Access Road is dominated by military vehicles, with some local residential and agricultural machinery. Convoys of locally based units and training equipment travel between Gowen Field and the OCTC. The convoys occur during off-peak hours and days to minimize any minor delays the public may encounter (Baun 2018).

ACHD conducted a two day traffic count on the Orchard Access Road just north of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) at-grade railroad crossing on August 7–8, 2018 (ACHD 2018b). The

average daily traffic, the number of vehicles traveling on the road for the Tuesday and Wednesday of the count duration, was 834 vehicles per day (vpd) with 387 vpd traveling north and 447 vpd traveling south. The peak hour for travel demand in the morning was from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., with 73 vph, 9 vph traveling north and 62 vph traveling south. The peak travel demand hour in the afternoon was from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. with 64 vph, 50 vph traveling north and 14 vph traveling south (ACHD 2018b). This roadway is currently considered to operate at LOS A, with little to no congestion (ACHD 2018a). ACHD currently has no short or long range plans for improvements or expansion of the Orchard Access Road and no active or planned traffic studies at this time (Saak 2019).

Railroad. The UPRR line runs approximately southeast to northwest, east of the OCTC Cantonment Area. ARNG constructed a 2-mile rail spur between the main railroad line and the MATES facility in 2008, enabling Transient Units to deliver training equipment directly to the Cantonment Area (Baun 2018). The railhead operations currently manage 22 trains per calendar year (Melanese 2018a). Upon arrival and departure, the Transient Unit completes a four-day railhead procedure as described in **Section 2.2.4.3**.

Pedestrian walkways. Pedestrian pathways include ADA-compliant sidewalks and crossing areas near billeting and primary gathering buildings (IDARNG 2018a).

Airspace and Airfield Management

The Cantonment Area does not include a corresponding managed airspace. There are two helipads located at the Cantonment Area. The main helipad is located near the Railhead and is used primarily for special visits to the Cantonment Area (IDARNG 2019b). This helipad is used a maximum of 20 times a year. The second helipad at the Cantonment Area is reserved for medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) use. The MEDEVAC helipad is used strictly for medical emergencies. Use is expected to be minimal as priority is either emergency ground transportation or site specific (range) life flight support.

3.11.4.3 OCTC

Utilities

Water Supply. Groundwater is generally encountered 900 feet bgs or more (IDARNG 2018a). The Mountain Home GWMA extends across approximately the eastern half of the OCTC. The portion of the OCTC within Elmore County overlaps the Cinder Cone CGWA (IDWR 1999). Much of the OCTC also overlaps the IDWR CHSA (see **Figure 3.5**).

IDARNG currently holds and operates the groundwater rights for three groundwater wells within the OCTC located at the ASP, SRTF, and RCOM facility (IDWR 2018). The ASP and SRTF wells are tested regularly, but do not qualify as a PWS. The well located at the RCOM facility is managed as a non-transient, non-community PWS (PWS ID4010256). IDWR well drillers' reports indicate generally deepening static water levels from east to west from 521 feet bgs at the ASP (1992) to 605 feet bgs at the SRTF (1989), and 767 at the RCOM (2009) (IDWR 2018).

A fast fill station located at the SRTF water well fills water trucks used for fire suppression, dust suppression, and field training support throughout the OCTC. The SRTF and ASP wells are

located with IDWR Water District 161, Mountain Home Area. The RCOM well is located within IDWR Water District 63, Boise River. The ASP well shares water rights with the two Cantonment Area wells, as detailed in **Section 3.11.4.2** and summarized in **Table 3-26**. Groundwater rights details for the SRFT and the RCOM wells are also summarized in **Table 3-26** (IDWR 2019d, IDWR 2019e).

Table 3-26. SRFT and RCOM Groundwater Rights Summary

Water Right ID	Location	Priority Date	Decreed Date	Beneficial Use	Water Right (gallons/year)	Water Right (AFA)	Available Date Range
61-7283B	SRFT	8/23/1976	10/26/2000	Industrial Domestic Fire Protection	7,326,789	22.5	Jan 1 – Dec 31
Total SRFT Right					7,326,789	22.5	
63-33238	RCOM	7/13/2009	7/23/2015	Industrial	65,127	0.2	Jan 1 – Dec 31
				Domestic	195,381	0.6	
Total RCOM Right					260,508	0.8	

Sources: IDWR 2019d, IDWR 2019e

Table Key: SRFT – Snake River Training Facility, RCOM – Range Center of Maintenance

Waste Water. The OCTC is not connected to a public sanitary sewer system. All locations with plumbing use septic drain fields to treat waste water. This currently includes the ASP, SRTF, and the RCOM.

Electricity. Idaho Power provides electricity, the only public utility available to the OCTC, via a single buried power line paralleling Range Road. Mobile generators provide power to mobile targetry.

Fuel. Fuel storage in the OCTC is limited to ASTs located at the MPRC-H and the ASP. Additional details regarding these tanks are included in **Section 3.12.4.3**. Each unit provides its own fueler trucks, such as Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) trucks and mobile fuel pick-up trucks that deliver fuel between storage tanks at the Cantonment Area and the OCTC to support field training operations in the OCTC. Range 3 also includes a FARP for helicopter refueling.

Data and Communications Infrastructure. A radio-equipped building at the top of Cinder Cone Butte provides direct communication with IDARNG Headquarters at Gowen Field and Mountain Home AFB. Use of repeaters and other means of communication is necessary as this is the only communications service available (IDARNG 2018a). Underground data lines that facilitate short distance control of individual range operations are present in other locations of the OCTC.

Solid Waste Management. Solid waste generated at the OCTC consists primarily of packing material from bulk ammunition deliveries and combustible, unrepairable targets. Training units

collect waste materials generated during training exercises and then sort the waste among material types into dumpsters located at the Cantonment Area. Visiting units often contract their own refuse removal contractor and dispose of refuse in dumpsters temporarily placed at one or more TTB (Melanese 2109).

Transportation

Range Road is a maintained gravel road that encircles the Impact Area, and is the primary access road for ranges on the OCTC.

Several secondary and tertiary county roads provide main access to the OCTC and Range Road (see **Figure 2.2**). Pleasant Valley Road is a secondary road that connects Gowen Road to the northern boundary of the OCTC. An unpaved tank trail is maintained along the paved portion of this road, north of the UPRR crossing. IDARNG conducts general road maintenance on the unpaved portion of the Pleasant Valley Road, south of the UPRR tracks. The Orchard Road Exit from I-84 provides access to the northern and eastern parts of the OCTC. Standifer Road, a tertiary county road, begins in the northern part of the OCTC, branching southeast from Pleasant Valley Road, traversing the northeastern side, and connecting to Range Road and Orchard Road near the SRTF. Simco Road provides access to the eastern side of the OCTC (IDARNG 2018a). Cinder Butte Road is a tertiary road connecting Simco Road to Range Road on the east side of the OCTC (IDARNG 2018f).

All roads within the OCTC are considered unimproved. Approximately 70 miles of improved cinder and dirt roadway provides circulation within the training area. There is no public access inside Range Road (Baun 2018). IDARNG personnel maintain 118 miles (190 km) of roads throughout the OCTC. Approximately 120 miles (193 km) of other unimproved trails receive occasional maintenance (IDARNG 2018a).

Airspace and Airfield Management

UAS pilot proficiency trainings are conducted over the OCTC throughout the year. UAS flight operations are also conducted in concert with Annual Training during the Summer Training Period on the OCTC. Range 3 presently provides an aviation center complex, which includes an UAS runway and Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP). BCT training operations use the UAS runway for Tactical Unmanned Air Vehicle (TUAV) training and the FARP for helicopter refueling. Currently, delays occur in training activities during TUAV landings and take off, as operations must pause on the adjacent Ranges 1 and 10 for safety purposes (IDARNG 2018a). As part of a separate action that was covered by Army CX, *TUAS Hangar and Fixed Wing Runway Paved (MILCON 16202026)* (dated July 5, 2018), the UAS runway located on Range 3 will be demolished and relocated just north of the OCTC boarder near the SRTF (IDARNG 2018a).

3.12 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes

Issue statement: *How will construction and operations impact the presence of hazardous materials?*

3.12.1 Definition of the Resource

Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes. Hazardous and toxic materials or substances are those that pose a risk to human health or the environment. Hazardous materials are defined by 49 CFR § 171.8 as “hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, marine pollutants, elevated temperature materials, materials designated as hazardous in the Hazardous Materials Table (49 CFR § 172.101), and materials that meet the defining criteria for hazard classes and divisions” in 49 CFR § 173. Hazardous wastes are defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) at 42 USC § 6903(5), as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, as “a solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may (A) cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (B) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed.”

Petroleum products include crude oil or any derivative thereof, such as gasoline, diesel, or propane. They are considered hazardous materials because they present health hazards to users in the event of incidental releases or extended exposure to their vapors.

Environmental Contamination. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program was established to provide for the cleanup of active military installations and formerly used defense sites (FUDS) throughout the United States and its territories. The two restoration programs under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program are the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) and the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). The IRP addresses removal and remediation actions at contaminated sites while the MMRP addresses nonoperational military ranges and other sites suspected or known to contain UXO, discarded military munitions, or munitions constituents. Each site is investigated and appropriate remedial actions are taken under the supervision of applicable federal and state regulatory programs. When no further remedial action is necessary for a given site, the site is closed and it no longer represents a threat to human health.

Special Hazards. Special hazards are substances that might pose a risk to human health and are addressed separately from hazardous materials and hazardous wastes. Special hazards include asbestos-containing materials (ACMs), lead-based paint (LBP), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), all of which are typically found in older buildings and utilities infrastructure. The USEPA has established that any material containing more than 1 percent asbestos by weight is considered an ACM. ACMs are generally found in building materials such as floor tiles, mastic, roofing materials, pipe wrap, and wall plaster. LBP is found in many surface coatings. PCBs are man-made chemicals that persist in the environment and were widely used in building materials (e.g., caulk) and electrical products prior to 1979. Structures constructed prior to 1979 potentially include PCB-containing building materials.

Radon. Radon is a naturally occurring odorless and colorless radioactive gas found in soils and rocks that can lead to the development of lung cancer. Radon tends to accumulate in enclosed spaces, usually those that are below ground and poorly ventilated (e.g., basements). USEPA

established a guidance radon level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) in indoor air for residences, and radon levels above this amount are considered a health risk to occupants.

3.12.2 Regulatory Overview

Numerous statutory and regulatory authorities address hazardous and toxic materials and wastes. Transportation of hazardous materials is regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations within 49 CFR §§ 105–180. The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (Title 15 USC 53), pertains to the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous chemicals (ARNG 2011). The Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) addresses the elimination of pollution at the source where feasible as well as proper recycling, treatment, or release when elimination is not feasible (ARNG 2011). RCRA provides a framework for the management of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) governs response or cleanup actions to address releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants into the environment (USEPA 2019h). In Idaho, the IDEQ retains primacy on enforcing most federal laws regulating hazardous and toxic materials and wastes (except for the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act). In addition to federal and state regulations, IDARNG adheres to Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement*, AR 420-1, *Army Facilities Management*, and IDARNG PAM 200-1, *Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Management Program*, for the proper management, storage, and cleanup of hazardous and toxic materials and wastes. The IDARNG implements SPCC plans to minimize the potential for, and address spills and releases of, oil, fuel, or other hazardous substances that may occur on Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and the OCTC (IDARNG 2013b, IDARNG 2015, IDARNG 2010).

The USEPA is given authority to regulate special hazard substances and radon by TSCA. The USEPA has established regulations regarding asbestos abatement and worker safety under 40 CFR § 763 with additional regulations concerning emissions (40 CFR § 61). Whether from lead abatement or other activities, depending on the quantity or concentration, the disposal of the LBP waste is potentially regulated by the RCRA at 40 CFR § 260. The disposal of PCBs is addressed in 40 CFR §§ 750 and 761.

Evaluation of hazardous materials and wastes focuses on the storage, transportation, handling, and use of hazardous materials, as well as the generation, storage, transportation, handling, and disposal of hazardous wastes. In addition to being a threat to humans, the improper release or storage of hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, and petroleum products can threaten the health and well-being of wildlife species, habitats, soil systems, and water resources. In the event of a release of hazardous materials or wastes, the extent of contamination varies based on the contaminant and the type of soil, topography, and water resources. Evaluation of special hazards focuses on disturbance and disposal of ACMs, LBPs, and PCBs. Evaluation of radon focuses on exposure to levels above the USEPA guidance level.

3.12.3 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes ROI

The ROI for hazardous and toxic materials/wastes impacts from the Component Actions includes Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, the OCTC, and the immediately adjacent areas

that could be affected by contamination from hazardous and toxic substances. Adjacent areas could potentially be impacted from on-site activities (from Gowen Field, Cantonment or OCTC areas), or the areas of the Proposed Action could potentially be impacted from adjacent property activities (e.g., a spilled hazardous waste migrating onto the site).

3.12.4 Existing Conditions

3.12.4.1 Gowen Field

Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes. On the IDARNG portions of Gowen Field, the major support operations performed that involve the storage, use, or generation of hazardous and toxic materials/wastes and petroleum products include aircraft fueling, aircraft maintenance, ground vehicle maintenance, fueling of ground vehicles, and facilities maintenance. Aircraft maintenance activities include corrosion control, non-destructive inspection, fuel cell maintenance, engine maintenance, hydraulics maintenance, washing, and wheel and tire maintenance. Ground vehicle maintenance activities include fluid and filter changes; brake repair; lube, grease, and repair of the axle and drive trains; body repair; welding; minor painting; and washing. Facilities maintenance operations include structural maintenance and repairs, painting, chemical treatment (pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides), mowing, and utility maintenance (IDARNG 2013b).

Oil is stored in containers ranging between 55 and 6,000 gallons in locations within Gowen Field. A total of 76,195 gallons of oil is stored in ASTs on the IDARNG portion of Gowen Field. There are no USTs on the IDARNG portions of Gowen Field. In order to minimize the potential for oil discharges, IDARNG Gowen Field operations adhere to the installation's SPCC plan, IDARNG's Hazardous Materials and Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Programs, and regular inspections. Personnel who handle petroleum products on the installation receive training on hazardous material handling and spill response. The use of secondary containment structures and spill kits limit the potential severity of a spill. As of 2013, there have been no recordable oil discharges at the IDARNG portion of Gowen Field (IDARNG 2013b).

Environmental Contamination. There are no IRP or MMRP sites present within the IDARNG portion of Gowen Field (Carpenter 2018). There are six UST program sites, three RCRA Hazardous Waste Sites, five FUDS and two installation restoration program sites on Gowen Field. Additionally, there are 11 closed Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) sites, and two closed general remediation sites (IDEQ 2019c). Gowen Field is a Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting facility and, therefore, must report annually the amount of specific toxic chemicals are released to the environment and/or managed through recycling, energy recovery and treatment to the TRI (USEPA 2019i; USEPA 2019j).

Special Hazards. While no PCB surveys have been completed for Gowen Field, most of the PCBs are found in stationary electrical equipment or in old lighting ballasts. Any PCB-containing equipment or ballasts are managed as hazardous waste. Buildings on Gowen Field are not surveyed for lead until they are scheduled for renovation or demolition. Because there are no facilities that are occupied by children or families, abatement is not required for any buildings that may have lead-based paint (Carpenter 2019).

Building 241, set for demolition under Component Action 2, contains asbestos in the water heater. The contractor responsible for demolition would be responsible for ensuring any asbestos and lead base paint are addressed prior to demolition in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations. Building 513, set for demolition and replacement contains asbestos in the floor and ceiling tiles, and the mastic (IDARNG 1990).

Radon. The project areas on Gowen Field are in Ada County. According to the USEPA Radon Zone Map, Ada County is in Radon Zone 2, which is a moderate zone with a range of 2 to 4 (pCi/L) in indoor air (USEPA 2019k). USEPA has a radon guidance level of 4 (pCi/L) in indoor air for residences; however, there have been no standards established for nonresidential structures.

3.12.4.2 Cantonment Area

Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes. On the Cantonment Area, activities that involve the storage, use, or generation of hazardous and toxic materials/wastes and petroleum products include vehicle operations and maintenance, equipment maintenance, welding, touch-up painting, fuel dispensing, vehicle washing, and rail spur operation.

As of 2015, there were 5 USTs and 10 ASTs at the MATES facility. The USTs are comprised of three tanks containing JET-A are located near the fuel dispensing station and two 10,000-gallon USTs that store used oil generated during routine vehicle maintenance. On the north side of the maintenance building, two 500-gallon ASTs contain used synthetic oil and used antifreeze. There is a 575-gallon AST containing JET-A associated with an emergency generator. On the east side of the fuel dispensing station, an 8,000-gallon AST contains motor gasoline (MOGAS). A 2,000-gallon JET-A AST is located on the south side of the generator building, while there is also a 600-gallon AST of JET-A on the inside of the building. There are two 500-gallon ASTs located at the tactical vehicle wash rack that are used as containers for skimmed oil. At the MATES facility, there are HEMTT fueler parking areas with secondary containment for up to 33 mobile refuelers. Additionally, four 100-gallon mobile fuel transfer tanks are located in the back of four separate F-150 range control trucks in the parking lot next to the range control building (IDARNG 2015).

In the ORTC, a 470-gallon AST of JET-A is associated with an emergency generator. In the ORTC pump house, an additional emergency generator has an associated 150-gallon AST of JET-A (IDARNG 2015).

The SPCC plan for the MATES, ORTC, and MPRC-H addresses secondary containment requirements, proper handling procedures of fuels and related oils to minimize and address potential spills and releases of hazardous substances that may occur on the Cantonment Area and the OCTC.

Environmental Contamination. There are no IRP or MMRP sites on the Cantonment Area (DoD 2019a). However, there is one UST program site, one general remediation site, and one RCRA hazardous waste site (IDEQ 2019c). The MATES facility is a TRI reporting facility (USEPA 2019i).

Special Hazards. Asbestos surveys have not been completed for buildings on the Cantonment Area, but, as the buildings are relatively new, they are unlikely to contain asbestos or lead-based paint (Carpenter 2019).

Radon. The project areas on the Cantonment Area are in Ada County. According to the USEPA Radon Zone Map, Ada County is in Radon Zone 2, which is a moderate zone with a range of 2 to 4 pCi/L in indoor air (USEPA 2019k). USEPA has a radon guidance level of 4 pCi/L in indoor air for residences; however, there have been no standards established for nonresidential structures.

3.12.4.3 OCTC

Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes. A wide variety of training activities, support functions, and administrative actions associated with the OCTC and support facilities require the use or generation of hazardous and toxic materials/wastes. Such activities on the OCTC include the following:

- General training – Accumulation, generation, and disposition of hazardous materials
- Material storage – Potential release of hazardous materials
- General maintenance – Parts and equipment washing generation, accumulation and disposition of hazardous materials and hazardous waste (e.g., solvent)
- Weapons training – Potential release of hazardous materials
- Vehicle operation and maintenance – Potential release of hazardous materials (IDARNG 2018a)

On the MPRC-H, there is a 1,000-gallon AST of JET-A fuel and a 300-gallon AST of MOGAS. Within the petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL) storage area and hazardous materials building on the MPRC-H, there are up to 10 55-gallon drums with various types of oil. On the west side of the MPRC-H building, a 100-gallon mobile fuel transfer tank containing JET-A is located in the back of an F-150 OCTC Fire Department truck. On the ASP, a 300-gallon AST of JET-A sits on a hydro pad for secondary containment. There are two 100-gallon mobile fuel transfer tanks filled with MOGAS on the north side of the magazine area. The SPCC plan for the MATES, ORTC, and MPRC-H addresses secondary containment requirements, proper handling procedures of hazardous materials to minimize and address potential spills and releases of oil, fuel, or other hazardous substances that may occur on the OCTC.

As of 2015, there had been only one incident of oil discharge from December 1994, when approximately 75 gallons of diesel fuel leaked from a HEMTT truck over the course of a week. No waterways were affected and a local contractor excavated soil to create a soil farm on site. To prevent recurrences, HEMTT's are now parked within a specific secondary containment area. Daily inspections occur and drip pans are used (IDARNG 2015).

In addition to storage and use of hazardous and toxic materials/waste, public lands, such as BLM land that includes the OCTC, are susceptible to illegal dumping. Numerous illegal waste dump sites are located within the OCTC outside of the impact area (IDARNG 2018i).

Environmental Contamination. There are five MMRP identified sites on the OCTC. However, they are in post cleanup/response complete status and require no further action (DoD 2019a, DoD 2019b). Additionally, there is one UST program site and one RCRA Hazardous Waste Site (IDEQ 2019c).

Special Hazards. Asbestos surveys have not been completed for buildings on the OCTC. However, as the buildings are relatively new, they are unlikely to contain asbestos or lead-based paint (Carpenter 2019).

Radon. The project areas in the OCTC are in Ada and Elmore Counties. According to the USEPA Radon Zone Map, Ada County is in Radon Zone 2, which is a moderate zone with a range of 2 to 4 pCi/L in indoor air. Elmore County is in Radon Zone 1, which is a severe zone with average indoor radon levels greater than 4 pCi/L (USEPA 2019k). Because no indoor facilities exist on the portion of the OCTC within Elmore County, the radon level is not applicable. The USEPA has a radon guidance level of 4 pCi/L in indoor air for residences; but no standards have been established for nonresidential structures.

4. Environmental Consequences

4.1 Introduction

This section describes the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of implementing the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative, as well as BMPs, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and mitigation measures that would manage and/or reduce the level of identified impacts. BMPs and SOPs are considered integral to implementation and are not considered separate from the Proposed Action.

Under NEPA, types of impacts may be *adverse* or *beneficial*; *direct* or *indirect*. Impact durations may be *short-term* or *long-term*. The magnitude of impacts may be *less than significant* (e.g., negligible, minor, or moderate) or *significant*. Adverse impacts negatively impact resource conditions, whereas *beneficial* impacts may improve upon them. Direct impacts are those that result directly from project effects. *Indirect* impacts are removed in time and/or space and can be more challenging to predict or quantify. The duration of impacts may depend on the type of action. Short-term impacts are associated with the initial implementation of an action, such as those which might result from the construction phase. Long-term impacts involve permanent changes or occur over the operational life of a project, once initial construction is complete.

The analysis of the Proposed Action assumes all actions would be implemented successfully by the IDARNG. Impacts analyses also consider the following general assumptions:

- All laws and regulations associated with water rights (access, amount, and authorized use), air quality regulations, and ROW authorizations would be adhered to by IDARNG and any contractors during construction and post construction operations at all times.
- ARNG cultural resource specialists, with assistance from a seasonal field crew and Range Control staff, would monitor the soil disturbing activities. If any culturally significant resources are encountered, such activities shall cease until a full assessment can be made by the attending resource specialist.
- The OCTC encompasses both federally managed public lands and state-owned lands. State lands are not considered public lands, rather they are State Endowment Lands. Management activities on these lands are not intended to benefit the general public, but are directed solely to the good of the beneficiaries of the original land grants. Unlike federal lands, which are required to grant access to the public unless access has been withdrawn through a land use process, state lands may restrict public access at any time in order to better manage the endowment lands for the purpose they were designated.

As explained in **Section 2.2.3**, Analysis Approach, analysis and consideration of impacts on resources in this section is focused on the FY 18 through FY22 RPMP projects that could be evaluated as the most impactful projects for the project types and scopes to be implemented in each of the proposed development areas (Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and OCTC). Additionally, the proposed development area(s) that would be impacted is identified throughout **Section 4** in **bold font** and indicates, as appropriate, whether the land is managed by the IDARNG or the state, or is BLM-administered.

Cumulative impacts are described in **Section 4.14** includes the relevant cumulative impacts on the analyzed resource areas from the incremental impact of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

4.2 Land Use

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections discloses the general impacts on land use and, specifically, to the IDT-identified issue listed in **Section 1.5.1.2**: *How will training activities impact livestock grazing operations, visual resources, and recreation in the area? Will any land use compatibility issues result with regard to existing ownership, existing land use authorizations, and/or ROWs within the project area?*

The evaluation of impacts on land use and recreation was based on the degree of land use sensitivity in areas affected by the Project and compatibility of the Project or associated activities with existing conditions. Land use, including recreation, can remain compatible, become compatible, or become incompatible. Indicators for impacts on land use include consistency with existing land use plans, zoning, or policies, and the degree to which the Proposed Action would alter the viability of existing land uses (including recreational, livestock grazing, and visual resources), ROWs, and ownership. The impact indicator to assess impacts on livestock grazing would be the numbers of acres of livestock grazing land that would be permanently converted for the Proposed Action. Should any of these evaluations identify substantial adverse changes, impacts on land use would be considered significant.

4.2.1 Proposed Action Alternative

4.2.1.1 Gowen Field

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

RPMP approval and modernization of facilities and infrastructure would have long-term, beneficial effects on land use **at Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land) as a result of the establishment of development districts and the open space for future development created through building demolitions.

Approval of the RPMP would establish the administrative support, logistics/simulations, and aviation support as development districts with specified land uses and associated types of development. Administrative support includes barracks, dining facility, laundry, morale, welfare and recreation, physical wellness center, and medical. Logistics/simulations include warehouses, simulator pads and simulation facilities. Aviation support includes operations buildings, hangars, aircraft parking areas, and taxiways (IDARNG 2018a). Additionally, impacts from establishment of the planning vision, planning goals and objectives, constraints and opportunities maps, a developable area map(s), a framework plan for the installation, a land pattern matrix, a summary future development plan, installation standards for development, and an overall installation strategy for using and investing in real property as specified in the RPMP *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, *Installation Planning Standards*, and *Development Program* would be less than significant for land use management **at Gowen Field**. The RPMP *Vision Plan*, guides the siting and organization of proposed facility and infrastructure

modernization projects to ensure availability of developable land, avoidance of environmental constraints including potential land use incompatibility within the proposed development area **on Gowen Field**. Opportunities are also outlined in the RPMP *Vision Plan* for land expansion and development. Additionally, having and implementing an RPMP would provide an organized, efficient, and thoughtful plan resulting in beneficial impacts on land use.

Demolition and construction projects **on Gowen Field** would generally occur on developed IDARNG-managed land. A net decrease of 2 acres of developed IDARNG-managed land resulting from demolition of buildings would result in additional open space to accommodate future development on the installation.

Because most of the projects involve renovation or demolition of existing buildings or building expansion, the land uses would remain consistent with the existing land use for each development district and the visual resources would remain unaffected. Existing ROWs, ownerships, and livestock grazing areas located proximal **to Gowen Field** would be unaffected.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Optimized throughput of BCT training during the Summer Training Period (May through August) would have no effects on land use **at Gowen Field** because no changes to land use or land use compatibility conflicts would occur.

4.2.1.2 Cantonment Area

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

RPMP approval and modernization of facilities and infrastructure would have long-term beneficial effects on land use **on the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land) as a result of the establishment of development districts, and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts as a result of changes in land use from development of undeveloped IDARNG-managed and state-owned land (thereby, slightly reducing available grazing land) and eventual restriction of recreational and public uses.

Approval of the RPMP would establish administrative, railhead, and logistics/maintenance as development districts with specified land uses and associated types of development in the Cantonment Area. The administrative district includes billeting, HQ, and administrative facilities, general purpose administrative facilities, garrison operations (e.g., chapel, clinic, and dining facilities), fire and emergency response facilities, engineering facilities, access, and security. Within the railhead district are all railhead operations, a centralized wash facility, staging areas, rail spurs, and loading/unloading docks. The MATES, TISA, fuel storage facilities, vehicle maintenance, and parking projects are included in the logistics/maintenance district (IDARNG 2018a). Impacts from establishment of the planning vision, planning goals and objectives, constraints and opportunities maps, a developable area map(s), a framework plan for the installation, a land pattern matrix, a summary future development plan, installation standards for development, and an overall installation strategy for using and investing in real property as specified in the RPMP *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, *Installation Planning Standards*, and *Development Program* would be less than significant for land use management

on the Cantonment Area. The RPMP *Vision Plan*, guides the siting and organization of proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects to ensure availability of developable land, avoidance of environmental constraints including potential land use incompatibility within the proposed development area **on the Cantonment Area**, and to avoid impacts on ranchers or grazing operations. Opportunities are also outlined in the Vision Plan for land expansion and development, as well as land ownership and developable area maps. Additionally, having and implementing an RPMP would provide an organized, efficient, and thoughtful plan resulting in beneficial impacts on land use.

With the construction of additional facilities, expansion of existing facilities and infrastructure, and additional infrastructure development, the developed footprint of the Cantonment Area would be increased by approximately 185 acres (a 74 percent increase from existing conditions) within the existing fenceline. A portion of the changes and additions to existing facilities **on the Cantonment Area** would occur on 65 acres of developed IDARNG-managed land, where land use would be compatible with the existing uses. However, the remaining 120 acres of development within the existing fenceline would occur on undeveloped IDARNG-managed, resulting in a change in land use and land cover to developed land. The new uses would generally be compatible with the associated development districts.

The acquisition of an additional 435 acres of state-owned land adjacent to and immediately west of the Cantonment Area would result in long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on land use. Currently, the 435 acres of state-owned land is open to the public for grazing and recreation (IDL 2018). The area would be acquired to potentially support future development, but would be left undeveloped in the near term. With the connection of the Cantonment Area to the OCTC via the land acquisition, the currently undeveloped state-owned land used for recreational use by nearby communities would eventually become part of the Cantonment Area and no longer be as accessible and available for public use. In the near term, the state-owned land connecting the OCTC and Cantonment Area not scheduled for development would remain accessible for public use.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Apart from the effects from development on land use noted for Component Actions 1 and 2 above, optimized throughput of BCT training would have no effect on land use **on the Cantonment Area** because no changes in land use or land use compatibility conflicts would occur.

4.2.1.3 OCTC

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

RPMP approval and modernization of facilities and infrastructure would have long-term, minor, adverse and long-term beneficial effects on land use **on the OCTC** (predominantly BLM-administered land) as a result of the establishment of development districts and land use changes from development of undeveloped land. Adverse impacts would result from the reduction of available BLM-administered grazing land **on the OCTC** due to the approximately 156 acres of added developed area.

Approval of the RPMP would establish Ranges, Maneuver, and Ammunition Supply Point as development districts with specified land uses and associated types of development **on the OCTC**. The Range district includes all gunnery ranges, impact areas, Forward Arming and Refueling Point, range support facilities, and range roads. Light and heavy maneuver lands, TTBs, and tank trails and roads are included in the Maneuver district. The Ammunition Supply Point includes administrative buildings, security, covered storage, magazines, and loading and unloading docks (IDARNG 2018a).

Additionally, establishment of the planning vision, planning goals and objectives, constraints and opportunities maps, a developable area map(s), a framework plan for the installation, a land pattern matrix, a summary future development plan, installation standards for development, and an overall installation strategy for using and investing in real property as specified in the RPMP *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, *Installation Planning Standards*, and *Development Program* would be beneficial for land use management **on the OCTC**. The RPMP *Vision Plan*, guides the siting and organization of proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects to ensure availability of developable land, avoidance of environmental constraints including potential land use incompatibility within the proposed development area **on the OCTC**, and to avoid impacts on ranchers or grazing operations. Opportunities are also outlined in the Vision Plan for land expansion and development, as well as land ownership and developable area maps.

The OCTC, which covers 143,307 acres, is largely undeveloped. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the developed footprint within the OCTC would increase by approximately 173 acres (an approximated 9 percent increase from existing conditions described in **Section 2.2.3**). Approximately 17 acres (10 percent) of the planned infrastructure developments would occur on developed BLM-administered land. Approximately 156 acres of the planned infrastructure developments would be constructed on BLM-administered land that is undeveloped and remains in a somewhat natural state, but is used by IDARNG for training operations. The decrease in undeveloped BLM-administered land would change land use in the OCTC, which would partially decrease the amount of vegetated, open space in the summer and winter grazing allotments **on the OCTC** that would otherwise be available for livestock grazing operations.

Because the OCTC has historically been used and developed for military training purposes since the 1940s, the proposed infrastructure and facility development actions would be consistent with the management area designation, and visual resources **on the OCTC** and surrounding area would not be impacted. Therefore, no significant impacts would be expected.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Optimized annual BCT training throughput during the Summer Training Period (May through August) would have long-term adverse impacts on land use **on the OCTC** as a result of the introduction of noise in previously unaffected areas from the up to 29 percent increase in troop training. Optimized throughput of BCT training would intensify the ARNG's existing uses of the OCTC land area during the summer months. Although training intensity would increase, the type

and conduct of training **on the OCTC** would be unchanged. These training actions would not affect existing land ownerships or land use designations.

While the land use planning zone is projected to extend farther from the OCTC, no noise-sensitive areas would be affected. However, the increased noise resulting from the 29 percent increase in troop training would have minor impacts on land use in the areas of normally not recommended land use surrounding the OCTC. See **Section 4.4.1** for further discussion on the impacts of noise from the Proposed Action. No changes in land use designations would be required (USAPHC 2019). IDARNG coordination with operators to enable livestock grazing in the summer and winter grazing allotments **on the OCTC** would continue as permitted within the project areas. The Proposed Action would not affect access to the area for authorized grazing, the grazing schedule of the permittee, or permitted animal unit months (AUMs) for the pastures.

Optimized annual BCT training throughput would have long-term, minor, adverse impacts on recreational use **of the OCTC**. While access for recreational users **of the OCTC** would not be restricted, increased development and training operations during the summer months may affect hunting, recreational shooting, public access and visitation in the NCA through increased presence of military training in the training areas and on the ranges and signage announcing training activities.

4.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts on land use and land ownership **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**. However, the benefits of having an organized and efficient RPMP would not be realized.

4.2.3 Mitigation Measures

Because impacts on land use would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A list of SOPs and BMPs that would be used by IDARNG to avoid and minimize impacts on land use is provided in **Section 4.13**.

4.3 Air Quality

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections discloses the general impacts on air quality and, specifically, to the IDT-identified issue listed in **Section 1.5.1.2: *How would equipment emissions from construction actions and dust associated with the proposed training impact air quality?***

The indicators for environmental impacts on local and regional air quality conditions near a proposed action are determined based on increases in regulated pollutant emissions compared to existing conditions and ambient air quality. Impacts on air quality would be considered significant if a 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 regulation. Also, per ARNG guidance (ARNG 2011), “[a]n alternative could have a significant air quality effect if it would result in substantially higher air pollutant emissions.”

For this analysis, increases above baseline emissions were estimated for both: 1) temporary emissions sources, primarily due to the construction and demolition of buildings and facilities, and the associated ancillary activities; and, 2) ongoing recurring emissions from new facilities operation and the proposed increase in training activity. The increase in training activities will generate air emissions through vehicle combustion emissions, air operation emissions, rail emissions, fugitive dust emissions, ordnance detonation emissions and, building heat combustion emissions. The emissions calculation summary spreadsheets are provided in **Appendix G**.

4.3.1 Proposed Action Alternative

4.3.1.1 Gowen Field

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on air quality would occur as a result of additional emissions from the approval of the RPMP and subsequent demolition and construction activities **at Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land).

Less than significant, adverse impacts would result from implementation of development actions and operation of facilities that would add to overall air emissions in the region. Impacts would be minimized to the extent possible through implementation of modern, resource-efficient facilities and measures to avoid or offset emissions impacts. RPMP Section 1.6.6 identifies IDARNG activities on the OCTC and associated impacts on air quality to guide the organization and management priorities for reduced impacts on air quality. RPMP Table 4 within this section outlines the BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts from air emissions associated with construction actions and from daily operations associated with the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects.

General Conformity. Increases in emissions in the short term due to construction would be below the General Conformity Rule *de minimis* thresholds (see **Table 4-1**) for PM₁₀ and CO. These are the maintenance area pollutants in the area of Ada County where Gowen Field is located. These emissions increases would not contribute to a violation of any federal, state, or local air regulations. Construction projects would be completed in accordance with BLM RDFs for air quality listed in **Section 4.13**. Long-term impacts would be less than significant and below the General Conformity Rule *de minimis* thresholds. The proposed changes to OCTC training are not expected to include increases in air operations from Gowen Field and would be limited to RQ-7 operations (see **Section 2.2.4.4** for further detail) which are assumed to be conducted at the OCTC. A Record of Non-Applicability (RONA) for the Component Action 2 is required to be developed per U.S. Army General Conformity policy. Due to the nature and negligible emissions increases, implementation of the RPMP **at Gowen Field**, and increases in OCTC training activities, will not cause significant air quality impacts.

Table 4-1. Total Annual Emissions for Gowen Field Component Action 2, Compared to General Conformity De Minimis Thresholds

Activity	Emissions (tpy)							De Minimis Threshold	Exceeded De Minimis Levels?
	NO _x	VOC	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	CO _{2e} (metric tpy)		
Baseline Stationary Operations Emissions (2016)	2.13	11.9	1.05	0.04	0.17	0.17	2,619	N/A	N/A
Construction ^a (CY2020)	3	0.3	1	0.2	1	0.3	388	100 ^b	No
Stationary Operations Emissions ^c (CY2021+)	2.13	11.9	1.05	0.04	0.17	0.17	2,619	N/A	N/A

Sources: 40 CFR § 93.153, ERG 2017

Table Notes:

- a) Assumes demolition, paving of roads and parking lots, and construction of the proposed RPMP actions is compressed into a single year. Actual construction time assumed to be 2 months in duration due to use of pre-fabricated buildings.
- b) General Conformity *De minimis* threshold for CO and PM₁₀ are both 100 tpy. General Conformity *De minimis* threshold does not apply to CO_{2e} emissions.
- c) No appreciable change expected in baseline operations emissions from the Proposed Action. New operational emissions are well below air permitting thresholds (e.g. 100 tpy for Title V permit).
- d) New building construction is primarily replacement of existing structures, so no additional permanent emissions increase would be expected.

Greenhouse Gases. Short-term GHG emissions from construction and construction-related activities (including demolition actions) are estimated to be a maximum of 388 tpy or 352 metric tons. These estimated short term GHG emissions are well below the proposed reference point 75,000 metric tpy of GHG and represent approximately 0.002 percent of Idaho's annual GHG emissions inventory and 0.00001 percent of the U.S. annual GHG emissions inventory (USDOE/EIA 2019). Operational GHG are assumed to be unchanged.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

The optimization of BCT training throughput is not expected to impact operations **at Gowen Field**. Therefore, no increase in air emissions and subsequent air quality impacts would be expected.

4.3.1.2 Cantonment Area and OCTC

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Because **the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land) and **the OCTC** (BLM-administered land) are nearly adjoining, air quality impacts from construction under the Component Actions were analyzed together for the two IDARNG installations. Because **the Cantonment Area** and **the OCTC** are located in an area that is in attainment, analysis of impacts used the General Conformity *de minimis* limits for examining the air emissions from projects located **on the Cantonment Area** and the OCTC, a second tier analysis in attainment areas has also been used to assess the impacts of the project on air quality. The second tier analysis uses the ratio

of each pollutants emissions increases to each pollutants county wide inventory and then applying that percent increase to the most recent available ambient monitoring data and comparing to the ambient standards.

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on air quality **at the Cantonment Area** and short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on **the OCTC** would occur as a result of approval of the RPMP and demolition and construction activities. Adverse impacts would result from implementation of development actions and operation of facilities that would add to overall air emissions in the region. Impacts would be minimized to the extent possible through implementation of modern, resource-efficient facilities and measures to avoid or offset emissions impacts. RPMP Section 1.6.6 identifies IDARNG activities on the OCTC and associated impacts on air quality to guide the organization and management priorities for reduced impacts on air quality. RPMP Table 4 within this section outlines the BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts from air emissions associated with construction actions and from daily operations associated with the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects.

Implementing the modernization and Infrastructure **at the Cantonment Area** and **OCTC** would be expected to result in both short-term impacts from construction vehicle and equipment air emissions generated during the demolition and construction of the proposed facilities and annually recurring long-term, adverse but less than significant impacts from the resultant facility operations **at the Cantonment Area** and annually recurring long-term, minor, adverse impacts from the resultant facility operations at **the OCTC**. Generation of dust would also be expected as vehicle movements and construction activities across the Cantonment Area, Cantonment Expansion Area, and nearby unpaved roads would be required. These impacts would be minimized by using established roads and operating only the vehicles and equipment required for construction actions at-hand at each location. Additionally, construction projects would be completed in accordance with BLM RDFs for air quality listed in **Section 4.13**.

Conformance with Regulations. Because **the Cantonment Area** and **OCTC** are not located within a nonattainment or maintenance area, the General Conformity Rule does not apply. Similarly, IDEQ permitting regulations typically do not apply to fugitive stationary emissions or to mobile source emissions. Therefore, an annual emissions threshold is not an effective basis for a significance determination. Instead, a comparison to county-wide emissions totals and correlation to ambient air quality in the area are better indicators. Estimated emissions from both temporary construction activities and ongoing annual facility-related operational emissions are detailed in **Table 4-2**, including baseline emissions both with and without this Proposed Action.

Impacts from operations covered under this assessment for all component actions would be long-term, less than significant adverse **at the Cantonment Area** and long-term, minor, adverse **at the OCTC** due to the increase in air emissions over baseline values and due to the up to 29 percent increase in troop training-related emissions during the summer months. The combined component action increase in emissions would represent a several percentage increase for multiple pollutants above the current baseline Ada County emissions. See **Table 4-4** for a comparison of the expected emissions increase to the 2014 National Emissions Inventory (NEI)

estimate of Ada County air emissions from all sources (USEPA 2019I), the most recent year available.

Greenhouse Gases. Short-term GHG emissions from construction and construction-related activities are estimated to be approximately 5,133 metric tons per year. These estimated short term GHG emissions are well below the proposed reference point of 75,000 metric tpy of GHG and are equal to approximately 0.03 percent of Idaho's statewide emissions and 0.0001 percent of the U.S. annual GHG emissions inventory. Long-term operational GHG emissions from building heat and employee commutes are estimated to be approximately 5,614 metric tons per year. This amount, again, is well below the proposed reference point of 75,000 metric tpy of GHG and is equal to approximately 0.03 percent of Idaho's statewide emissions and 0.0001 percent of the U.S. annual GHG emissions inventory.

Table 4-2. Total Annual Emissions for Cantonment and OCTC Component Action 2, with and without Baseline Emissions, Compared to Regulatory Thresholds

Activity	Emissions (tpy)							Regulator y Threshold b	Exceeded Regulatory Levels?
	NO _x	VOC	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	CO ₂ e (metric tpy)		
Baseline Stationary Source Operational Emissions (2016)	0.9	4.42	0.43	0.03	0.07	0.17	862	100 tpy	No
Baseline Mobile Source Operational Emissions (2016)	275	24.4	144	5.96	27.2	26.4	19,974	N/A	N/A
Cantonment Construction ^a (CY2020-2022)	8	2	15	0.4	34	4	2,588	N/A	N/A
OCTC Construction ^a (CY2020-2022)	10	2	15	0.4	77	8	2,545	N/A	N/A
OCTC + Cantonment Stationary Source Operations Increases ^c (CY 2023+)	1	0.2	2	0.02	0.2	0.2	3,942	100 tpy	No
Baseline + OCTC/Cantonment Stationary Source Operations Increases ^c (CY 2023+)	1.9	4.62	2.43	0.05	0.27	0.37	4,804	100 tpy	No
OCTC + Cantonment Mobile Source Operations Increases ^c (CY 2023+)	2	1.8	19	0.01	0.1	0.06	1,672	N/A	N/A
Baseline + OCTC/Cantonment Mobile Source Operations Increases ^c (CY 2023+)	277	26.2	163	5.97	28.2	26.46	21,646	N/A	N/A

Source: ERG 2017

Table Notes:

- a) Assumes individual demolition, paving of roads and parking lots, and construction projects of the proposed RPMP actions are all completed within one year each, but the overall set of projects occur evenly over a five year period.
- b) No General Conformity thresholds are applicable. Per IDAPA 58.01/01, *Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho*, Major/Significant Source thresholds for stationary sources only are established at 100 tons per year in Idaho for all criteria pollutants (but not GHGs), with permits to construct required at lower emissions levels. Regulatory Thresholds do not apply to CO₂. 100 tpy permitting threshold is based on potential emissions; however, based on the low level of actual stationary emissions estimated, it is not expected to be exceeded.
- c) Facility operational emissions are primarily mobile source emissions from training, vehicle combustion from commuting employees and boiler and heater emissions from newly constructed buildings. No new single stationary emissions point is expected to require an air permit.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Implementing the optimization of annual BCT training during the Summer Training Period (May through August) throughput on IDARNG-managed lands **at the Cantonment Area** and BLM-administered lands **at the OCTC**, would be expected to result in annually recurring long-term, less than significant adverse and long-term, minor, adverse impacts, respectively, from the up to 29 percent increase in troop training.

Conformance with Regulations. Because the Cantonment Area and OCTC are not located within a nonattainment or maintenance area, the General Conformity Rule does not apply. Similarly, IDEQ permitting regulations typically do not apply to fugitive stationary emissions or to mobile source emissions. Therefore, an annual emissions threshold is not an effective basis for a significance determination with respect to the mobile source emissions. Instead, a comparison to county-wide emissions totals and the ambient air quality in the area are better indicators. Estimated emissions from ongoing annual training-related operational emissions are detailed in **Table 4-3**, including baseline emissions both with and without this Proposed Action.

Table 4-3. Total Annual Emissions Increase for All Sites, Component Action 3, with and without Baseline Emissions, Compared to Regulatory Thresholds

Activity	Emissions (tpy)								
	NO _x	VOC	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	CO _{2e} (metric tpy)	Regulatory Threshold ^a	Exceeded Regulatory Levels?
Baseline Mobile Source Operational Emissions (2016)	275	24.4	144	5.96	27.2	26.4	19,974	N/A	N/A
Baseline Stationary Source Operational Emissions (2016)	3.03	16.32	1.48	0.07	0.24	0.24	3,481	100	No
Mobile Source Training Operations Increases^b (CY 2023+)	531	41	263	12	639	133	40,508	N/A	N/A
Stationary Source Training Operations Increases^b (CY 2023+)	1	0.04	9	0	12	3	141	100	No
Baseline Mobile Emissions + Stationary Source Operational Increases^b (CY 2023+)	806	65.4	407	17.96	666.2	159.4	60,482	N/A	N/A
Baseline Stationary Emissions + Stationary Source Operational Increases^b (CY 2023+)	4.03	16.36	10.48	0.07	12.24	3.24	3,621	100	No

Source: ERD 217

Table Key: NO_x – Nitrous oxide, VOC – volatile organic compound, CO – carbon monoxide, SO₂ – sulfur dioxide, PM₁₀ – particulate matter to a diameter of 10 micrometers, PM_{2.5} – particulate matter to a diameter of 2.5 micrometers, CO_{2e} – carbon dioxide equivalent

Table Notes:

- No General Conformity thresholds applicable. Per IDAPA 58.01/01, *Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho*, Major/Significant Source thresholds for stationary sources only are established at 100 tons per year in Idaho for all criteria pollutants (but not GHGs), with permits to construct required at lower emissions levels. Regulatory Thresholds do not apply to CO₂. 100 tpy permitting threshold is based on potential emissions; however, based on the low level of actual stationary emissions estimated, it is not expected to be exceeded.
- Operational emissions are primarily mobile source emissions from training, vehicle combustion and fugitive dust emissions from additional training occurring at the OCTC, with some stationary emissions from increased munitions detonation. The stationary emissions are not expected to require an air permit. Operational emissions are primarily mobile source vehicle combustion and fugitive dust emissions from additional training occurring at the OCTC, with some stationary emissions from increased munitions detonation. The stationary emissions are not expected to require an air permit.

While not significant, impacts from operations covered under this assessment would be long-term, less than significant, adverse **at the Cantonment Area** and long-term, minor, adverse **at the OCTC** due to the increase in air emissions over baseline values and due to the increase of up to 29 percent in troop training-related emission during the summer months. See **Table 4-4** for a comparison of the expected emissions increase to the 2014 NEI estimate of Ada County air emissions from all sources. Component Action 2 and 3 operational emissions increases represent over 4.8 percent of the County-wide NO_x emissions, approximately 6.5 percent of the SO₂ emissions, and 2.5 percent of the PM₁₀ emissions.

Table 4-4. Total Annual Emissions Increase for All Sites, All Component Actions, Compared to Ada County CY 2014 NEI Emissions Totals

Activity	Emissions (tpy)					
	NO _x	VOC	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
All Construction (CY 2020-2022)	21	4	31	1	112	12
All Operations (CY 2023+)	536	43	294	12	651	136
CY2014 NEI Ada County Emissions Totals	11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964
Construction Emissions Increases as % of Ada County Emissions	0.2%	0.02%	0.05%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%
Operations Emissions Increases as % of Ada County Emissions	4.8%	0.2%	0.5%	6.5%	2.5%	3.4%

Table Key: NO_x – Nitrous oxide, VOC – volatile organic compound, CO – carbon monoxide, SO₂ – sulfur dioxide, PM₁₀ – particulate matter to a diameter of 10 micrometers, PM_{2.5} – particulate matter to a diameter of 2.5 micrometers

Applying the percent increases with respect to Ada County emissions to the most recent Boise-based ambient air quality monitoring results provide an estimate of impacts caused by Cantonment Area and OCTC operations on the ambient air quality in the metropolitan area. **Table 4-5** demonstrates that applying the percent increase in County-wide emissions to the Boise 2016, 2017, and 2018 worst-case monitoring values for CO, PM₁₀ and ozone does not result in any of the adjusted values (or average in the case of ozone) exceeding any NAAQS standard (USEPA 2019m). As such, the increase in emissions from the up to 29 percent increase in troop training **at the OCTC** would not be substantial enough to contribute to an exceedance of the NAAQS. Therefore, the increase would not contribute to a violation of any federal, state, or local air regulations or standards and the impact from the Proposed Action would be less than significant.

Because the Sawtooth Wilderness Class I area is within 62 miles of parts of the OCTC and the entirety of the Cantonment Area, coordination with IDEQ regarding the potential impacts of the proposed training on regional haze during the summer months may be warranted

Greenhouse Gases. Long-term GHG emissions from expanded training operation activities are estimated to be approximately 40,650 metric tons per year. These emissions are below the proposed reference point of 75,000 metric tpy of GHG and represent approximately 0.2 percent of Idaho's total GHG emissions and 0.0008 percent of the U.S. annual GHG emissions inventory.

Table 4-5. Annual Concentration and Potential Increase by Monitor for Boise Monitors closest to the Cantonment Area and OCTC

NAAQS ^a	O ₃ 8-hour	PM ₁₀ 24-hour			CO 1-hour	CO 8-hour
Relevant Annual Measurement ^b	4th Highest	1st Highest	2nd Highest	3rd Highest	1st Highest	1st Highest
Units:	Ppm	ug/m ³	ug/m ³	ug/m ³	ppm	ppm
2018	0.047	45	43	37	2.2	1.4
2017	0.068	80	77	75	20.0	7.5
2016	0.072	89	72	68	6.9	3.0
Percent Increase^c	1.9%	2.5%			0.5%	
Adjusted Value	0.063 ^d	91 ^e			20.1 ^f	7.5 ^g
NAAQS Limit	0.070	150			35	9
NAAQS Exceeded?	No	No			No	No

Table Key: PM – particulate matter, CO – carbon monoxide, ppm – parts per million, ug/m³ – micrograms per cubic meter, NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Table Notes:

- The following NAAQS were examined: NO_x and VOC emissions contribution to ground level ozone (O₃) formation, PM₁₀ 24-hour standard, CO 1-hour standard and CO 8-hour standard. Ozone was examined because Ada county monitors consistently show values close to the 0.070 ppm threshold value most years. Extreme event values were excluded from the analysis.
- Different monitor readings are displayed depending on the individual NAAQS requirements. For example, the ozone standard is based on the fourth-highest maximum reading taken in a given year, so the fourth-highest maximum ozone reading from each year is shown in the table.
- The percentage increase in county-wide emissions from long-term operational emissions and excluding short-term construction emissions as they are not expected to significantly overlap with operations. For ozone, the combined increase in both NO_x and VOC emissions was used, since both emissions contribute to ozone formation and ozone is generally not directly emitted $[(536+43)/(11,264+19,999) = 1.9\%]$.
- The 8-hour ozone standard is the annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over 3 years. The individual fourth-highest max values were increased by the percentage for this examination. The adjustment based on increased county-wide emissions would not be expected to cause an exceedance.
- The PM₁₀ standard is not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years. The adjustment based on increased county-wide emissions would not be expected to cause an exceedance.
- The 1-hour standard is not to be exceeded. The adjustment based on increased county-wide emissions would not be expected to cause an exceedance.
- The 8-hour CO standard is not to be exceeded more than once per year. The adjustment based on increased county-wide emissions would not be expected to cause an exceedance.

4.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary air emissions and subsequent impacts to air quality **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.**

4.3.3 Mitigation Measures

Because impacts on air quality would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A list of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts on air quality from the proposed action is provided in **Section 4.13.**

4.4 Noise

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections discloses the general impacts on noise and, specifically, to the IDT-identified issue listed in **Section 1.5.1.2: *What changes to the ambient noise environment can be expected from construction actions and proposed operations?***

Changes in the noise environment would be considered significant if they would substantially increase areas of incompatible land use within the ROI or potentially result in a substantial increase in number of noise complaints (impacts indicators).

4.4.1 Proposed Action Alternative

4.4.1.1 Gowen Field

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse effects would be expected on the ambient noise environment as a result of construction and demolition activities and the addition of standby generators from implementation of the RPMP and modernization and infrastructure **at Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land).

The Introduction of the RPMP outlines BMPs and SOPs for reducing noise levels from daily operations and development. The RPMP *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan* (both in RPMP Section 5) and *Installation Design Guide* (RPMP Appendix F) presents adjacency and compatibility considerations to guide appropriate siting and development of facilities to minimize noise disruptions. In addition, establishment of development districts will minimize noise disruptions by grouping facilities and infrastructure according to use.

Implementing the proposed modernization and infrastructure projects would result in short-term increases in noise would result from the use of heavy equipment at the demolition and construction sites **at Gowen Field**. Long-term effects would be from the addition of stationary sources of noise such as standby generators at some of these sites. The actual planning activities associated with the RPMP updates would not generate any noise and have no effect on the noise environment. Individual pieces of construction equipment typically generate noise levels of 80 to 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet.

Table 4-6 presents typical noise levels (dBA at 50 feet) that EPA has estimated for the main phases of outdoor construction. **Table 4-7** presents the predicted noise levels for various construction equipment that could be used for the proposed development actions. With multiple items of equipment operating concurrently, noise levels can be relatively high during daytime periods at locations within several hundred feet of active construction sites. The zone of high construction noise typically extends to distances of 400 to 800 feet from the site of major equipment operations. Locations more than 800 feet from construction sites seldom experience noteworthy levels of construction noise.

Table 4-6. Noise Levels Associated with Outdoor Construction Activities

Construction Phase	Noise Level (dBA)
Ground clearing	84
Excavation, grading	89
Foundations	78
Structural	85
Finishing	89

Source: USEPA 1971

Table 4-7. Predicted Noise Levels for Different Types of Construction Equipment

Construction Equipment	Predicted Noise Level at 50 feet (dBA)	Predicted Noise Level at 500 feet (dBA)	Predicted Noise Level at 1,000 feet (dBA)
Clearing and Grading			
Bulldozer	80	60	54
Grader	80-93	60-73	54-67
Truck	83-94	63-74	57-68
Excavation			
Backhoe	72-93	52-73	46-67
Jackhammer	81-96	61-78	55-72
Building Construction			
Concrete Mixer	74-88	54-68	48-62
Welding Generator	71-82	61-62	45-56
Pile Driver	91-101	71-85	65-78
Crane	75-87	55-67	49-61
Paver	86-88	66-68	60-62

Source: USEPA 1971

Limited truck and worker vehicle traffic may be audible at some nearby locations. All construction and demolition would occur **within Gowen Field**, where there are few nearby noise receptors, and co-located with frequent and loud aircraft activities. Given the limited amount of noise that heavy equipment would generate, the proposed site locations, and the existing noise, these effects would be less than significant.

Although construction-related noise effects would be less than significant, the following BMPs would be used to reduce these already limited noise effects further:

- Construction would predominately occur during normal weekday business hours in areas adjacent to noise-sensitive land uses such as residential areas, recreational areas, and any off-post areas.
- Construction equipment mufflers would be properly maintained and in good working order.

Construction noise is expected to dominate the soundscape for all on-site personnel. Construction personnel, and particularly equipment operators, would don adequate personal hearing protection to limit exposure and ensure compliance with federal health and safety regulations.

Standby generators would be the only stationary operational noise source associated with the RPMP approval and implementation of components of the Proposed Action. The proposed

projects are in the preliminary design stage; therefore, a complete equipment list and associated manufacturers specifications are not finalized. Although the generators would be enclosed, engine intakes and exhausts may be open to the outdoors, and the units may be audible to nearby areas. This would be true more so at night when background noises were limited. The generators would be strictly for back-up purposes and would only operate during emergencies and for periodic testing. As with construction noise, back-up generators would be located **within Gowen Field**, where there are few nearby noise receptors, and co-located with frequent and loud aircraft activities. Given the limited amount of noise that back-up generators would generate, the proposed site locations, and the existing noise, these effects would be less than significant.

To minimize impacts on the noise environment **at Gowen Field**, ARNG would continue to fully comply with all applicable federal, state, and local noise regulations. They would also continue to regularly update the SONMP, and adhere to the best management practices regarding noise and land use planning outlined therein. A list of SOPs and BMPs that would be used by the IDARNG to avoid and minimize noise impacts on is provided in **Section 4.13**.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Because troops would be transported directly to the Cantonment Area, and would not be processed through Gowen Field, and no training would occur on Gowen Field, no noise impacts **on Gowen Field** would be expected from Component Action 3.

4.4.1.2 Cantonment Area

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse effects would be expected on the ambient noise environment as a result of construction and demolition activities and the addition of standby generators from implementation of the RPMP and modernization and infrastructure **at the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land). Additionally, approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts from progressing development actions that would result in operation of new facilities in the Cantonment Area. RPMP Section 1.6.6 outlines BMPs and SOPs for reducing noise levels from daily operations and development. The RPMP *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan* (both in RPMP Section 5) and *Installation Design Guide* (RPMP Appendix F) present adjacency and land use compatibility considerations to guide appropriate siting and development of facilities to minimize noise disruptions. Further, establishment of development districts per the RPMP would minimize noise disruptions by grouping facilities and infrastructure according to use.

Noise impacts from implementation of Component Actions 1 and 2 **at the Cantonment Area** would be the similar to those described in **Section 4.4.1.1** for Gowen Field. However, due to the density of development planned **on the Cantonment Area**, the duration of construction noise in that area would be longer.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Due to the proximity **of the Cantonment Area** to the OCTC, noise impacts from Component Action 3 would be similar to those described in **Section 4.4.1.3** for the OCTC.

4.4.1.3 OCTC

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, minor, adverse effects would be expected on the ambient noise environment as a result of construction and demolition activities and the addition of standby generators from implementation of the RPMP and modernization and infrastructure **at the OCTC** (BLM-administered land).

Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, minor, adverse impacts from progressing development actions that would result in operation of new facilities in the OCTC. RPMP Section 1.6.6 outlines BMPs and SOPs for reducing noise levels from daily operations and development. The RPMP *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan* (both in RPMP Section 5) and *Installation Design Guide* (RPMP Appendix F) present adjacency and land use compatibility considerations to guide appropriate siting and development of facilities to minimize noise disruptions. Establishment of development districts **on the OCTC** per the RPMP maintains appropriate spatial separation of noise generating activities from ROCA and gathering facilities. Further, the RPMP guides land use compatibility and adjacency considerations for minimized noise impacts by maintaining orientation of gun and tank firing lanes and operations toward the impact areas centrally located within the OCTC.

Construction to support Component Actions 1 and 2 would result in similar impacts to those described in **Section 4.4.1.1** for Gowen Field and **Section 4.4.1.2** for the Cantonment Area. However, because the OCTC's ranges are not located near noise sensitive receptors, and the proposed RPMP construction activities would be conducted in areas where military training (including munitions firing operations) routine occurs, noise impacts from construction activities would be minimized.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Figure 3.1 and **Figure 3.2** showed the baseline noise contours for operations currently conducted **on the OCTC**. **Figure 4.1** and **Figure 4.2** show the projected noise contours that would result from the up to 29 percent increase in troop training under the Proposed Action. Discussion on impacts **at the OCTC** anticipated under Component Action 3 of the Proposed Action follows.

Large-caliber and Demolition Training. The large-caliber and demolition noise (CDNL) contours under the Proposed Action are shown in **Figure 4.1**. Component Action 3 would increase the CDNL Noise Zones when compared to existing conditions. Noise Zones III and II extend approximately 0.6 and 1.8 miles, respectively, beyond the eastern boundary. Noise Zone II extends approximately 1.0 and 0.7 miles beyond the southern and western boundaries, respectively. Noise Zone III extends slightly beyond the southern and western boundaries (<500 feet). Individuals within these areas would be exposed to acoustical events that are both louder and more frequent when compared to existing conditions. Noise Zone II would overlap the Cantonment Area with the implementation of Component Action 3 when it previously did not.

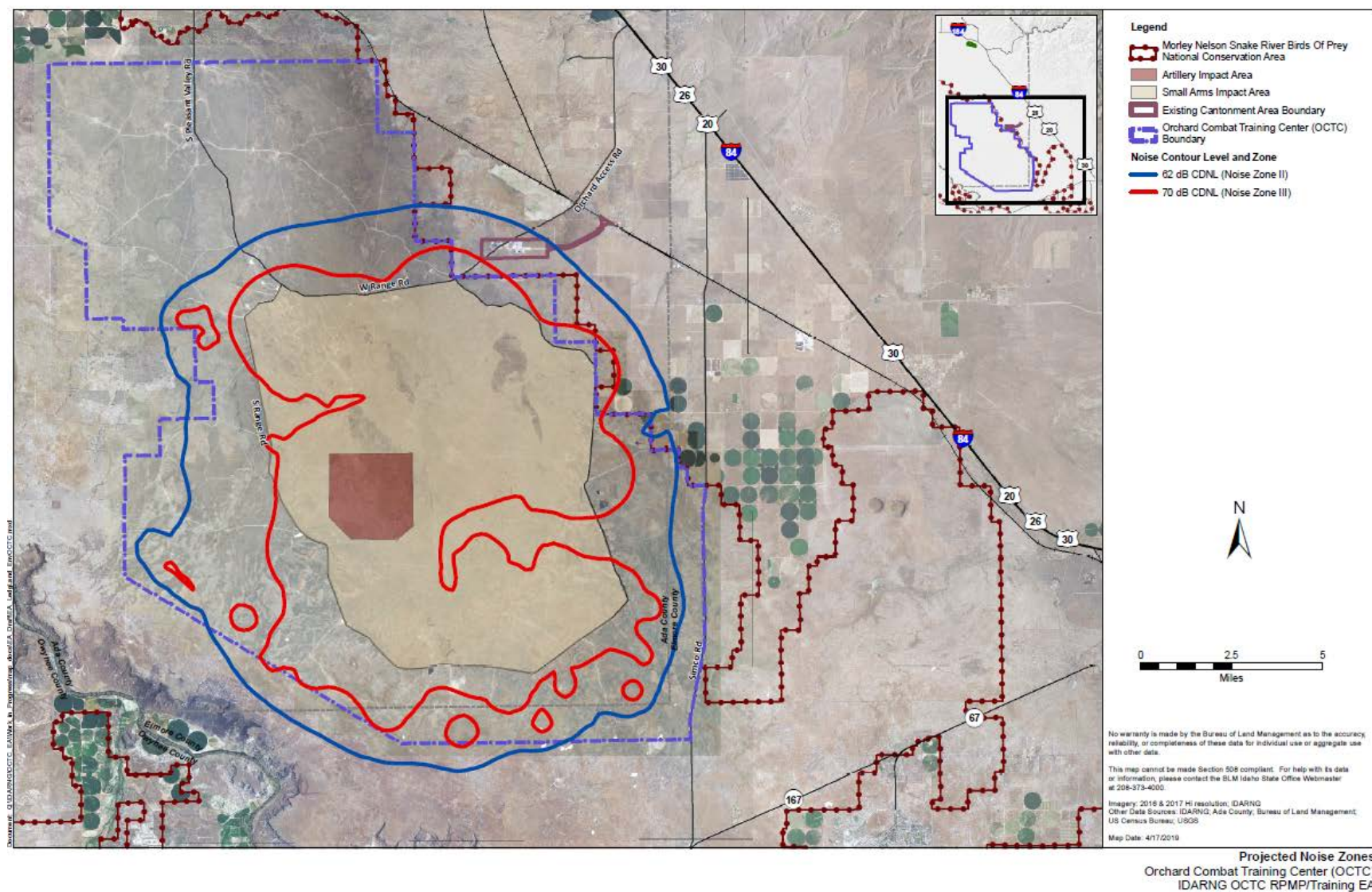


Figure 4.1. Large-Caliber and Demolition CDNL Noise Contours for the Proposed Action

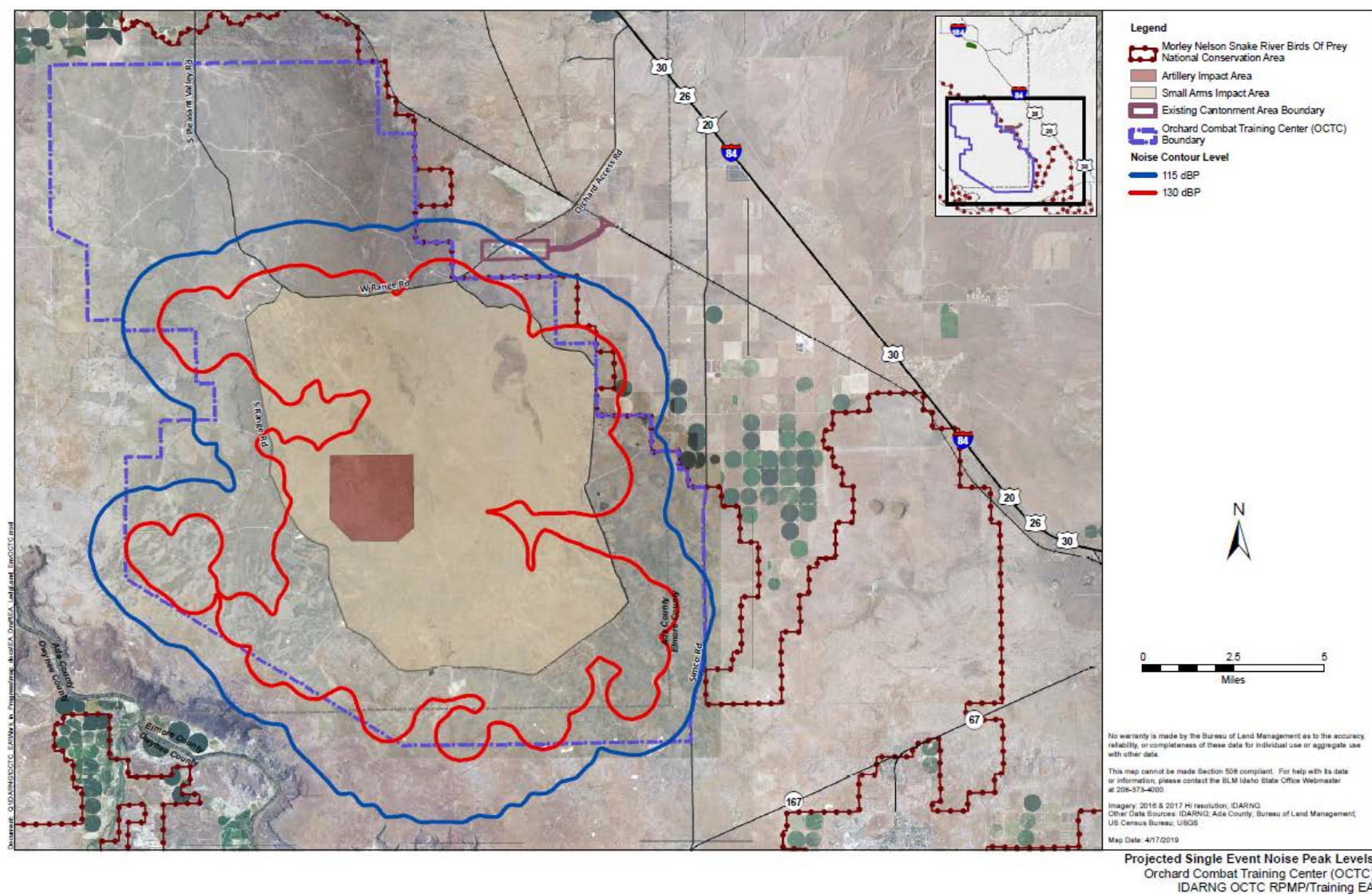


Figure 4.2. Large-Caliber and Demolition Peak Level Noise Contours for the Proposed Action

Within Noise Zones II and III, other than the Cantonment Area, the land is primarily used for agricultural purposes and does not contain any noise-sensitive land uses. Due to the limited nature of land use in Noise Zone II and III, the changes in the existing noise environment would constitute a moderate increase in the areas of normally not recommended **land use surrounding the OCTC**.

The peak level contours associated with the Proposed Action are shown in **Figure 4.2**. Because only the amount of training and not the types of activities would change appreciably, there would only be small differences in where the loudest events during training could be heard when compared to existing conditions. These changes would be from the wider distribution of tank and artillery rounds associated with the expansion throughout the existing ranges. In general, the areas of concern and complaint after the loudest event would remain unchanged when compared to existing conditions. However, as outlined above these events would be more frequent than under existing conditions and would, therefore, increase the overall average noise levels (i.e., CDNL). Adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput. Because of the nature of land use in Noise Zone II and III and that this increase in the overall average noise level would occur during existing training hours, these effects would be less than significant.

Maneuver Training Noise. There would be an appreciable increase in military vehicle maneuvers and associated noise with implementation of the Proposed Action during the Summer Training Period (May through August). These activities would continue to occur along unpaved roads and various off-road areas within Area C, Area D, and the Small Arms Impact Area. Vehicle maneuvers would continue to occur during both daytime and nighttime hours, and with the increase in activities, vehicle noise would increase for maneuver training **close to the OCTC boundaries**. The areas where this training would take place and the level of noise for individual vehicles would remain unchanged when compare to existing conditions. With more than a doubling of maneuver activities, the overall noise (DNL) would increase by approximately 3 to 5 dBA in areas where these activities are conducted. Vehicle speeds would continue to be low during most maneuver activities and vehicles would continue to be relatively dispersed during off-road maneuvers; therefore, maneuver activities would be expected to continue to produce hourly average noise levels of less than 55 dBA at a distance of approximately 500 feet, with brief peaks of 65 to 70 dBA. Given only few (if any) residences or other noise sensitive areas are present within 500 feet of the installation boundary near area C, area D, or the Small Arms Impact Area, noise from maneuvers activities would continue to not be expected to cause appreciable effects off-the installation because most of the area adjacent to the OCTC is undeveloped or agricultural land.

Aircraft and UAS Noise. There would be no new helicopter training, fixed-wing training, or associated noise with the implementation of Component Action 3; therefore, noise from both helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft activities would be similar to existing conditions. Although the total number of UAS operations would more than double, UAS overflight noise **at the OCTC** would be low and confined to the training areas (similar to existing conditions) and would therefore not be included in the consideration for determining the operational noise impacts on communities and individuals living adjacent to the Cantonment Area and the OCTC. The UASs

at OCTC would continue to be quieter, normally operate at much higher altitudes, and used less frequently than helicopters. Overall noise associated with the increase in operations of UASs would not be perceptibly different from existing conditions under the Proposed Action. The number of distinct acoustical events from individual UAS overflights would increase; however, these activities would be within installation boundaries where there are few nearby noise receptors, and co-located with frequent and louder aircraft and munitions training activities. Given the limited amount of noise that additional UAS operations would generate and the existing noise, these effects would be less than significant.

Small Arms Noise. The changes to training activities associated with the Proposed Action would not include new small-arms ranges or changes in small-arms weapons used. Although the total amount of small arms training would more than double, the small-caliber peak noise contours based on the loudest individual weapon used on each range would remain unchanged. Because only the amount of training and not the types of small arms would change, there would be no differences in where the loudest events during training could be heard when compared to existing conditions. Consequently, these effects would be less than significant.

To minimize impacts on the noise environment, ARNG would continue to fully comply with all applicable federal, state, and local noise regulations. They would also continue to regularly update the SONMP, and adhere to the best management practices regarding noise and land use planning outlined therein.

Although operational noise effects would be less than significant, the following BMPs would be used to reduce these already-limited noise effects further:

- Training activities resulting in high decibel levels would be restricted to daytime use to the extent possible to limit or reduce noise impacts to adjacent land owners.
- Adjacent residents would be contacted prior to training activities based on a contact list maintained by IDARNG

4.4.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts to noise **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.**

4.4.3 Mitigation Measures

Because impacts on noise would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A complete list of SOPs and BMPs used by the IDARNG to avoid and minimize noise impacts is provided in **Section 4.13.**

4.5 Geology, Topography, and Soils

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections discloses the general impacts on geology, topography, and soils and responds, specifically, to the IDT-identified issue listed in **Section 1.5.1.2: *How will surface disturbance impact soil erosion?***

Impacts indicators for this resource include the degree to which the potential risk from a geologic hazard or the availability of a geologic resource would change; introduction or escalation of seismic vibration, land subsidence, or slope instability; and number of acres of disturbed soils. Should any of these evaluations result in changes that would be considered substantial, adverse impacts on geology, topography, and soil resources would be considered significant.

4.5.1 Proposed Action Alternative

4.5.1.1 Gowen Field

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on soils would occur as a result of ground disturbance associated with the proposed facility construction and demolition projects **at Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land).

Approval of the RPMP would have no impact on geology and topography, or mineral resources. However, it would have long-term, less than significant impacts on soils from implementation of the proposed net reduction of developed land **on Gowen Field** and subsequent measures to revegetate and restore the cleared areas. RPMP Section 1.6.6 identifies IDARNG activities **at Gowen Field** and associated impacts on geological resources to guide the organization and management priorities for reduced impacts from wind erosion. RPMP Table 4 within this section outlines the BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts on geological resources associated with construction actions and from daily operations associated with the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects. The RPMP *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan* (both in RPMP Section 5) identify developable areas and facility layouts and orientations, and associated troop capacities considered during the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects to avoid or minimize impacts on topography, geology, and soils. The RPMP Installation Design Guide (RPMP Appendix F) further present information on soils, foundations, geology, and geotechnical considerations to guide facility and infrastructure development.

Implementation of modernization and infrastructure would have no impact on the geology or topography of Gowen Field. The area is relatively level with no unique geological resources. Further, the projects would occur in developed areas and would not affect local topography. Geologic hazards for the area are low to moderate, based on local seismicity. New construction would meet UFC requirements, minimizing risks to human safety from seismic hazards. No impacts on mineral resources would occur, as no mineral resources are present **at Gowen Field**.

Approval of the RPMP and implementation of modernization and infrastructure include building construction, demolition, and renovation. These activities would result in total ground disturbance of approximately 3 acres and would involve vegetation removal, grading, demolition of existing paved surfaces and buildings, and construction of new impervious surfaces. These activities could cause compaction, disturb the soil surface, create fugitive dust, increase soil erosion, and affect soil productivity on developed IDARNG-managed lands.

Short-term impacts on soils related to temporary changes in on-site conditions would occur during construction and demolition activities. Soils **at Gowen Field** are moderately to highly susceptible to wind and water erosion. Removal of vegetation, buildings, and paved surfaces during construction and demolition activities would expose soils and increase the risk of wind and water erosion. Operating equipment would compact soils and breakdown soil structure, exacerbating these conditions. Operating equipment would also have potential to generate fugitive dust. IDARNG would implement BMPs to minimize fugitive dust and the potential for surface soil erosion from stormwater runoff, consistent with a SWPPP as required by NPDES permitting requirements for construction projects. These measures may include installing silt fences and sediment traps and soil stabilizing measures (e.g. seeding, the use of geo-textiles, hydro-mulch, etc.). Construction areas would be watered as needed to minimize wind erosion and fugitive dust. With such BMPs in place, in addition to the IDARNG BMPs and SOPS listed in **Section 4.13**, short- and long-term adverse impacts would be less than significant.

Proposed projects **at Gowen Field** would occur in IDARNG-managed developed areas and would result in few new long-term impacts. The SRP Facility Expansion would require vegetation removal to accommodate new construction, resulting in the permanent conversion of 6,000 SF into impervious surface area. This individual project would have a long-term, less than significant impact on soils **at Gowen Field** by reducing soil productivity and increasing impervious surface area. However, Component Action 2 as a whole would reduce developed acreage **at Gowen Field** by 2 acres due to offsetting demolition projects. Areas of building demolition would be revegetated, which would restore soil productivity and reduce soil erosion and sedimentation in those areas.

No impact on prime farmland would occur **at Gowen Field**, as the area is heavily developed and soils have already been removed from productive agricultural use.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Component Action 3 would not be expected to impact geology, topography, or soils **at Gowen Field**. Activities **at Gowen Field** associated with the optimized annual throughput of BCT training would occur within IDARNG-managed developed areas and would not involve ground disturbance or other activities with potential to affect these resources.

4.5.1.2 Cantonment Area

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on geology, topography, and soils would occur as a result of approval of the RPMP and topographic and ground disturbance

associated with construction and demolition activities **at the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land).

Approval of the RPMP would have no impact on geology and topography, or mineral resources. However, it would have long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on soils from implementation of the proposed development of 185 acres of IDARNG-managed land **on the Cantonment Area (120 acres of which are currently undeveloped)**. Subsequent measures to revegetate and restore the cleared areas would mitigate some long-term soil impacts in these areas.. RPMP Section 1.6.6 identifies IDARNG activities in the Cantonment Area and associated impacts on geological resources to guide the organization and management priorities for reduced impacts from wind erosion. RPMP Table 4 within this section outlines the BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts on geological resources associated with construction actions and from daily operations associated with the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects. The RPMP *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan* (both in RPMP Section 5) identify developable areas and facility layouts and orientations, and associated troop capacities considered during the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects to avoid or minimize impacts on topography, geology, and soils. The RPMP Installation Design Guide (RPMP Appendix F) further present information on soils, foundations, geology, and geotechnical considerations to guide facility and infrastructure development.

Construction and operation of the proposed modernization and infrastructure projects could have long-term impacts on the geology or topography **of the Cantonment Area**. Some projects may require minimal cutting and filling; however, major changes in topography and drainage patterns would not be expected. Most of the projects would occur in developed and/or relatively level areas. Shallow depths to bedrock in most of the Cantonment Area could constrain building depths; however, deep excavations or blasting are not anticipated. Geologic hazards for the area are low to moderate, based on local seismicity. New construction would meet UFC requirements, minimizing risks to human safety from seismic hazards. No impacts on mineral resources would occur, as no mineral resources are present **at the Cantonment Area**.

Short- and long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on soils could occur as a result of ground disturbance associated with facility and infrastructure projects. Modernization of facilities and infrastructure projects would include building construction and renovation and infrastructure construction. These projects would result in total ground disturbance of 185 acres, of which 35 percent (approximately 65 acres) would occur on developed IDARNG-managed land. The projects would involve vegetation removal, grading, and construction of new impervious surfaces. These activities could cause compaction, disturb the soil surface, create fugitive dust, increase soil erosion, and affect soil productivity.

Short-term, less than significant adverse impacts on soils could occur as a result of changes in on-site conditions during construction activities. Soils **at the Cantonment Area** are moderately to highly susceptible to wind and water erosion. Removal of vegetation and biological soil crusts during construction and infrastructure projects would expose soils and increase the risk of wind erosion, surface runoff, and sedimentation. Operating equipment would compact soils and

breakdown soil structure, exacerbating these conditions. Operating equipment would also have potential to generate fugitive dust. IDARNG would implement BMPs during construction to minimize fugitive dust and the potential for surface soil erosion and sedimentation from stormwater runoff, such as silt fences and soil stabilizing measures. Construction areas would be watered as required to minimize wind erosion and fugitive dust. Disturbed areas would be revegetated following construction. These BMPs would be implemented consistent with a SWPPP as required by NPDES permitting requirements for construction projects. Revegetation of areas disturbed during construction would beneficially restore soil productivity.

Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on soil resources could occur as a result of loss of vegetation, biological soil crusts, and soil productivity and from the introduction of off-site materials for the railhead buildout, construction of the railhead buildout. Component Action 2 would result in the development of 120 acres of undeveloped IDARNG-managed land. Loss of vegetation and biological soil crusts in this area would result in a loss in overall soil productivity. Construction of impervious surfaces would increase surface runoff and potential for sedimentation. New buildings and infrastructure would be designed to control surface runoff and minimize the risk of sedimentation. Although paving and modernization of existing roads in the Cantonment Area would increase impervious surfaces, this activity also would have a beneficial impact by reducing fugitive dust from current gravel and unimproved roads.

No impact on prime farmland would occur **at the Cantonment Area**. None of the soils in the area are identified as prime farmland, although the NRCS has identified some soils as having the capacity of being prime farmland if they were irrigated and, in some cases, reclaimed of excess salts. None of the soils in the Cantonment Area are irrigated or have been irrigated in the recent past. The area is not available for agriculture, and farming activities would not be expected to occur in the future.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Optimization of annual BCT training throughput would have no impact on geology, topography, or mineral resources **at the Cantonment Area**, and the up to 29 percent increase in troop training would have less than significant impacts on soils. Such impacts would result from troop movements walking overland within the Cantonment Area, which could cause soil compaction and degradation. Long-term, most troop movements would be expected to be contained within roads and walkways constructed under implementation of modernization and infrastructure, and only less than significant adverse impacts would be expected.

4.5.1.3 OCTC

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on geology topography, and soils would occur as a result of approval of the RPMP and topographic and ground disturbance associated with construction and demolition **on the OCTC** (BLM-administered land).

Approval of the RPMP would have no impact on geology and topography, or mineral resources. However, it would have long-term, minor, adverse impacts on soils from implementation of the

proposed development of 173 acres of BLM-administered land **on the OCTC (156 acres of which are currently undeveloped)**. Subsequent measures to revegetate and restore the cleared areas would mitigate some long-term soil impacts in these areas. RPMP Section 1.6.6 identifies IDARNG activities **on the OCTC** and associated impacts on geological resources to guide the organization and management priorities for reduced impacts from wind erosion. RPMP Table 4 within this section outlines the BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts on geological resources associated with construction actions and from daily operations associated with the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects. The RPMP *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan* (both in RPMP Section 5) identify developable areas and facility layouts and orientations, and associated troop capacities considered during the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects to avoid or minimize impacts on topography, geology, and soils. The RPMP Installation Design Guide (RPMP Appendix F) further present information on soils, foundations, geology, and geotechnical considerations to guide facility and infrastructure development.

Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on the geology or topography of the OCTC would occur from construction and operation of the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects. Most projects would be shallow and would not encounter bedrock. The OCTC Shower Well Facility 3 project would include drilling of a well and possible deep excavation to install an underground water tank and septic system. However, this project would have only minor impacts on geology. Some projects may require minimal cutting and filling, but most of the projects would occur in relatively level areas and major changes in topography and drainage patterns would not be expected. Geologic hazards for the area are low to moderate, based on local seismicity. New construction would meet UFC requirements, minimizing risks to human safety from seismic hazards. No impacts on mineral resources would occur, as no mineral resources are present **at the OCTC**.

Short- and long-term, minor adverse impacts on soils **at the OCTC** would occur as a result of ground disturbance associated with proposed facility and infrastructure projects. Modernization of Facilities and Infrastructure projects would include building construction, demolition, and renovations; installation of underground utility infrastructure; and construction of large, gravel-surfaced bivouac areas. These projects would involve 173 acres of new construction, of which 10 percent (17 acres) would occur on developed BLM-administered land. The projects would involve vegetation removal, grading, and construction of new impervious surfaces. These activities could cause compaction, disturb the soil surface, create fugitive dust, increase soil erosion, and affect soil productivity.

Short-term, minor, adverse impacts on soils would occur as a result of changes in on-site conditions during construction activities. Most soils **at the OCTC** are highly susceptible to water erosion and moderately susceptible to wind erosion. Removal of vegetation and disturbance of biological soil crusts during construction and infrastructure projects would expose soils and increase the risk of wind erosion, surface runoff, and sedimentation. Compaction and soil disturbance from operating equipment would further increase this risk, and operating equipment could generate fugitive dust. IDARNG would implement BMPs during construction to minimize

fugitive dust and the potential for surface soil erosion and sedimentation from stormwater runoff, such as silt fences and soil stabilizing measures. Construction areas would be watered as needed to minimize wind erosion and fugitive dust. Disturbed areas would be revegetated following construction. These BMPs would be implemented consistent with a SWPPP as required by NPDES permitting requirements for construction projects. Additionally, construction projects would be completed in accordance with BLM RDFs for soils and geology listed in **Section 4.13**.

Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on soil resources would occur as a result of loss of vegetation and biological soil crusts and from increases in impervious surface area. Component Action 2 would result in the development of 120 acres of undeveloped BLM-administered land. See **Section 2.2.3** for baseline acreages of developed land in the proposed development areas. RPMP Appendices C and G provide the facility and infrastructure profiles and general information for project locations for the proposed development projects. New construction in these areas would cause a permanent loss in soil productivity. Construction of impervious surfaces such as buildings, and concrete pads would increase surface runoff and the potential for sedimentation; however, these risks would be minimized through design and implementation of BMPs. Any areas of demolition, if not converted to new uses, would be revegetated, which would restore soil productivity, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation construction of durable surfaces in bivouac areas.

No impact on prime farmland would occur **at the OCTC**. None of the soils in the area are identified as prime farmland, although the NRCS has identified some soils as having the capacity of being prime farmland if they were irrigated and, in some cases, reclaimed of excess salts. None of the soils in the OCTC are irrigated or have been irrigated in the recent past.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Optimization of annual BCT training throughput would have no impact on geology, topography, or mineral resources and would have long-term, intermittent, minor impacts on soils as a result of increased soil disturbance from the up to 29 percent increase in troop training and associated increase in personnel, vehicles, and munitions expenditures **on the OCTC**. Increased levels of troop activities, light maneuvers, heavy maneuvers, and small arms training would cause increased amounts of disturbed ground and exposed soils compared to present conditions. OCTC soils are moderately to highly susceptible to wind and water erosion; compaction, soil degradation, vegetation loss, and loss of biological soil crusts associated with increased levels of troop training would further increase the risk of surface erosion, fugitive dust, and sedimentation. Such conditions could be further exacerbated by an increased risk of wildfire, which could also cause vegetation loss and soil degradation.

The amount of exposed soil that could result from improved throughput of BCT training would be dependent on the timing, intensity, and duration of training. Training activities in March through May would be more likely to occur during rain events and/or on wet soils. Training activities in this period would be more likely to cause soil rutting, compaction, and surface erosion. Training activities during dry months in the late summer and fall are more likely to disturb top soils, contribute to wind erosion, and cause fugitive dust.

Implementation of BMPs and SOPs would reduce the magnitude of impacts on soils. Training damage to maneuver areas would be addressed by IDARNG's ITAM and LRAM programs. The SOPs codified in these programs and the IDARNG's 2013 INRMP require reseeding of areas of bare ground following training activities and resting of disturbed maneuver areas to allow vegetation to reestablish in the following growing season. Implementation of these BMPs and SOPs, would further reduce the identified long-term, minor, adverse impacts on soils from the improved throughput of BCT training.

No impact on prime farmland would occur **at the OCTC**. None of the soils in the area are identified as prime farmland, although the NRCS has identified some soils as having the capacity of being prime farmland if they were irrigated and, in some cases, reclaimed of excess salts. None of the soils in the OCTC are irrigated or have been irrigated in the recent past. Further, optimization of annual BCT training throughput would not lead to the irreversible conversion of prime farmland to nonagricultural use.

4.5.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts to geology, topography, and soils **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**.

4.5.3 Mitigation Measures

Because impacts on geology, topography, and soils would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A list of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts on geology, soils, and topography from the proposed action is provided in **Section 4.13**.

4.6 Water Resources

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections discloses the general impacts on water resources, specifically, to the IDT-identified issue listed in **Section 1.5.1.2**: *Will the project impact the water quality for groundwater or surface waters (e.g., streams or rivers)?*

A proposed action could have significant impacts on water resources if any of the following were to occur:

- Substantially reduce water availability or supply to existing or future users.
- Exceed safe annual yield of water supply sources.
- Substantially affect water quality for consumption and/or of a significant water body.
- Endanger public health or safety by creating or substantially worsening health, or flood hazard conditions.
- Cause substantial erosion.

- Threaten or damage unique hydrologic characteristics.
- Violate established laws or regulations adopted to protect water resources or public welfare.

4.6.1 Proposed Action Alternative

4.6.1.1 Gowen Field

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short-term, less than significant, adverse and long-term, adverse impacts on water resources could occur as a result of surface disturbing activities and decreases in impervious surfaces associated with approval of the RPMP and implementation of modernization and infrastructure **at Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land).

Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on water resources through guidance provided in its *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, and *Installation Design Guide*, which organize, plan, and site the proposed facility and infrastructure development actions away from water resources to avoid or minimize potential impacts. RPMP Section 1.6.6 identifies IDARNG activities **at Gowen Field** and associated impacts on water resources to guide the organization and management priorities for reduced impacts from surface runoff associated with construction and addition of impervious surface area.

Groundwater, Surface Water, Wetlands, and Floodplains. The Proposed Action **at Gowen Field** involves demolition and construction projects occurring in a developed area that would result in short-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on groundwater, surface water, and floodplains. Clearing, grading, excavating, and trenching activities associated with the FY18 through FY 22 RPMP Projects would disturb and expose soil and may temporarily increase erosion and sedimentation. If not managed properly, disturbed soils and sediments can enter adjacent waterbodies and floodplains during stormwater events and reduce water quality. Large construction equipment, as well as fuels, hydraulic fluids, oils, and lubricants to support construction vehicles and machinery, would be stored on site. Potential spills of chemicals or petroleum products from construction equipment, machinery, and vehicles could contaminate receiving waters during periods of runoff. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures (identified in **Section 4.13**) for stormwater management and management of hazardous materials, and improved drainage systems would reduce the potential for adverse impacts on groundwater, surface water, and floodplains.

Stormwater. Short-term, less than significant, adverse effects on stormwater quality may occur during construction. The demolition and construction projects proposed **at Gowen Field** are located within 500 feet of the central canal. If there is a greater than 1-acre disturbance, IDARNG would be required to develop a SWPPP and implement stormwater BMPs under USEPA's CGP. Gowen Field has an MSGP, which would address stormwater management of the entire facility and would include the added facilities under this Proposed Action. Long-term beneficial impacts on stormwater would be expected from slightly more than 1-acre net

decrease in impervious surfaces and improved drainage systems, which would decrease the rate and volume of stormwater runoff.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

No impacts on water resources would be expected from optimization of annual BCT training throughput **at Gowen Field** because no changes to stormwater runoff, surface water, groundwater quality or volume would occur.

4.6.1.2 Cantonment Area

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on water resources would occur as result of increases in impervious surface from development associated with approval of the RPMP and implementation of modernization and infrastructure **at the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land).

Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, less than significant impacts on water resources through guidance provided in its *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, and *Installation Design Guide*, which organize, plan, and site the proposed facility and infrastructure development actions away from water resources to avoid or minimize potential impacts. RPMP Section 1.6.6 identifies IDARNG activities in the Cantonment Area and associated impacts on water resources to guide the organization and management priorities for reduced impacts from surface runoff associated with construction and addition of impervious surface area.

Groundwater. The RPMP projects that are planned **at the Cantonment Area** involve demolition and construction in a developed area. Large construction equipment, as well as fuels, hydraulic fluids, oils, and lubricants to support construction vehicles and machinery, would be stored on site. Potential spills of chemicals or petroleum products from construction equipment, machinery, and vehicles could contaminate groundwater. Implementation of BMPs and SOPs associated with stormwater and management of hazardous materials (identified in **Section 4.13**) would avoid and minimize the potential for adverse impacts on groundwater. Because of this, adverse impacts from construction actions on groundwater are anticipated to be short-term and less than significant.

Surface Water and Wetlands. The Proposed Action would not affect perennial surface water features in the analysis area, as there are no perennial water bodies, streams, or wetlands within the existing or proposed Cantonment Area boundaries. The proposed barracks, dining facilities, and battalion or company headquarters projects would be adjacent to a mapped, unnamed, ephemeral tributary to Squaw Creek, located within the Cantonment Expansion Area. The unnamed tributary to Squaw Creek is an unassessed feature as reported in the 305d Integrated Report (IDEQ 2016b).

Stormwater. The 120-acre net increase in developed impervious surfaces from facility and infrastructure construction **on the Cantonment Area** and Cantonment Expansion Area associated with the FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects would increase the rate and volume of

stormwater runoff, resulting in long-term, adverse impacts on stormwater **at the Cantonment Area**. Consequently, the potential for stormwater runoff, and possible localized flooding and erosion would increase. Because more than 1 acre will be disturbed during construction, a USEPA-issued CGP will be required including development and implementation of a SWPPP. The plan would include BMPs for stormwater management during construction activities. Design elements of proposed improvements and expansion in the Cantonment Area would include drainage considerations such as storm drains in parking lots, gutters for buildings, and BMPs such as stormwater swales and detention basins.

Floodplains. The railhead expansion project at the eastern extent **of the Cantonment Area** encroaches on a mapped 100-year FEMA floodplain, flood zone A. Development in this area will require special consideration. Ada County Development may require a floodplain analysis and certification for any structures built within the floodplain.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on water resources because equipment use and maintenance associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training would result in an increased risk of groundwater contamination **at the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land).

Groundwater. With increased railhead operations and vehicle maintenance occurring **at the Cantonment Area**, the potential for groundwater contamination would increase. Additionally, increased groundwater withdrawal would occur as a result of optimized throughput of BCT training. Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on groundwater quality would be reduced through implementation of IDARNG's BMPs and SOPs. A detailed discussion of groundwater use, supply, and water rights is included in Infrastructure (**Sections 3.11 and 4.11**).

Surface Water and Wetlands. Because there are no perennial water bodies, streams, or wetlands in the existing or proposed Cantonment Area boundaries, the Component Action 3 would have no impacts on surface water **at the Cantonment Area**.

Stormwater. Because no changes to the quantity or quality of stormwater runoff would occur, no impacts on stormwater would be expected as a result of optimization of annual BCT training throughput **on the Cantonment Area**.

Floodplains. Because no training activities would occur **at the Cantonment Area**, no impacts on floodplains would be expected as a result of optimization of annual BCT training throughput.

4.6.1.3 OCTC

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on water resources from decreases in groundwater availability as a result of installation of a new water well and increases in stormwater runoff as a

result of increases in impervious surfaces associated with approval of the RPMP and implementation of modernization and infrastructure **at the OCTC** (BLM-administered land).

Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, minor, adverse impacts on water resources through guidance provided in its *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, and *Installation Design Guide*, which organize, plan, and site the proposed facility and infrastructure development actions away from water resources to avoid or minimize potential impacts. RPMP Section 1.6.6 identifies IDARNG activities on the OCTC and associated impacts on water resources to guide the organization and management priorities for reduced impacts from surface runoff associated with construction and addition of impervious surface area.

Groundwater. The installation of a new water well for a shower facility would have a long-term, minor, adverse impact on the groundwater availability **of the OCTC**. However, the shower facility and septic are unlikely to affect groundwater quality as the groundwater aquifer is over 900 ft bgs (IDARNG 2018a) at this location. The permitting process includes site-specific assessments for treatment system design that are protective of groundwater quality. Therefore, long-term, adverse impacts on groundwater quality would be minor. A detailed discussion of groundwater availability and water rights **at the OCTC** is included in Infrastructure (**Sections 3.11 and 4.11.1.2**).

Surface Water and Wetlands. No wetlands occur **on the OCTC** to be affected by the Proposed Action. Construction and demolition activities associated with the FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects, such as clearing, grading, excavating, and trenching, would disturb and expose soil and may temporarily increase erosion and sedimentation. If not managed properly, disturbed soils and sediments can enter adjacent waterbodies during stormwater events and reduce water quality. Large construction equipment, as well as fuels, hydraulic fluids, oils, and lubricants to support construction vehicles and machinery, would be stored on site. Potential spills of chemicals or petroleum products from construction equipment, machinery, and vehicles could contaminate receiving waters during periods of runoff. Potential adverse impacts on surface water would be avoided through implementation of BMPs, SOPs, and RDFs associated with stormwater management and management of hazardous materials (identified in **Section 4.13**).

Stormwater. Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on stormwater would result from increases in stormwater runoff caused by the approximately 71-acre increase in impervious surfaces associated with development of the FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects **on the OCTC**. Similar to the Cantonment Area, OCTC construction activities would require a CGP, SWPPP, and implementation of BMPs for stormwater management.

Floodplains. Because there are no floodplains **on the OCTC**, no impacts would be expected.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Because any potential adverse impacts would be avoided through implementation of BMPs, SOPs and the BLM's RDFs, no impacts on water resources would occur as a result of optimization of annual BCT training **at the OCTC**.

Groundwater, Surface water, Wetlands, Stormwater. No impacts on wetlands would occur under the Proposed Action **at the OCTC**. However, long-term, minor, adverse impacts on groundwater, surface water, and stormwater would be expected as a result of optimization of annual BCT training throughput. Troop and vehicle movement would disturb and expose soil and may increase erosion and sedimentation potential. If not managed properly, disturbed soils and sediments can enter adjacent waterbodies during stormwater events and reduce water quality. With increased vehicle use occurring during training, the potential for water contamination would increase. A detailed discussion of hazardous and toxic materials/wastes impacts is found in **Section 4.12**. Groundwater withdrawal to support new facilities and consumption required for spraydown during training operations would be increased. Any potential impacts on groundwater quality and recharge would be avoided through implementation of IDARNG's BMPs and SOPs and BLM's RDFs identified in **Section 4.13**. A detailed discussion of groundwater use, supply, and water rights is included in Infrastructure (**Sections 3.11 and 4.11**).

Floodplains. Because there are no floodplains **on the OCTC**, no impacts on floodplains would occur from the Proposed Action.

4.6.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts to water resources **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**.

4.6.3 Mitigation Measures

Because impacts on water resources would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A list of BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts on water resources from the proposed action is provided in **Section 4.13**.

4.7 Biological Resources

As noted in **Section 3.7**, the IDT-identified issues to be addressed in the following analysis include impacts from the proposed construction and training activities on: 1) *vegetation (both general and special status)*, 2) *general and special status fauna including raptor foraging*, 3) *LEPA and associated Proposed Critical Habitat*, 4) *habitat of raptor prey species*, 5) *wildland fire*, and 6) *noxious weed distribution*.

As discussed in **Section 3.7**, the ROI for assessing these impacts includes the proposed development areas on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area, and the proposed development and training areas on the OCTC. The impact indicators for this assessment would be the numbers of acres of disturbance to areas with native vegetation in each development area, acreage losses of prime raptor prey (Piute squirrel and jackrabbit) habitat, and the numbers of acres of OCTC land burned by wildland fire events relative to the number of training days on the OCTC.

This biological resources analysis discusses impacts from construction, demolition, and renovation of facilities as well as military training operations on vegetation, wildlife, and protected and sensitive species from the Proposed Action and alternatives. The impacts on biological resources addressed in this EA builds from prior completed NEPA analyses of development and training on biological resources including the *IDARNG Range MP-1 EA* (May 2019), *EA Addressing the Proposed DAGIR Within the OCTC's Impact Area* (August 2018), *IDARNG Habitat Enhancement Project EA* (2018), and the *Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Modernizing and Operating Training Ranges on Previous or Existing Range Sites on Army Training Areas* (2013). For vegetation and wildlife, each species has unique, fundamental needs for food, shelter, water, and space that can be sustained only where their specific combination of habitat requirements are available. Removal of sustaining elements of a species' habitat impacts its ability to exist. Therefore, the evaluation of impacts on wildlife and vegetation is based on whether the action would cause habitat displacement resulting in reduced feeding or reproduction, removal of critical habitat for sensitive species, or behavioral avoidance of available habitat as a result of noise or human disturbance. The level of impacts on biological resources is based on (1) the importance (i.e., legal, ecological, scientific, recreational, or commercial) of the resource, (2) the proportion of the resource that would be affected relative to its occurrence in the region, (3) the sensitivity of the resource to the proposed activities, and (4) the duration of ecological ramifications.

Impacts on biological resources are considered significant if species or special habitats are adversely affected over large areas, or disturbances cause reductions in population size or distribution of a species of special concern.

The level of impacts on special status (e.g., BLM or state-listed) resources is based upon USFWS thresholds for a particular finding. An action warrants a 'may affect, not likely to be adversely affected' finding when its effects are wholly beneficial or insignificant.

The sections below are divided into general discussions on each of the Component Actions, and discloses impacts that would occur within the biological resources ROI (including specific references to impacts on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC). Within each of the Component Action sections are subject headings for vegetation and wildlife. Within the discussions for the vegetation and wildlife resources are additional subheadings (e.g., general flora, noxious weeds, wildland fire, general fauna, etc.), which are not specifically related to the issue statements. Analysis is provided in the order that it was presented in the Existing Conditions Section (see **Section 3.7.4**).

4.7.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on biological resources (e.g., vegetation, habitat, and wildlife) on IDARNG-managed lands and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered lands through the planned, and guided development of new facilities and infrastructure on 120 acres of IDARNG-managed undeveloped, natural land **on the Cantonment Area** and 156 acres of BLM-administered

undeveloped, natural land **on the OCTC**. Beneficial impacts would be expected through guidance provided in its *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, and *Installation Design Guide*, which organize, plan, and site the proposed facility and infrastructure development actions away from sensitive or ecologically important resources to avoid or minimize potential impacts. Further, RPMP Section 1.6.6 identifies IDARNG activities on the OCTC and associated impacts on biological resources to guide the organization and management priorities for reduced impacts from surface runoff associated with construction and addition of impervious surface area.

Vegetation

Short- and long-term, direct and indirect, adverse impacts on vegetation would occur as a result of vegetation removal and disturbance from construction activities, installation of impervious surfaces, increased potential for noxious weed spread, and increased risk of wildfires **at Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**. Respectively, **Figure 3.7** and **Figure 3.8** show the vegetation resources and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat within the biological resources ROI. The **Appendix B**, *Comprehensive Mapbook of FY18 through FY22 RPMP Projects*, shows the overlap and proximity of the proposed facility and infrastructure projects with these vegetation communities. Following is discussion of the impacts anticipated from the Proposed Action on the vegetation communities within the biological resources ROI.

General Flora. Adverse impacts on vegetation **on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed lands) would be short- and long-term, direct and indirect, and less than significant and short- and long-term, direct and indirect, minor **on the OCTC** (BLM-administered lands). Direct impacts are those that relate to the permanent loss of vegetation, soil, and reproductive habitat due to construction activities where current vegetation would be replaced with infrastructure and buildings. Indirect impacts occur as a result of construction activities but do not result in the permanent loss of vegetation, soil, or reproductive habitat; temporarily impacted areas will be disturbed as construction occurs and will require intervention once construction ceases. Indirect impacts would also include the potential for noxious and invasive weed growth from construction activities, or temporary loss of vegetation, soil, and habitat due to construction activities. Temporarily affected areas will need to be revegetated per IDARNG's SOP and BMPs (see **Section 4.13**). To avoid or minimize impacts, construction equipment and personnel would restrict travel to designated access roads, impervious surfaces, or areas that are visibly disturbed. Also, in areas where temporary disturbance will occur, construction crews will replant general disturbance areas with a native desirable species mix as approved by IDL and the BLM and monitoring of the seeded areas would occur until a successful planting is determined by BLM.

As discussed in **Section 3.7.4.1**, most of the high quality raptor prey habitat within the analysis area is located outside of the locations where construction and demolition projects for the Proposed Action would occur. Construction and demolition actions within the proposed development areas (i.e., **Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**) would predominantly affect areas covered by invasive grasses such as cheatgrass, invasive graminoids, and annual forbs. Construction of the ROCA packages and other range improvements may also affect areas that encompass higher quality native species such as

sagebrush. However, because sagebrush occurrence on the ranges is fairly limited and interspersed, and the construction crews would implement avoidance and minimization measures identified in **Section 4.13** for development **on the OCTC**, it is anticipated that impacts on these higher quality vegetation species/habitat areas would be reduced. In sum, the proposed development actions would develop approximately 359 acres of IDARNG-managed and BLM-administered land, which represents a fraction of one percent (i.e., 0.07 percent) of the biological resources ROI (480,858 acres).

The approval of the RPMP and implementation of modernization and infrastructure projects would result in at least 9 construction and demolition projects **at Gowen Field**, **34 at the Cantonment Area**, and **40 at the OCTC** over the next 5 years. The Proposed Action mostly occurs in developed areas and areas already containing impervious surfaces. Many of the construction and renovation projects would already occur on developed and/or impervious surfaces. For demolition projects, impervious surfaces would be removed. Many of the projects would occur in undeveloped areas. Much of the undeveloped area is already highly disturbed with large expanses of cheatgrass and other invasive annual forbs and graminoids.

Construction activities **within the Cantonment Area** would permanently remove vegetation on approximately 120 acres of IDARNG-managed land. The permanent removal of approximately 156 acres of vegetation to construct new facilities on BLM-administered land **on the OCTC**, and power and data and infrastructure on the ranges, and establish bivouac areas, would occur. Per the BLM no net loss policy, 172 acres (enhancement acres) would be restored elsewhere **on the OCTC**. Increased military personnel is expected with the construction of additional facilities. The increased foot and vehicle traffic **on the OCTC** ranges would increase the potential for trampling native vegetation.

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts (e.g., removal or disturbance of vegetation and habitat) on IDARNG-managed lands and short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered lands would be related to construction activities in the proposed development areas, but would not result in any permanent loss of vegetation. Temporary impacts on vegetation would include the following:

- Disturbance or removal of approximately 17 acres of vegetation (0.004 percent of the vegetation in the ROI, and roughly 0.00001 percent of the vegetative resources available in BLM Management Area 3 during operation of construction vehicles and equipment.
- Project activities would result in a temporary 1.02-acre loss of sagebrush-inhabited area. This loss of sagebrush equates to a trace loss (<0.0 percent) of sagebrush within the ROI. The area would regrow following completion of project construction and leaving little to no sign of disturbance.
- Off-site enhancement of NCA habitat at greater than a 1:1 ratio (1:1.1) would occur to off-set the permanent impacts associated with the Proposed Action. **Section 4.13** lists additional measures that would also be implemented to avoid or minimize the adverse impacts on vegetation and habitat.

Special Status Flora. The 2020 Biological Assessment for this proposed action provides detailed analysis actions under Proposed Action, including construction activities (i.e., Component Action 2) and optimized training tempo (i.e., Component Action 3) **on Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and OCTC** and their impacts to LEPA and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat. The Assessment ultimately found that actions under the RPMP may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect LEPA or its Proposed Critical Habitat. Concurrence with this finding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was received on April 22, 2020. The Letter of Concurrence from the Service can be found in (**Appendix E**). The effects of construction under the RPMP (i.e., Component Action 2) to LEPA and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat are summarized below.

Effects to LEPA

Overall, impacts to LEPA include direct impacts from development of undeveloped areas and indirect impacts from construction related activities. The spatial extent of impact for each RPMP project is represented by the construction footprint (e.g., building footprint) as well as a 50 meter (m) “impact buffer” around each project element. The impact buffer is included to account for potential effects to LEPA and Proposed Critical Habitat in the immediate surrounding area from construction activities outside the construction footprint. Impacts from construction activities within the impact buffer could include short-term, local fugitive dust emissions, soil de-stabilization, vegetation crushing or removal and increased potential for invasive and noxious weed establishment. The buffer distance of 50m (164 feet) was chosen as a reasonable distance around each construction project where the majority of off-site construction effects would be expected to occur. **Table 4-8** summarizes the number of projected acres of direct impact (i.e., construction and infrastructure footprints) and indirect impact in the 50m impact buffer (i.e., representing potential temporary disturbance resulting from construction activities) associated with each project within LEPA habitat types, as defined above. Projects occurring **within Gowen Field** would have no effect to any of the LEPA habitat types and is therefore not included in the table below.

Table 4-8. Projected Amount (in Acres) of New Permanent Disturbance, Replacement of Existing Disturbance (i.e., No Net Change), and Temporary Disturbance (i.e., 50-meter Impact Buffer) in LEPA Habitat Types within the Cantonment Area and the OCTC

LEPA habitat types		New Permanent Disturbance	Replacement of Existing Disturbance ¹	Temporary Disturbance (50m impact buffer)	Total Project Element Area + Impact Buffer	Projected Total New + Temporary Disturbance ¹
Occupied Habitat	EO	0.4	2.2	84.8	87.5	85.3
	HIZ ²	36.1	8.2	435.9	480.2	472.0
Slickspot Peppergrass Habitat		25.0	0.0	18.3	43.3	43.3
Unoccupied Habitat ²		290.8	38.1	1,563.9	1,892.8	1,854.7
TOTAL		351.6	48.5	2,102.9	25,03.0	2,454.5

1 – Replacement of Existing Disturbance projects would result in no net change in disturbed (i.e., non-vegetated) surfaces and therefore are not included in total disturbance calculations other than area in the associated 50m temporary disturbance impact buffer.

2 – HIZ in this project area is also Unoccupied Habitat (i.e., some acres are double counted).

Occupied, Unoccupied and Potential Habitat (i.e., LEPA Habitat) for the species occur within the action area (as defined in **Section 3.7.4.1**). **Gowen Field** and the **Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land) only contain Unoccupied Habitat. Unoccupied Habitat has been identified in these areas due to lack of slick spot microsites (e.g., areas of previous development) or areas that have been surveyed to Stage 3 survey standards to be considered Unoccupied. Occupied (EO and HIZ), Unoccupied and LEPA Habitat occurs within the OCTC. In addition, LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat occurs along the northeast boundary of the OCTC between the Cantonment Area and OCTC. RPMP project elements overlap with all aforementioned LEPA habitat types (i.e., Occupied Habitat, Unoccupied Habitat, LEPA Habitat and Proposed Critical Habitat).

No direct or indirect impacts to LEPA would be anticipated as a result of development actions **on Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land). Eight construction projects would occur **on Gowen Field (Figure 2.1)**. Of those eight projects, six would occur in Unoccupied Habitat, none would occur in LEPA Habitat and two would occur within the HIZ. Projects that occur in Unoccupied Habitat would have no effect to the species. The construction footprints and associated 50-meter impact buffer of the two projects within the HIZ would occur on currently non-vegetated, impervious surfaces and provide no potential pollinator habitat for LEPA. In addition, the closest LEPA occurrence is approximately 670 meters south east of the nearest project disturbance and would not be affected by any project impacts **on Gowen Field**.

Short- and long-term, direct and indirect, less than significant impacts on LEPA would be anticipated as a result of development actions within the **Cantonment Area** and short- and long-term, direct and indirect, minor impacts on LEPA would be anticipated as a result of development actions **on the OCTC**. All construction projects **within the Cantonment Area**

(IDARNG-managed land) and the majority of construction projects **within the OCTC** (BLM-administered land) are limited to Unoccupied Habitat for the species (**Table 3-15**). No direct or indirect effects to the species are anticipated in Unoccupied Habitat due to lack of occupancy. For projects that would occur within LEPA habitat types (all within BLM-administered land on the OCTC), construction would result in the permanent conversion of 25 acres of LEPA Habitat and 0.4 acres of Occupied Habitat (i.e., EO27) to non-vegetated, impervious surfaces (i.e., hardened roads). The total loss of EO27 and LEPA Habitat (25.4 acres) would account for 0.3 percent of those habitat types within the biological resources ROI. No LEPA occurrences have been recorded within the construction footprints or impact buffers of projects within the impacted LEPA Habitat or EO27, however slick spot microsites within these habitats are treated as to have unknown occupancy with the potential for viable seeds to exist within the soil.

Slick spot microsites of unknown occupancy within the affected Occupied Habitat (EO27, 0.4 acres) are within 10 meters of Orchard Access Road, which is a hardened, gravel road. Frequent use of this road historically and disturbance from road maintenance activities within the road right-of-way has likely rendered any remaining slick spots non-functional. While we do not have the ability to see whether these remaining slick spot microsites contain viable seeds, given the repeated mechanical soil disturbance, slickspot peppergrass is not reasonably certain to occur within these microsites. Slick spot microsites of unknown occupancy within the affected LEPA Habitat (25 acres) also occur in a heavily disturbed area. This area has been used by the military as an informal staging area for years and has burned several times, most recently in 2017. This area is typically void of vegetation due to high levels of disturbance, with the exception of some ephemeral exotic annual plant cover, including Russian thistle, mustards and cheatgrass. Any slick spot microsites remaining in this area have experienced heavy soil disturbance, which has likely rendered them non-functional. While the IDARNG does not have the ability to see whether these remaining slick spot microsites contain viable seeds, given the repeated mechanical soil disturbance and inundation of exotic herbaceous cover, slickspot peppergrass is not reasonably certain to occur within these microsites. In addition, as per IDARNG SOPs/BMPS (**Section 4.13**), pre-construction surveys will be done prior to initiation of projects occurring in LEPA Habitat or EO 27 to identify whether LEPA plants are present. If plants are found, those microsites will be avoided. Given that no individual plants will be destroyed or harmed and affected slick spot microsites are not reasonably certain to contain viable LEPA seeds, no direct effects to LEPA are anticipated as a result of development actions within the OCTC.

In addition to permanent disturbance from construction (i.e., development of undeveloped areas), there would be a total of 2,408 acres of temporary disturbance within project impact buffers (**Table 3-15**). The majority of temporary disturbance would occur in Unoccupied Habitat (2,305 acres, 96 percent). No direct or indirect temporary effects to the species are anticipated in Unoccupied Habitat due to lack of occupancy. For impact buffers that would occur within LEPA habitat types (**all within the OCTC** [BLM-administered lands]), construction would result in temporary disturbance to approximately 85 acres of EO27 and 18 acres of LEPA Habitat which may cause local and short-term direct effects to LEPA through a temporary increase in fugitive dust from construction activities, potentially covering adjacent slick spots and burying seeds, preventing LEPA germination. The areas of temporary impact are adjacent to (within 50

meters) well-travelled gravel roads that have been in use for over 20 years. Throughout the OCTC, there are many repeat-observations of LEPA growing within 50 meters of well-travelled roads, including those adjacent to the aforementioned RPMP projects within these areas. While it is unknown the effect of fugitive dust on LEPA performance, given the observations over time in similar positioning to well-travelled roads, it is unlikely that effects from fugitive dust would rise to levels high enough to reasonably elicit a response from individual slickspot peppergrass plants (e.g., decreased seed germination). Temporary disturbance may cause local and short-term indirect effects to LEPA by reducing diversity and density of pollinators for nearby LEPA populations temporarily due to loss of flowering plants. Reduced pollinator diversity and density could result in decreased fruit production and future plant propagation for nearby slickspot peppergrass populations. However, given IDARNG construction SOPs outlined in **Section 4.13**, vegetation temporarily disturbed by construction activities will be restored at an equal-to or greater-than habitat value once construction is over, so temporary effects are not likely to last beyond one growing season. Overall, disturbance to LEPA within the impact buffer of projects are anticipated to be local, short-term and less than significant on IDARNG-managed lands and local, short-term and minor on BLM-administered lands.

In addition to the impacts to LEPA habitats mentioned above, construction under the RPMP would result in short- and long-term, direct and indirect, less than significant effects to the species through impacts to potential LEPA pollinators in the HIZ, specifically the HIZ surrounding EO27. The majority of RPMP construction projects resulting in the development of undeveloped areas would occur outside of the HIZ (240 acres, 87 percent). For projects where the construction footprint or impact buffer overlap with the HIZ, construction would result in the permanent conversion of 36.2 acres of HIZ to non-vegetated, impervious surfaces and temporarily disturb 436 acres within the HIZ (**Table 3-15**). The areas of permanent and temporary disturbance in the HIZ (**primarily within the Cantonment Area**) are dominated by exotic annual herbaceous species, primarily Russian thistle and cheatgrass, which do not provide high quality pollinator habitat. However, there are patches of non-native mustards (e.g., tall tumble mustard) and yellow rabbitbrush, which provide refuge and forage for potential LEPA pollinators.

Permanent loss of approximately 36 acres of potential LEPA pollinator habitat (i.e., HIZ) may cause local and long-term indirect effects to slickspot peppergrass by reducing the diversity and density of pollinators for nearby Occupied Habitat permanently. LEPA relies primarily on cross-pollination to reproduce and maintain genetic diversity, which requires availability of invertebrate pollinators. In general, LEPA can be pollinated by a wide suite of invertebrates (Robertson and Klemash 2003). It is reasonable to assume that permanent loss of 36 acres of pollinator habitat that is primarily cheatgrass may reduce pollinator abundance locally, however the magnitude and spatial extent of this effect is unknown. Given the availability of alternative flowering plants, including the remaining 11,083 acres (99.7 percent) of the HIZ surrounding EO27 and an abundance of annual mustards within and adjacent to the project area, it is unlikely that pollinator populations overall would decrease measurably or in levels high enough to reasonably elicit a response from individual slickspot peppergrass plants (e.g., decreased pollination rates and fruit-set).

Temporary disturbance of 436 acres of potential LEPA pollinator habitat (i.e., HIZ) may cause local and short-term indirect effects to LEPA by reducing diversity and density of pollinators for nearby LEPA populations temporarily. Reduced pollinator diversity and density could result in decreased fruit production and future plant propagation for nearby slickspot peppergrass populations. However, given IDARNG construction SOPs outlined in **Section 4.13**, vegetation temporarily disturbed by construction activities will be restored at an equal-to or greater-than habitat value once construction is over, so temporary effects are not likely to last beyond one growing season. Overall, effects to LEPA resulting from permanent and temporary disturbance of the HIZ are anticipated to be local, short-term and less than significant.

In summary, there will be a total permanent loss of 25.4 acres of LEPA EO27 and LEPA Habitat (0.4 and 25 acres, respectively) and 36.2 acres of potential LEPA pollinator habitat in the HIZ from RPMP construction projects (i.e., Component Action 2). Slickspot microsites within the affected EO27 and LEPA Habitat have undergone repeated mechanical soil disturbances and thus, are not reasonably certain to support the species. The total loss of 36 acres within the HIZ accounts for 0.3 percent of the HIZ surrounding EO27. In addition, there is an abundance of annual mustards within and adjacent to the action area that could support potential pollinators for the species, and it is unlikely that pollinator populations overall would decrease measurably or in levels high enough to reasonably elicit a response from nearby LEPA populations (e.g., in EO 27).

Effects on LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse, direct impacts (permanent removal) and indirect impacts (e.g., potentially reduced quality) on LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat would be expected **on the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed lands). Development of the road between the Cantonment Area and the ASP would result in the permanent loss of slightly more than 1 acre of LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat. To avoid underestimating the potential impacts from this change, analysis in this EA conservatively estimates removal of up to 2 total acres (0.04 percent) of LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat (**Table 4-9**). **Figure 3.8** shows the areas where LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat exists **within the Cantonment Area**. The *Comprehensive Mapbook* (**Appendix B**) shows the FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects that would overlap, or be located near, LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat. In addition, approximately 46 acres of construction project impact buffers occur within Proposed Critical Habitat which represents the potential for temporary disturbance to soil and vegetation within the overlapping area. All impacts on LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat would occur on lands administered by Idaho Department of Lands.

RPMP construction projects would result in the permanent loss of approximately 2 acres of LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat which would potentially result in the loss of slick spot microsites and native and nonnative forbs which provide forage and cover for potential LEPA insect pollinators (i.e., important physical and biological features for the species). However, this portion of Proposed Critical Habitat has been surveyed to the point of being determined to be Unoccupied Habitat. Therefore, it is not likely that viable LEPA seeds exist in the affected microsites. In addition, slick spots potentially affected are heavily invaded by cheatgrass and are not reasonably considered to be ecologically functioning for the species. Vegetation within the 2

acres of impact is primarily cheatgrass and nonnative annual mustards. While cheatgrass is not a valuable plant for supporting potential LEPA pollinators, non-native annual mustards have been shown to provide relatively high density and diversity of pollinators (IDARNG, unpublished data). It is reasonable to assume that permanent loss of approximately 2 acres of pollinator habitat may reduce pollinator abundance locally, however the magnitude and spatial extent of this effect is unknown. Given the availability of alternative flowering plants, including the remaining 99.06 percent of Proposed Critical Habitat in the area (**Figure 2.3**), and an abundance of annual mustards within and adjacent to the action area, it is unlikely that pollinator populations overall would decrease measurably or in levels high enough to reasonably performance of individual LEPA plants (e.g., decreased pollination rates and fruit-set). Indirect effects may include an increase in invasive annual plants adjacent to intact slick spot microsites near construction activities, though habitat surrounding proposed projects is currently degraded to this state and actions under the RPMP are not reasonably certain to cause a net increase in non-native plant cover in slick spots.

Table 4-9. Acres of Permanently Impacted LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat within the Biological Resources Analysis Area

Site Location	Area of LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat (acres)	Percent of Total
Total LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat	11,294	100
Proposed Development Area:		
Gowen Field	0	0.1
Cantonment Area	2	0.2
OCTC	0*	0
Total Affected Acreage	2	0.3

Table Notes: LEPA – *Lepidium papilliferum* * Although no critical habitat or proposed critical habitat occurs within the development area, such habitats do occur along the boundaries.

In addition to permanent disturbance of LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat from construction (i.e., development of undeveloped areas) **on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land), there would be a total of 46 acres of temporary disturbance within project impact buffers. Temporary disturbance to LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat may cause local and short-term direct effects to LEPA through a temporary increase in fugitive dust from construction activities, potentially covering adjacent slick spots and burying seeds, preventing LEPA germination, as well as reducing diversity and density of pollinators for nearby LEPA populations due to temporary loss of flowering plants. While it is unknown the effect of fugitive dust on LEPA performance, LEPA has been observed historically throughout the OCTC in direct proximity to well-travelled roads that likely experience the same, if not greater, levels of dust emissions, so it is unlikely that effects from fugitive dust would rise to levels high enough to reasonably elicit a response from individual slickspot peppergrass plants (e.g., decreased seed germination). All temporary disturbance to vegetation, including flowering species providing pollinator habitat, would be restored as per IDARNG SOPs and BMPs and BLM's RDFs (as appropriate) to equal or greater quality habitat. Effects on potential LEPA pollinators from temporary ground disturbance is expected to be local and last less than two growing seasons (i.e., short-term).

In summary, there will be a total permanent loss of approximately 2 acres of LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat from RPMP construction projects (i.e., Component Action 2), which would affect slick spot microsites and potential LEPA pollinators and their habitat **on the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land). Slick spot microsites within the affected Proposed Critical Habitat have been surveyed several times and determined to be within Unoccupied Habitat and have undergone considerable soil disturbance over time and are not reasonably considered to be ecologically functioning. Loss of flowering vegetation within the 2 acres of Proposed Critical Habitat accounts for 0.04 percent of overall Proposed Critical Habitat in the area and it is unlikely that pollinator populations would decrease measurably or in levels high enough to reasonably elicit a response from individual slickspot peppergrass plants. Future development in this area would avoid or minimize impacts on the LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat, and consult with the USFWS and BLM, pending final determination of the critical habitat status. Measures identified in **Section 4.13** would also be implemented to avoid and/or minimize impacts on LEPA and LEPA habitat.

Furthermore, native reseeding efforts would occur once construction is complete to initiate restoration efforts wherever it is applicable.

Noxious Weeds. Long-term, indirect, less than significant impacts on vegetation **on the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed lands) and long-term, indirect, minor impacts on vegetation **on the OCTC** (BLM-administered lands) from the establishment and spread of noxious weed species during the proposed activities in the biological resources ROI may occur. The noxious species outcompete the native vegetation for limited resources. Areas that experience recent disturbance are more susceptible to the encroachment of noxious weeds. Many of the areas in the ROI are already highly developed. With noxious weeds already established in the area, the potential for spreading to adjacent sites is greater.

To minimize the spread of noxious weeds, construction crews should wash vehicles and equipment prior to accessing and leaving the site to remove any contaminated soil or weed seeds prior to entering uninfested areas in adjacent properties in the ROI. IDARNG should also implement native vegetation reseeding efforts where appropriate, and the use of on-site materials to reduce establishment of new noxious weed species associated with off-site materials. Once construction is complete a noxious weed inventory would occur to determine native reseeding efficacy, and if weed treatment is necessary. Noxious weed treatment may include mechanical, biological, chemical, or prescribed burns depending on the level of establishment and species present.

Noxious weed species introduction by recreationists and livestock, which are not managed by the IDARNG, would be expected to remain unchanged, but improved vegetation resulting from native reseeding efforts with a BLM-approved seed mix in disturbed areas may make the residual plant communities more resistant to future disturbance. **Section 4.13** lists the measures (SOPs, BLMs, and BLM's RDFs) that would be implemented to avoid or minimize the spread of noxious weed species.

Wildland Fire. Though unlikely, wildfires could occur from the construction and demolition projects within the ROI. Backfires from machinery could spark wildfires in open areas; however,

due to the proximity to the airport and other development, IDARNG would implement strict fire management to avoid fires or prevent them from spreading into more developed areas. Where wildland fire occurs, it would reduce shrubland, fragment habitat, increase potential for spread and conversion to a predominance of invasive species land cover (e.g., cheatgrass). Because construction crews and personnel would follow existing protocols described in IDARNG's IWFMP (IDARNG 2013), the potential for short- and long-term, adverse effects from wildfire on the ROI from Component Actions 1 and 2 would be less than significant.

Wildlife

Short- and long-term, direct and indirect, less than significant, adverse impacts on wildlife on IDARNG-managed lands (i.e. **Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area**) and short- and long-term, direct and indirect, minor, adverse impacts on wildlife on BLM-administered lands (i.e. **the OCTC**) would occur as a result of temporary and some permanent habitat and foraging area displacement, disturbance, and deterrence associated with construction noise and facility and infrastructure development. **The Cantonment Area** and **OCTC** provide undeveloped areas that may be utilized by wildlife for foraging or nesting. 359 acres of marginal to suitable habitat, 186 acres on IDARNG-managed lands (**Cantonment Area**) and 173 acres of BLM-administered lands (**OCTC**) would be lost. This acreage is insignificant because it only represents a quarter of one percent of the total of marginal to suitable habitat in the ROI.

Special Status Fauna. Long- and short-term, less than significant, direct, adverse impacts (e.g., temporary avoidance) on BLM- and state-listed species would be expected from the construction and demolition on IDARNG-managed land **within the Cantonment Area** and long- and short-term, minor, direct, adverse impacts (e.g, temporary avoidance) on BLM- and state-listed species would be expected from development actions on BLM-administered land **on the OCTC** within the biological resources ROI. Raptors and their prey species would temporarily avoid the area during construction due to the increased noise levels from heavy equipment. Raptors and prey that are habituated to the human activity would likely return to foraging habitat once construction finishes. Raptor prey habitat would not be impacted by Component Actions 1 and 2, as most of the activities would occur in developed areas or on impervious surfaces. Any small prey species utilizing Gowen Field would temporarily avoid or relocate during construction and demolition activities. Once construction is finished, prey species would return to available areas.

Because **Gowen Field** occurs close to high levels of development, raptors are not likely to forage in the area of the construction footprint, especially since adjacent areas provide higher quality foraging habitat. **Within the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land) and **the OCTC** (predominantly BLM-administered land), raptor species, as well as prey species habitat, would be permanently removed from foraging and nesting habitat and temporarily disturbed during construction activities. Raptors would be displaced to adjacent foraging and nesting habitat in the NCA and may be displaced beyond the NCA depending on the species sensitivity to human activity. Foraging habitat for special status raptors as well as their prey species' habitat would be permanently removed or altered **within the OCTC**. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in the maximum loss of 15 acres of sagebrush habitat (i.e., the highest value raptor prey habitat) **in the OCTC**; this change would represent removal of a fraction of one percent

(i.e. 0.02 percent) of the existing 98,669 acres of sagebrush within the ROI. To minimize impacts on raptor species and their associated prey habitat, IDARNG should continue to reseed portions of the installation and OCTC that are no longer being used with a native seed mix that includes sagebrush species. This would account for habitat being lost from construction projects and construction actions required to install power and data infrastructure. Most of the sagebrush occurs in the northwestern corner of the OCTC. Raptors would be displaced to adjacent foraging areas in the NCA. Raptors that are habituated to the current conditions of the OCTC may move to other areas with the increased construction and return once construction is complete. Trenching required for the installation of power and data infrastructure would result in short-term, minor, adverse impacts on raptors and their habitat.

However, a 60-foot-tall communications tower (i.e., OCTC-16, see **Section 2.2.3.3** for a detailed project description) is proposed in proximity to nesting. This structure would be constructed on a 100-SF concrete slab. Due to the proximity of the proposed communications tower to nesting and breeding habitat for shrub and ground nesting avian species, potential impacts to nesting species and habitat as a result of tower and facilities construction and presence on the landscape may include the following:

- **Disturbance** – Some disturbance would occur as a result of activity at the site associated with site inspections, maintenance, and increased human activity.
- **Site Avoidance** – Research suggests that aircraft avoidance lighting and electromagnetic radiation from communication towers may cause avian species to avoid the area surrounding a tower (Ghering et al. 2015). Studies found that while the new FCC regulations for tower lighting appeared to decrease avian mortality at tower sites, most species still avoided habitats near communication towers for breeding and foraging.
- **Habitat Fragmentation** – Placement and operation of the tower in important breeding habitat adjacent to active nest areas is expected to cause further habitat fragmentation and disturbance to birds that breed, nest and forage in the OCTC/NCA.
- **Habitat Loss** – The project would remove 100 square-feet of habitat within the biological resources ROI (amounting to trace impact). This change would be long-term (permanent), direct, minor and adverse.
- **Collisions and Disorientation as a result of Obstruction Warning Lighting**- Birds that are attracted to tower lights and aggregate in the lighting zone, circle the tower and collide with the tower, guy wires, other birds, or fall to the ground from exhaustion (Longcore et al. 2012b, Gauthreaux and Belser 2006, Erickson et al. 2005).

USFWS and FAA conservation guidance and mitigation measures for communication towers typically applies to towers that are over 150 feet above ground level (AGL). As the proposed tower would likely be less than 100 feet AGL, many of the short- and long-term, adverse impacts described, in particular mortality related to collisions and disorientation from warning lights, would be direct and minor impacts to avian populations **in the OCTC/NCA**. Regardless, USFWS recommendations provided in *Recommended Best Practices for Communication*

Tower, Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Decommissioning shall be incorporated into the proposed communication tower design and construction phases (USFWS 2018).

Raptor populations in and near the biological resources ROI would be temporarily displaced from the area during the construction activities associated with the Proposed Action. Pre-construction surveys and grubbing during non-nesting periods would be conducted to avoid impacts on raptors.

Existing facilities and infrastructure **on the OCTC** (BLM-administered land) within the biological resources ROI have permanently impacted 95 acres of wildlife habitat. These acres would continue to not provide habitat for wildlife. Overall, when combined with the existing disturbance (95 acres), new disturbance would affect up to a maximum of 359 acres within the ROI to total of 453 acres affected. It is expected that some areas of existing disturbance would be upgraded, thus causing no additional new disturbance.

Past studies conducted in the NCA have documented the importance of native plant communities in supporting stable Piute ground squirrel populations; winterfat and Wyoming big sagebrush communities supported higher densities of squirrels in comparison to annual grass communities. Native plant communities are also relatively more stable or resistant to annual fluctuations in precipitation or during periods of drought. Areas dominated by annual grasses would support Piute ground squirrels, however, the density of squirrels in these areas would fluctuate from year to year due to the relatively high variability in annual grass production at low elevations (Steenhof et al. 2006; Tinkle et al. 2016; Yensen et al. 1992; Sharpe & Van Horne 1998).

Table 4-10 presents the acreage of high, medium, and low value raptor prey habitats that would be developed **on the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land) and **the OCTC** (predominantly BLM-administered land).

Table 4-10. High, Medium, and Low Value Raptor Prey Habitat Acreages Impacted on the Cantonment Area and OCTC

Relative Raptor Prey Habitat Value	Acres of BLM-administered Lands Impact	Acres of IDARNG-managed Lands Impact	Total Acres of Impact
High	15	14	29
Medium	36	42	78
Low	122	130	252
TOTAL	173	186	359

Table Note: High = Wyoming big sagebrush; Medium = bluebunch wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass, low density grasses, Sandberg's bluegrass, winterfat, shadscale; Low = bare ground, cheatgrass, exotic annuals, forage kochia, annual mustards, rabbitbrush, agriculture, development (i.e., pavement, cinder rock, concrete, buildings), playa. Acreages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Wyoming big sagebrush has the highest value for raptor prey habitat. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in a total loss of approximately 29 acres of Wyoming big sagebrush habitat. This disturbance accounts for less than 1 percent of the entire Wyoming big sagebrush habitat found within the ROI. Additionally, there would be 1 acre of Wyoming big sagebrush that are temporarily disturbed, which accounts for less than 0.1 percent of the total Wyoming big sagebrush habitat within the ROI.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Vegetation

Short- and long-term, direct and indirect, less than significant, adverse impacts on vegetation would occur as a result of degradation in the quality and availability of habitat for existing vegetation from the increased foot and vehicle traffic associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training **on the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land). Impacts on vegetation **within the OCTC** (predominantly BLM-administered land) from these activities would be short- and long-term, direct and indirect, minor, and adverse.

General Flora. Adverse impacts on vegetation associated with Component Action 3 would be short- and long-term, direct and indirect, and less than significant on IDARNG-managed lands (i.e. **Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area**) and short- and long-term, direct and indirect, and minor on BLM-administered lands (i.e. **the OCTC**). As previously explained, direct impacts relate to the permanent loss of vegetation, soil, and reproductive habitat due to high use. Indirect impacts could include disturbance or removal of vegetation during operational activities, but would not result in the permanent loss of vegetation, soil, or reproductive habitat. Areas impacted temporarily (i.e., short-term) would need to be revegetated per IDARNG's SOP and BMPs (see **Section 4.13**). Indirect impacts include the potential for noxious and invasive weed growth from training activities, or temporary loss of vegetation, soil, and habitat due to training activities.

The in- and out-processing of all troops and materiel, including billeting, classroom instruction, and general life support activities, would occur **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area and the OCTC**. Gowen Field encompasses highly-developed and landscaped areas with impervious surfaces and the proposed development areas lack native vegetation. The number, frequency of occurrences, and duration of military personnel, equipment, and vehicles operating **on the Cantonment Area** is expected to increase three-fold during the Summer Training Periods resulting in long-term, less than significant, direct impacts on general flora within the biological resources ROI. The increase of military personnel foot and vehicle traffic would reduce the quality and availability of habitat for existing native vegetation as well as contribute to losses through trampling of native vegetation growing in areas adjacent to the proposed transient billeting facilities and other areas where troop movements would be likely to occur. Anticipated impacts on vegetation in the acquisition area between the existing Cantonment Area and the OCTC would be similar to those identified for the existing Cantonment Area. To minimize impacts on vegetation, personnel would restrict travel to maintained pathways (roads, sidewalks, etc.). Additionally, vegetation inventories should be conducted routinely to determine if disturbance is increasing invasive species encroachment or erosion. If vegetation deterioration

is evident, restoration of temporarily-disturbed areas as well as native reseeding efforts should be implemented, as appropriate.

Long-term, direct and indirect, minor, adverse impacts on vegetation would occur from the optimization of annual throughput of BCTs during the summer months **on the OCTC**. The higher amounts of military personnel would increase surface disturbance from the trampling and crushing of vegetation during training. The personnel and vehicles would also increase the potential for soil compaction causing deterioration of vegetation communities. The disturbances from military personnel would increase the potential for the establishment or spread of already occurring invasive species. Furthermore the trampling of young shrubs would prevent the development of mid to late seral stages of shrublands. To minimize impacts on vegetation IDARNG should continue revegetation and native reseeding efforts in areas where training no longer occurs, or where it is restricted in order to mitigate for any loss of native vegetation from larger training operations.

Special Status Flora. The 2020 Biological Assessment for this proposed action provides detailed analysis actions under Proposed Action, including construction activities (i.e., Component Action 2) and optimized training tempo (i.e., Component Action 3) **on Gowen Field, Cantonment Area, and OCTC** and their impacts to LEPA and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat. The Assessment ultimately found that actions under the RPMP may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect LEPA or its Proposed Critical Habitat. Concurrence with this finding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was received on April 22, 2020. The Letter of Concurrence from the Service can be found in (**Appendix E**). The effects of optimized training tempo (i.e., Component Action 3) to LEPA and LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat are summarized below.

Effects to LEPA

No impacts to LEPA **on or near Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land) is expected as a result of implementing Component Action 3. As mentioned in the General Flora section, all activities associated with Component Action 3 would occur **within the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land) and **the OCTC** (predominantly BLM-administered land).

Overall, no effects to LEPA are anticipated from optimized training tempo (i.e., Component Action 3) under the RPMP. Although the level of brigade training operations **on the OCTC** would increase, the type, manner, and location of operations would be relatively unchanged and would continue to be conducted in accordance with the Gowen Field and OCTC land use areas, NCA 2008 RMP (USDI BLM 2008) and 2013 IDARNG INRMP (IDARNG 2013) to maintain compatibility with or enhance existing land uses. Effects to slickspot peppergrass from military training **on the OCTC and Cantonment Area** are analyzed in the 2003 Biological Assessment for *Lepidium papilliferum* **on Gowen Field Training Area, Idaho** (IDARNG 2003). Conservation measures and protections for slickspot peppergrass under the aforementioned managing documents would grow proportionately to the changes in training tempo proposed in the RPMP. As such, no effects to the species are anticipated as a result from increased training tempo, as adverse effects to LEPA from training are precluded under the INRMP and associated Endangered Species Management Plan.

Effects to LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat

Proposed Critical Habitat occurs south and west of the existing Cantonment Area, just west of the proposed billeting facilities (**Figure 2.2**). There is no slickspot peppergrass Proposed Critical Habitat within the OCTC boundary due to exclusion under the approved INRMP and associated Endangered Species Management Plan (76 Fed. Reg. 90, pg. 19), as specified by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2004. There are 2,996 acres of slickspot peppergrass along the north east boundary of the OCTC (see **Figure 1.1**). No effects to LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat are anticipated from optimized training tempo (i.e., Component Action 3) under the RPMP. Although the level of brigade training operations **on the OCTC** would increase, effects of the increase would be limited to the OCTC and the Cantonment Area outside of LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat.

Noxious Weeds. No impacts on native vegetation relating to establishment or spread of noxious weeds **on Gowen Field** would result from the improved throughput of BCT training **on the OCTC**. The proposed improvement of BCT training throughput **on the OCTC** would contribute negligibly to the spread of noxious weeds **in the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land). To help minimize potential for long-term, adverse impacts on native vegetation through the establishment and spread of noxious weeds, all training vehicles (wheeled and track) and equipment would be washed upon arrival **to the Cantonment Area**. Additionally, per the avoidance and minimization measures listed in **Section 4.13**, IDARNG would implement native vegetation reseeding efforts with a BLM-approved seed mix, as appropriate. Noxious weed treatments of areas between the OCTC and the Cantonment Area may be required and may include mechanical, biological, chemical, or prescribed burns depending on the level of establishment and species present.

Long-term, indirect, minor, adverse effects on vegetation from the establishment and spread of noxious invasive weed species would occur during the BCT training optimization **within the OCTC** (predominantly BLM-administered land). The impacts would be similar to those described for Component Actions 1 and 2.

Wildland Fire. The Proposed Action would not require an increase in controlled burn activities to manage ecosystems **on or near Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land). Because military personnel would continue to follow existing fire safety protocols, no increases in wildfire starts from this area are expected.

The increased frequency of training, specifically relating to the intensified munitions firing operations during the summer months, when potential for wildfires is high, would increase the risk of wildfire occurrences sparking from the Small Arms Impact Area **on the OCTC** (predominantly BLM-administered land). Other activities that could spark a flame (e.g., vehicle backfire, dropping a lit cigarette onto the ground) or may contribute to prolonged burning (e.g., accidental fuel spills) would need to be avoided. To minimize the potential for fire starts construction crews would operate in accordance with IDARNG's Wildland Fire Management Plan, maintain roadways and firebreaks and adhere to the BMPs and SOPs (identified in **Section 4.13**) that would reduce the potential for fire starts for the duration of the construction period.

Military training activities for the Proposed Action would add potential ignition sources and intensify the frequency during which ignition sources may start fires **on the OCTC**. Proposed training activities would include the gamut of annual training operations required under the SRM training model, and may vary from year to year, depending upon available funding, numbers of troops to be trained, the SRM year of training to for each unit that would be training **on the OCTC**. Under the Proposed Action, firefighting and fire monitoring operations would be stationed near active training areas.

The proposed increases training, specifically the intensified munitions firing operations **on the OCTC** training areas during the summer months, when potential for wildland fires is high, would increase the risk of fire occurrences. Wildfire occurrences would reduce sagebrush habitat. The open space currently occupied with invasive species such as cheatgrass creates a fuel connection between shrubs. The highly flammable cheatgrass will burn sagebrush reducing habitat while also increasing the potential spread of invasive species (Cooper 2018). Activities likely to spark a flame during training operations include vehicle backfire, dropping lit cigarettes onto the ground, and munitions firing activities. Activities that may contribute to prolonged burning, such as accidental fuel spills, would need to be avoided. Troops would adhere to the existing fire safety protocols as outlined by the IWFMP program and would implement the avoidance and minimization measures (see **Section 4.13**) to further reduce the risk of wildfire when operating **on the OCTC**. Should a fire spark during training, firefighting assets and response teams stationed around the OCTC would work quickly to address the situation. Based on the proposed training activities and the firefighting and monitoring assets available through the IDARNG's IWFMP, the adverse impacts from individual training to wildland fire are expected to be localized to the Impact Area of the OCTC, intermittent, and minor.

Wildlife

Short- and long-term, direct and indirect, adverse impacts (e.g., habitat loss and degradation, mortality of individual animals) on wildlife (including raptor prey species) from the anticipated increase in noise, dust, habitat disturbance, and presence of human activity, vehicles and equipment, and intensified brigade-level training operations would occur as a result of the up to 29 percent increase in troop training. Less than significant and minor adverse impacts on wildlife from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput.

Special Status Fauna. The level of impacts associated with Component Action 3 on special status species range from none to long-term, direct, and indirect, adverse. No impacts on special status wildlife species occurring **on Gowen Field** would be expected because all activities would occur **on the Cantonment Area and the OCTC**. Because Gowen Field occurs close to high levels of development, raptors are not likely to forage within Gowen Field, especially since adjacent areas provide suitable foraging habitat.

Long-term, direct, and indirect, minor, adverse impacts on BLM- and state-listed species would be expected **on the OCTC** from the optimization of annual throughput of BCTs. The impacts would be similar to those described for the general fauna. As explained for Component Actions 1 and 2, construction for the Proposed Action is projected to remove up to 15 acres of

sagebrush habitat (approximately 0.02 percent of the existing sagebrush in the ROI); it is likely fewer acres would actually be removed due to the nature of the action. To minimize impacts on raptor species and their associated prey habitat, IDARNG should continue to reseed portions of the installation and OCTC that are no longer being used with a native seed mix that includes sagebrush species. This would account for habitat being lost from training operations in heavily utilized areas.

Long-term, direct and indirect, less than significant, adverse impacts on BLM- and state-listed species **on the Cantonment Area**, and long-term, direct and indirect, minor, adverse impacts on such species would be expected **on the OCTC** from the optimization of annual throughput of BCTs. The trainings would occur in the summer months when raptors could be actively nesting (January through July) within or near the OCTC. Any active nesting raptors may abandon their nest if persistent disturbance (i.e., noise and activity associated with munitions expenditures, personnel, and vehicles) from training occurs. If active raptor nesting is observed within the OCTC, personnel should contact an IDARNG biologist and establish a buffer zone to prevent take under the MBTA or BGEPA. In addition to nesting habitat, raptors utilize the open areas of the OCTC as foraging habitat. The multiple BCTs utilizing the different ranges on OCTC in the summer would limit the amount of prey habitat available to the raptor species to hunt. Raptors would either temporarily or permanently avoid the range areas during the training operations. Implementation of a BASH plan would minimize any potential impacts to birds from bird/wildlife aircraft strikes.

Furthermore, the increased activity may displace raptors from foraging or nesting on the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA. Individuals that use the NCA are habituated to the current level of activity on OCTC, the additional BCTs training in the summer may cause resident or migrant individuals to occupy other areas farther away from the ROI. Sagebrush has the highest value for raptor prey habitat. The OCTC encompasses approximately 31,400 acres (32 percent) of the sagebrush habitat within the ROI. Because sagebrush is predominantly located in the northern portion of the OCTC (Training Areas), and intensive training during the Summer Training Period would be focused on the ranges where sagebrush occurrence is intermittently dispersed, it is anticipated that impacts on sagebrush would be minimal.

Very little of the vegetation that raptor prey use for habitat would be affected by the Proposed Action, much of the ROI contains highly-disturbed vegetation. Raptor species in and near the biological resources ROI would not experience population-level effects from the Proposed Action.

4.7.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts to biological resources **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**.

4.7.3 Mitigation Measures

Because impacts on biological resources would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A list of IDARNG's SOPs and BMPs and BLM's RDFs that would be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts on biological resources is provided in **Section 4.13**. Included in these are measures that would be implemented to minimize impacts on biological resources and to prevent and control fire.

4.8 Cultural Resources

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections discloses the impacts on cultural resources and responds, specifically, to the IDT-identified issue listed in **Section 1.5.1.2: *How will construction and operations activities impact cultural sites eligible for the National Register?***

The cultural resources analysis discusses impacts from construction, demolition, and renovation of facilities as well as military training operations on cultural resources resulting from the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives. Only significant cultural resources (as defined in 36 CFR § 60.4) are considered for potential adverse impacts from an action. Significant archaeological and architectural resources are those eligible for listing or are listed on the NRHP. Significant traditional cultural properties are typically identified to federal agencies by Native American tribes or other groups and may be eligible for listing on the National Register.

Impacts on cultural resources would be considered significant from actions that change culturally valued elements of a resource or restrict access to cultural resources. Impacts on cultural resources may be short-term or long-term and direct or indirect. Direct impacts can result from physically altering, damaging, or destroying all or part of a resource. Indirect impacts can occur from alterations to characteristics of the surrounding environment that contribute to the importance of the resource; or introducing visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that are out of character with the property or that alter its setting or feeling. Indirect impacts are also those that are removed in time or distance from the Proposed Action.

4.8.1 Proposed Action Alternative

4.8.1.1 Gowen Field

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on cultural resources as the RPMP *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, and *Installation Design Guide* guide the siting, development, and operation of facilities and infrastructure and associated troop activities away from culturally significant sites **at Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land). RPMP Section 1.6.6 outlines BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize disturbance and detriment to cultural and historical resources from daily operations and development.

Proposed renovation, construction, and demolition associated with the facility and infrastructure modernization projects would not occur at or near NRHP-eligible historic buildings. Therefore, there would be no impact on architectural resources. No archaeological or traditional cultural resources have been identified **at Gowen Field**.

Ground disturbance **at Gowen Field** under the Proposed Action has potential to encounter unidentified archaeological resources or human remains. In the case of such an inadvertent discovery, IDARNG would implement the standard operating procedure for the inadvertent discovery of cultural materials as defined in the ICRMP (NGB 2013).

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Optimization of annual BCT training throughput would have no impact on cultural resources that are eligible for listing in the NRHP. Activities **at Gowen Field** associated with the optimized annual throughput of BCT training would occur within developed areas and would not result in changes to the character or use of existing historic properties. If an unknown resource were discovered during training activities, the procedures outlined for contractors and soldiers in the IDARNG ICRMP SOP # 5 (Inadvertent Discovery) would be followed to avoid potential impacts.

4.8.1.2 Cantonment Area

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on cultural resources as the RPMP *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, and *Installation Design Guide* would direct the siting, development, and operation of facilities and infrastructure and associated troop activities away from culturally significant sites **at the Cantonment Area**. RPMP Section 1.6.6 outlines BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize disturbance and detriment to cultural and historical resources from daily operations and development.

As discussed in **Section 3.8.4.2**, no NRHP-eligible archaeological sites, no historic architectural resources, and no traditional cultural resources are known to occur in footprints of the transient billeting facilities, buildout of the MATES complex, instructional and training facilities, roads, walkways, and parking areas, and railhead buildout projects described in **Section 2.2.3.1**. Archaeological surveys have been completed for projects identified in the RPMP. NRHP-eligible sites may occur near other **Cantonment Area** projects proposed in the next 5 years that are not explicitly analyzed in this EA. In these cases, IDARNG would design RPMP projects to avoid the sites during implementation of the RPMP. Further, IDARNG would mark the sites as “off limits areas” with 164-foot buffers around each site. With these avoidance and protective measures, implementation of modernization and infrastructure would have no impact on archaeological resources.

Ground disturbance at the **Cantonment Area** under the Proposed Action has potential to encounter unidentified archaeological resources or human remains. In the case of such an inadvertent discovery, IDARNG would implement the standard operating procedure for the inadvertent discovery of cultural materials as defined in the ICRMP (NGB 2013). Additional

archaeological surveys would be completed in Component Action 2 project footprints proposed **at the Cantonment Area**.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Optimization of annual BCT training throughput would have no impact on cultural resources **at the Cantonment Area** that are eligible for listing in the NRHP. Activities **at the Cantonment Area** associated with the optimized annual throughput of BCT training would not involve ground disturbance and would have no potential to affect known archaeological resources. Historic architectural and traditional cultural resources are not present **at the Cantonment Area**.

4.8.1.3 OCTC

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, minor, adverse impacts on cultural resources as the RPMP *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, and *Installation Design Guide* guide the siting, development, and operation of facilities and infrastructure and associated troop activities away from culturally significant sites **at the OCTC**. RPMP Section 1.6.6 outlines BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize disturbance and detriment to cultural and historical resources from daily operations and development. Additionally, the Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan will apply to all eligible resources on all lands utilized by the IDARNG.

Component Actions 1 and 2 **at the OCTC** would have no impact on known cultural resources eligible for listing in the NRHP. Of the RPMP projects identified in **Section 2.2.3.3**, development associated with only the bivouac areas project would be near cultural sites. Two archaeological sites are known to occur within the footprints of the bivouac areas project; one site is eligible for listing in the NRHP, while the other is not eligible. IDARNG would design this project to avoid the eligible site.

Archaeological surveys have been completed for projects identified in the RPMP, in accordance with BLM RDFs for cultural resources listed in **Section 4.13**. NRHP-eligible sites may occur near other RPMP-identified projects proposed in the next 5 years that are not explicitly analyzed in this EA. In accordance with the BLM's RDFs for cultural resources, IDARNG would design RPMP projects to avoid the sites during implementation of the RPMP and would further mark the sites as "off limits areas" with 164-foot buffers around each site. With these avoidance and protective measures, implementation of modernization and infrastructure would have no impact on archaeological resources.

Historic architectural and traditional cultural resources are not present **at the OCTC** and implementation of modernization and infrastructure would have no impact on these types of resources. Ground disturbance **at the OCTC** under the Proposed Action has potential to encounter unidentified archaeological resources or human remains. In the case of such an inadvertent discovery, IDARNG would implement the standard operating procedure for the inadvertent discovery of cultural materials per IDARNG and BLM guidelines and protocols, as specified in **Section 4.13**.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Potential optimization of annual BCT training throughput impacts on cultural resources could be associated with the increased risk of wildfire (see **Sections 4.7.1.2 and 4.7.1.3**) **at the OCTC** as a result of the up to 29 percent increase in troop training. Wildfires can impact archaeological resources by affecting surface deposits and features and by increasing water erosion, wind erosion, and soil loss within archaeological sites. As such, an increased incidence of wildfire as a result of the up to 29 percent increase in troop training and could have long-term, direct and indirect, minor impacts on archaeological resources. However, these impacts would be minimized, as rapid firefighting response would occur from the adjacent Cantonment Area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk.

Direct impacts on cultural resources would not be expected. Significant cultural resources **at the OCTC** are regularly monitored per the requirements of IDARNG's MOU with the BLM, and these sites are also protected from disturbance per the requirements of an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan. Protective measures at significant sites include fencing, concrete barricades, and Siebert stakes. Such measures would continue to protect these sites from disturbance associated with maneuvers, arms training, and other activities included under the optimized annual throughput of BCT training.

4.8.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts to cultural resources **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**.

4.8.3 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. Implementation of protective measures and regular monitoring at significant cultural resources as specified in the Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan and SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs (provided in **Section 4.13**) would avoid or minimize impacts on cultural resources from the proposed action.

4.9 Socioeconomics

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections discloses the general impacts on socioeconomics and health and safety and, specifically, to the IDT-identified issues listed in **Section 1.5.1.2**: 1) *How will construction and operations impact social and economic factors?* and 2) *What risks to public health and safety would occur during project implementation and under subsequent operations?*

The analysis of potential socioeconomic and health and safety impacts evaluated the introduction of any undue economic hardship to an individual, company, municipality, IDARNG, or BLM or an undue risk to human life or safety. Impacts would be considered significant if they were to cause the following:

- a substantial change in the local or regional population, or demographic distribution from the demands of additional population/population shifts
- a substantial change in the local or regional economy, employment, or spending or earning patterns
- an immediate or increased recurring threat to human life or safety
- disproportionate risks to children resulting from environmental health risks or safety risks
- a need for new or increased fire or police protection or medical services beyond the current capability of the local community or decrease public service capacities so as to jeopardize public safety.

4.9.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Socioeconomic impacts were analyzed at a more regional scale and, therefore, Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC impacts are assessed together for each Component Action.

4.9.1.1 Socioeconomics

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, beneficial and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on socioeconomics associated with IDARNG-managed lands (**Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area**) and short- and long-term, beneficial and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on socioeconomics associated with BLM-administered lands (**OCTC**) would occur as result of approval of the RPMP, construction-related spending and employment in the local community, and opportunities for internal spending by personnel in lieu of off-installation spending **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**.

Approval of the RPMP would have long-term beneficial impacts on the socioeconomic resources of the ROI. The RPMP identifies measures for the effects of proposed development on the natural and man-made environment. Building wastes, added pollution, erosion, increased emissions, and inefficient building systems can be offset by efficient, sustainable, green building concepts, and practical application of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications and concepts outlined in the RPMP Installation Design Standards (RPMP Appendix F). These concepts and other installation design standards commonly implemented by the ARNG during planning, construction, and operation of new facilities and infrastructure are discussed in **Section 2.2.3.4** of the EA.

The economic effects of modernizing facilities and infrastructure **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area and the OCTC** would be mostly short-term and beneficial and associated with construction. With the proposed construction of facilities to accommodate additional IDARNG training and employees, short-term local jobs would be created for construction workers. On average, construction activities per year for the National Guard in Idaho employ 165 workers (Gardner and Harris 2018). Impacts on the size of the civilian labor force or

earnings in Ada County and Elmore County would be beneficial, but negligible, relative to the regional workforce and income. Since the combined personal income of Ada County was approximately \$21.3 billion in 2016 and that of Elmore County was approximately \$949.3 million in 2016, the beneficial impacts from short-term construction payrolls and materials purchased would be less than significant. The addition of construction and full-time IDARNG employees associated with the Proposed Action would represent only a negligible fraction of the total regional workforce. Because relocation of workers would not be necessary, there would be no effect on housing in the surrounding area. Construction purchases would be sourced locally.

Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on local businesses could arise from the construction of transient billeting facilities and dining facilities **on the Cantonment Area**. Training personnel using the expanded Cantonment Area for lodging and the dining facilities for daily meals might purchase fewer meals from local merchants, rent fewer rooms in lodging facilities, and purchase less gasoline because there would be fewer daily commuting trips to training facilities. However, based on the net increase in troop size, incidental uses of the region would likely meet or exceed direct use levels of the past.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Optimized annual BCT training throughput would result in long-term, beneficial impacts on socioeconomics due to increased local spending and employment by the additional personnel from the up to 29 percent increase in troop training.

With optimized throughput of BCT training, IDARNG would hire additional staff that would receive taxable income. This increase in personnel would be beneficial for IDARNG and negligibly beneficial for the state. Local businesses, such as gas stations and restaurants proximal to Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC could negligibly benefit from the increase in IDARNG staff. Soldiers would be expected to stay on the Cantonment Area compound for the duration of training, and would not substantially contribute to local revenue through spending.

4.9.1.1 Health and Safety

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on public and occupational health and safety would occur as a result of approval of the RPMP, construction site safety hazards, and improved personnel safety through facility and infrastructure modernization **on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed lands); impacts **on the OCTC** would be short- and long-term, minor, and adverse.

Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term beneficial impacts. Development projects proposed in the RPMP would pose similar health and safety risks as described for implementation of modernization and infrastructure. RPMP Section 1.6.6 specifies the BMPs and SOPs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize potential for risks to public and occupational health and safety from daily operations and development. Approval of the RPMP would result in beneficial impacts on cultural resources. Additionally, environmental constraints

and opportunities for development options that would support public and soldier health and safety are identified in the RPMP *Vision Plan* and *Installation Design Guide*.

Long-term, beneficial and short-term, less than significant, adverse impacts would occur from construction-induced hazards and delays in emergency response time, demolition of outdated structures and construction of new infrastructure and facility improvements. The demolition of Building 241 and 23 WWII-era buildings, the renovation of existing buildings, and the construction of new buildings, and range improvement projects would allow for safer facilities on the installations. Constructing new infrastructure, including roads, walkways, and parking would allow for safer travel of pedestrians and vehicles, limiting the risk of on-installation accidents and creating a safer environment. The construction of a water storage tank would decrease the risk of danger from wildfires by providing better access to fire-fighting materials.

Short-term, adverse impacts on health and safety from demolition and construction activities would be less than significant on IDARNG-managed lands and minor on BLM-administered lands with implementation of the BMPs and SOPs and compliance with BLM RDFs for public and occupational health and safety described in **Section 4.13**. However, construction vehicles traveling to and from the installation would increase congestion and the risk of vehicular accidents. Children would not be more at risk than the public at-large and the implementation of BMPs and SOPs would minimize health and safety risks from construction and demolition activities.

Short-term, less than significant, adverse, construction-related impacts on local community services and facilities associated with the potential need for emergency services. Because IDARNG would continue to implement its fire and first response program, which would handle any fire emergencies that might occur within the socioeconomics ROI, construction and use of the expanded facility is not expected to increase the risk of fire or emergency services.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on health and safety on IDARNG-managed lands and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on health and safety on BLM-administered lands would occur with optimized throughput of BCT training **on the Cantonment Area and the OCTC** as a result of hazards from increased risk of wildfires and training-related incidents to personnel and the public associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training.

With the doubling of UAS aircraft operating on the installation throughout the year, the potential for mishaps associated with bird and wildlife aircraft strikes would increase. However, because UAS flight would be conducted only within the training ranges and near the impact area **on the OCTC**, impacts on public health and safety from BASH mishaps are not anticipated.

While increased personnel and training operations could increase the risk of safety incidents, such as injuries, OSHA and IDARNG safety regulations would be followed during all training activities, operations, and maintenance on the installations, minimizing safety risks. Posted signage and in-person warnings would continue to be used to alert the public **using the OCTC** for recreational purposes to training activities occurring on the installation. As children are not as common in the areas **on and around the OCTC and Cantonment Area** and the same safety

measures would be implemented to protect them as the public at-large, any impacts from the implementation of Component Action 3 would be minimized.

With increased machines, gunfire, and personnel on the range associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training, there would be an increased risk of wildfires **on and around the OCTC and Cantonment Area**. However, Ada and Elmore County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plans and IDARNG's Wildland Fire Management Plan, IDARNG's BMPs, SOPs, and BLM's RDFs (**Section 4.13**) would continue to be implemented, reducing risks of fire hazards from optimization of training. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk.

Increased munitions firing operations, including explosive munitions, would occur with the Proposed Action. Because units operating on the ranges would follow existing operational safety and communications protocols for training activities and on or near active ranges, avoidance of SDZs, and range clearance activities, the risk of increased danger for personnel would be minimized. Although munitions expenditures into the impact areas would increase under the Proposed Action, the potential for impacts on public health and safety would be relatively unchanged because the impact area is off-limits, and access to the SDZs is strictly prohibited and monitored to ensure safety from unexploded ordnance. Also, ARNG's continued adherence to operational safety protocols would further minimize potential for impacts on the public.

4.9.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts to socioeconomics **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**.

4.9.3 Mitigation Measures

Because impacts on socioeconomics, including health and safety, would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A list of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts on socioeconomics from the proposed action is provided in **Section 4.13**.

4.10 Environmental Justice

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections discloses the general impacts on environmental justice and, specifically, to the IDT-identified issues (also listed in **Section 1.5.1.2**): *1) How will construction and training operations impact low-income, minority, and senior populations? and, 2) Will there be potential for impacts on these populations from UXO?*

Impacts on environmental justice are assessed to determine if a proposed action could result in disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental impacts on minority, low-

income, or senior populations or populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence within the ROI. An environmental justice impact occurs if the impact on a minority, low-income, or senior population or populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence is harmful, and appreciably exceeds the impact to the general population (or community of comparison). Impacts could include substantial noise levels and air emissions during construction, increased long-term noise for those located near the Cantonment Area and OCTC, increased danger from UXO and training activities, and loss of access to fish and/or wildlife for subsistence.

4.10.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Impacts on environmental justice communities were analyzed using Census Block data for Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC areas. Where applicable general regional impacts are provided using county-level Census data.

4.10.1.1 Gowen Field

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

No impacts on environmental justice would occur as a result of approval of RPMP and implementation of modernization and infrastructure because there are no environmental justice communities **in and around Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land).

While minority, low-income, and senior residents exist in the Census Block Group 160010021001 that encompasses Gowen Field, there are no environmental justice communities in the census block group. Effects from the approval of the RPMP and implementation of the proposed modernization of facilities and infrastructure projects would include construction related noise, air pollution, and traffic that would affect people residing near, or on, Gowen Field. These construction effects would not be disproportionately high and adverse, and would not result in environmental justice impacts. The project area on **Gowen Field** does not transect major hunting areas or fishing area, so there would be no effects on any possible populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

As optimized throughput of BCT training would largely occur on the Cantonment Area and the OCTC, there would be no effect on environmental justice populations **on Gowen Field**. The project area in Gowen Field does not transect major hunting areas or fishing area, so there would be no effects on any possible populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence.

4.10.1.2 Cantonment Area

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on environmental justice could occur as a result of a decrease in land available for hunting and potential wildlife deterrence caused by construction noise **in and around the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land).

While minority, low-income, and senior residents exist in the Census Block Group 160010105031 that encompasses the Cantonment Area, there are no environmental justice communities in the census block group. Effects from the approval of the RPMP and implementation of the modernization of facilities and infrastructure projects would include construction related noise, air pollution, and traffic that would affect people residing near, or on, the Cantonment Area. These construction effects would not be disproportionately high and adverse and would not result in environmental justice impacts. The Component Actions could impact any populations relying on wildlife for subsistence because construction noise could temporarily deter prey animals from entering the area available to hunters.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on environmental justice could occur as a result of the increased noise from the up to 29 percent increase in troop training deterring prey animals from the area **in and around the Cantonment Area**.

The increase in operations could reduce air quality and increase noise adversely affecting the environmental justice community (minority population) within Census Block Group 160010105031. However, these impacts would not be disproportionately high compared with impacts that would be experienced by the overall population within this area. The Component Actions could impact any populations relying wildlife for subsistence because increased noise associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training could deter prey animals from entering the OCTC and the surrounding area.

4.10.1.3 OCTC

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short-term, minor, adverse impacts on environmental justice could occur as a result of potential wildlife deterrence caused by construction noise **in and around the OCTC** (BLM-administered land).

While environmental justice populations exist in Census Block Groups 160010021001 and 160399604002 that encompass the OCTC, effects from the approval of the RPMP and the modernization of facilities and infrastructure would not be high and adverse and would not disproportionately affect environmental justice populations. Construction associated with the proposed RPMP projects would cause localized increases in noise, air pollution, and traffic that would be temporary only lasting for the duration of construction. Construction noise could temporarily deter prey animals from entering the area available to hunters, negligibly affecting any populations that may rely on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence in the area.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on environmental justice could occur as a result of increased noise from the up to 29 percent increase in troop training deterring prey animals from the area **in and around the OCTC**.

No disproportionately high and adverse impacts on environmental justice populations would be expected under the Proposed Action. Because training could occur at in any of the ranges of the OCTC, and would generally involve munitions firing activities, the moderate increases in generated noise would not be expected to impact any one area or population more than another. As indicated in **Section 4.9.1.2**, although munitions expenditures into the impact areas would increase under the Proposed Action, the potential for impacts on public health and safety would be relatively unchanged because the impact area is off-limits, and access to the SDZs is strictly prohibited and monitored to ensure safety from unexploded ordnance. Also, ARNG's continued adherence to operational safety protocols would further minimize potential for impacts on the public health and safety.

Component Action 3 could impact any populations relying on wildlife for subsistence because increased noise associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training could deter prey animals from entering the OCTC and the surrounding area.

4.10.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts to environmental justice **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.**

4.10.3 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A list of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs that would be implemented by IDARNG to avoid and minimize adverse environmental justice populations is provided in **Section 4.13.**

4.11 Infrastructure

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections specifically addressed to the IDT-identified issue listed in **Section 1.5.1.2**: *What impacts on utilities and infrastructure are anticipated from implementation of the proposed construction and training operations?*

The primary considerations for infrastructure include the adequacy of service and ability of the systems to accommodate the processing, distribution, storage, and consumption demands required for the Proposed Action. Impacts on infrastructure are evaluated for their potential to disrupt or improve existing levels of service and create additional needs for electrical supply, water supply, wastewater management, solid waste management, and communications. An impact could be significant if the Proposed Action results in any of the following impacts on infrastructure:

- exceedance of the capacity of a utility
- substantial system deterioration from the current condition
- long-term interruption of the utility
- violation of a permit condition

- violation of an approved plan for that utility.

4.11.1 Proposed Action Alternative

4.11.1.1 Gowen Field

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Long-term beneficial and short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on infrastructure could occur as a result of approval of the RPMP, temporary disruptions in utilities, increased traffic, and solid waste generation from construction and demolition activities, and increases in utility consumption from facility operations **at Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land).

RPMP approval would result in long-term, beneficial impacts on infrastructure (utilities and transportation) as a result of siting, constructing, and operating the new utilities and infrastructure facilities per the overall installation strategy for developing property as specified in the RPMP *Vision Plan*, *Installation Development Plan*, *Installation Planning Standards*, and *Development Program*. The RPMP *Vision Plan*, guides the siting and organization of proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects to ensure availability of developable land, avoidance of environmental constraints including potential land use incompatibility within the proposed development area **on Gowen Field**. Opportunities are also outlined in the RPMP *Vision Plan* for infrastructure expansion and development. Additionally, having and implementing an RPMP would provide an organized, efficient, and thoughtful plan resulting in beneficial impacts on infrastructure. Environmental constraints and opportunities from infrastructure are identified in the RPMP *Vision Plan* and the *Installation Development Plan*. The RPMP *Installation Design Guide* provides guidelines and requirements for infrastructure development that would be implemented to optimize installation, function, and useful life of the electrical, data, communications, and water lines and systems that would be operated on the installation.

Utilities. Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts would be expected on utilities **at Gowen Field** from implementing the proposed facility and infrastructure modernization projects under Component Action 2. Temporary disruptions in electrical, data and communications, and water supply could occur during construction of new facilities. These impacts from construction would be intermittent. Long-term increases in demand for electricity, data, and water from operation of these facilities would impact utility supplies **at Gowen Field**. Demolition and construction would temporarily generate solid waste, which will be managed by the contractor, separately from the IDARNG waste stream. Disposal of hazardous materials (e.g., asbestos containing materials or lead based paint) would be done in accordance with existing regulations (see **Sections 3.11.4.1** and **4.11.1.1** for details on impacts on hazardous and toxic waste management).

Transportation. Approval of the RPMP would have long-term beneficial impacts on transportation. Environmental constraints and opportunities for transportation infrastructure are identified in the RPMP *Vision Plan* and *Installation Development Plan*.

Increased construction traffic on main roads accessing Gowen Field for the proposed construction and demolition projects would be expected. Adverse impacts from construction and implementation of the planned transportation improvements under Component Action 2 would be short-term and less than significant.

Airspace and Airfield Management. Component Actions 1 and 2 would have no effect on airspace and airfield management **at Gowen Field**.

A list of SOPs and BMPs that would be implemented by IDARNG to avoid and minimize impacts on infrastructure is provided in **Section 4.13**.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Short- and long-term, adverse impacts on infrastructure would occur as a result of increased traffic, utility consumption, and solid waste generation from increased personnel and training operations associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training **at Gowen Field**.

Utilities. Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on utilities would be expected due to the up to 29 percent increase in troop training. Optimization of Annual BCT training throughput would result in a greater number of personnel visiting Gowen Field daily for training and associated administrative support tasks. This increase in personnel would increase demand on the electrical, gas, water, and wastewater systems. However, there is sufficient capacity for these systems to handle the additional demand as the majority of this demand would be temporary from personnel attending trainings and administrative tasks **at Gowen Field**. Impacts on the solid waste stream **at Gowen Field** would not be expected because transient personnel and materials associated with the proposed increase in brigade-level training would be in- and out-processed directly through the Cantonment Area and the OCTC.

Transportation. Short-term, intermittent, less than significant, adverse impacts would be expected **on Gowen Field** road traffic due to increased road traffic associated with the transportation of Transient Units that would conduct training on the OCTC, particularly during the Summer Training Period. Visiting personnel would be transported to the OCTC via bus rather than POV, minimizing potential traffic congestion.

Airspace and Airfield Management. The Proposed Action would not affect airspace or airfield operations out of Gowen Field.

4.11.1.2 Cantonment Area

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

The long-term, beneficial impacts of approving the RPMP on the infrastructure **on the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land) would be the same as described for Gowen Field. Environmental constraints and opportunities from utilities are identified in the RPMP *Vision Plan* and the RPMP *Installation Development Plan*. The RPMP *Installation Design Guide* provides guidelines and requirements for infrastructure development.

Long-term beneficial and short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on infrastructure could occur as a result of approval of the RPMP, temporary disruptions in utilities, increased traffic, and solid waste generation from construction and demolition activities, and increases in traffic and utility consumption from facility operations.

Utilities. Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on utilities would be expected. Expanding the Cantonment Area requires the extension of utilities to the proposed facilities. Temporary disruptions would occur in electrical, data, and water supply during construction/expansion of utility lines. Such impacts would be intermittent.

The estimated maximum daily water demand for staff and training associated with the Proposed Action would be approximately 207,000 gpd in 2021, increasing to about 390,000 gpd in 2022 and 576,000 gpd in 2023 (SPF Water Engineering 2019). The total annual volume of water required is estimated to be approximately 12.5 million gallons (39 af) in 2021, 21.7 million gallons (67 af) in 2022, and 31 million gallons (95 af) in 2023. The existing IARNG water rights provide for enough diversion rate to meet the 2021 maximum daily demand, but are inadequate for 2022 and 2023. To extend the use of currently authorized groundwater throughout the proposed expanded **Cantonment Area and areas on the OCTC**, IDARNG will need to file a new water right transfer application with the IDWR authorizing a change in location of use for water rights 61-7246B and 61-10124 (SPF Water Engineering 2019). Because of its location within the CHSA, such an application may be subject to the consolidation order. IDARNG already has an allowable diversion volume of 50.5 million gallons. Therefore, with approval of an additional water rights transfer, there would be sufficient diversion to meet the annual volume requirements through 2023 and beyond. Expansion of utility infrastructure to accommodate the anticipated demand associated with increased numbers of soldiers, facilities, and operations **on the Cantonment Area** would result in beneficial impacts on utility demand over the long term.

Construction activities would temporarily generate solid waste, which will be managed by the contractor, separately from the IDARNG waste stream.

Transportation. Short-term, less than significant, adverse impacts to roadways and traffic would be expected. The modernization of facilities and infrastructure would temporarily increase traffic along Orchard Access Road due to construction deliveries, transportation of heavy equipment, construction debris solid waste removal, and commuting contractor employees to and from the installation during construction. This additional traffic and the weight of transported equipment and supplies may contribute to increased roadway deterioration. Some materials and equipment may be transported directly to the OCTC using the spur railroad line, alleviating some traffic and reducing roadway impacts. Railhead expansion would result in short-term adverse impacts to roadways and traffic. While some vehicles and equipment necessary for expansion of the railhead facility would be delivered by road, the majority of the equipment would be transported by the existing rail line and remain in the Rail Spur ROW.

Operation of the expanded facilities would result in short-term, less than significant, adverse effects on traffic volume and road use as a result of increased daily commutes to and from the area associated with construction activity. It is assumed that short-term impacts would be

greater in intensity as the number of vehicles associated with construction activities would be greater.

Transportation routes to the Cantonment Area have sufficient capacity to handle additional traffic volumes at peak hours anticipated during construction activities as well as during operations. The Orchard Access Road operates at LOS A and would anticipate remaining at that level during Cantonment Area construction and with operations.

Construction actions for expansion and improvement of the existing railhead facility would not be expected to affect rail traffic arriving at or departing from the Cantonment Area. The proposed improvements would connect into the existing railway to optimize rail operations, creating the capacity to handle increased railhead operations expected to occur.

Airfield and Airspace Management. No impacts from construction are anticipated on airspace management **at the Cantonment Area.**

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on infrastructure would occur as a result of increased vehicle and railway traffic, utility consumption, and solid waste generation from increased personnel and the up to 29 percent increase in troop training **on the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land).

Utilities. Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on utilities (e.g., electricity, water, fuel supply, and solid waste management) would be expected from increased demand and consumption required to support troops, facilities, and training operations. Impacts would be intensified during the Summer Training Period when brigade-level training is conducted.

Optimization of annual BCT training throughput would have long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on the existing water supply. The addition of up to 2,325 troops **on the Cantonment Area and the OCTC** (BLM-administered land) and increased consumptive training-associated activities, including washdowns prior to and after training, water spraydown for dust suppression during, and water availability for fire suppression as needed, would more than double the demand on the water supply. Even with this doubling of demand, the projected consumption levels would increase to approximately 31 million gallons per year (Melanese 2019, SPF Water Engineering 2019), which is within IDARNG's approved diversion allowance of 50.5 million gallons per year. A 1 million-gallon water tank would be constructed that would provide additional capacity water supply storage and availability to support facility and training operations (IDARNG 2018g).

With additional personnel temporarily residing **at the Cantonment Area** during training, demands on the electrical, gas, and wastewater systems would increase. As new electrical and gas lines would be added to support the additional infrastructure and training activities, there would be less than significant impacts on these systems. Expansion of the wash rack would result in additional wastewater discharge during use. Additional improvements to the wastewater system, including new wastewater sewage ponds and a waste water filtration system expansion associated with the one million gallon tank (IDARNG 2018g) and phase three

of the planned wastewater system build-out (SPF Water Engineering 2017a), would provide sufficient capacity to support additional personnel and training activities.

Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on fuel consumption are expected from increased vehicle usage during training. Increased fuel consumption would result in more frequent deliveries along Orchard Access Road and more fueler and tank truck trips per season between the Cantonment Area and training areas. There is sufficient capacity to support these fueling operations.

With additional troops residing **at the Cantonment Area** as a result of optimization of annual BCT training throughput, solid waste generation could more than double. However, because the waste generated would only be associated with the daily consumer activities of temporarily housed personnel, transient units normally collect and dispose of their own refuse, and the capacity exists to handle additional waste stream, impacts on solid waste management would be less than significant.

Transportation. Impacts from optimized training **on the Cantonment Area** would have short-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on transportation. Closure of Access Point 2 on Orchard Access Road would have short- and long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on public access and traffic levels for recreational users in the area. Additionally, road traffic on Orchard Access Road to the Cantonment Area, and between the Cantonment Area and the OCTC would increase due to increases in the number of troops, equipment, and contractor services commuting to and from the area, particularly during the Summer Training Period (May through August). However, most personnel will arrive and depart via bus. Traveling unit equipment will arrive via rail, with the exception of solid waste removal and fuel delivery, which occurs via vehicle and would increase traffic on the Orchard Access Road. Training vehicles would be confined to established roads between the Cantonment Area along Range Road around the OCTC. Vehicle traffic from fuel deliveries and operations would increase traffic along the Orchard Access Road and Range Road. Over the long-term, based on the location, limited number of users in the area, and the existing minimal level of use of the Orchard Access Road, these changes would result in less than significant impact on regional vehicle traffic and access to recreation on public lands.

It is assumed that overall railway traffic would have a minimal impact (short and long-term) on railway resources. While there would be an increase in the overall number of cars annually due to the additional use of the facility by out-of-state soldiers, the overall increased use of the rail system would be negligible in comparison to the total annual rail cars that use the existing rail line.

Airfield and Airspace Management. Helicopter use of the helipad located **on the Cantonment Area** is not anticipated to change as a result of the Proposed Action. Training associated with the Proposed Action would not involve aircraft operations out of the Cantonment Area.

4.11.1.3 OCTC

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

The long-term, beneficial impacts on utilities and infrastructure **on the OCTC** (BLM-administered land) from approval of the RPMP would be the same as described for Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area. Because the RPMP identifies the developable land, and provides guidance for optimized siting, construction, and operation of facilities and infrastructure, it is anticipated that all newly installed electrical, data and communications, water systems, and roadway, trail, and lane improvements would be efficiently maintained with minimized potential for utility disruptions over the long term.

Utilities. Short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts and long-term, beneficial impacts on utilities would occur as a result of construction and operation of the proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP facilities and infrastructure modernization projects. Specifically, during construction, there may be temporary utility disruptions, increased generation of solid waste, increased traffic from construction activities, and increased electrical consumption and improved communications from the introduction of electrical power lines and data lines. Construction will temporarily generate solid waste, which will be managed by the contractor, separately from the IDARNG waste stream. Long-term, minor, adverse impacts would result from the negligible increase in electrical demand and consumption **on the OCTC** from the addition of new power lines. The introduction of data lines from the Cantonment Area to all ranges across the OCTC would improve data and communications for the OCTC.

Transportation. Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on transportation would be expected from increases in vehicle traffic associated with construction activities for RPMP development from the Cantonment Area to the OCTC along existing access roads.

Airspace and Airfield Management. No impacts on airspace and airfield management would occur.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on utilities would occur as a result of utility consumption and increased vehicle, aircraft, and UAS traffic from the up to 29 percent increase in troop training **at the OCTC**.

Utilities. Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on utilities would be expected. Long-term, adverse impacts on water supply would be as described in the **Section 4.11.1.2** assessment of impacts anticipated under Component Action 3. Because of a lack of other utility uses with the OCTC, increases in electrical, wastewater, and natural gas demands associated with the proposed optimal levels of training **on the OCTC** would be within the capacity of the existing systems and their proposed improvements. Consumption of utilities outside of the Summer Training Period would be expected to increase as IDARNG would schedule individual and other unit training (i.e., not associated with ARNG Annual Training) outside of the Summer Training Period.

Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on fuel consumption **on the OCTC and Cantonment Area** are expected from increased vehicle usage during training. Increased fuel consumption would result in more frequent deliveries along Orchard Access Road and more fueler and tank truck trips per season between the Cantonment Area and the OCTC training areas. However, there is sufficient capacity to support these fueling operations. Impacts on solid waste management would be included in the impacts described on the Cantonment Area.

Transportation. Impacts optimized brigade-level training operations on transportation **on the OCTC** would be long-term, concentrated during the Summer Training Period, minor, and adverse. Training associated with the Proposed Action would result in increases in vehicle traffic between Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC throughout the year as training operations are optimized to support the proposed intensified training activities during the Summer Training Period. Increases in road traffic increases along Orchard Access Road and Perimeter Road **on the OCTC** would occur.

Airspace and Airfield Management. The Proposed Action would not affect the numbers of helicopter flight operations **on the OCTC**, but would double the numbers of UAS flight operations. UAS operations would be conducted out of the IDARNG's new TUAS and fixed wing runway that be located immediately east of Range 3. Airspace deconfliction required to support these added operations would be conducted, as appropriate.

4.11.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts to infrastructure **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**. However, the benefits of having an organized and efficient RPMP would not be realized.

4.11.3 Mitigation Measures

Because impacts on infrastructure would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A list of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs that would be implemented, as applicable, to avoid or minimize impacts on infrastructure from the proposed action is provided in **Section 4.13**.

4.12 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes

The analysis discussion provided in the following subsections discloses the general impacts on hazardous materials and wastes and, specifically, to the IDT-identified issue listed in **Section 1.5.1.2: *How will construction and operations impact the presence of hazardous materials?***

Impacts on or from hazardous materials and wastes would be considered significant if a proposed action would result in noncompliance with applicable federal or state regulations; an increase in the amounts hazardous materials or wastes used, generated, or procured beyond current management procedures, permits, and capacities; an increase the exposure of persons

to hazardous or toxic substances; or substantial restrictions on property use due to hazardous waste, materials, or site remediation. Impacts on contaminated sites would be considered significant if a proposed action would disturb or create contaminated sites resulting in negative impacts on human health or the environment, or if a proposed action would make it substantially more difficult or costly to remediate existing contaminated sites.

4.12.1 Proposed Action Alternative

4.12.1.1 Gowen Field

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse, impacts on hazardous and toxic materials and wastes would occur as a result of approval of the RPMP, temporary increases in hazardous material storage and hazardous waste disposal, and permanent removal of hazardous materials associated with construction and demolition activities **at Gowen Field** (IDARNG-managed land).

Approval of the RPMP would have long-term less than significant, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials **at Gowen Field**. Specifically, the Introduction of the RPMP outlines BMPs and SOPs for reducing hazardous materials and wastes spills, releases, and subsequent risks to the environment, public and personnel from daily operations and development. In addition, the RPMP identifies activities and impacts of hazardous and toxic materials/wastes for the installation and supporting facilities that are used to organize and prioritize management actions.

Approval of the RPMP and modernization of facilities and infrastructure would have short-term, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials/wastes. Demolition of the buildings with asbestos-containing materials would require abatement. Asbestos abatement would be handled according to the Asbestos Management Program outlined in IDARNG PAM 200-1. PCB-containing lighting ballasts would be treated as hazardous waste and handled according to the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Program outlined in IDARNG PAM 200-1. The creation of hazardous waste and materials during the construction process associated with RPMP projects would result in additional demand for storage and disposal capacity; the demand would have to be accommodated **on Gowen Field**. The use, storage, and disposal of materials and wastes associated with demolition and renovation would be handled according to existing IDARNG management programs outlined in IDARNG PAM 200-1. Activities would follow the label instructions for storage, use, application, and disposal in the proper management of hazardous materials.

Long-term, beneficial impacts would occur from the removal of hazardous materials from the demolished and renovated buildings. Buildings set for demolition or renovation would be surveyed for lead- or asbestos-containing materials. Abatement would be performed prior to any construction activities. Personnel would follow the SPCC plan and IDARNG's Hazardous Materials and Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Programs when handling hazardous materials in accordance with the BMPs for hazardous and toxic materials/wastes listed in

Section 4.13. There would be no impacts on the environmental contamination sites discussed in **Section 3.12.4.1.**

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials and waste management would occur from an elevated risk of hazardous spills **at Gowen Field** as a result of the up to 29 percent increase in troop training. The increase in vehicle use during training activities would increase the use of fuels and maintenance operations, thereby, increasing the potential risk of spills. However, as IDARNG personnel would respond immediately, following the SPCC Plan and IDARNG's Hazardous Materials and Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Programs when handling hazardous materials, adverse impacts would be minimized. IDARNG would also implement the BMPs and SOPs identified in **Section 4.13** to avoid and minimize potential for impacts during training operations.

4.12.1.2 Cantonment Area

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, beneficial impacts, and short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials and wastes would occur as a result of approval of the RPMP, temporary increases in hazardous material storage and hazardous waste disposal, and permanent removal of hazardous materials associated with construction and demolition activities **at the Cantonment Area** (IDARNG-managed land).

Approval of the RPMP would have long-term beneficial impacts on hazardous and toxic materials **on the Cantonment Area**. The RPMP outlines BMPs and SOPs for reducing hazardous materials and wastes spills, releases, and subsequent risks to the environment, public and personnel from daily operations and development. Additionally, the plan guides collocation of like facilities and functional land uses to maintain safe and efficient management of any potentially hazardous materials and wastes in accordance with the IDARNG's existing SPCC Plan and hazardous waste management plans.

Construction of the proposed RPMP facilities and infrastructure modernization projects would have short-term, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials/wastes from the increased generation of hazardous waste and materials during the construction process that would create additional demand for storage and disposal capacity. This increased demand would have to be accommodated in the Cantonment Area. The use, storage, and disposal of materials and wastes associated with demolition and renovation would be handled according to existing IDARNG management programs outlined in IDARNG PAM 200-1. Activities would follow the label instructions for storage, use, application, and disposal in the proper management of hazardous materials. Personnel would follow the SPCC Plan and IDARNG's Hazardous Materials and Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Programs when handling hazardous materials in accordance with the BMPs and SOPs for hazardous and toxic materials/wastes described in **Section 4.13**. There would be no impacts on the environmental contamination sites discussed in **Section 3.12.4.2.**

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials and wastes would occur from an elevated risk of hazardous spills and additional hazardous material use, storage, and disposal as a result of the up to 29 percent increase in troop training **on the Cantonment Area**.

The up to 29 percent increase in troop training would have long-term, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials **on the Cantonment Area**. Additional materiel associated with the optimized throughput would increase the amount of hazardous waste to be used, stored, and disposed of, increasing the demand for storage and disposal capacity **on the Cantonment Area**. However, because trained personnel would follow the instructions for handling, storage, and disposal of the additional material based on labels and the procedures outlined in IDARNG's Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Program, the impacts would be minimized. The addition of 1,080 tracked vehicles per year and 270 wheeled vehicles per year would require initial and regular maintenance that would generate additional hazardous and toxic materials and petroleum products, as well as increase the risk of a spill on a 1:1 ratio. The current spill rate is less than 20 incidents per year and clean-up response is one to 2 days. If a spill did occur during BCT training and the associated support activities, trained personnel would follow the SPCC Plan to control and counter-act the environmental effects. Trained personnel would handle the storage, use, and disposal of the additional waste according to existing IDARNG procedures. IDARNG would also implement the BMPs and SOPs (listed in **Section 4.13**) to avoid and minimize potential for impacts during training operations.

The operation of the Rail Spur would have no impact on hazardous and toxic material/wastes. UPRR locomotives delivering equipment to the MATES facility typically contain up to approximately 3,000-gallons of fuel within two 1,500-gallon fuel cells per locomotive. Fuels used in locomotives include diesel, bio-diesel, or a combination of petroleum fuels. The fuel cells consist of a steel outer container with a rubber bladder within the steel tank. Regulations require that shippers (UPRR) are held responsible for spills, leaks, or other releases related to their equipment. Most shippers staff emergency response personnel and specialized hazardous materials "Go-Teams" to respond and mitigate hazards associated with releases.

4.12.1.3 OCTC

Component Actions 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP) and 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure)

Short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials and wastes from the elevated potential for spills and accidents would result from the temporary presence and operation of construction equipment and vehicles and increases in hazardous material use, storage and disposal required for construction **on the OCTC** (BLM-administered land).

The long-term, beneficial impacts from approval of the RPMP would be the same **on the OCTC** as described for Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area. Construction of the proposed RPMP facilities and infrastructure modernization projects would have short-term, minor, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials/wastes. The creation of hazardous waste and materials during the construction process would create additional demand for storage and

disposal capacity; the demand would have to be accommodated either **on the Cantonment Area or on Gowen Field**. The use, storage, and disposal of materials and wastes associated with demolition and renovation would be handled according to existing IDARNG management programs outlined in IDARNG PAM 200-1. Activities would follow the label instructions for storage, use, application and disposal in the proper management of hazardous materials.

Additionally, IDARNG would implement the BMPs and SOPs, and BLM's RDFs (as applicable) listed in **Section 4.13** to avoid or minimize impacts on the management of hazardous and toxic materials/wastes during the construction period. There would be no impacts on the environmental contamination sites discussed in **Section 3.12.4.3**.

Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

Long-term, minor, adverse impacts on hazardous and toxic materials and wastes **on the OCTC** would occur from an elevated risk of hazardous spills and additional hazardous materiel use, storage, and disposal as a result of the up to 29 percent increase in troop training. Additional material associated with the optimized throughput would increase the amount of hazardous waste to be used, stored, and disposed of, increasing the demand for storage and disposal capacity **on the Cantonment Area**. However, as trained personnel would follow the instructions for handling, storage, and disposal of the additional material based on labels and the procedures outlined in IDARNG's Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Program, adverse impacts would be minimized. The addition of 1,080 tracked vehicles per year, 270 wheeled vehicles per year, and UAS would require initial and regular maintenance that would generate additional hazardous and toxic materials and petroleum products, as well as increase the risk of a spill on a 1:1 ratio. The current spill rate is less than 20 incidents per year and clean-up response is one to 2 days. If a spill did occur during BCT training and the associated support activities, trained personnel would follow the SPCC Plan to control and counter-act the environmental effects. Trained personnel would handle the storage, use, and disposal of the additional waste according to existing IDARNG procedures. Operations would be conducted in compliance with IDARNG's BMPs and SOPs (**Section 4.13**).

Long-term, minor, adverse impacts from increased releases of metals and munitions-related chemical compounds would occur from range operations, gunnery, and weapons qualifications. Releases **within the OCTC** impact area of copper, lead, lead compounds, and nitroglycerin are in reportable volumes per Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA). A TRI, the reporting mechanism, is prepared by the IDARNG Environmental Management Office (EMO) annually. All components of training munitions including those in that area will be captured by the annual TRI and reported to the EPA and IDEQ.

4.12.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, no construction, training, or other disturbance would take place aside from the activities that already occur, and there would be no additional permanent or temporary impacts to hazardous and toxic materials/wastes **on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC**.

4.12.3 Mitigation Measures

Because impacts on hazardous and toxic materials and wastes would be less than significant, no mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. A list of the IDARNG's SOPs, BMPs, and the BLM's RDFs that would be implemented, as applicable, to avoid or minimize impacts on hazardous and toxic materials/wastes from the Proposed Action is provided in **Section 4.13**.

4.13 Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures

As indicated in the analyses of resource areas addressed in this EA, impacts from the Proposed Action would not be significant, therefore, implementation of mitigation measures to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels would be unwarranted. However, to avoid or minimize the identified impacts from the Proposed Action, ARNG would implement the BMPs and SOPs (identified in RPMP Section 1.6.6) as well as BLM's RDFs. Additionally, the IDARNG would be required to offset the permanent impacts from the proposed ROWs through enhancement measures, per PL 103-64. The BLM and IDARNG developed a standardized, quantitative process to determine project impacts and the required level of enhancement in the 2017 Training MOU (Section VII [A][16]). Idaho Army National Guard Habitat Enhancement Project (DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2017-0006-EA) outlines the process and site specific plan (USDI BLM 2018c). Per BLM's net benefit policy, the required enhancement must result in a net benefit ratio of 1:1.1, where for every 1 acre permanently impacted, 1.1 acres would be enhanced elsewhere on the OCTC. Component Action on the OCTC would permanently develop 156 acres, and applying this ratio, the IDARNG would need to enhance 172 acres elsewhere on the OCTC.

IDARNG is an applicant in good standing and is qualified to hold a ROW as per 43 CFR 2803. BLM has issued IDARNG numerous ROWs with which IDARNG has complied and, when necessary, has resolved any compliance issues in a timely and responsive manner.

Table 4-11 presents the measures proposed for use to reduce resource impacts from implementation of the Proposed Action.

Table 4-11. IDARNG and BLM Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts from the Proposed Action

Resource	Measures
Land Use	<p>Land Use Planning, Development, and Grazing</p> <p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future development would occur within compatible development districts. • Coordination with livestock permittees and lessees would occur before training operations. <p>BLM RDF for Fencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F1- All fencing would be to BLM standards (H-1741-1 Fencing).
Air Quality	<p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs for Air Emissions and Fugitive Dust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction would be accomplished in full compliance with current and pending Idaho regulatory requirements, appearing in the Idaho Administrative Code Chapter 58-650, <i>Rules For Control Of Fugitive Dust</i>, through the use of compliant practices or products.

Resource	Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle operations should be conducted in accordance with the facility wide fugitive dust control plan, and appropriate dust control practices such as roadway watering, chemical suppressant application, supply of firefighting assets stationed near impact areas, paved road street sweeping, use of established roads and trails to the extent possible, and off-road speed limits should be followed. <p>BLM RDFs for Air Quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIR1- During construction activities, application of dust suppressants or use of operational controls would be used to prevent excess fugitive emissions.
Noise	<p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs for Noise and Land Use Compatibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued updates to the SONMP. Construction would predominately occur during normal weekday business hours in areas adjacent to noise-sensitive land uses such as residential areas, recreational areas, and any off-post areas. Construction equipment mufflers would be properly maintained and in good working order.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	<p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs for Soils and Wind Erosion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of bare ground would be reseeded following training activities and disturbed maneuver areas would be left fallow, allowing for vegetation to re-establish in the following growing season. Construction areas would be watered as needed to minimize wind erosion and fugitive dust. <p>BLM RDFs for Soils and Geology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S1- Soil stabilizing measures (seeding, use of geo-textiles, hydro-mulch, etc.) would be taken to limit or reduce loss of top soil associated with soil disturbing actions during infrastructure construction. S2- All new ROWs actions granted by the BLM require that the IDARNG have a net benefit on the resources of the NCA by increasing the overall amount and condition of raptor habitat. S3- No construction or maintenance activities will be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 4 inches, the soil will be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment. S4- Only the minimum amount of vegetation and/or topsoil necessary for the construction and/or maintenance of structures and facilities would be removed. S5- Top soil will be conserved during excavation and reused as cover on disturbed areas to facilitate regrowth or vegetation. S6- Suitable topsoil material removed in conjunction with clearing and stripping will be conserved in stockpiles within the ROW or at an approved location.
Water Resources	<p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESC) would be developed to reduce stormwater runoff into surface waters. Implementation of a SWPPP, as required by the USEPA CGP, would include BMPs for stormwater control during construction activities Use of pervious materials for development of parking lots, bivouac areas, gathering areas, trails and minor roads.
Biological Resources	<p>Vegetation</p> <p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs for Vegetation including Special Status Flora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDARNG would continue to conduct pre-construction/operational surveys prior to soil disturbing activities to avoid special status plant species. Specifically, IDARNG will conduct pre-construction surveys within LEPA EOs and LEPA Habitat and if any slickspot peppergrass plants are observed within the construction footprint, those microsites will be avoided. The IDARNG would continue to protect LEPA by implementing the management guidelines outlined in the 2011 INRMP.

Resource	Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new ROWs actions granted by the BLM require that the IDARNG have a net benefit on the resources of the NCA by increasing the overall amount and condition of raptor habitat. • LEPA planting buffers (native species) would be established. • Continued adherence to conservation measures in the 2009 LEPA Conservation Agreement (USDI BLM and State of Idaho 2009) • Replant general disturbance areas with non-native desirable species mix as approved by IDL. • Incorporate OCTC vegetation management and monitoring program for the area. • Implementation of SOPs related to ITAM, LRAM, and Facilities programs to use a variety of methods to restore training areas as needed. • Construction equipment and personnel would restrict travel to designated access roads, impervious surfaces, or areas that are visibly disturbed. • To avoid impacts on LEPA Proposed Critical Habitat, construction crews would restrict travel to maintained pathways (roads, sidewalks, etc.) and inspect their equipment for soil or vegetation prior to mobilizing in new areas to prevent the spread of unwanted species. • Fire breaks would be incorporated in the selected development sites on the Cantonment Area. • To minimize impacts on vegetation, personnel would restrict travel to maintained pathways (roads, sidewalks, etc.). • Restoration of disturbed areas as well as native reseeding efforts would be implemented, as appropriate. <p>BLM RDFs for Vegetation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V1- Pre-construction/operational surveys were conducted prior to soil disturbing activities to avoid special status plant species. • V2- The IDARNG would continue to protect slickspot peppergrass (<i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>) (LEPA) by implementing the management guidelines outlined in the 2013 INRMP. • V3- Temporary impact areas would be re-contoured to create slopes matching the surrounding land contours, providing adequate drainage and erosion control mechanisms to provide soil stabilization, and replacing any stockpiled soils or overburden. • V4- Temporary impact areas would be seeded with a BLM-approved seed mix and monitoring of the seeded areas would occur until a successful planting is determined by BLM. <p>Noxious Weed Species</p> <p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued adherence to BLM's RDFs to control the spread of invasive weeds. • Annual monitoring by EMO and ITAM staff. <p>BLM RDFs for Invasive Weeds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IN1- Treatment of noxious and invasive weeds will be in accordance with, and include design features of, the <i>Boise District Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Management EA (DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2016-0002-EA)</i> or subsequent decisions. • IN2- On-site materials would be used (cinder, topsoil, etc.) to reduce establishment of new invasive or noxious weed species associated with off-site materials. • IN3- Control measures and site maintenance (mechanical, biological, chemical, or prescribed burns) would be conducted to limit or reduce the establishment or spread of invasive or noxious weed species. • IN4- All vehicles, tools, and material used during project implementation would be pressure-washed prior to and after transport to the project site, to avoid the spread of noxious weeds. <p>Wildlife</p> <p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs for Wildlife and Habitat</p>

Resource	Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-construction surveys and grubbing during non-nesting periods would be conducted to avoid impacts on special status species, raptors, and migratory bird species. • Annual monitoring is conducted on all training ranges. In the event that an occupied nesting site is identified within the training areas or associated structures, the site would be identified and military personnel would work with the EMO staff to take appropriate measures. • All new ROWs actions granted by the BLM require that the IDARNG have a net benefit on the resources of the NCA by increasing the overall amount and condition of raptor habitat. • Incorporate OCTC wildlife management and monitoring program for area. <p>BLM RDFs for Wildlife:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL1- Pre-construction surveys and grubbing during non-nesting periods would be conducted to avoid impacts to special status species, raptors, and migratory bird species. • WL2- The following stipulation would also be incorporated to alleviate impacts to migratory birds/raptors would be implemented: A seasonal restriction to protect potential ground nesting migratory birds and BLM Type 2 sensitive wildlife species should be implemented from March 15 through July 31. Alternatively, if construction were to take place during the seasonal timing restriction, IDARNG natural resource staff shall conduct a pre- construction survey of the project area to determine the presence of nesting raptors/migratory birds. Construction activities may proceed after determining that no occupied nests occur in the project area. If an occupied nest occurs in the project area, mitigation actions (e.g., avoidance buffers for occupied nest) will be implemented on a case-by-case basis.
Cultural Resources	<p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs for Cultural Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All culturally sensitive or known areas with cultural artifacts would receive appropriate protection as determined by the IDARNG archaeologist during construction of the facilities and ranges, as well as during any training activities thereafter. • Consistent with IDARNG policies contained in the 2013 ICRMP, all construction sites would be surveyed for cultural resources prior to and during construction to avoid the potential for any impacts to cultural sites. • Construction areas were carefully chosen to avoid known cultural resources. • Existing high-value cultural sites would be fenced and listed as off limits. • Significant cultural resources at the OCTC are regularly monitored per the requirements of IDARNG's 2017 Training MOU with the BLM (Appendix J), and these sites are also protected from disturbance via fencing, concrete barricades, and Siebert stakes per the requirements of an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan. • In the case of an inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources or human remains as a result of ground disturbance, IDARNG would implement the SOP for the inadvertent discovery of cultural materials as defined in the ICRMP and as specified in the BLM's RDFs. <p>BLM RDFs for Cultural Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR1 – All culturally sensitive or known areas with cultural artifacts would require monitoring by an archaeologist during all construction activities, as well as during any restoration activities thereafter. Consistent with IDARNG policies contained in the 2013 ICRMP, enhancement sites would be surveyed for cultural resources prior to and during enhancement activities to avoid the potential for any impacts to cultural sites.

Resource	Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR2 – Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), the permittee must notify the BLM Authorized Officer, by telephone and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined in 43 CFR 10.2) on Federal land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c), the permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with the discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects. Operation and maintenance activities would not resume in the identified area until notified by the BLM Authorized Officer to proceed. • CR3 – Any unanticipated discovery of cultural and/or paleontological resources or historic or pre-contact sites, objects, or features shall be immediately reported to the BLM Authorized Officer so that an evaluation can be made to determine the significance of the discovery. Operation and maintenance activities would not resume in the identified area until notified by the BLM Authorized Officer to proceed. • CR4 – Cultural Resources Required Design Features for Inadvertent Discovery of Cultural Materials: Any discovery of cultural and/or paleontological resources or historic or pre-contact sites, objects, or features shall be immediately reported to the BLM Authorized Officer and IDARNG Cultural Resource Manager (CRM) (Contact information below). Operation and maintenance activities would not resume in the identified area until the BLM Authorized Officer has given approval to proceed. <p>IDARNG Point of Contact: Jake Fruhlinger, Environmental Management Office, Cultural Resource Program Manager (CRM) and Tribal Liaison Office: (208) 272-4192, Cell: (208) 870-0252, Email: jake.c.fruhlinger.nfg@mail.mil</p> <p>BLM Point of Contact: Authorized Officer, BLM Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA Manager, (208) 384-3300</p> <p>Scope: This RDF outlines the steps to be taken upon inadvertent discovery of cultural resources. It is intended for all personnel. Examples of applicable personnel are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans, Operations, and Training Officer (POTO) • Reservation maintenance • Environmental program manager (M-Day) • Range control • Unit commander and environmental liaison • Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) • Environmental unit command officer • Public affairs • Joint forces • Unit/activity personnel and tenants. <p>Statutory Reference(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and its implementing regulation (43 CFR 10) • Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) • National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulation (36 CFR 800) <p>Applicability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typical actions that trigger this SOP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field training exercises • Construction and maintenance • Activities such as digging, bulldozing, clearing, or grubbing • Off-road traffic • General observations (i.e., eroded areas, gullies, trails) Discovery of the following will trigger this SOP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery of known or likely human remains • Unmarked graves

Resource	Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian or historical artifacts Archaeological features Paleontological remains <p>Actions: This section describes specific actions to be taken for inadvertent discovery. The flow chart is intended to be used by unit/activity level personnel, unit commanders, and similar personnel, as a decision-making guide when inadvertent discoveries are made as described under the applicability section of this SOP.</p> <p>Unit personnel, contractor, field crews, other tenants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cease ground-disturbing activity when possible historical artifacts and features, human remains, or burials are observed or encountered. Report any observations or discoveries of historical artifacts and features, human remains, burials, or features immediately to the unit commander or facility manager Secure the discovery location(s). Unit Commander or Training Installation Manager. Immediately notify Range Control. Await further instructions from the Range Control Officer. Examine the location of the discovery to ensure that it has been properly secured. Take appropriate measures to further secure location, if needed. Coordinate with the Range Control Officer on where activities can resume. Give direction to the field troops, construction crew, or non-IDARNG users regarding locations where training exercises or activity may continue. <p>Range Control Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the location of the discovery to ensure that it has been properly secured. Take appropriate measures to further secure location (from vandalism and weather), if needed. Give direction to the unit commander, construction crew, or non-IDARNG users regarding locations where training exercises or activity may continue. Immediately notify the CRM, who will contact the BLM Authorized Officer. If human remains are known or suspected to be present, also promptly notify the state police. Activity may not resume in area of discovery until cleared by the CRM. Anticipate a minimum of 30 days.
Socioeconomics (including Public Health and Safety)	<p>Fire</p> <p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs for Fire Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued implementation of the Ada and Elmore County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plans for wildfire prevention and response. Training operations would continue to be conducted in accordance with DA PAM 385-6, and appropriate signage would be posted along active training areas to alert the public that training activities are under way. Continued adherence to operational safety and communications protocols during training activities would minimize hazard potential for personnel operating on the OCTC. Continued adherence to IDARNG's wildfire management plan. <p>BLM RDFs for Fire Prevention and Suppression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIRE1- Fire assets to be on-site during all construction activities. <p>Public Safety</p> <p>IDARNG BMP and SOPs for Public Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of appropriate signage and barriers to alert the public of construction activities and any traffic pattern changes. OSHA requirements and other applicable worker safety regulations would be followed during all project construction and operation. Unauthorized persons would be prohibited from accessing the areas under construction.

Resource	Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued adherence to strict safety protocols that would exclude public access to the impact area and SDZs within the OCTC's impact areas. Firing operations that involve explosive munitions are directed to specified SDZs on the OCTC, to which public access is strictly prohibited. All live fire activities are restricted to specified SDZs within the Impact Area, and SDZs are monitored before, during and after use. <p>BLM RDFs for Public Safety and OSHA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAFE1- Safety and security at the proposed military facilities would be consistent with IDARNG security procedures. Appropriate signage and barriers would alert the public of construction activities related to the Proposed Action and any traffic pattern changes. SAFE2 – The IDARNG would maintain at least one lane for public access and emergency use during any construction activities affecting public roads/access. SAFE3 – OSHA requirements and other applicable worker safety regulations would be followed during project construction and operation. Appropriate measures would be taken to limit unauthorized persons from accessing the area during construction.
Environmental Justice	<p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public outreach could be conducted to determine whether populations exist which rely solely on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence. Implementation of the BMPs and SOPs identified for each of the other resource areas addressed in this EA would also serve to protect environmental justice communities.
Infrastructure	<p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction sites would be clearly marked and fenced, as appropriate. Impacts on traffic and transportation on local roads would be minimized through adherence to road safety regulations, and by maintaining open traffic lanes, to the extent possible, for roads near where construction actions will be occurring. Demolition and construction debris would be recycled to the extent practicable. Development actions would be planned to avoid periods of increased training on the OCTC. New construction would be designed to optimize building performance through minimized consumption of electricity/energy and water, and generation of solid waste. Implementation of a SWPPP, as required by the USEPA CGP, would include BMPs for stormwater control during construction activities. Avoidance measures to reduce impacts on stormwater management on the Cantonment Area and the OCTC would include plans to incorporate appropriate drainage technologies and a stormwater management system (e.g., development of catch basin, incorporation of impervious surfaces for parking and gathering areas).
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	<p>IDARNG BMPs and SOPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued adherence to the installation-specific SPCC that outlines safety precautions to be taken by construction crews and IDARNG personnel to minimize the potential for fuel and oil spills during construction activities or facility and training operations and to guide reporting procedures for spill incidences. Annual evaluation of Toxics Release Inventory (per EPCRA). <p>BLM RDFs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HW1- Safety precautions would be taken by construction crews to minimize the potential for a hazardous spill. Under current procedures, all spills, regardless of size, are immediately reported to the Orchard Range Control. The responsible unit works to contain the spill until personnel from Range Control or the Environmental Management Office arrive (ANL EAD 2004).

4.14 Cumulative Effects

4.14.1 Introduction

The CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA require that the cumulative impacts of a proposed action be assessed (40 CFR §§ 1500–1508). A cumulative impact is defined as the following (40 CFR § 1508.7):

The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Cumulative impacts are most likely to arise when a relationship exists between a proposed action and other actions expected to occur in a similar location or during a similar time period. Actions overlapping with, or in proximity to, a proposed action would be expected to have more potential for a relationship than more geographically separated actions.

CEQ's guidance for considering cumulative impacts states that NEPA documents "should compare the cumulative effects of multiple actions with appropriate national, regional, state, or community goals to determine whether the total effect is significant." The first step in assessing cumulative impacts involves identifying and defining the scope of other actions and their interrelationship with a proposed action or alternatives. The scope must consider other projects that coincide with the location and timeline of a proposed action and other actions.

This cumulative effects analysis focuses on past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects related to the approval of the RPMP, implementation of the FY18 through FY22 RPMP development projects, and the optimization of the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to two BCT units per year when combined with other cumulative projects. For the purposes of this analysis, the temporal span of consideration includes 2018–2019 (timeframe for present projects) and 2020–2027 (timeframe for future cumulative projects within 5-years of Proposed Action completion). The spatial span of consideration, or the ROI (shown in **Figure 4.3** and **Figure 4.4**) for cumulative impacts is a 480,858-acre land area that encompasses Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC and immediately surrounding areas, which could be indirectly and directly affected by the Proposed Action. The ROI is bordered by I-84 to the north and east and ID-167 to the south. The Snake River, Swan Falls Road, and Cloverdale Road border the ROI to the west.

The ROI for the air quality analysis includes both local and regional air quality.

4.14.2 Cumulative Actions within the Cumulative Impacts Analysis Area

Sections 1.1.2.1 and **1.1.2.2** summarize past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the area experiencing indirect and direct effects of the Proposed Action that could interact with implementation of the Proposed Action.

4.14.2.1 Past Actions

On-Installation actions. IDARNG activities have occurred on Gowen Field for more than 50 years. Numerous buildings at the Gowen Field are used for IDARNG administration, classrooms, billeting, medical services, equipment maintenance, and mobilization activities (Gardner and Harris 2018). Past projects have included the construction and operation of these numerous facilities. Overall, the effects of past actions are reflected in descriptions of existing resource conditions presented in the Affected Environment sections. Military training began in the vicinity of the OCTC in 1941 (Rubicon 2018). As described in **Section 1.1.2.2**, the OCTC currently supports training through use of its facilities, maneuver areas, ranges, impact areas, and airspace (Rubicon 2018). In order to support these activities, development within the OCTC and Camp Orchard has occurred for over 50 years. The only large-scale project that has been completed within the last 10 years in the area was Phase I and II of the OCTC, which is discussed further in **Table 4-11**. The effects of this project are captured in the description of the existing environment in the Affected Environment sections. Infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, facilities improvement, and demolition would continue to occur as needed, driven primarily by changes in the IDARNG's mission and use of the OCTC and Camp Orchard. Construction for several other on-installation projects (e.g., DAGIR EA, MP-1EA, IDARNG's CATEX RPMP Projects (FYs 17, 18 and 19), IDARNG's Future RPMP Projects (FY23 and beyond) are currently under way or will begin within the next year. Also, as indicated in **Section 2.1**, the FY18 through FY22 RPMP projects (assessed in **Sections 4.2** through **4.12** and shown in the **Appendix B** mapbook) are included in this cumulative impacts analysis.

Past actions within the NCA and OCTC include livestock grazing, recreation, and the issuance of ROWs. BLM has not completed any large-scale projects within the OCTC, other than management requirements outlined in the 2008 *Snake River Birds of Prey NCA RMP and ROD*, which are required to be implemented by the IDARNG under the 2010 MOU. However, BLM has authorized substantial IDARNG projects within the OCTC, including the construction, operation, and maintenance of a DAGIR (IDARNG 2018c) within the OCTC's Impact Area and the range and AHP improvements authorized for the IDARNG's Range Master Plan-1 project (USDI BLM 2018a). These management requirements are implemented via the INRMP, ICRMP, and other IDARNG management documents. Overall, the effects of past actions are reflected in descriptions of existing resource conditions presented in the Affected Environment sections.

Off-Installation actions. The Proposed Action cumulative ROI contains environments that range from large urban centers (i.e., Boise) to primarily agricultural areas with little to no developed roads, fire protection, emergency services, schools, utilities, or a predictable water source. Therefore, development throughout the region has occurred more frequently in some areas relative to others and some areas have remained undeveloped. In general, the region has seen increases in general and commercial airspace use; developed areas; and infrastructure, energy, and transportation projects. The following studies and resources were used to characterize past projects and overall environment of the ROI:

- Blueprint Boise (City of Boise 2017)
- Boise Airport Master Plan Study Update (Boise Airport 2016)
- Elmore County 2014 Comprehensive Plan (Elmore County Government 2015)

- Solar Energy Industries Association Factsheet: Solar Spotlight Idaho (SEIA 2017)
- Renewable Northwest Energy Projects Map (Renewable Northwest 2018)
- Idaho Transportation Department District 3 Overview (ITD 2018).

4.14.2.2 Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Respectively, **Table 4-12** and **Table 4-13** list the existing and future projects on- and off-installation. **Figure 4.3** and **Figure 4.4** show the locations of the cumulative projects considered along with the Proposed Action in this cumulative impacts analysis.

Table 4-12. Present and Future On-Installation Projects within the Cumulative Impacts Analysis Area

Project Name	Location	Year(s)	Description
IDARNG's Current Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) RPMP Projects (FY17, 18 and FY19)	Various locations at OCTC, Cantonment Area, Gowen Field	2018–2019	<p>Various projects have been analyzed in CATEX documents by IDARNG. The projects include infrastructure improvements, minor development, and maintenance activities. Some of these projects, predominantly those on the OCTC range, would coincide with BLM land. These projects would impact approximately 1 acre¹ at Gowen Field, 81 acres¹ at the Cantonment Area, and 32 acres¹ at the OCTC. These projects are critical to ongoing operations at OCTC, Camp Orchard, and Gowen Field.</p> <p>The Gowen Field and OCTC RPMP presents plans for development projects from FY17 through FY26. Following a thorough review, some of the FY17, FY18, and FY19 RPMP projects that: 1) were determined to be critical to current operations and infrastructure needs to meet current authorizations, 2) had available funding to proceed, and 3) had independent utility from the overall improvements that would directly support the increased annual BCT training, were prioritized for immediate implementation. Each prioritized project was, then, compared with the list of Army Categorical Exclusions (CATEXs; per 32 CFR § 651, Appendix D) to determine whether, by type of action or extraordinary circumstance, it would qualify for CATEX. ARNG CATEX documentation was prepared for those projects that met the qualifications; those projects are included in the cumulative impacts evaluation for this EA.</p> <p>BLM review and authorization of these projects was needed and granted, via either a BLM CATEX or Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), for projects involving updates on the OCTC. All RPMP projects that did not qualify for CATEX were carried forward for full NEPA analysis in an EA.</p>
Digital Air-Ground Integration Range (DAGIR)	OCTC's Impact Area	2019–2021	<p>The BLM approved IDARNG's request for a ROW under the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, as amended, to construct, operate, and maintain a DAGIR. The Proposed Action will utilize and expand an existing range complex and the associated infrastructure within the OCTC's Impact Area. This project will result in the permanent disturbance of 30 acres of NCA habitat subject to IDARNG habitat enhancement requirements via BLM SOPs (IDARNG 2018c).</p>
IDARNG MP-1 Actions on Ranges 5, 6, and 26.	OCTC	EA in preparation	<p>The BLM approved IDARNG's request for a ROW grant under the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, as amended, to construct, operate, and maintain Ranges 5, 6, 26; 25 concrete road turning pads and turn outs; and four ammunition and transfer holding points at OCTC.</p> <p>This proposed project would result in the permanent disturbance of 30 acres of NCA Management Area 3 habitat subject to IDARNG habitat enhancement requirements via BLM SOPs (USDI BLM 2018b). Appendix D lists the RPMP actions that were addressed in the MP-1 EA.</p>
F-35A Operational Beddown	Gowen Field	EIS in preparation	<p>The NGB proposes to beddown F-35A aircraft at two of five alternative ANG locations in the U.S. Gowen Field is one of the five locations being considered as a potential beddown location. Overall, at the selected location there would be changes to the type of aircraft based; the mix of aircraft using the associated SUA; staffing and manpower at the selected location; the number of airfield operations; as well as minor necessary construction, building renovation, and facility demolition (USAF 2020). Development actions associated with this project are not anticipated to affect NCA lands.</p>

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Project Name	Location	Year(s)	Description
IDARNG Future RPMP Construction Projects (FY23 and Beyond)	Various locations at OCTC and Cantonment Area	2020-2027	With BLM approval, the IDARNG would construct, operate, and maintain of a wastewater treatment and reclamation plant; a hazardous materials and recycling facility; training center; and various buildings including barracks, administrative buildings, dining facilities, maintenance shops, a training complex, a fitness center, and a police station. Additionally, railhead and MATES washrack expansion would occur. Approximately 47 acres ¹ on the Cantonment Area would be impacted. These projects are critical to ongoing operations at OCTC and Camp Orchard and will be analyzed in future NEPA efforts. The complete list of future RPMP projects is provided in Appendix D .
Ongoing Land Uses for Grazing and Recreation	Various locations on and near the OCTC	NA	<p>Grazing operations and recreational uses of BLM-administered lands will continue into the future. Grazing operations are coordinated with the IDARNG to avoid impacts on public, herd, and training safety. The summer and winter grazing allotments and grazing periods on the OCTC are provided in the BLM's 2008 <i>Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area FEIS, Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision</i> (USDI BLM 2008).</p> <p>Public access to and recreation on the OCTC will also continue. Common recreational activities include target shooting, day and night hunting (by permit only), and trail riding. These activities typically occur in the northern areas of the OCTC (where IDARNG maneuvers training operations are conducted).</p>
Simco East Heavy Maneuver Training Area	Elmore County	EA in preparation	IDARNG is planning to enter into a 20 year lease agreement with the IDL on 14,370 acres directly east of the OCTC for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining a heavy maneuver training area. In order to access the property, the IDARNG has also submitted a ROW application to the BLM to develop, maintain, and operate on a total of 9.0 miles of access road across BLM lands. Of the 9.0 miles, 5.5 miles (east of Simco) would be improved. The total footprint of construction for this project would impact approximately 29 acres of BLM-administered land additional to the planned improvements of the existing roadway. In addition to the road, the BLM may consider authorization to use up to 3,200 acres of lands between the OCTC and State parcel for heavy maneuver training.
Fenced Enclosures	BLM lands in the OCTC	2019-Present	IDARNG is installing barbed wire enclosures around 30 areas to maintain these areas as off-limits to training.
Expanded Heavy Maneuver Lanes in the OCTC	BLM and State lands outside of the Small Arms Impact Area	2021-TBD	The OCTC's maneuver training area, which currently covers 30,589 acres, would be expanded to 34,222 acres. Approximately 3,633 acres of shrublands, which are currently off limits to military training, as outlined on page ES-3 and Section 1.6.2.1 , would be impacted by tactical vehicle maneuvers. Habitat restoration outside the maneuver lanes would occur.

Note: 1 – These impacts acreages are estimated minimums using best-available information.

Table 4-13. Present and Future Off-Installation Projects

Project Name	Location	Year	Description
DoD Projects			
IDARNG Habitat Enhancement Projects	North of Cantonment Area, NCA Management Area 1	2016–TBD	IDARNG has initiated several BLM-approved habitat restoration projects: 1) On 160 acres of IDL land northwest of the Cantonment Area and part of the Union Fire (2011) footprint to enhance habitat for raptors and <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> , as well as to improve the resiliency of the area. This project is in year three of implementation. 2) In cooperation with the USFWS and IDL, control bur buttercup on 160 acres of IDL land northwest of the Cantonment Area and part of the Union Fire (2011) footprint. This project is in year three of implementation. 3) A habitat enhancement project on 180 acres of BLM lands just northwest of the Cantonment Area and part of the Union Fire (2011) footprint. In total, 500 acres within or adjacent to Management Area 1 NCA habitat is being restored. In addition, several vegetation treatments have been initiated to further habitat restoration, including the addition of fuel breaks, drill seeding and aerial seeding in BLM lands surrounding the OCTC.
Mountain Home AFB Sustainable Water Supply	Mountain Home AFB	2017	This BLM-approved project consists of establishing a new sustainable water supply conveyed via predominantly linear underground infrastructure to a proposed Water Treatment Facility on Mountain Home AFB. The project includes an intake system, pump station and conveyance system and 79 acres of total ground disturbance from the Snake River (in NCA Management Area 3) to the installation (USDI BLM and USAF 2017). An EA, which concluded in a FONSI, for this action was completed in 2017.
Transportation Projects			
Road and Bridge Maintenance Program Projects	Boise, Ada County, Elmore County (near Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, or the OCTC.	2020-2024	As part of the Idaho Regional Transportation Improvement Program, various road and bridge repair and maintenance projects are planned in the Boise Urbanized Area. Several arterial and collector roads located near Gowen Field would be upgraded as part of this project. The action would widen bridges and roads, replace by construction or rehabilitate bridges and interchanges, improve intersections, and repave, seal-coat, and micro-seal roads in areas throughout Ada and Elmore Counties (COMPASS 2018).
Commercial and Residential Development Projects			
City of Mountain Home and Elmore County Sustainable Water Supply	Mountain Home, Elmore County, including NCA Lands	To be determined	The City of Mountain Home and Elmore County have approached the Idaho Water Resource Board about developing a sustainable water supply for the area that could be routed through alignments parallel to those proposed in support of the Sustainable Water Supply project at Mountain Home AFB which will develop a water supply pipeline from the Snake River to the installation (SPF Water Engineering 2017b).

Project Name	Location	Year	Description
Locale/Syringa Valley Master Planned Community	Boise, Southwest Ada County Alliance	2019-TBD	The Meridian Company, also known as CBH Homes, expects to start construction on the Locale subdivision, formerly called Syringa Valley, as soon as Fall 2019 and continue development for 10 to 15 years (Sowell 2019). The Locale/Syringa Valley project is planned for 600 acres in Southwest Ada County Alliance and will involve the construction of more than 2000 homes.
Gravel Pit	Ada County, Northwest of OCTC	To be determined	A proposed 60-acre gravel pit for mineral extraction would be located adjacent to the two existing gravel pits east of Pleasant Valley Road and north of Ten Mile Creek.
Energy Projects			
Gateway West Transmission Line Project	Boise, Ada County, Elmore County, including NCA Lands	2020-2024	This project would build and operate new high-voltage transmission lines, approximately 10 miles of which would cross the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA, and approximately 9 miles would be on lands administered by BLM (Gateway West 2018a, Gateway West 2018b, USDI 2017).
Photovoltaic Solar Project	Boise Area, near Gowen Field	To be determined	A photovoltaic solar panel project on 200 acres near the intersection of Kuna Mora and S. Cole roads has been proposed. The actual footprint of the solar panels would be less than 45 acres, with less than one total acre of disturbance (IDARNG 2018c). The construction timeframe for this action is yet to be determined.

Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of
 Brigade Combat Team Training
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

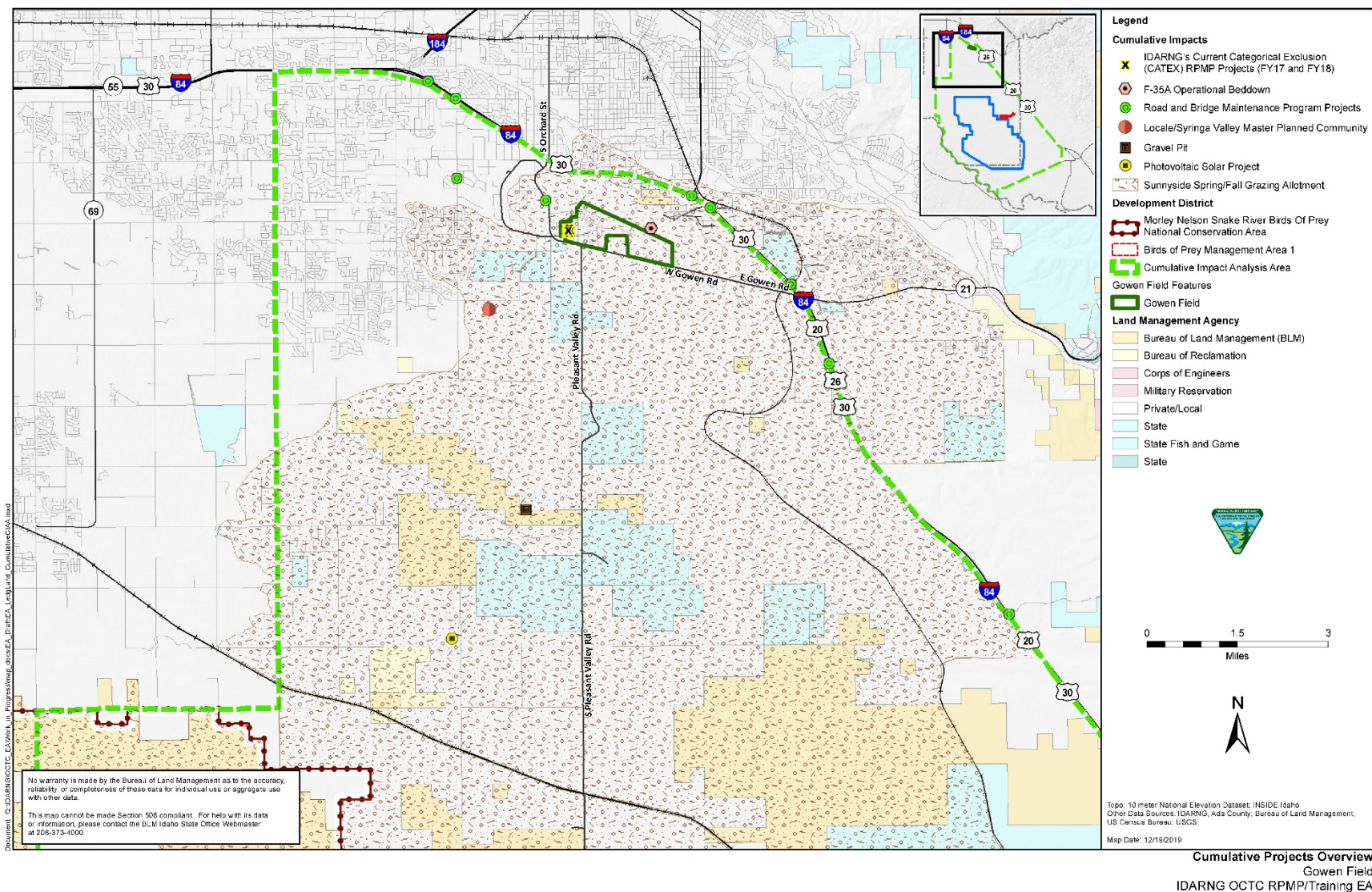


Figure 4.3. Cumulative Projects in the Northern Portion of the Cumulative Impacts Analysis Area

Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of
Brigade Combat Team Training
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

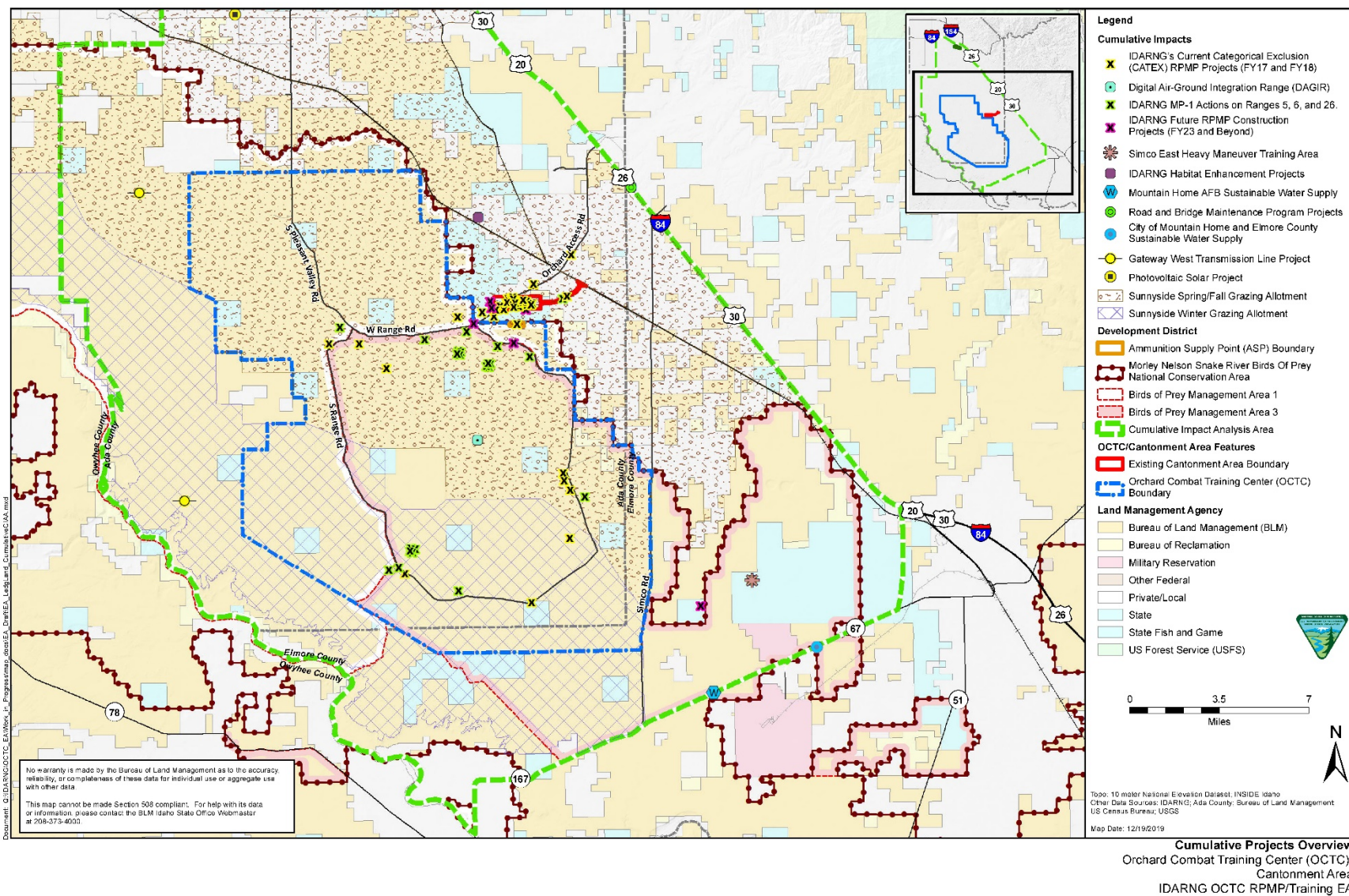


Figure 4.4. Cumulative Projects in the Southern Portion of the Cumulative Impacts Analysis Area

4.14.3 Cumulative Effects of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action Alternative (Preferred Alternative) would result in the impacts identified and described in **Sections 4.2** through **4.12**. These include potential less-than-significant adverse impacts on land use, air quality, noise, geology, topography and soils, water resources, biological resources, socioeconomics, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials/wastes. These impacts would be reduced through implementation of the measures listed in **Section 4.13**, as appropriate.

The following provides a brief summary of the anticipated contribution of the Proposed Action to cumulative impacts on resources. Discussion on the interaction of the Proposed Action with other identified cumulative projects is subsequently provided for each resource area addressed in this EA. The impacts indicators for cumulative impacts analysis are the same as identified for each resource in **Sections 4.2** through **4.12**. The known acres of impacts on NCA lands are identified in **Table 4-12** and **Table 4-13**, which identify the on- and off-installation projects considered in this cumulative impacts analysis.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not significantly contribute to cumulative adverse impacts on any ROI areas discussed in this EA. Cumulative net positive impacts on the local socioeconomic environment and infrastructure would also be realized through increased local spending, expansion and upgrading of existing infrastructure, and operation of more modern and resource-efficient facilities. The Proposed Action would not noticeably contribute to the ongoing regional decline in natural or cultural resources, as impacts to such resources would be mitigated to acceptable levels.

In terms of air quality and noise, the Proposed Action would not be expected to significantly contribute to cumulative regional impacts; the action involves IDARNG activities currently present within the area. There would be an increase in IDARNG personnel, but emissions would remain well under EPA thresholds. If Gowen Field were chosen for the U.S. Air Force F-35A beddown, additional air emissions would not be considered significant. The additional noise would cause significant impacts and mitigation measures would be required. However, Boise Airport, the 124 FW, has not been selected as a preferred alternative for the F-35A beddown (USAF 2020). The Proposed Action would maintain or enhance the local socioeconomic environment through providing short-term construction jobs and long-term IDARNG employment.

The Proposed Action would contribute to less-than-significant cumulative impacts on soils, vegetation, and wildlife through temporary and permanent disturbance of approximately 359 acres; affecting a fraction of one percent (0.07) percent of the 480,858-acre cumulative impacts analysis area. Of the total 359 acres (described in **Section 2.2.3**) of proposed development for Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, 120 acres of IDARNG-managed land **on the Cantonment Area** and 156 out of 173 acres of BLM-administered lands **on the OCTC** are undeveloped. Impacts would involve habitat removal, removal of vegetation, compaction of soils, and addition of impervious surface area. However, implementation of BMPs (see **Section 4.13**) and adherence to land and resource management plans would minimize impacts from these actions. Additionally, although training operations would be intensified with

the optimized throughput of BCT operations, the type and manner of training that would conducted would be consistent with existing operations.

While positive cumulative impacts on the socioeconomic environment are anticipated, the Proposed Action would likely contribute to localized, less-than-significant adverse effects on the human environment through less-than-significant potential increases in air quality emissions, and noise in the immediate vicinity of the installations. The impacts on air quality would be localized (not regional), and the implementation of BMPs would minimize these impacts.

Table 4-14 lists the acres of disturbance anticipated for the present and foreseeable cumulative projects to be implemented within the cumulative impacts ROI. Because some projects are still in the planning stages, exact acres of impacts for those actions are not yet defined.

Table 4-14. Acres of Development or Improvement by Project within the Cumulative Impacts Analysis Area

Project	Acres Developed (Percent of ROI)	Acres Improved (Percent ROI)
Total Cumulative Impacts ROI Acreage: 480,858		
Proposed Action (FY18 through FY22 RPMP Projects)	359 (0.07) ¹	
CATEX (FY17/18/19) RPMP Projects	114	
IDARNG DAGIR	30	
IDARNG MP-1 Actions on Ranges 5, 6, and 26	30	
Future (FY23 and Beyond) RPMP Projects	47	
IDARNG Simco East Maneuver Area Expansion	29-3,200	29-3,200
Fenced Enclosure	576	
Expanded Heavy Maneuver Lanes in the OCTC	3,633	3,633
Road and Bridge Maintenance Program Projects	Not Specified ²	
Mountain Home AFB Sustainable Water Supply	79	
Locale/Syringa Valley Master Planned Community	600	
Gateway West Transmission Line Project	Not Specified ³	
Photovoltaic Solar Project	0 ⁴	
Habitat Enhancement Project		500
Invasive Plant Treatment, Native Seeding Efforts		180
Totals (Percent ROI)	1,288 (0.3)	680 (0.1)

Table Notes:

1 – Total acres reflects proposed developed acres on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, the Cantonment Expansion Area, and the OCTC for the FY18 through FY22 RPMP. Acreages determined using GIS estimates from anticipated footprints.

2 – Acres of disturbance for planned roadway and bridge improvements within the ROI are not provided because the work areas associated with these efforts were not disclosed (COMPASS 2018).

3 – Acres of disturbance for the project are not yet defined.

4 – Project would disturb less than one acre (i.e., approximately 0.3 acres affected).

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change in the baseline conditions for any resource areas. Existing conditions would continue as described in **Sections 3.1** through **3.12**. No new cumulative impacts would be expected.

4.14.3.1 Land Use

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts on land use is the same as for environmental consequences described in **Section 4.2**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect that may affect land use include the projects described in **Section 4.14**. Cumulatively, construction of the Proposed Action projects and other identified cumulative projects would have short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on IDARNG-managed lands (**Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area**) and short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered lands (**OCTC**) from presence of construction operations at the intended facility locations, and from conversion of grazing lands for development on and near the Cantonment Area for the railhead buildout, and long-term beneficial impacts on land use efficiency for the installation in accordance with future planning goals of the ARNG and IDARNG. Because the location of new infrastructure and facilities associated with the Proposed Action, past and future RPMP projects, MP-1 EA, and DAGIR EA would be compatible with surrounding land use designations, the long term benefits of improved land-use and operational efficiency on the installation, as described in the RPMP, would be sufficiently supported.

If implemented concurrently, construction for the Proposed Action and other identified development actions would result in short-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on visual and recreational land uses through the presence of construction vehicles and operations.

Operation of the OCTC training areas and ranges could affect the safety of grazing operations, area-wide increased residential and commercial development and increased public use of the area (e.g., hunting, trail riding, public shooting too near troops, and illegal trash dumping) that also occurs in the area. Similarly, land use compatibility issues (e.g. noise, dust, light, and risk of wildland fires ignited during munitions firing operations) arising from training and maintenance activities on surrounding developments could encroach upon residential or commercial areas as population growth and development within Ada county continues to increase. Such compatibility issues have constrained military training activities at installations across the United States (IDDOC 2010). In accordance with the Idaho JLUS, and through coordination with stakeholders in the region, the IDARNG works to identify and minimize encroachment concerns. Part of this includes posting signage **on the OCTC** to inform the recreating public of active training operations, maintaining firefighting assets on the range to support fire suppression as needed, and maintaining the security of exclusion areas (e.g., SDZs) that must be avoided for safety. Additionally, over the last decade, IDARNG security has increasingly had to address, with assistance from local authorities, safety incidences involving unsafe public shooting too near training, or directed at staff and vehicles **on the OCTC**, as well as public dumping of trash and waste materials (IDARNG 2018h). IDARNG has increased communication and associated efforts to coordinate resources between stakeholders in an effort to reduced use conflicts between existing and future users and optimize management efficiency within the geographic area and beyond. Because the IDARNG continues to proactively manage activities **on the OCTC's** training lands through coordination with stakeholders, the overall cumulative impacts on the human environment is less than significant.

4.14.3.2 Air Quality

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts on air quality is the same as for environmental consequences described in **Section 4.3**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect that may affect air quality include the projects described in **Section 4.14.2**. Localized, short-, and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts to air quality **on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area** resulting from vehicle exhaust generated during construction and demolition activities and recurring emissions from vehicle, aircraft, and facility operations would occur associated with the Proposed Action (**Appendix G**) and the other cumulative projects identified in **Section 4.14.2**. Cumulative construction impacts on air quality **on the OCTC** would be short-term, minor, and adverse. In general, cumulative effects to air quality include particulate (dust) and emissions from construction activities and military training. Potential impacts would be reduced with implementation of IDARNG's SOPs and BMPs and, as applicable, BLM's RDFs (**Section 4.13**).

4.14.3.3 Noise

The impact indicator for cumulative noise impacts on the ambient sound environment is the same as for environmental consequences described in **Section 4.4**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect that may affect noise include the projects described in **Section 4.14.2**. Localized, short-, and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts to noise on IDARNG-managed land and localized, short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered land resulting from construction and demolition activities and military aircraft, munitions, and vehicle maneuver training operations would occur associated with the Proposed Action and other cumulative projects identified in **Section 4.14.2**. In general, cumulative effects from noise within the ROI would include temporary localized increases in noise from construction and demolition vehicles, equipment, and activities and an increased daily average noise level from military training and operations that would be intensified during the Summer Training Period (May through August). Potential impacts would be reduced with implementation of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs (**Section 4.13**).

4.14.3.4 Geology, Topography, and Soils

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts is the same as for environmental consequences described in **Section 4.5**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect that may affect soils include the projects described in **Section 4.14.2**. Localized, short-, and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts (e.g., soil compaction, erosion, and ground disturbance) to soil resources on IDARNG-managed land and localized, short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered land resulting from surface-disturbing activities would occur associated with the Proposed Action and other identified cumulative projects. Overall, impacts on geological resources from the proposed actions and aforementioned concurrent actions would total at least 1,288 acres (0.3 percent of the analysis area; see **Table 4-13**).

Potential impacts would be reduced with implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures (BMPs, SOPs, and RDFs) identified in **Section 4.13** and through enhancement required under the IDARNG/BLM MOU (2017) and 2013 INRMP. The 500 acres of

enhancement projects, approved or underway (**Section 4.14.2**), would have less than significant, long-term benefits at the local level by increasing the soil's resistance and resilience to disturbance and retain soil structure and functionality. The proposed enhancement of 180 acres of developed NCA habitat through invasive plant treatment, native seeding and planting, and monitoring would provide a net benefit to local vegetative resources within the NCA. Invasive species removal and native habitat restoration often assist soil structure and function.

4.14.3.5 Water Resources

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts is the same as for environmental consequences described in **Section 4.6**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect that may affect water resources include the projects described in **Section 4.14.2**. Localized, short-term, less than significant, adverse impacts to water resources on IDARNG-managed land and localized, short-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered land resulting from surface disturbing activities and increases in impervious surfaces would occur associated with the Proposed Action and other identified cumulative projects (**Table 4-10** and **Table 4-11**). In general, cumulative effects to water resources include increased stormwater runoff, erosion, and sedimentation from construction activities and development. Potential adverse impacts would be reduced by demolition of facilities and with implementation of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs (**Section 4.13**), as applicable.

4.14.3.6 Biological Resources

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts on biological resources is the same as for the environmental consequences described in **Section 4.7**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect (Management Area 3) that may affect vegetation and wildlife include the projects addressed in **Section 1.7**. Localized, short-, and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts to vegetation on IDARNG-managed land and localized, short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered land resources resulting from surface disturbing activities would occur associated with the Proposed Action and other identified cumulative projects (**Table 4-12**).

As no change to livestock grazing operations would occur or is proposed, livestock grazing is expected to have no additional impacts to vegetation or wildlife beyond existing levels. As defined, there would be no adverse effects to occupied habitat for threatened and endangered plant species (LEPA) under the aforementioned projects. However, adjacent 0.5-mile pollinator buffer (IDARNG 2018) could be affected. In those instances, a full assessment of the impacts has or will be completed during consultation process with USFWS. Overall, impacts from the Proposed Action and aforementioned concurrent actions would total at least 1,288 acres (0.3 percent of the analysis area; see **Table 4-12**).

Potential impacts to the area would be reduced through SOPs/BMPs outlined under the 2013 INRMP and implementation of IDARNG/BLM MOU (2017) as it relates to enhancement requirements for ROWs. The 500 acres of enhancement projects, approved or underway (**Section 4.14.2**), will have long-term benefits at the local level by increasing the area's resistance and resilience to disturbance and restoring the structure and functionality of the sites, which includes LEPA habitat. The proposed enhancement of 180 acres of developed NCA

habitat through the treatment of invasive plant species, native seeding and planting, and monitoring would provide a net benefit to local vegetative resources within the NCA (USDOI-BLM-ID-B011-2017-0006-EA).

Potential impacts on raptor prey habitat would be reduced with implementation of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs (**Section 4.13**) and through enhancement required under the IDARNG/BLM MOU (2017) and the 2013 INRMP. The 500 acres of enhancement projects, approved or underway (**Section 4.14.2**), would have long-term benefits at the local level by increasing the area's resistance and resilience to disturbance and restoring critical habitat for raptors and their prey. The proposed enhancement of 180 acres of developed NCA habitat through invasive plant treatment, native seeding and planting, and monitoring would provide a net benefit to wildlife resources within the NCA by improving optimal raptor prey habitat.

4.14.3.7 Cultural Resources

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts on cultural resources is the same as for environmental consequences described in **Section 4.8**. Based on the parameters of the identified projects, coupled with the surveys conducted to date, SOPs and an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan in place, and continued coordination/consultation with the Tribes and agencies, there would be no impacts on historic properties or significant cultural resources within the area of analysis. Therefore, the project would not have the potential to result in significant cumulative effects.

4.14.3.8 Socioeconomics

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts on socioeconomics is the same as for environmental consequences described in **Section 4.9**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect that may affect socioeconomics include the projects described in **Section 4.14.2**. Localized, short-term, beneficial impacts on socioeconomics resulting from construction-related spending and employment opportunities and increased housing availability would occur associated with the Proposed Action and other cumulative projects identified in **Section 4.14.2**. Construction activities and military training operations associated with the Proposed Action and other cumulative projects identified in **Section 4.14.2** would have localized, short- and long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts on health and safety on IDARNG-managed land and localized, short- and long-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered land resulting from a heightened risk to of traffic, work zone, and daily operations related incidents. Localized, long-term, beneficial impacts on health and safety resulting from facility modernization would occur associated with the Proposed Action and other cumulative projects identified in **Section 4.14.2**. In general, cumulative effects to socioeconomics include a short-term increase in local spending and employment and risk to public safety from construction activities and military training and long-term decrease in risk to public safety from facility modernizations. Potential impacts would be reduced through implementation of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs (**Section 4.13**), as applicable.

4.14.3.9 Environmental Justice

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts on environmental justice is the same as for environmental consequences described **Section 4.10**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect that may affect environmental justice populations include the projects described in **Section 4.14.2**. While environmental justice populations exist in the Cumulative Impacts Analysis Area, effects from the Proposed Action and other identified cumulative projects would not be high and adverse and would not disproportionately affect environmental justice populations.

If populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence exist in the vicinity of the installations, less than significant, adverse impacts may occur as land acquisition and development associated with the Proposed Action, the CATEX RPMP Projects (FY17, 18, and 19), the IDARNG MP-1 Actions on Ranges 5, 6, and 26, and the IDARNG Simco East Maneuver Area Expansion project decreases the amount of land available for hunting.

4.14.3.10 Infrastructure

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts on infrastructure is the same as for environmental consequences described in **Section 4.11**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect that may affect infrastructure include the projects described in **Section 4.14.2**. Localized, short-term, less than significant, adverse impacts to infrastructure on IDARNG-managed land and localized, short-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered land resulting from service-interrupting activities, utility consumption, and increased traffic would occur associated with the Proposed Action and other cumulative projects identified in **Section 4.14.2**. Utility consumption and traffic associated with the Proposed Action and other cumulative projects identified in **Section 4.14.2** would result in localized, long-term, adverse impacts. In general, cumulative effects to infrastructure include a short-term increase in traffic, utility supply interruptions, fuel consumption, and solid waste creation from construction activities and a long-term increase in traffic and utility consumption from military training and daily operations. Potential adverse impacts would be minimized through implementation of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs (**Section 4.13**), as applicable.

4.14.3.11 Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Wastes

The impact indicator for cumulative impacts on hazardous and toxic materials and wastes management is the same as for environmental consequences described in **Section 4.12**. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the defined area of effect that may affect hazardous and toxic materials and wastes include the projects described in **Section 4.14.2**. Localized, short-term, less than significant, adverse impacts to hazardous and toxic materials and wastes on IDARNG-managed land and localized, short-term, minor, adverse impacts on BLM-administered land resulting from construction and demolition activities would occur associated with the Proposed Action and other cumulative projects identified in **Section 4.14.2**. In general, cumulative effects to hazardous and toxic materials and wastes include a short-term increase in hazardous materials, petroleum products, and hazardous waste and an increased risk of spills from construction activities. Localized, long-term, beneficial impacts include removal of hazardous materials, such as ACM, LBP, and PCBs from demolition and

facility modernizations. Potential adverse impacts would be minimized through implementation of SOPs, BMPs, and RDFs (**Section 4.13**), as applicable.

4.14.4 Inter-relationship of Cumulative Effects

The environment in Ada County is slowly changing because of ongoing development and population growth. This ongoing growth is affecting environmental resources. The IDARNG's Proposed Action involves approximately 359 acres, of those acres, 120 acres of IDARNG-managed land **on the Cantonment Area** and 156 acres of BLM-administered land **on the OCTC** are undeveloped. These actions also would affect environmental resources in the general area. Considered together, growth in Ada County and the Proposed Action are interrelated in the following ways:

- 1) One of the missions of the IDARNG is to service the emergency needs of the State of Idaho. Land and facilities are necessary to accommodate training so that the IDARNG can service the community effectively (as well as the entire country, in terms of national defense). As such, the growth of the region, Idaho, and the nation as a whole drives the need for this training and support capability.
- 2) Both factors produce pressures on the environment of the surrounding area.

Interrelated cumulative impacts place demands on the local area, planning organizations, and the military's natural resource management, cultural resource management, and public works personnel. Through sound, integrated, long-range planning on both sides of the proverbial fence, these impacts are minimized.

BLM originally granted the OCTC to IDARNG as one component of the overall vision for Idaho. This vision, including recent investments in infrastructure, public amenities, and other planning elements, has enabled Ada County to grow in a planned and measured way, absorbing the pressures of new development. BLM (including the SHPO), working closely with IDARNG, has assisted in the environmentally sensitive development of this Proposed Action to ensure environmental impacts are minimized.

No significant adverse cumulative impacts to the environment, induced by changes under the Proposed Action, are anticipated within the region. Close coordination between IDARNG, BLM, and the State of Idaho would serve to ameliorate any identified potential future land use conflicts. Implementation of land use and resource management plans would serve to control the extent of environmental impacts, and proper planning would ensure that future socioeconomic conditions maintain the quality of life that area residents currently enjoy. Implementation of effective environmental management plans and programs should minimize or eliminate any potential cumulative degradation of the natural ecosystem.

4.14.5 Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Unavoidable adverse effects resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action would include the continued use of fossil fuels—a nonrenewable natural resource—during training activities and consumption of small amounts of other energy supplies, and the generation of hazardous materials and waste during construction, demolition, and training activities. The use

of nonrenewable resources and generation of hazardous materials and wastes are unavoidable occurrences, but would not be considered significant.

4.14.6 Relationship between Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity

Short-term uses of the biophysical components of the human environment include direct, project-related disturbances and impacts associated with an increase of population and activity that occurs over a period of less than 5 years. Long-term uses of the human environment include those impacts occurring over a period of more than 5 years, including permanent resource loss.

The proposed facility development actions and optimized throughput of annual BCT training would not require short-term resource uses that would result in long-term compromises of productivity. The development actions would be consistent with the existing land uses on the installation, and, although the frequency and amount of training would increase, the types of trainings would not change. However, land acquisition as a result of the Proposed Action would result in a negligible loss of open space and accessible recreational and grazing land.

4.14.7 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments are related to the use of nonrenewable resources and the impacts that the use of these resources would have on future generations. Irreversible impacts primarily result from use or destruction of a specific resource that cannot be replaced within a reasonable timeframe (e.g., energy and minerals). Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources usually result from implementation of actions that involve the consumption of material resources used for construction, energy resources, biological resources from the loss of vegetation and habitat, and human labor resources. The use of these resources is considered to be permanent. Under the Proposed Action, most resource commitments are neither irreversible nor irretrievable. Most of the impacts would be short-term and minor or long-term and negligible.

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5. Comparison of Alternatives and Conclusions

5.1 Comparison of the Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives

Proposed Action Alternative. This EA evaluated the potential impacts on environmental resources that would be expected from implementation of Proposed Action Alternative (Preferred Alternative), which would address the ARNG's proposal to approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP (i.e., Component Action 1), implement proposed FY18 to FY22 RPMP projects to construct and operate modern infrastructure and facilities **on Gowen Field**, the Cantonment Area, and OCTC Range Complex (i.e., Component Action 2), and optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations **on the OCTC** to support the training of up to approximately 10,500 soldiers with associated equipment, (i.e., Component Action 3), as presented in **Sections 2.2.2, 2.2.3, and 2.2.4**, respectively. Army regulations, management plans, and environmental requirements implemented by the ARNG, IDARNG, and visiting units who would train **on the OCTC** would ensure activities are in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Proposed Action would include the use of numerous BMPs and the BLM's RDFs, as listed in **Section 4.13**, to avoid, minimize, or prevent significant impacts on environmental resources. Potential impacts associated with the implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative are described throughout **Sections 4.2 through 4.12** of this EA.

No Action Alternative. The EA also evaluated the potential impacts on environmental resources that would be expected from implementation of the No Action Alternative (presented in **Section 2.3.2.2**), which would involve a continuation of existing training conditions on the OCTC. While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action, this alternative was retained to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, as required under the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR § 1502.14). The No Action Alternative reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action were evaluated.

A comparison of environmental consequences of both evaluated alternatives is provided in **Table 5-1**.

Table 5-1. Comparison Matrix of Environmental Impacts of the Evaluated Alternatives

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Land Use	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the land use and development strategies specified in the Real Property Master Plan (RPMP). Having and implementing an RPMP would provide an organized, efficient, and thoughtful plan resulting in beneficial impacts on land use.</p> <p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts are expected from development of a large portion of land within the installations and some surrounding from undeveloped land.</p> <p>Long term, less than significant adverse impacts on land use may occur due to noise increases associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the OCTC land use and development strategies specified in the RPMP.</p> <p>Long-term, minor, adverse impacts are expected from further development of range facilities on the OCTC. Long term, minor, adverse impacts on land use may occur due to noise increases associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training.</p>	No change from existing conditions, but the benefits of having an organized and efficient plan would not be realized.
Air Quality	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts would result from approval of the RPMP.</p> <p>Short-term, less than significant adverse impacts are anticipated from the particulate (dust) and emissions from vehicle exhaust generated during construction and demolition activities. Long-term emissions from additional facility operations and increased emissions from vehicle exhaust generated from optimized throughput of brigade combat team (BCT) training activities would increase as a result of up to a 29 percent increase of troop training annually. However, these impacts would not exceed the U.S. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) or greenhouse gas (GHG) threshold levels.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts would result from approval of the RPMP for projects located on the OCTC.</p> <p>Short-term, minor adverse impacts are anticipated from the particulate (dust) and emissions from vehicle exhaust generated during construction and demolition activities of projects on the OCTC. Long-term emissions from additional facility operations and increased emissions from vehicle exhaust generated from optimized throughput of BCT training activities would increase as a result of up to a 29 percent increase of troop training annually on the OCTC. However, these impacts would not exceed the U.S. NAAQS or GHG threshold levels.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Noise	<p>Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from implementing best management practices (BMPs) and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to reduce noise levels. Short-term, less than significant adverse increases in noise from construction and demolition activities would be expected.</p> <p>Long-term, less than significant adverse increases in training-associated noise would occur as a result of up to a 29 percent increase in troop training annually. Although the type of noise would not change, its tempo would increase in proportion to the increased number of troops trained. However, no new noise sources would be introduced. Furthermore, affected resources (i.e. wildlife) already compensate (i.e. avoid or acclimate). Adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput.</p>	<p>Approval of the RPMP would result in long-term, minor adverse impacts from implementing BMPs and SOPs to reduce noise levels on the OCTC. Short-term, minor adverse increases in noise from construction and demolition activities on the OCTC would be expected.</p> <p>Long-term, minor adverse increases in training-associated noise would occur as a result of up to a 29 percent increase in troop training annually on the OCTC. Although the type of noise would not change, its tempo would increase in proportion to the increased number of troops trained. However, no new noise sources would be introduced. Furthermore, affected resources (i.e. wildlife) already compensate (i.e. avoid or acclimate). Adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Geology, Topography, and Soils	Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on geological resources from approval of the RPMP. Short-and long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on soils would be expected due to construction and demolition activities, which would disturb soils and create impervious surface areas, impacting surface erosion, fugitive dust, sedimentation, and soil productivity. The short term use of heavy equipment or vehicles for construction, long-term increase of up to 29 percent more troops associated use of vehicles, and munitions expenditures due to an increase in training operations would result in soil compaction, erosion, and fugitive dust. As reseeded would be implemented and these changes would be mostly temporary in nature, these impacts would be less than significant.	Long-term, minor adverse impacts on geological resources from approval of the RPMP for projects located on the OCTC. Short-and long-term, minor adverse impacts on soils would be expected due to construction and demolition activities, which would disturb soils and create impervious surface areas, impacting surface erosion, fugitive dust, sedimentation, and soil productivity. The short term use of heavy equipment or vehicles for construction, long-term increase of up to 29 percent more troops associated use of vehicles, and munitions expenditures due to an increase in training operations would result in soil compaction, erosion, and fugitive dust on portions of the OCTC. As reseeded would be implemented and these changes would be mostly temporary in nature, these impacts would be minor.	No change from existing conditions.

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	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Water Resources	Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on water resources from approval of the RPMP. Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on water resources would be expected. Construction of additional facilities and infrastructure would increase impervious surfaces, thereby, increasing the rate and volume of stormwater flow in the Region of Influence (ROI). Equipment use and maintenance associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential for groundwater contamination. However, these impacts would be less than significant through implementation of improved drainage systems and IDARNG BMPs and SOPs.	Long-term, minor adverse impacts on water resources from approval of the RPMP. Long-term, minor adverse impacts on water resources would be expected. Construction of additional facilities and infrastructure would increase impervious surfaces, thereby, increasing the rate and volume of stormwater flow in the ROI. Equipment use and maintenance associated with the up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential for groundwater contamination. However, these impacts would be less than significant through implementation of improved drainage systems, IDARNG BMPs and SOPs, and BLM's RDFs.	No change from existing conditions.

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Biological Resources	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on biological resources from approval of the RPMP. Increases in construction, vehicular and munitions noise that could deter wildlife, including raptors and other special status species, from using the area in the short- and long-term, would have less than significant adverse impacts.</p> <p>Less than significant adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput.</p> <p>Construction activities, and pedestrian and vehicular traffic could trample or crush native vegetation in affected areas, having less than significant adverse impacts. A net development of 118 acres would occur.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, less than significant adverse impacts would be expected from land development, which would remove native vegetation from undeveloped land and increase the risk of deterioration of Proposed Critical Habitat areas for special status flora, <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>, from construction activities and subsequent spread of nonnative species. 2 acres of LEPA Proposed Critical habitat would be developed.</p> <p>Construction and demolition activities and increased training activities could increase the potential for wildfires. However, implementation of the fire management program and adherence to following fire safety protocols would minimize potential impacts.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts on biological resources from approval of the RPMP. Increases in construction, vehicular and munitions noise that could deter wildlife, including raptors and other special status species, from using the area in the short- and long-term, would have minor adverse impacts.</p> <p>Minor adverse effects from the increased tempo of noise would be appreciably lower than 1:1 with respect to throughput. Construction activities, and pedestrian and vehicular traffic could trample or crush native vegetation in affected areas, having minor adverse impacts. 156 acres would be developed, and 156 acres would be restored elsewhere.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, minor adverse impacts would be expected from land development, which would remove native vegetation from undeveloped land and increase the risk of deterioration of Proposed Critical Habitat areas for special status flora, <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>, from construction activities and subsequent spread of nonnative species. 25.4 acres of LEPA habitat and 36.2 acres of potential LEPA pollinator habitat in the HIZ would be developed.</p> <p>Construction and demolition activities and increased training activities could increase the potential for wildfires. However, implementation of the fire management program and adherence to following fire safety protocols would minimize potential impacts.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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Cultural Resources	<p>Long-term, less than significant impacts on cultural resources from approval of the RPMP. No impact on known cultural resources that are eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area would be attributable to Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) activities.</p> <p>Archeological sites on the OCTC would be avoided under the Proposed Action and are protected from a distance per requirements an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan, which includes the installation of protective measures and regular monitoring at significant cultural resources.</p> <p>Indirect, less than significant adverse impacts on cultural resources could occur due to the increased potential risk of wildfire from an increase in munitions training associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training. These impacts would be minimized, as rapid firefighting response would occur from the adjacent Cantonment Area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor impacts on cultural resources from approval of the RPMP. Archeological sites on the OCTC would be avoided under the Proposed Action. Additionally, cultural resources at the OCTC are protected from disturbance per the requirements of an Enhanced Cultural Protection Plan, which includes the installation of protective measures and regular monitoring at significant cultural resources.</p> <p>Indirect, minor adverse impacts on cultural resources could occur due to the increased potential risk of wildfire from increase in munitions training associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training. These impacts would be minimized, as rapid firefighting response would occur from the adjacent Cantonment area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Socioeconomics	<p>Long-term, beneficial impacts on the socioeconomic resources from approval of the RPMP. Short- to long-term, beneficial impacts on the local economy and local employment levels from increased construction-related spending and payroll and additional IDARNG employment opportunities.</p> <p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts on the local economy may occur from loss of business due to improved and expanded facilities on Gowen Field and the Cantonment Area. Long-term, beneficial impacts are expected from modernization of facilities and infrastructure, creating a safer environment for IDARNG personnel.</p>	<p>Long-term, beneficial impacts on the socioeconomic resources from approval of the RPMP. Short- to long-term, beneficial impacts on the local economy and local employment levels from increased construction-related spending and payroll and additional IDARNG employment opportunities.</p> <p>Long-term, beneficial impacts are expected from modernization of facilities and infrastructure, creating a safer environment for IDARNG personnel.</p> <p>The increase in vehicular traffic, troop size, and munitions and maneuvers training associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential risk of wildfires. These impacts would be minimized as rapid firefighting response would occur from the Cantonment Area. In addition, firefighters would be staged at remote sites during certain training activities known to pose greater fire risk. Adverse impacts would be minor.</p>	No change from existing conditions.
Environmental Justice	<p>Long-term less than significant, adverse impacts on environmental justice from approval of the RPMP. If populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence exist in the vicinity of the installations, long-term, less than significant, adverse impacts may occur as temporary construction noise and recurring increased training noises may deter prey animals from entering the area available to hunters.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts on environmental justice from approval of the RPMP. If populations relying on fish and/or wildlife for subsistence exist in the vicinity of the installations, long-term, minor, adverse impacts may occur as temporary construction noise and recurring increased training noises may deter prey animals from entering the area available to hunters.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

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Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Infrastructure	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from approval and implementation of infrastructure siting and development strategies specified in the RPMP. Having and implementing an RPMP would provide an organized, efficient, and thoughtful plan resulting in beneficial impacts on infrastructure.</p> <p>The short-term increase in construction-related traffic and long-term increase in training-related traffic associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would cause long-term adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure.</p> <p>Short- and long-term less than significant adverse impacts due to temporary disruptions in utilities during construction and increased consumption of utilities and solid waste creation would be expected. Enough capacity exists or will exist to support these increases and overall utility infrastructure would be upgraded and expanded.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts from approval and implementation of infrastructure siting and development strategies specified in the RPMP.</p> <p>The short-term increase in construction-related traffic and long-term increase in training-related traffic associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would cause long-term minor adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, minor adverse impacts due to temporary disruptions in utilities during construction and increased consumption of utilities and solid waste creation would be expected. Enough capacity exists or will exist to support these increases and overall utility infrastructure would be upgraded and expanded.</p>	<p>No change from existing conditions, but the benefits of having an organized and efficient plan would not be realized.</p>

Resource	Alternatives		No Action
	Proposed Action on IDARNG Managed Lands	Proposed Action on BLM-Administered Lands	
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	<p>Long-term, less than significant adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the RPMP. Less than significant, short-term adverse impacts would occur due to temporary increases in the use of hazardous materials and petroleum products and generation of waste from construction and demolition-related activities requiring additional storage and disposal capacity and asbestos abatement.</p> <p>The increases in the number of vehicles, vehicle use and subsequent maintenance, and rail spur operation associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential risk of a hazardous spill, on a 1;1 ratio with increased throughput. The current spill rate is less than 20 incidents per year and clean-up response is one to two days. Any adverse impacts would be less than significant due to implementation of the installations' spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plans.</p>	<p>Long-term, minor adverse impacts from approval and implementation of the RPMP. Minor short-term adverse impacts would occur due to temporary increases in the use of hazardous materials and petroleum products and generation of waste from construction and demolition-related activities requiring additional storage and disposal capacity and asbestos abatement.</p> <p>The increases in the number of vehicles, vehicle use and subsequent maintenance associated with up to 29 percent increase in troop training would increase the potential risk of a hazardous spill, on a 1;1 ratio with increased throughput. The current spill rate is less than 20 incidents per year and clean-up response is one to two days. Any adverse impacts would be minor due to implementation of the installations' spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plans.</p>	No change from existing conditions.

5.2 Conclusions

The evaluations and analyses performed within this EA conclude that there would be no significant short- or long-term adverse impacts, either individually or cumulatively, to the local environment or quality of life as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action. No mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. Therefore, it is the conclusion of this EA that a FNSI is appropriate and that an EIS is not necessary for implementation of the Proposed Action.

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7. Glossary

Adverse Impact: An impact resulting from the Proposed Action which may degrade or harm an existing resource.

Air Quality: The degree to which the ambient air is pollution-free, assessed by measuring a number of indicators of pollution.

Armored BCT (ABCT): The ABCT is the Army's largest combined arms force comprised of seven battalions (approximately 4,000 troops) including: three combined arms, one reconnaissance (cavalry), one artillery, one engineering, and one brigade support battalion.

Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACMs): Any material containing more than 1 percent asbestos by weight.

Attainment: The air quality within an area is better than the NAAQS.

Battalion/Squadron: A battalion is commanded by a lieutenant colonel and usually includes three to five combat companies and one support company. It has between 400 and 1,000 personnel. Heavy battalions have 58 armored vehicles. Cavalry battalions are called squadrons.

Beneficial Impact: An impact resulting from the Proposed Action which may improve upon an existing resource.

Best Management Practice (BMP): A BMPs is a measure or practice determined to be an effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of avoiding or minimizing impacts on a resource.

Brigade Combat Team (BCT): A BCT is a large, modular unit comprised of multiple battalions with varied capabilities and expertise. Optimally, a BCT has between 4,400 and 4,800 troops, depending on whether it is an Armored, Stryker, or Infantry BCT. The actual number of troops and types of battalions within a BCT may vary based on training needs, resource limitations, troop numbers, and mission requirements.

Clean Air Act (CAA): This Act empowered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish standards for common pollutants that represent the maximum levels of background pollution that are considered safe, with an adequate margin of safety to protect public health and safety.

Class III Visual Resource Inventory Class: A visual resource inventory class defined by BLM, classifying an area as having moderate visual quality. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape such that any level of change should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer.

Class IV Visual Resource Inventory Class: A visual resource inventory class defined by BLM, denoting that an area has low visual quality. The objective of this class is to provide for

management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape such that the level of change can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements of the landscape.

Combined Arms Battalion (CAB): A CAB combines the efforts of its main battle tanks, Infantry fighting vehicles, and Infantry squads to execute tactical missions as part of an ABCT, or when augmenting another BCT. CABs are part of the Army's principal formation for conducting combined arms operations, capable of deploying worldwide and conducting unified land operations.

Company/Troop Battery: A company is commanded by a captain and includes two to five subordinate platoons (usually three or four). It has about 60 to 200 personnel. Heavy companies have 14 armored vehicles. Cavalry companies are called troops; artillery companies are called batteries.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): The CEQ is within the Executive Office of the President and is composed of three members appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Senate. Members are to be conscious of and responsive to the scientific, economic, social, esthetic, and cultural needs of the nation; and to formulate and recommend national policies to promote the improvement of environmental quality.

Critical Habitat: Specific geographic areas that contain features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species and that may require special management and protection.

Cultural Resource: Traditional and cultural resources are any pre-contact or historic district, site or building, structure, or object considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other purposes.

Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL): The average sound energy in a 24-hour period with a 10 decibel (dB) penalty added to the nighttime levels of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Decibel (dB): A unit used to express the intensity of a sound wave, equal to 20 times the common logarithm of the ratio of the pressure produced by the sound wave to a reference pressure, usually 0.0002 microbar.

De Minimis Threshold: The minimum threshold for which a conformity determination must be performed for various criteria pollutants in various areas.

Direct Impact: An impact resulting from the Proposed Action which would stem directly from project effects.

Element Occurrence: An area of land and/or water in which a species or natural community is, or was, present. An Element Occurrence should have practical conservation value for the

associated *Element* (i.e., the protected species) as evidenced by potential continued (or historical) presence and/or regular recurrence of that species at a given location.

Endangered Species: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 defined the term “endangered species” to mean any species (including any subspecies of fish or wildlife or plants, and any distinct population segment of any species or vertebrate fish or wildlife which interbreeds when mature) that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Environmental Justice: Pursuant to EO 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations, review must be made as to whether a federal program, policy, or action presents a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effect on minority and/or low-income populations.

Environmental Night: The period between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. when 10 dB is added to aircraft noise levels because of increased sensitivity to noise at night.

Equivalent Sound Level (L_{eq}): The average sound level in decibels of a given event or period of time.

Fiscal Year: U.S. government accounting year beginning October 1 through September 30.

Floodplain: An area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river, formed mainly of river sediments and subject to flooding.

Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS): Properties that were formerly owned by, leased to or otherwise possessed by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense prior to October 1986.

Greenhouse Gas: Gaseous emissions that trap heat in the atmosphere.

Groundwater Management Area (GWMA): An area of a groundwater basin that may be approaching CGWA conditions.

Habitat Integrity: The capacity of a place to support indigenous species with the resources necessary to complete their life cycles.

Habitat Integrity Zone (HIZ): An area that is regularly monitored to evaluate the integrity a species habitat.

Hazardous Material: Solids, liquids, or gases that can harm people, other living organisms, property, or the environment.

Hazardous Waste: Waste that poses substantial or potential threats to public health or the environment. In the United States, the treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste is regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Indirect Impact: An impact resulting from the Proposed Action which is removed in time and/or space and can be more challenging to predict or quantify.

Installation Restoration Program (IRP): A comprehensive program designed to address contamination from past activities and restore Army lands to useable conditions.

Lead-Based Paint (LBP): Paint containing a percentage of lead, a highly toxic metal that may cause a range of health problems.

Long-Term Impact: An impact that would occur over the operational life of the project, once initial construction is complete.

Low-income Population: The percent of a block group's population in households where the household income is less than or equal to twice the federal "poverty level". The Federal poverty threshold of 2016 for an individual under 65 years old was \$12,486 (USCB 2019).

Maintenance: An area was previously designated nonattainment but is now attainment.

Materiel: The equipment, apparatus, and supplies of a military force. This term can apply to weapons, vehicles, aircraft, parts, support equipment, ships, and almost any other type of equipment used by the military.

Maximum Sound Level (L_{max}): The maximum sound level in decibels.

Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP): A DoD program which addresses non-operational range lands with suspected or known hazards from munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) which occurred prior to September 2002, but are not already included with an Installation Response Program (IRP) site cleanup activity.

Minority Population: Members of the following population groups: Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and multi-race that includes one of the aforementioned races; and Hispanic or Latino.

Mobile Sources: Includes cars and light trucks, heavy trucks and buses, non-road engines, armored vehicles and tanks, mobilized equipment, and vehicles.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): NAAQS are established by the USEPA for criteria pollutants that represent the maximum levels of background pollution considered safe, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect public health and safety.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): The NEPA of 1969 directs federal agencies to take environmental factors into consideration in their decisions.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): The NHPA of 1966, as amended, established a program for the preservation of historic properties throughout the United States.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): The NRHP is the federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation.

Nonattainment: Criteria pollutant levels exceed NAAQS.

Ozone: A molecule consisting of 3 oxygen which is harmful to air quality outside of the ozone layer.

Peak Sound Level (dBP): The maximum instantaneous sound level that occurs during an acoustic event.

Platoon: A platoon is commanded by a second lieutenant and includes varying numbers of subordinate squads or sections. It has 16 to 50 personnel. Heavy platoons have four armored vehicles (such as tanks or infantry fighting vehicles, depending on the type of platoon).

PM_{2.5}: Inhalable particles, which are a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air, equal to or less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter.

PM₁₀: Inhalable particles, which are a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air, equal to or less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Man-made chemicals that persist in the environment and were widely used in building materials (e.g., caulk) and electrical products prior to 1979.

Prime farmland: Soils that have a combination of soil and landscape properties that make them highly suitable for cropland and, therefore, especially valuable for agriculture, such as high inherent fertility, good water-holding capacity, and deep or thick effective rooting zones.

Quantity-Distance (QD): An established safety radius for explosives determined by the effect requiring the greatest distance.

Radon: A naturally occurring odorless and colorless radioactive gas found in soils and rocks that can lead to the development of lung cancer.

Required Design Feature (RDF): A measure or procedure that would be implemented to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): The public law that creates the framework for the proper management of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste.

Scoping: A NEPA process of identifying the main issues of concern at an early stage in planning in order to discover any alternatives and aid in site selection.

Short-Term Impact: An impact associated with the initial implementation of an action, such as those which might result from the construction phase.

Soil associations and complex: Consist of two or more kinds of component soils or soils and miscellaneous areas plus allowable inclusions.

Soil series: The lowest category of the NRCS system of soil taxonomy.

Sound Exposure Level (SEL): A measure of the total energy of an acoustic event. It represents the level of a 1-second long constant sound that would generate the same energy as the actual time-varying noise event such as an aircraft overflight.

Special Use Airspace (SUA): Airspace within which specific activities must be confined, or wherein limitations are imposed on aircraft not participating in those activities.

Squad: A squad is commanded by a sergeant and has 4 to 12 personnel. A section is a group of vehicles, generally two in number.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): An SOP is an established or prescribed method to be followed routinely for the performance of designated operations or in designated situations.

Stryker BCT (SBCT): An SBCT has up to 4,500 troops and may be comprised of three infantry battalions, one reconnaissance (cavalry) squadron, one fires (artillery) battalion, one brigade support battalion, one brigade headquarters and headquarters company, one network support company, one military intelligence company, one engineer company, and one anti-tank company.

Surface Danger Zone (SDZ): That portion of the earth and the air above it in which personnel and/or equipment may be endangered by ground weapons firing or demolition activities. The SDZ is a mathematically defined area that encompasses the entire area located between the firing line and the anticipated impact area.

Threatened Species: A species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range.

Throughput: The number of individuals, crews, or units required to train is the throughput requirement. The number of individuals, crews, or units that can accomplish all required iterations of training on a given range during a single year is the annual throughput capacity of the range. When comparing the annual throughput requirement and capacity, if the throughput capacity exceeds the throughput requirement of a given range, there exists excess capacity. If the throughput requirement exceeds the throughput capacity, a need exists for additional training capability. [This definition came from the TC 25-8 glossary.]

Unexploded ordnance (UXO): Explosive weapons (bombs, bullets, shells, grenades, land mines, naval mines, etc.) that did not explode when they were employed and still pose a risk of detonation.

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS): Any aircraft operating or designed to operate autonomously or to be piloted remotely without a pilot on board.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS): (1) traditional navigable waters, (2) wetlands adjacent to navigable waters, (3) non-navigable tributaries of traditional navigable waters that are relatively permanent where the tributaries typically flow perennially or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months), and (4) wetlands that directly abut such tributaries.

Whole soil erodibility factor (K-factor): Indicates the erodibility of the soil from sheet and rill erosion, modified by the presence of rock fragments.

Wind erodibility group: Predicts the susceptibility to wind erosion, and range from 1 (high susceptibility) to 8 (low susceptibility).

Zone A: Areas with a 1 percent annual chance of flooding and a 26 percent chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas; no depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.

Zone X: Area of minimal flood hazard.

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United States Environmental Protection
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State

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Idaho Council on Indian Affairs

Idaho Department of Agriculture

Idaho Department of Commerce

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Idaho Department of Lands

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Idaho Transportation Department

Idaho Department of Water Resources

Idaho House of Representatives Resource
and Conservation Committee

Idaho Legislature Joint Economic Outlook
and Resource Assessment Committee

Idaho State Historical Society, State Historic
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Idaho State Senate Resources and
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State Representatives, Districts 22 and 23

State Senators, Districts 22 and 23

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Boise City Council

Elmore County Commission

Grand View City Council

Kuna City Council

Mayor, City of Boise

Mayor, City of Grand View

Mayor, City of Kuna

Mayor, City of Mountain Home

Mayor, City of Nampa

Mountain Home City Council

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Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

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Conservation Lands Foundation
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Gowen Strong
Idaho Cattle Association
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Grazing Board
Idaho Outdoor Association
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Intermountain Bird Observatory
Sierra Club, Middle Snake Group
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The Peregrine Fund
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Western Watersheds Project
Wildlands Defense
Wool Growers Association

Mountain Home News

Soulen Livestock Company

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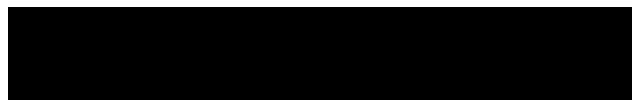
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A

Baseline and Projections
for ARNG Operations on
the OCTC



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABCT	Armored Brigade Combat Team
ACP	access control point
AD	Active Duty
ARFORGEN	Army Forces Generation
AYST	Available Year Sustainment Training
BLUFOR	Friendly Force
CALFEX	Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise
DA PAM	Department of Army Pamphlet
FM	Field Manual
HBCT	Heavy Brigade Combat Team
HMMWV	high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle
LAV	Light Armored Vehicle
MPRC	Multipurpose range complex
MPRC-H	Multipurpose Range Complex-Heavy Maneuvers
MPTR	Multipurpose Training Range
NG	National Guard
NTC	National Training Center
OPFOR	Opposing Force
SBCT	Stryker Brigade Combat Team
SRM	Sustained Readiness Model
TC	Training Circular
USMC	United States Marine Corps
XCTC	Exportable Combat Training Center

Description of ARNG Training on the OCTC

Background

In accordance with the Department of Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 350-58, *Standards in Weapons Training*, all Army Units (i.e., Active, Reserve, and National Guard [NG]) are required to maintain weapons proficiency, on an annual basis. Several other Gunnery manuals, including: Training Circular (TC) 3-04.45, *Combat Helicopter Gunnery* (for attack and utility helicopters), TC 3-20.21, Training and Qualification, Crew (Stryker Gunnery), and Field Manual (FM) 3-20.21, *Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) Gunnery* dictate the requirements for qualification by weapon, weapon platform and/or vehicle type. Specifically, these manuals provide the Gunnery Tables (I through XII) on which each crew must certify using high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV), M1A2 Main Battle Tank, M2A2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle and Stryker Variant vehicle systems. To be certified, each crew must certify as an individual (Gunnery Tables I and II), a crew (Gunnery Tables III through VI), a squad (Gunnery Tables VII through IX) and then a Platoon (Gunnery Tables X through XII).

Certification for Gunnery Tables I and II is typically completed at a crew's home station. Certifications for Tables III through VI are conducted on a multi-purpose training range (MPTR). Gunnery Tables VII through IX are conducted on either an MPTR or a multi-purpose range complex-heavy (MPRC-H; for heavy maneuvers). Gunnery Tables X through XII are conducted on an MPRC-H. Gunnery Table XII certification on all armored vehicles is an annual training requirement and also a pre-requisite training prior to conducting a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX). A CALFEX is the ultimate exercise which integrates an armored or Stryker company's main combat systems into a live fire engagement with supporting artillery and mortar fires. Typically, this exercise integrates all of the combat platforms that will be available to a maneuver commander during combat operations and allows them an opportunity to train in this type of environment prior to combat. During the CALFEX, units will engage targets with live ammunition or tank simulators while Artillery and Mortars are fired into the impact area in support of the CALFEX operation.

Baseline and Projected Conditions

Units Training on the OCTC

Training on the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) is available for resident and transient (i.e., non-IDARNG) units throughout the course of a year. On the OCTC, the Resident BCT (116th ABCT) will conduct its small arms qualification over the course of the year on drill weekends (usually one weekend for weapons qualification per BN). In addition, the units will conduct their Tank Table/Armored vehicle certification over the course of six months prior to their Annual Training. The Resident Aviation Battalion (1-183rd Aviation BN) will conduct its aircraft gunnery over the course of the year in accordance with DA PAM 350-38 and TC 3-04.45. Each aircraft has two M240-H Medium Machine Guns and crews must certify Gunnery Tables I through XII that must be certified on an annual basis. This is the only gunnery training that the 183rd Aviation BN is required to conduct in the OCTC. The helicopter pilots are allowed

to fly outside of the OCTC limits to practice their flying progression and their accrual of flight hours.

Most of operations conducted on the ranges is conducted by the Resident BCT Unit (i.e., 116th ABCT). Other Transient Units such as the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Tank and Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) Companies, and Active Duty (AD) Army and NG Stryker Brigade Cavalry Squadrons from Washington also train on the OCTC throughout the year (outside of the Summer Training Period: May through August) to meet gunnery qualifications, as needed in a given year. It is anticipated that training on the OCTC by any one unit would be conducted at a participation rate of 85 percent. It is rare for units to operate at 100 percent strength because troops may be unable to participate due to obligations to school, work, illness, or equipment supply or maintenance issues.

The 116th ABCT is comprised predominantly by young soldiers who are still attending school and have limited availability to participate in year-round training. To accommodate this while maintaining qualifications currency, soldiers can access the ranges to meet individual qualifications from September through April (typically weekend drills), so they are able to focus solely brigade-level training during the summer (June through August). Approximately 20 percent of the annual operating level occurs from September through April. Approximately 80 percent of the training activities on the OCTC are conducted during the Summer Training Period. Currently, only one BCT unit can train on the OCTC per year because the Cantonment Area lacks adequate billeting, infrastructure, educational facility capacities, materiel maintenance and storage areas, and adequate transportation infrastructure (e.g., roads and railhead) and because the OCTC ranges are not developed to the current Army standards to accommodate multiple brigade-level units at the same time.

OCTC Operations per the Army Training Model

This section describes the types of operations conducted on the OCTC according to the Army's Sustained Readiness Model (SRM) and Enhanced Training initiative for qualifications training prior to deployment for ARNG ABCTs and SBCTs.

During 2017, the Army transitioned its training strategy from the Army Forces Generation Model (ARFORGEN) to the Sustained Readiness Model (SRM). This change was implemented in order to shift the Total Army's readiness objectives toward decisive action operations to address current and emerging near peer conventional threats and away from counterinsurgency operations, of the past, in Iraq and Afghanistan. The transition to SRM resulted in an enhanced readiness initiative for ARNG Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT) and Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCT), reducing the duration for meeting required training objectives from 5 years (Armed Forces Generation) to four years. Infantry Brigade Combat Teams remain at a 5 year training cycle. The following describes the current ARNG 4 year enhanced training model for ARNG ABCTs and SBCTs.

During **Year 1** units focus on getting soldiers through their military occupational specialty course or required leadership courses and individual readiness (e.g., weapons qualifications and

physical fitness). Year 1 training is typically conducted at each unit's home station. The 116th ABCT will conduct Year 1 training at the OCTC.

Year 2 entails completion of an Exportable Combat Training Center (XCTC) Rotation (hereafter used interchangeably with "Annual Training"). The XCTC is a large scale training event which contains external support personnel as well as additional enablers. On the OCTC the Resident Unit (116th ABCT) will conduct Annual Training during the summer months and receive its evaluation on tactical capabilities as a crew, a squad and a platoon. Units are provided a tactical combat scenario by an outside contracting firm. Each unit develops its own internal BN-level order based on this combat scenario and issue the orders to their subordinate Companies. The Companies will issue these orders to their subordinate platoons who will travel to an assigned lane to begin the training under evaluation by an external observer-controller/trainer. Each lane has an opposing force (OPFOR) element which simulates an enemy force either attacking or being attacked by the friendly (or BLUFOR) element. Typically, a platoon will accomplish three training iterations (i.e., practice training, day-evaluated training, and night-evaluated training) of this exercise. More iterations may be required if units need additional practice runs before being evaluated.

Operations, under the Proposed Action, would involve the addition of two BCTs to the rotation of units training on the OCTC to complete their respective Annual Training requirements when the transient (i.e., non-IDARNG) BCTs (e.g., ABCT or Stryker BCT [SBCT]) come to the OCTC for annual training. Additional to the annual training, the Transient Units may also be required to separately complete Tank/Crew Table certifications (i.e., Gunnery qualifications training) during their XCTC period. For this additional training, two maneuver BNs will conduct weapons training on their assigned firing lanes while the Cavalry squadron and the last maneuver BN conduct Gunnery on the multi-purpose range complexes (MPRCs) and MPTRs. Once the lanes and Gunnery training requirements are completed, the units will transition into or out of the training yet to be completed.

Year 3 involves participation in an Active Component Combat Training Center Rotation at the National Training Center (NTC) in Fort Irwin, CA for all National Guard ABCT and SBCT units. Fort Irwin NTC is the only training center where BNs and Companies can be externally evaluated and certified on Company- and BN-level maneuvers training. To become certified, units must complete Tank/Crew Table training at their Home Station training locations prior to deploying to the Fort Irwin NTC. At the NTC, units certify on the Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) and Combined Artillery and Aviation Live Fire Integration. Once completed, the ABCT/SBCTs transition to a simulated combat environment known as "the box" where they conduct attack and defense training against a BN-level OPFOR during day and night mission training operations. Upon successful completion of this training, Brigades are certified on their preparedness for combat operations.

Year 4 is the Available Year for mobilization and deployment. A Brigade might have half or more of its units deployed in support of peace-keeping or combat operations around the globe. The soldiers that are not deployed will conduct an Available Year Sustainment Training (AYST) consisting of Tank/Crew Table Certification Tables I through XII and CALFEX. Typically, a unit

would arrive at OCTC requiring up to 50 percent of crews to be trained because of expiring enlistments, crew position changes (e.g., promotions or transfers) or equipment maintenance issues. Tank Table Certification is a requirement for each Company prior to conducting a CALFEX. For these activities, the CALFEX will have a maneuver company conducting mixed live and blank fires while maneuvering with Mortars and Field Artillery firing at targets in the Impact area simulating deep fires against enemy marshalling, logistics, or headquarters areas. Although not required for successful completion of training objectives, rotary-wing (helicopter) assets may be integrated into planned exercises to gain additional training on air-to-ground attacks. Integration of air assets occurs only as a value-added training element.

Analysis in the EA

Analysis of operations and munitions expenditures in this EA is based upon the most current real-training examples of the various operations conducted by one BCT unit operating on the OCTC during one calendar year as the baseline. Using this baseline, projections were calculated to reflect the operational requirements for up to 10,500 troops (the equivalent of three BCT units operating at 85 percent strength) training on the OCTC per calendar year. Projected data conservatively assumes that one of the additional units is an SBCT to enable consideration of SBCT-associated weapons firing and munitions expenditures.

Table A-1 is a table key that summarizes the baseline and conservative operational assumptions for projected expenditures presented in **Tables A2** through **A-14**. Projected totals for range use and munitions expenditures factor the assumed 85 percent training occupancy (or participating strength) by any one BCT unit operating on the OCTC during a given training year.

Table A-1. Summarized Table Key for Baseline and Projected Operations on the OCTC

Table	Operational Data	Baseline	Projected
A-2	OCTC Operational Matrix, Weapons Qualification per Range	Identifies the current status for range usage by type of weapons qualification training conducted on the OCTC.	Operations would alternate between Range 1 and the newly established Range 36, as needed. Maneuvers would be conducted on Charlie and Delta Training Areas.
A-3	Vehicle Gunnery Qualifications	Includes 2017 munitions expenditures by the Resident ABCT and other small Transient Units who routinely train on the OCTC (i.e., two USMC LAV Companies, one USMC Tank Company, one Active Duty Stryker Squadron, and one National Guard Stryker Squadron).	Conservatively assumes baseline conditions plus vehicle gunnery qualifications for one additional transient ABCT unit and one additional transient SBCT unit conducting XCTC (Annual Training) at SRM Year 2 . If this training scenario occurs in a given year, AYST training would not be conducted on the OCTC during that year.
A-4	Small Arms Gunnery Qualifications	Resident ABCT	Not projected to change with the Proposed Action.
A-5	Mortar Firing Qualifications		
A-6	Brigade Engineer Battalion Engineer Qualifications Tables		
A-7	Artillery Firing Tables		
A-8	Aviation Gunnery Qualifications	Resident Wing Unit	Not projected to change with the Proposed Action.
A-9	XCTC (Annual Training) BLUFOR	Resident ABCT	Assumes baseline munitions expenditures plus expenditures for up to two additional BCTs at SRM Year 2 . Conservatively assumes additional BCTs would include 1 ABCT and 1 SBCT to enable consideration of SBCT-associated munitions.
A-10	XCTC (Annual Training) OPFOR		
A-11	AYST Vehicle Gunnery Tables I through XII	Resident ABCT	Assumes baseline munitions expenditures plus expenditures for up to two additional BCTs at SRM Year 4 . Conservatively assumes the two additional BCTs would include 1 ABCT and 1 SBCT to enable consideration of SBCT-associated weapons firing and munitions expenditures. If this training scenario occurs in a given year, it is assumed that XCTC (Annual Training) would not be conducted on the OCTC during that year.
A-12	AYST CALFEX Vehicle Gunnery		
A-13	AYST CALFEX Artillery Firing		
A-14	AYST CALFEX Mortar Firing		
A-15	AYST CALFEX Small Arms Firing	Transient SBCT	

Table A-2. OCTC Operational Matrix: Weapons Qualifications per Range

Range Type	HS	1	3	5	6	10	11	13	14	15	16	18	22	26	28	29	30	A8	C3	C4
		MPRC-H	FARP	MPTR	MPTR	DAGIR	EN Breach	CPQC	ARF	MPMG	GL	Sniper	EN	MPTR	Direct Fire	Grenade	MTRs	Maneuver	Maneuver	Maneuver
OPERATIONS:																				
Tank/Bradley Tables I-II	X																			
Tank/Bradley Tables III-VI		X		X	X	X								X						
Tank/Bradley Tables VII-IX		X		X	X	X								X						
Tank/Bradley Tables IX-XII		X				X														
Stryker Tables I-II	X																			
Stryker Tables III-VI		X		X	X	X								X						
Stryker Tables VII-IX		X		X	X	X								X						
Stryker Tables IX-XII		X				X														
Mortar Tables/ Training																	X			
Artillery Tables															X		X		X	X
HIMARS/ MLRS																			X	X
Declination Stations																		X		
M4 Carbine									X											
M9 Pistol								X												
Shotgun									X											
M249 LMG										X										
M240B MMG										X										
M2 HMG										X										
Javelin															X					
AT-4															X					

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Range Type	HS	1	3	5	6	10	11	13	14	15	16	18	22	26	28	29	30	A8	C3	C4
		MPRC-H	FARP	MPTR	MPTR	DAGIR	EN Breach	CPQC	ARF	MPMG	GL	Sniper	EN	MPTR	Direct Fire	Grenade	MTRs	Maneuver	Maneuver	Maneuver
LAW															X					
Shaping Charges													X							
Cratering Charges													X							
MICLIC													X							
Bangalore Torpedoes													X							
M203/320 GL											X									
Mk19 Machine Gun										X										
Hand Grenades-thrown																X				
Helicopter Gunnery M240H		X	X			X														

Munitions Expenditures per Training Qualification on the OCTC

Vehicle Gunnery Qualifications Tables

Table A-3. Baseline and Projected Annual Munitions Expenditures Associated with Vehicle Gunnery Tables I through XII Qualifications on the OCTC

BASELINE	Training Units	Vehicle Data		Munitions														
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year														
		Vehicle Type	Total Vehicles	Round Type	7.62 mm	Caliber .50	40 mm	25 mm AP	25 mm HE	TOW	105 m m AP	105 m m HE	105 mm HEP	105 mm CAN	120 mm AP	120 mm HE	120 mm CAN	BES *
	ONE ABCT Unit	HMMWV	5	Blank		1,785												536
				Live		7,395	1,265											
		IFVs	100+	Blank	42,500					213								10,731
				Live	228,438			33,150	22,950	213								
		Main Battle Tanks	70+	Blank	22,165	7,395												5,842
				Live	173,995	54,528								2,884	2,593	148		
	THREE USMC Companies	M1A1 Tanks	10+	Blank	26,775	8,925												940
Live				26,180	7,735								1,702	381	25			
LAV Variants		30+	Blank	12,240					14								3,016	
			Live	90,610			7,426	5,141	14									
TWO Stryker Squadrons	Stryker Variants	120+	Blank	7,140	44,540	17,707			918								8,140	
			Live	60,333	181,696					530	755	265	82					
TOTALS		335+	Blank	110,820	62,645				227								21,065	
			Live	579,556	251,354	1,265	38,291	28,091	227	530	755	265	82	4,586	2,974	173		

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PROJECTED	Training Unit	Vehicle Data		Munitions															
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year															
		Vehicle Type	Total Vehicles	Round Type	7.62 mm	Caliber .50	40 mm	25 mm AP	25 mm HE	TOW	105 mm AP	105 mm HE	105 mm HEP	105 mm CAN	120 mm AP	120 mm HE	120 mm CAN	BES*	
TWO ABCT Units	HMMWV	5	Blank		3,570													1,072	
			Live		14,790	2,530													
	IFVs	100+	Blank	85,000					426									21,462	
			Live	456,876			66,300	45,900	426										
	Main Battle Tanks	70+	Blank	44,330	14,790														11,684
			Live	347,990	109,056										5,768	5,186	296		
ONE SBCT Unit	Stryker Variants	250+	Blank	12,600		78,200			540									19,068	
			Live	161,445		434,845				47,712	312	456	168	36					
THREE USMC Companies	M1A1 Tanks	10+	Blank	26,775	8,925													940	
			Live	26,180	7,735										1,702	381	25		
	LAV Variants	30+	Blank	12,240					14									3,016	
			Live	90,610			7,426	5,141	14										
TWO Stryker Squadrons	Stryker Variants	120+	Blank	7,140	44,540	17,707			918									8,140	
			Live	60,333	181,696						530	755	265	82					
Totals		335+	Blank	1,331,519.00	385,102	533,282	73,726	51,041	2,338	48,242	1,067	721	250	7,506	5,567	321	65,382		
			Live	2,663,038.00	766,634	1,066,564	147,452	102,082	4,676	96,484	2134	1442	500	15,012	11,134	642	129,692		

Source: Qualification Requirements from DA PAM 350-58; Expenditures data from Godfrey 2019

Table Key: HMMWV – high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle; IFV – infantry fighting vehicle; mm – millimeter; HE – high explosive; AP – armor-piercing; TOW - Tube Launched Optically Wire-Guided Missile (Anti-Tank); CAN – Canister Round (Anti-Personnel); BES – Battlefield Effects Simulator, USMC – U.S. Marine Corps; LAV – Light Armored Vehicle; ABCT – Armor Brigade Combat Team, SBCT – Stryker Brigade Combat Team

Table Notes: (*) Simulation ammunition; Baseline totals reflect 2017 munitions expenditures by the Resident 116th ABCT, two USMC LAV Companies, one USMC Tank Company, one Active Duty Stryker Squadron, and one National Guard Stryker Squadron. Projected totals conservatively assume baseline conditions plus vehicle gunnery qualifications at Year 2 training for one additional transient ABCT unit and one additional transient SBCT unit.

Small Arms Qualifications

Table A-4. Annual Baseline Munitions Expenditures for Small Arms Qualifications on the OCTC for the Resident Unit (116th ABCT)

Firearm (Type of Round Fired)	Number of Weapons Fired/Year	Number of Rounds Fired/Year
M16/M4 Carbine (5.56 mm Ball)	2928	316,251
M9 Combat Pistol (9 mm Ball)	741	13,338
M2 (.50 Caliber HMG)	223	124,434
M240B Qualification (7.62 mm, MMG) *	692	423,504
M249 Qualification (5.56 mm, LMG) *	240	146,880
Shotgun (Buckshot A011)	131	1703
M110 Sniper Rifle (7.62 mm M118, LR Ball)	7	1,379
M107 Sniper Rifle (.50 Caliber M1022, A531)	6	984
MK019 (MGM, 40 mm, BA30 Practice)	60	14,880
AT4 (A358 Tracer)	19	40
M203/M320 Grenade Launcher (40 mm, BA30 Practice)	3,037	63,777
Fragmentation Grenades (M67, M228 Practice)	3,564	28,512
Fragmentation Grenades (M67, Live)	3,564	3,564
Totals	15,212	1,139,246

Source: DA PAM 350-38

Table Note: (*) Iron sight qualification only.

Mortar, Artillery, and Engineering Tables

Table A-5. Annual Baseline Munitions Expenditures for Mortar Firing Qualifications for the Resident Unit (116th ABCT)

Mortar FRTR (M120, 120mm) Firing Qualifications		
Munition	Total Number Weapons Fired per year	
	30	
	Total Number of Rounds Fired per Year	
	BLANK	LIVE
Full range Practice M931 CA09	2,280	
IR Illum XM930 C625		270
WP M929 CA03		600
WP M722A1 CA09		270
ILLUM CA07		540
Totals	2,280	1,680

Source: DA PAM 350-38

Table A-6. Annual Baseline Munitions Expenditures for Brigade Engineer Battalion, Engineer Qualification Tables for the Resident Unit (116th ABCT)

BEB Engineer Qualification Tables (M1A2E0)		
Munition	Number of Charges Fired	
	BLANK	LIVE
Bangalore M1A2E1		7
Cratering 40LB		45
C4 BLK 1-1		1,587
MICLIC MK22-4 F	4	1
Totals	4	1,639

Source: DA PAM 350-38

Table Key: BEB – Brigade Engineer Battalion.

Table A-7. Annual Baseline Artillery Firing Tables for the Resident Unit (116th ABCT)

155 mm Howitzer Qualifications		
Munition	Type of Round	Number of Weapons Fired
		15
		Total Expenditures
TNG HE XM1122 DA51	Live	1344
ILLUM M485A2 D505	Live	97
WP SMK M825 D528	Live	53
HC SMK M110 D550	Live	66
IR ILLUM DA49	Live	40
HE RAP M549 D579	Live	12
HE M795 D529	Live	2
TOTALS		1,614

Table Notes: Totals represent rounds fired to meet qualifications for Tables VI, VI DF, XII, XV, XV-SM*, EXEVAL, CALFEX/LFX, XVIII, and EXEVAL.

Aviation Gunnery

Table A-8. Baseline Annual Munitions Expenditures Associated the Aviation Gunnery Tables Qualifications for the Resident Unit (116th ABCT)

Utility Helicopter M240H Machine Gun Gunnery			
Table	Firing from 20+ UH-60 Helicopters		
	7.62mm A143 Ball	7.62mm A131 Mix	7.62mm A111 Blank
I	5000		
II			5000
III		6250	
IV		6250	
V		12500	
VI		12500	
VII		0	2500
VIII		5000	
IX		5000	
X			2500
XI		5000	
XII		5000	
TOTALS	5000	57,500	10,000

Source: TC 3-04.45, JAN 14

Table Note: Aviation gunnery expenditures are assumed to be associated with Resident Unit training on the OCTC. The numbers of aircraft and expended munitions are not anticipated to increase as a result of the proposed optimized throughput of BCT training on the OCTC.

XCTC (Annual Training)

Table A-9. Baseline and Projected Annual BLUFOR Munitions Expenditures Associated with XCTC

BASELINE	BLUFOR UNIT	Vehicle Data		Munitions								
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year								
		Vehicle Type	Total Vehicles	Round Type	5.56 mm	5.56 mm SAW	7.62 mm	Caliber .05	MICLIC	TOW	12 mm AP	105 mm HE
	ONE ABCT	HMMWV	5+	Blank				10,479				
				Live								
		IFVs	100+	Blank			42,268			1,062		
				Live								
		Main Battle Tanks	70+	Blank			21,774	20,341			1,300	
				Live								
		Totals	175+	Blank	81,000	33,400	64,042	30,820	6	1,062	1,300	
				Live								

PROJECTED	BLUFOR UNIT	Vehicle Data		Munitions								
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year								
		Vehicle Type	Total Vehicles	Round Type	5.56 mm	5.56 mm SAW	7.62 mm	Caliber .05	MICLIC	TOW	12 mm AP	105 mm HE
	TWO ABCT Units	HMMWV	10+	Blank				20,958				
				Live								
		IFVs	200+	Blank			84,536			2,124		
				Live								
		Main Battle Tanks	140+	Blank			43,548	40,682			2,600	
				Live								
	ONE SBCT Unit	MTD MG	50+	Blank			51,767	29,945				
				Live								
		ATMG	70+	Blank			1,803	322				
				Live								
		MGS	100+	Blank			10,472	553		1,062		1,300
				Live								
		Totals	175+	Blank	243,000	100,200	192,126	92,460		3,186	2,600	1,300
				Live								

Source: DA PAM 350-58

Table Key: HMMWV – high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle; IFV – infantry fighting vehicle; MTD MG – Mounted Machine Gun vehicle; ATMG – Anti-tank Guided Missile System vehicle; MGS – Mobile Gun Systems vehicle; mm – millimeter; HE – high explosive; AP – armor-piercing; TOW - Tube Launched Optically Wire-Guided Missile (Anti-Tank); CAN – Canister Round (Anti-Personnel); BES – Battlefield Effects Simulator; BLUFOR – Friendly Force Unit being trained).

Table Notes: Baseline data reflect munitions expended by the Resident ABCT during 2017. Projected data reflect munitions expended by two ABCT units and one SBCT units. (*) All rounds fired during the Exportable Combat Training Center (XCTC) rotation are simulation or blank rounds. The purpose of the exercise is for military vehicles and crews to maneuver tactically while being aggressed by a simulated enemy force (another National Guard or Active Duty unit brought on site to simulate the enemy).

Table A-10. Annual Baseline and Projected OPFOR Munitions Expenditures Associated with the 2017 Resident Unit (116 ABCT) XCTC

BASELINE	OPFOR Unit	Vehicle Data		Munitions										
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year										
		Vehicle Type	Total Vehicles	Round Type	5.56 mm	5.56 mm SAW	7.62 mm	Caliber .05	MICLIC	TOW	12 mm AP	120 mm HE	120 mm CAN	BES
	ONE ABCT	IFVs	10+	Blank			33,617	38,820		1,562	2,100			
				Live										
		Main Battle Tanks	5+	Blank			50,425							
				Live										
TOTALS		15+	Blank	95,000	70,400	84,042	38,820		1,562	2,100				
			Live											

PROJECTED	OPFOR Unit	Vehicle Data		Munitions										
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year										
		Vehicle Type	Total Vehicle s	Round Type	5.56 mm	5.56 mm SAW	7.62 mm	Caliber .05	MICLIC	TOW	12 mm AP	120 mm HE	120 mm CAN	BES
	TWO ABCT Units	HMMWV	20+	Blank			67,234	77,640						
				Live										
		IFVs	10+	Blank			100,850							
				Live										
		Main Battle Tanks		Blank										
				Live										
	ONE SBCT Unit	IFVs	10+	Blank			33,617	38,820		1,562	2,100			
Live														
Main Battle Tanks		5+	Blank			50,425								
			Live											
TOTALS		45+	Blank	285,000	211,200	252,126	116,460		1,562	2,100				
			Live											

Source: DA PAM 350-58

Table Key: HMMWV – high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle; IFV – infantry fighting vehicle; mm – millimeter; HE – high explosive; AP – armor-piercing; TOW - Tube Launched Optically Wire-Guided Missile (Anti-Tank); CAN – Canister Round (Anti-Personnel); BES – Battlefield Effects Simulator; BLUFOR – Friendly Force Unit being trained)

Table Notes: (*) All rounds fired for an XCTC are blanks or simulation rounds.

Available Year Sustainment Training (AYST)

Table A-11. Annual Baseline and Projected Munitions Expenditures Associated with AYST Vehicle Gunnery Tables I through XII

BASELINE	Training Unit	Vehicle Data		Munitions												
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year												
	Vehicle Type	Total Vehicles	Round Type	7.62 mm	Caliber 05	40 mm	TOW	105 mm AP	105 mm HE	105 mm HEP	105 mm CAN	120 mm AP	120 mm HE	120 mm CAN	BES *	
	ONE ABCT	HMMWV	5	Blank		4,552										
Live					7,395	1,265										
IFVs		100+	Blank	42, 268			213									10,731
			Live	228,438			213									
Main Battle Tanks		70+	Blank	22,185	7,395											5,842
			Live	173,995	54,528							2,884	2,593	148		
Totals		175+	Blank	64,685	11,947		213									17,109
			Live	402,433	61,923	1,265	213						2,884	2,593	148	

PROJECTED	Training Unit	Vehicle Data		Munitions												
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year												
	Vehicle Type	Total Vehicles	Round Type	7.62 mm	Caliber 05	40 mm	TOW	105 mm AP	105 mm HE	105 mm HEP	105 mm CAN	120 mm AP	120 mm HE	120 mm CAN	BES *	
	TWO ABCT Units	HMMWV	15	Blank		9,104										
Live					14,790	2,530										
IFVs		300+	Blank	84,536			426									21,462
			Live	456,876			426									
Main Battle Tanks		210+	Blank	44,370	14,790											11,684
			Live	347,990	109,056							5,768	5,186	296		
ONE SBCT Unit	MTD MG	250+	Blank	9,000	77,000											17,580
			Live	130,500	422,500	46,128										
	MGS		Blank	3,600	1,200											948
			Live	26,400	7,800			312	456	168	36					
	ATGM		Blank				540									540
			Live	4,545	4,545	1,584										
TOTALS		775+	Blank	141,970	102,094	50,042	966									53,286
			Live	1,095,681	558,691		426	312	456	168	36	5,768	5,186	296		

Source: DA PAM 350-58

Table Key: HMMWV – high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle; IFV – infantry fighting vehicle; mm – millimeter; HE – high explosive; AP – armor-piercing; TOW - Tube Launched Optically Wire-Guided Missile (Anti-Tank); CAN – Canister Round (Anti-Personnel); BES – Battlefield Effects Simulator; BLUFOR – Friendly Force Unit being trained)

Table Notes: (*) All rounds fired during the Exportable Combat Training Center (XCTC) rotation are simulation or blank rounds. The purpose of the exercise is for military vehicles and crews to maneuver tactically while being aggressed by a simulated enemy force (another National Guard or Active Duty unit brought on site to simulate the enemy). Baseline training assumes Resident BCT expenditures. Projected totals assume the baseline training conditions plus two transient BCT units expending munitions on the OCTC per year at 85 percent occupancy. Totals rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table A-12. Annual Baseline and Projected Munitions Expenditures Associated with AYST CALFEX Vehicle Gunnery

BASELINE	Training Unit	Vehicle Data		Munitions *													
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year													
	Vehicle Type	Total Vehicles	Round Type	7.62 mm	Caliber 05	40 mm	TOW	105 mm AP	105 mm HE	105 mm HEP	105 mm CAN	12 mm AP	120 mm HE	120 mm CAN	120 mm AP	120 mm HE	
	ONE ABCT Unit	IFVs	10+	Blank				106									
				Live	21,250								2,550	2,550			
		Main Battle Tanks	5+	Blank													1,479
Live				14,790	14,790												
TOTALS		15+	Blank														
			Live	36,040	14,790		105						2,550	2,550			1,479

PROJECTED	Training Units	Vehicle Data		Munitions *													
				Total Number Rounds Fired per Year													
		Vehicle Type	Total Vehicles	Round Type	7.62 mm	Caliber 05	40 mm	TOW	105 mm AP	105 mm HE	105 mm HEP	105 mm CAN	12 mm AP	120 mm HE	120 mm CAN	120 mm AP	120 mm HE
	TWO ABCT Units	IFVs	20+	Blank				212									
				Live	42,500								5,100	5,100			
		Main Battle Tanks	10+	Blank												2,958	
				Live	29,584	29,580											
	ONE SBCT Unit	MTD MG	250+	Blank			3,794										
				Live	4,590	33,915											
		MGS		Blank	2,040	1,020											
				Live						31							
		ATMG		Blank				77									
				Live	1,530												
	TOTALS		280+	Blank	2,040	1,020	3,794	289								2,958	
				Live	78,204	63,495				31				5,100	5,100		

Source: DA PAM 350-58

Table Key: HMMWV – high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle; IFV – infantry fighting vehicle; mm – millimeter; HE – high explosive; AP – armor-piercing; TOW - Tube Launched Optically Wire-Guided Missile (Anti-Tank); CAN – Canister Round (Anti-Personnel); BES – Battlefield Effects Simulator; BLUFOR – Friendly Force Unit being trained)

Table Notes: (*) All rounds fired for an XCTC are blanks or simulation rounds. Projected totals assume baseline training conditions plus two transient BCT units on the OCTC per year. Projected training assumes 85 percent range occupancy. Projected totals rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table A-13. Annual Baseline and Projected Munitions Expenditures for CALFEX Artillery Firing

AYST CALFEX Artillery Firing				
Munition	BASELINE		PROJECTED	
	Total Number of Rounds Fired per Year			
	BLANK	LIVE	BLANK	LIVE
TNG XM1122 (DA51) *	86		172	
ILLUM M485A2 (D505)		9		156
WP SMK M215 (D525)				
HC SMK M110 (D550)		5		87
IR ILLUM (DA49)		5		56
HE RAP M549 (D579)				
HE M795 (D529)				
HE (D571)				979
Totals	86	19	172	1,278

Source: DA PAM 350-38

Table Note: Projected totals assume baseline plus artillery firing requirements for transient ABCT and SBCT units at 85 percent training occupancy on the OCTC per year. Totals are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table A-14. Annual Baseline and Projected Munitions Expenditures for AYST CALFEX Mortar Firing

AYST CALFEX Mortar Firing				
Munition	BASELINE		PROJECTED	
	Total Number of Rounds Fired per Year			
	BLANK	LIVE	BLANK	LIVE
HE M934 (CA04)		16		32
HE M933A1 (CA44)				551
IR Illum XM930 (C625)		5		285
WP M929 (CA03)		7		320
WP M722A1 (CA09)		20		836
ILLUM (CA07)		3		281
Totals	0	51	0	2,305

Source: DA PAM 350-38

Table Note: Projected totals assume baseline plus artillery firing requirements for an additional ABCT and an additional SBCT at 85 percent training occupancy on the OCTC per year. Totals are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table A-15. Projected Munitions Expenditures for CALFEX Small Arms Qualifications for a Transient SBCT Unit

Firearm (Type of Round Fired)	Projected Number of Rounds Fired/Year	
	Blank	Live
M16/M4 Carbine (5.56 mm Ball)		271,278
M249 Qualification (5.56 mm, LMG) *		33,660
M110 Sniper Rifle (7.62 mm M118, LR Ball)		56,534
M107 Sniper Rifle (.50 Caliber M1022, A531)		94
M320 GL (40 mm)	2,683	
Totals	2,683	361,566

Source: DA PAM 350-38

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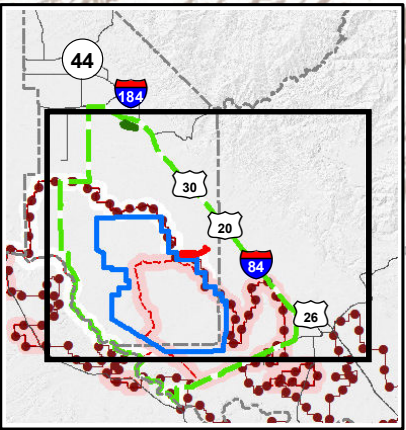
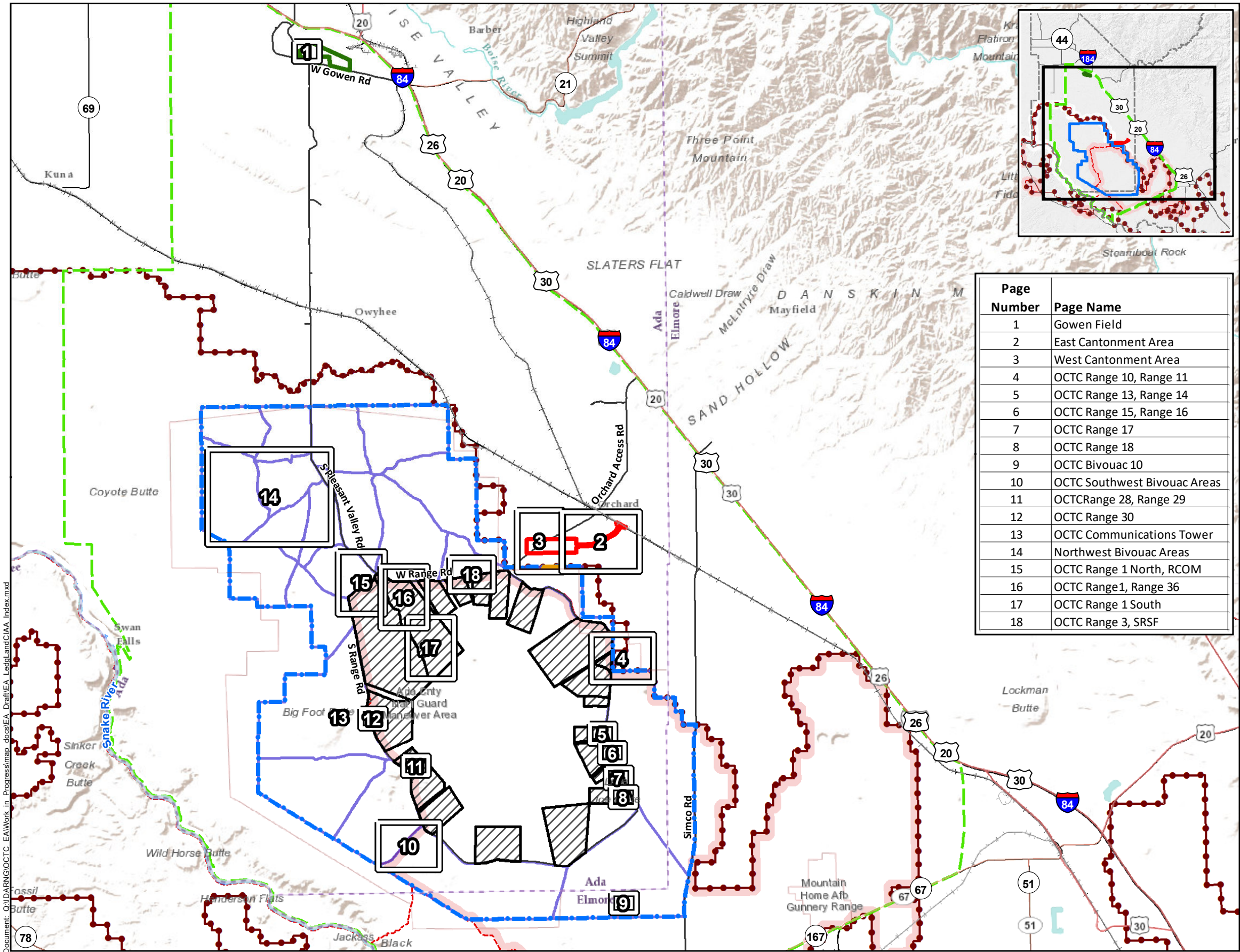
Comprehensive RPMP
Mapbook (FY18-FY22)



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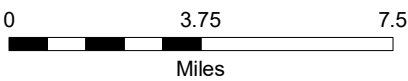
Comprehensive Mapbook of the Proposed FY18 through FY22 RPMP Projects

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- Legend**
- Project Detail Map
 - Development District**
 - Ranges
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 - Environmental Features**
 - Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area
 - Birds of Prey Management Area 1
 - Birds of Prey Management Area 3
 - Cumulative Impact Analysis Area
 - Project Features**
 - Existing Cantonment Area Boundary
 - Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Boundary
 - Gowen Field



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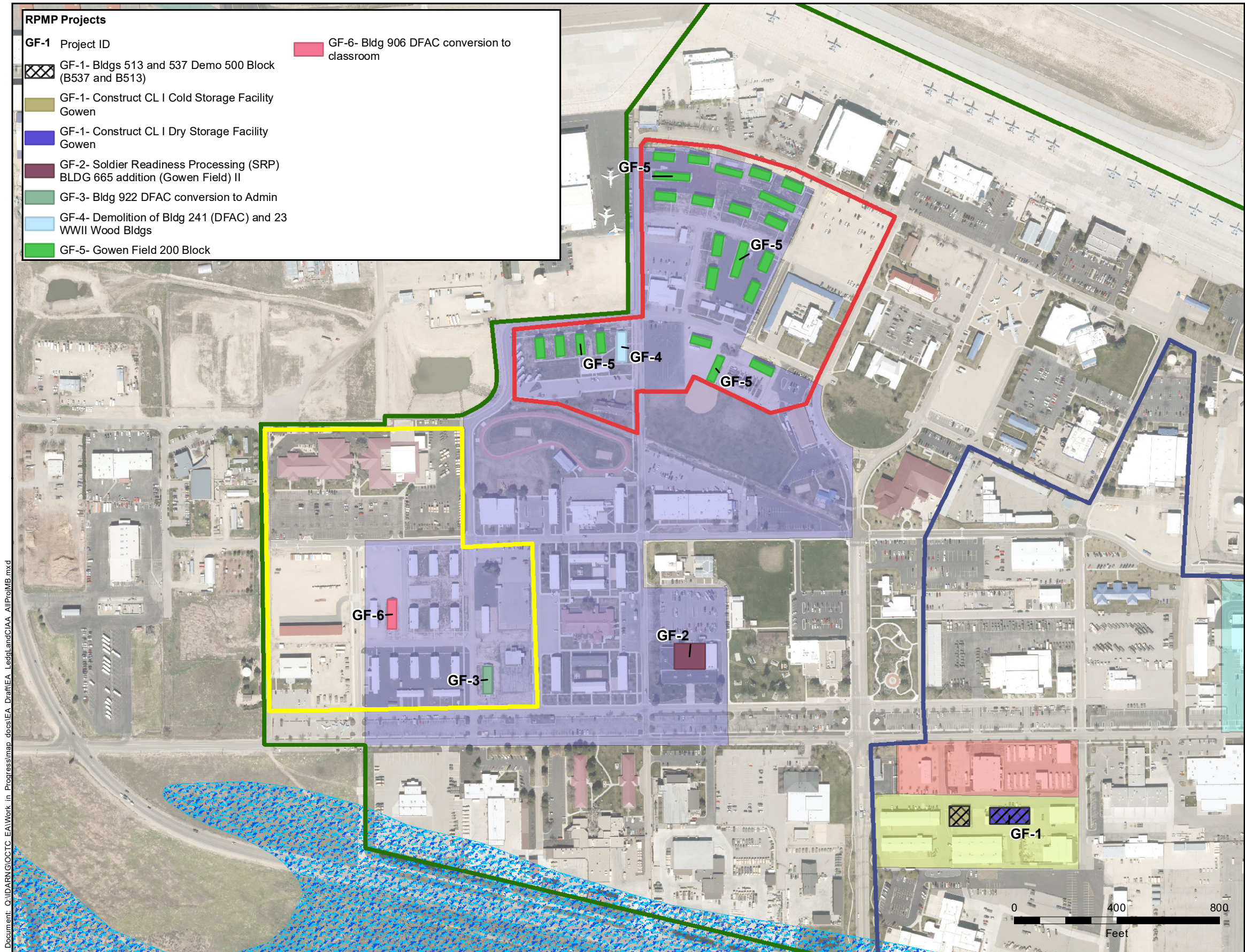
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Sources: Esri, Garmin, USGS, NPS
Other Data Sources: IDARNG; Ada County; Bureau of Land Management; US Census Bureau; USGS

Map Date: 10/25/2019

EA Projects Detail Map Index
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

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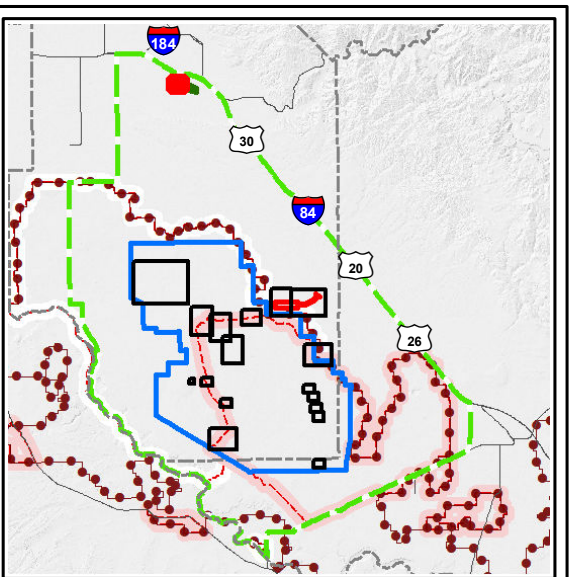
Document: C:\IDARNG\OCTC EA\Work in Progress\map docs\IEA Draft\IEA LedgeLandCIAA AllProMB.mxd



RPMP Projects

GF-1 Project ID

- GF-1- Bldgs 513 and 537 Demo 500 Block (B537 and B513)
- GF-1- Construct CL I Cold Storage Facility Gowen
- GF-1- Construct CL I Dry Storage Facility Gowen
- GF-2- Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) BLDG 665 addition (Gowen Field) II
- GF-3- Bldg 922 DFAC conversion to Admin
- GF-4- Demolition of Bldg 241 (DFAC) and 23 WWII Wood Bldgs
- GF-5- Gowen Field 200 Block
- GF-6- Bldg 906 DFAC conversion to classroom



Legend

Development District

- Aviation
- Life Support Area
- Logistics
- Simulation

Environmental Features

- FEMA Flood Hazard Zone A (100 Year Floodplain)
- Cumulative Impact Analysis Area

Gowen Field Features

- 200 Block
- 500 Block
- 900 Block
- Gowen Field



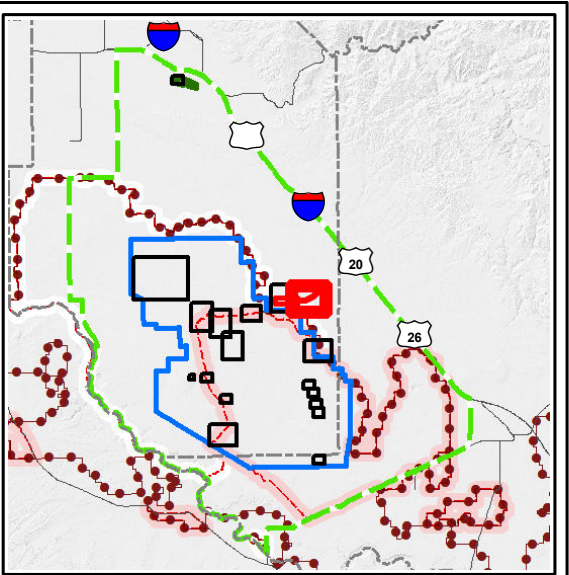
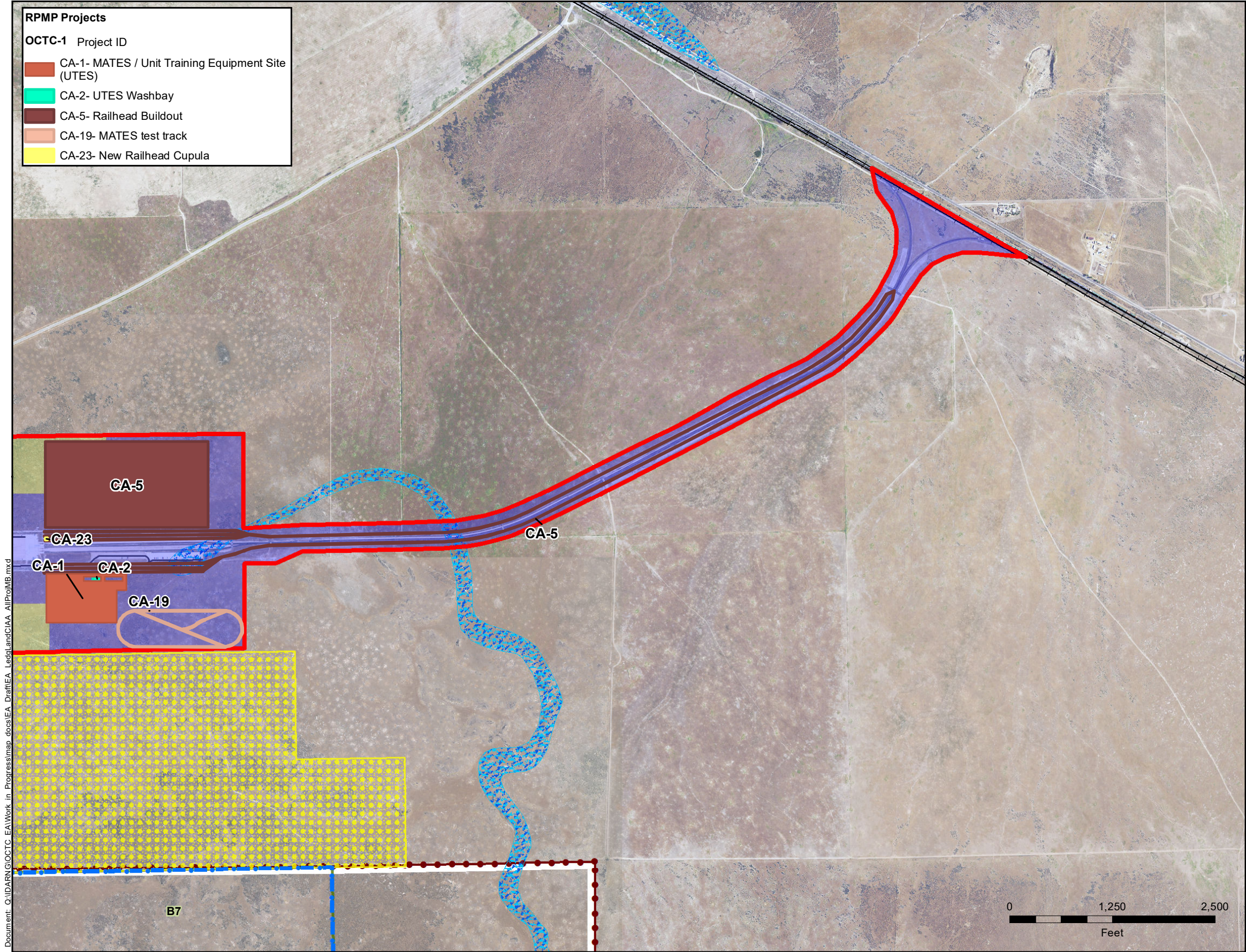
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Other Data Sources: IDARNG; Ada County; Bureau of Land Management; US Census Bureau; USGS

Map Date: 12/17/2019

EA Projects, Gowen Field, Map 1
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA



- Legend**
- Development District**
- Logistics/Maintenance
 - Railhead
 - Maneuver Area
- Environmental Features**
- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area
 - Birds of Prey Management Area 1
 - FEMA Flood Hazard Zone A (100 Year Floodplain)
 - Lepidium papilliferum (LEPA) Proposed Critical Habitat
 - Cumulative Impact Analysis Area
- OCTC/Cantonment Area Features**
- Road
 - Existing Cantonment Area Boundary
 - Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Boundary



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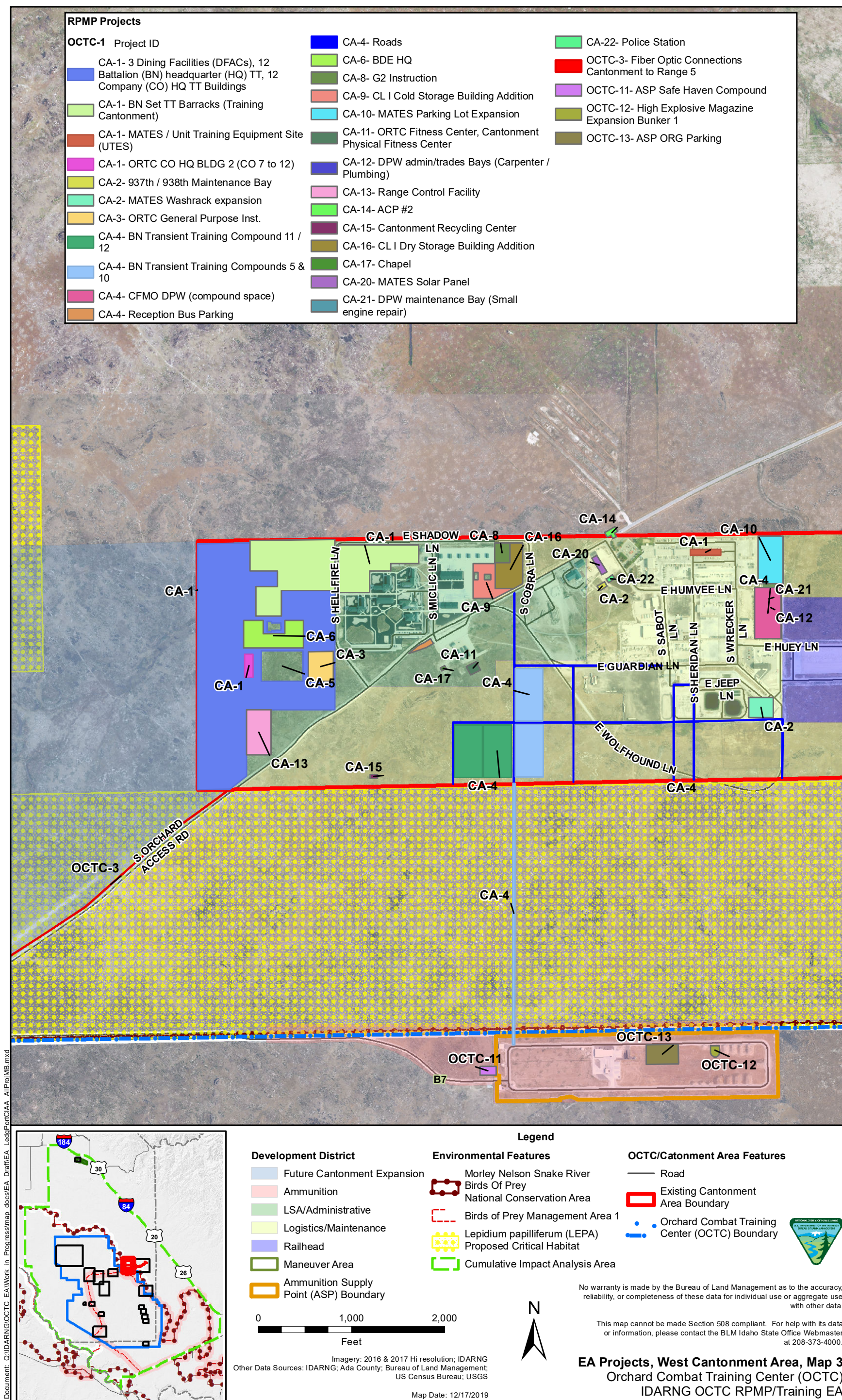
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Other Data Sources: IDARNG; Ada County; Bureau of Land Management; US Census Bureau; USGS

Map Date: 12/17/2019

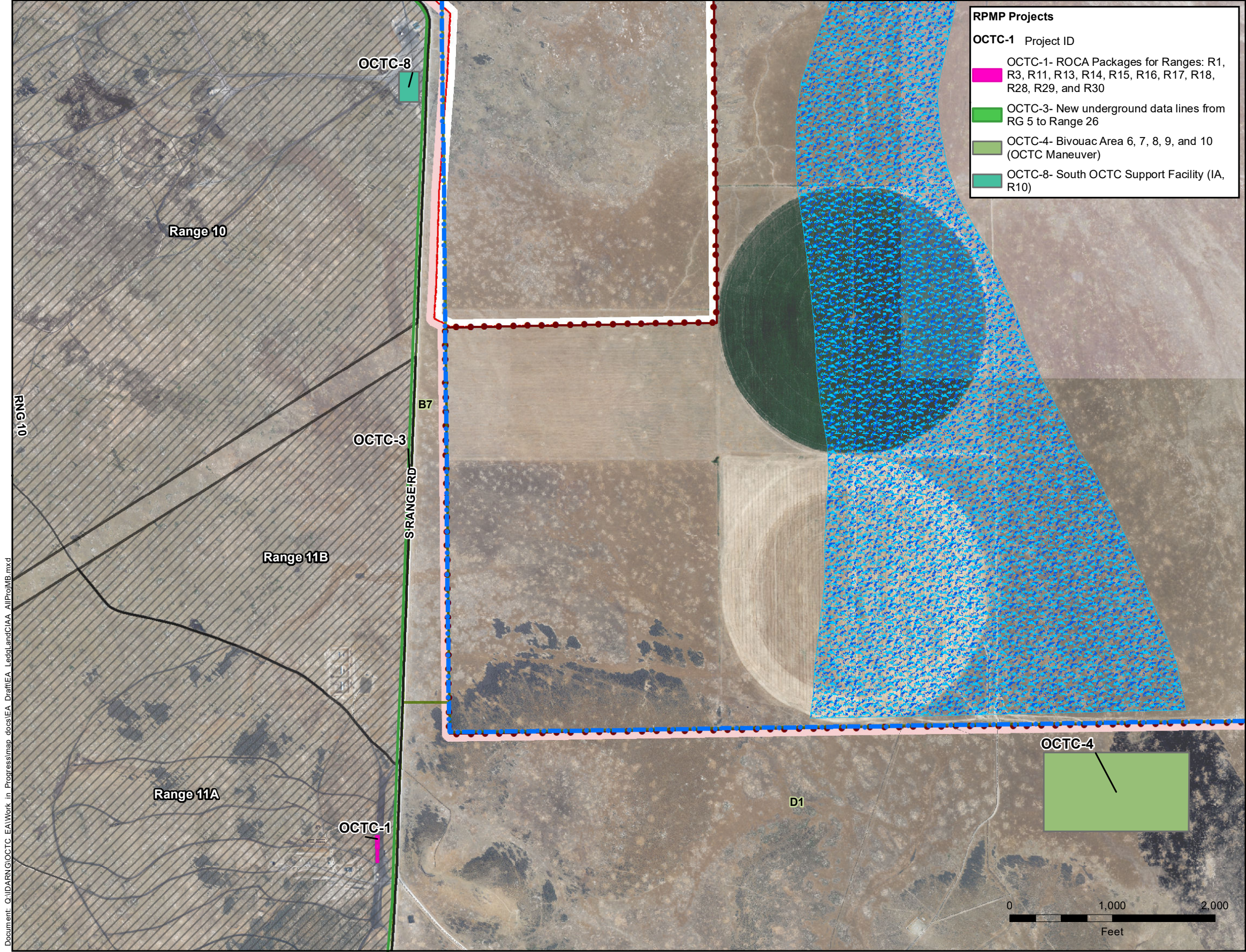
EA Projects, East Cantonment Area, Map 2
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

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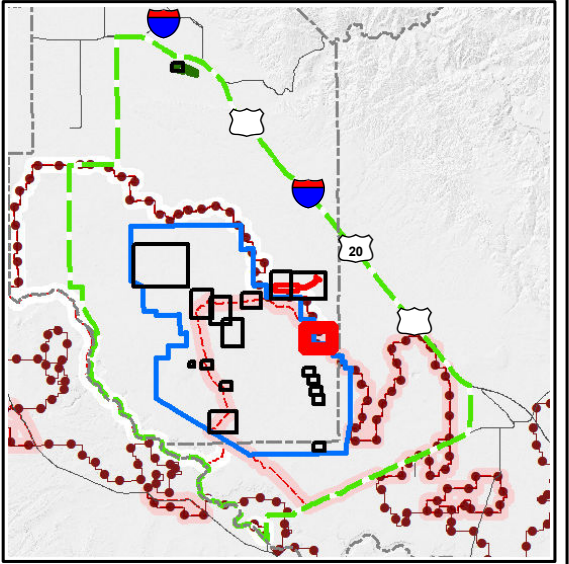
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RPMP Projects

OCTC-1 Project ID

- OCTC-1- ROCA Packages for Ranges: R1, R3, R11, R13, R14, R15, R16, R17, R18, R28, R29, and R30
- OCTC-3- New underground data lines from RG 5 to Range 26
- OCTC-4- Bivouac Area 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 (OCTC Maneuver)
- OCTC-8- South OCTC Support Facility (IA, R10)



Legend

Development District

- Ranges
- Maneuver Area

Environmental Features

- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area
- Birds of Prey Management Area 1
- Birds of Prey Management Area 3
- FEMA Flood Hazard Zone A (100 Year Floodplain)
- Cumulative Impact Analysis Area

OCTC/Catonment Area Features

- Road
- Trail
- Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Boundary

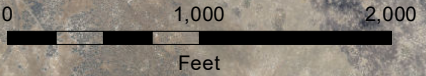


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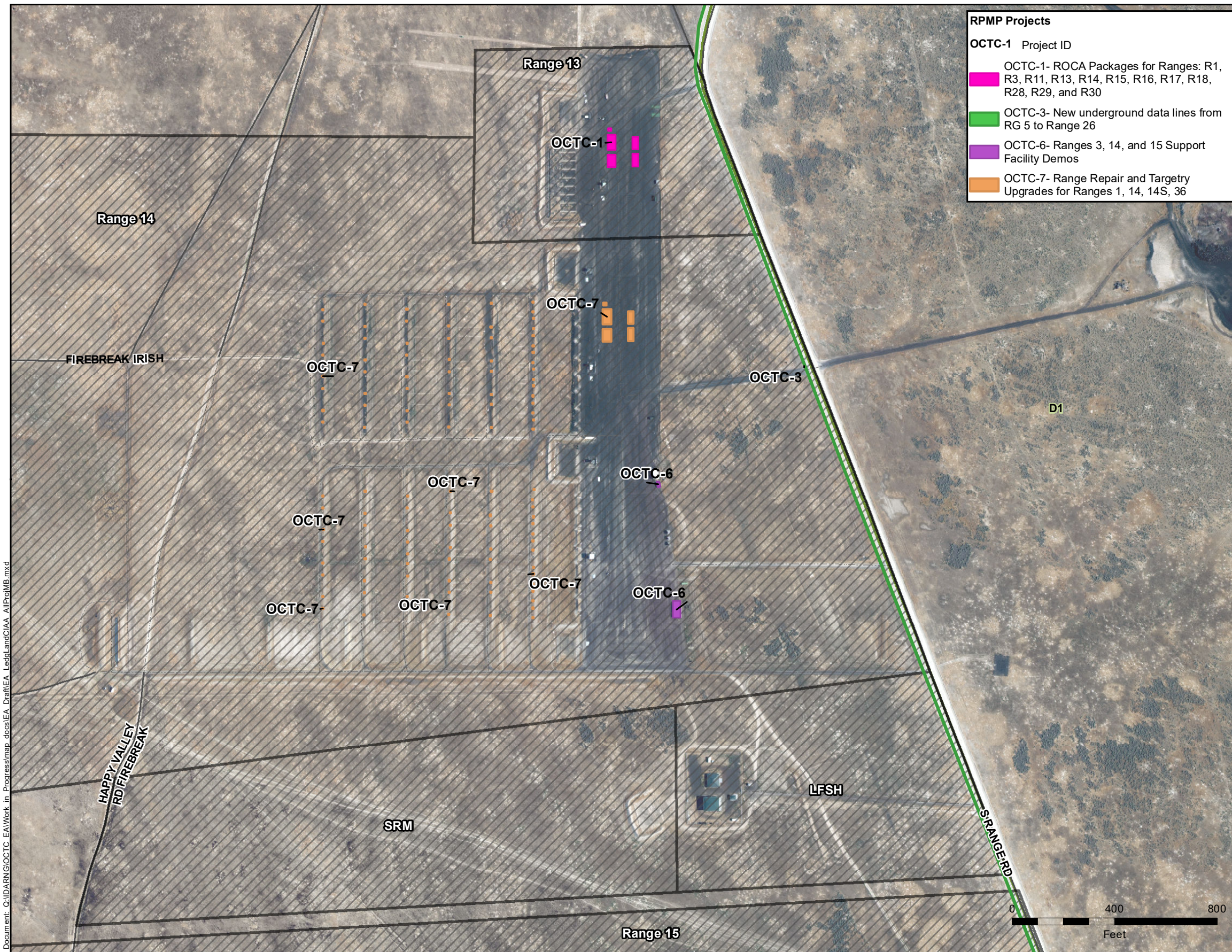
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Other Data Sources: IDARNG; Ada County; Bureau of Land Management; US Census Bureau; USGS

Map Date: 12/17/2019



EA Projects, OCTC Range 10, Range 11, Map 4
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

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RPMP Projects

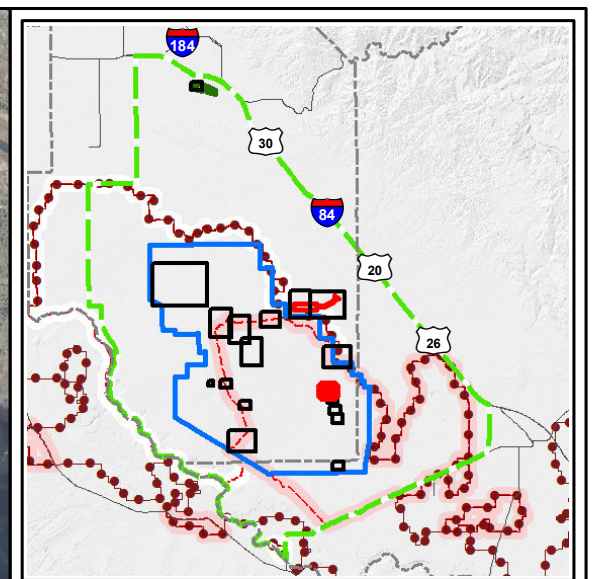
OCTC-1 Project ID

OCTC-1- ROCA Packages for Ranges: R1, R3, R11, R13, R14, R15, R16, R17, R18, R28, R29, and R30

OCTC-3- New underground data lines from RG 5 to Range 26

OCTC-6- Ranges 3, 14, and 15 Support Facility Demos

OCTC-7- Range Repair and Targetry Upgrades for Ranges 1, 14, 14S, 36



Legend

Development District

Ranges

Maneuver Area

Environmental Features

Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area

Birds of Prey Management Area 3

Cumulative Impact Analysis Area

OCTC/Catonment Area Features

Road

Trail

Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)

Boundary



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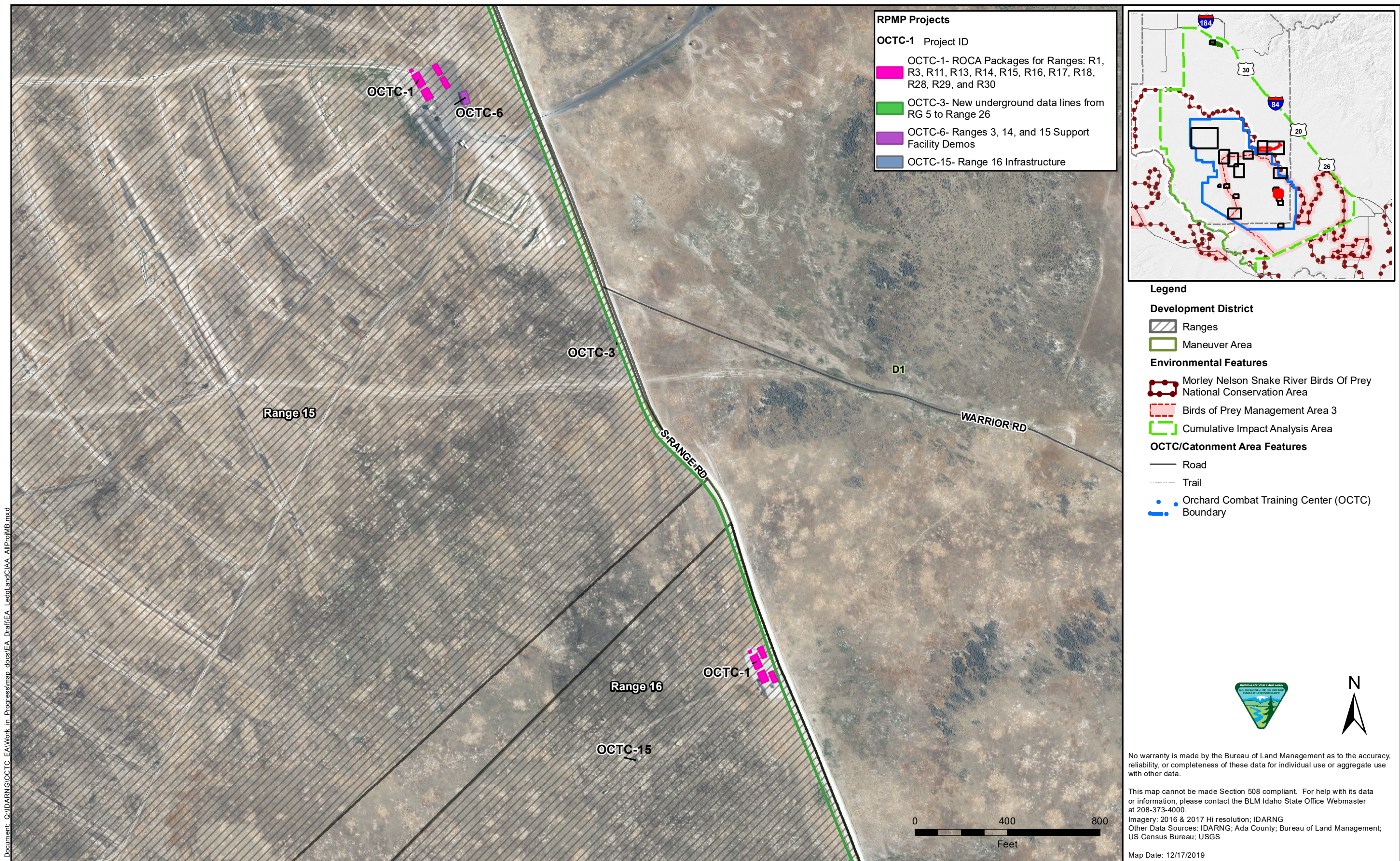
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Other Data Sources: IDARNG; Ada County; Bureau of Land Management; US Census Bureau; USGS

Map Date: 12/17/2019

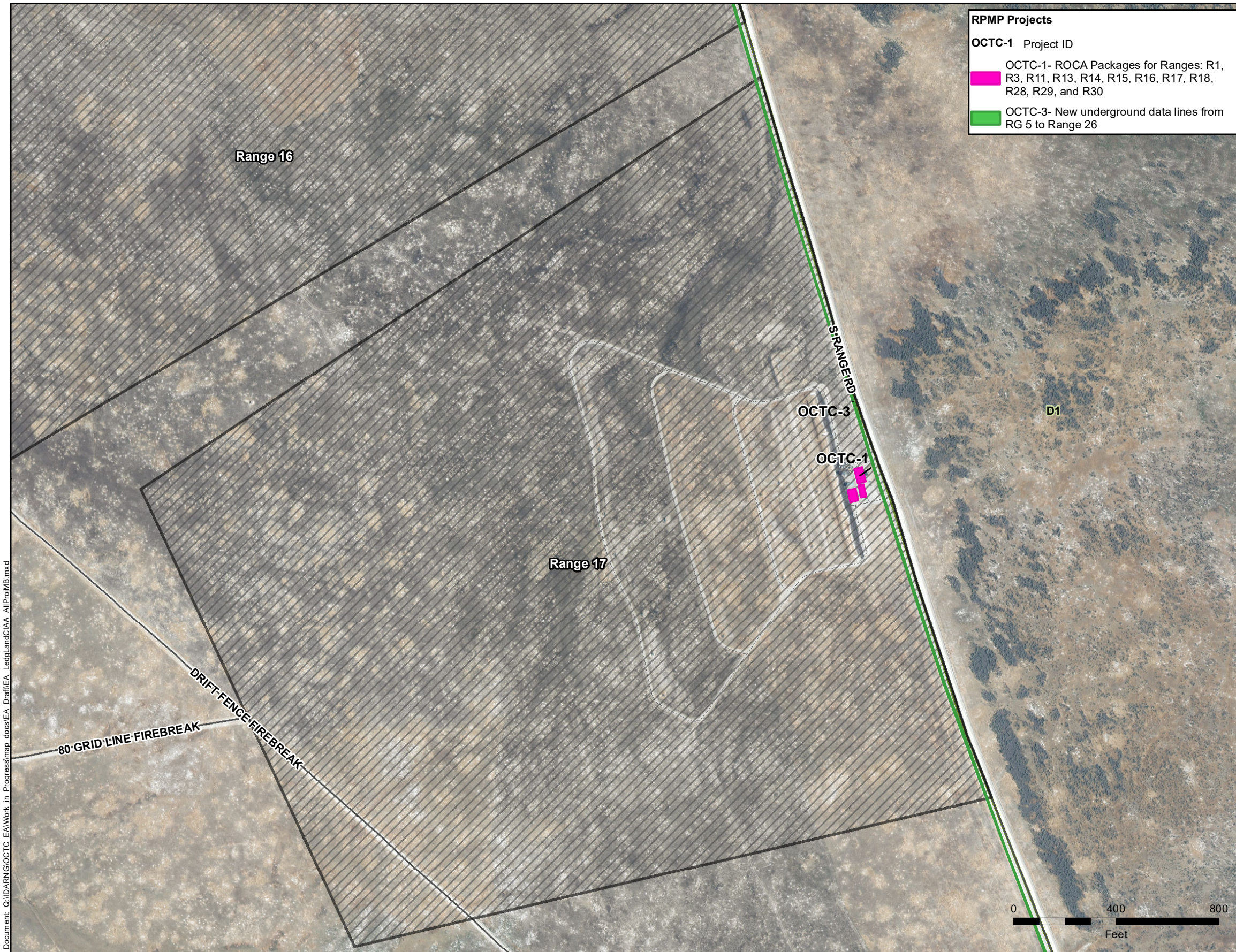
EA Projects, OCTC Range 13, Range 14, Map 5
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

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EA Projects, OCTC Range 15, Range 16, Map 6
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

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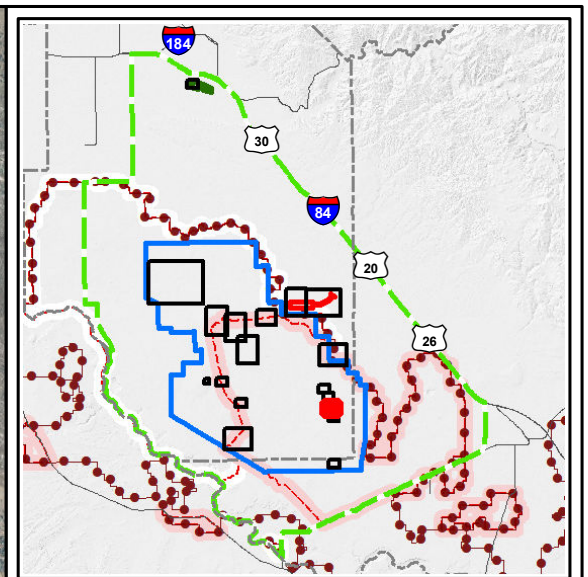


RPMP Projects

OCTC-1 Project ID

OCTC-1- ROCA Packages for Ranges: R1, R3, R11, R13, R14, R15, R16, R17, R18, R28, R29, and R30

OCTC-3- New underground data lines from RG 5 to Range 26



Legend

Development District

- Ranges
- Maneuver Area

Environmental Features

- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area
- Birds of Prey Management Area 3
- Cumulative Impact Analysis Area

OCTC/Catonment Area Features

- Road
- Trail
- Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
- Boundary



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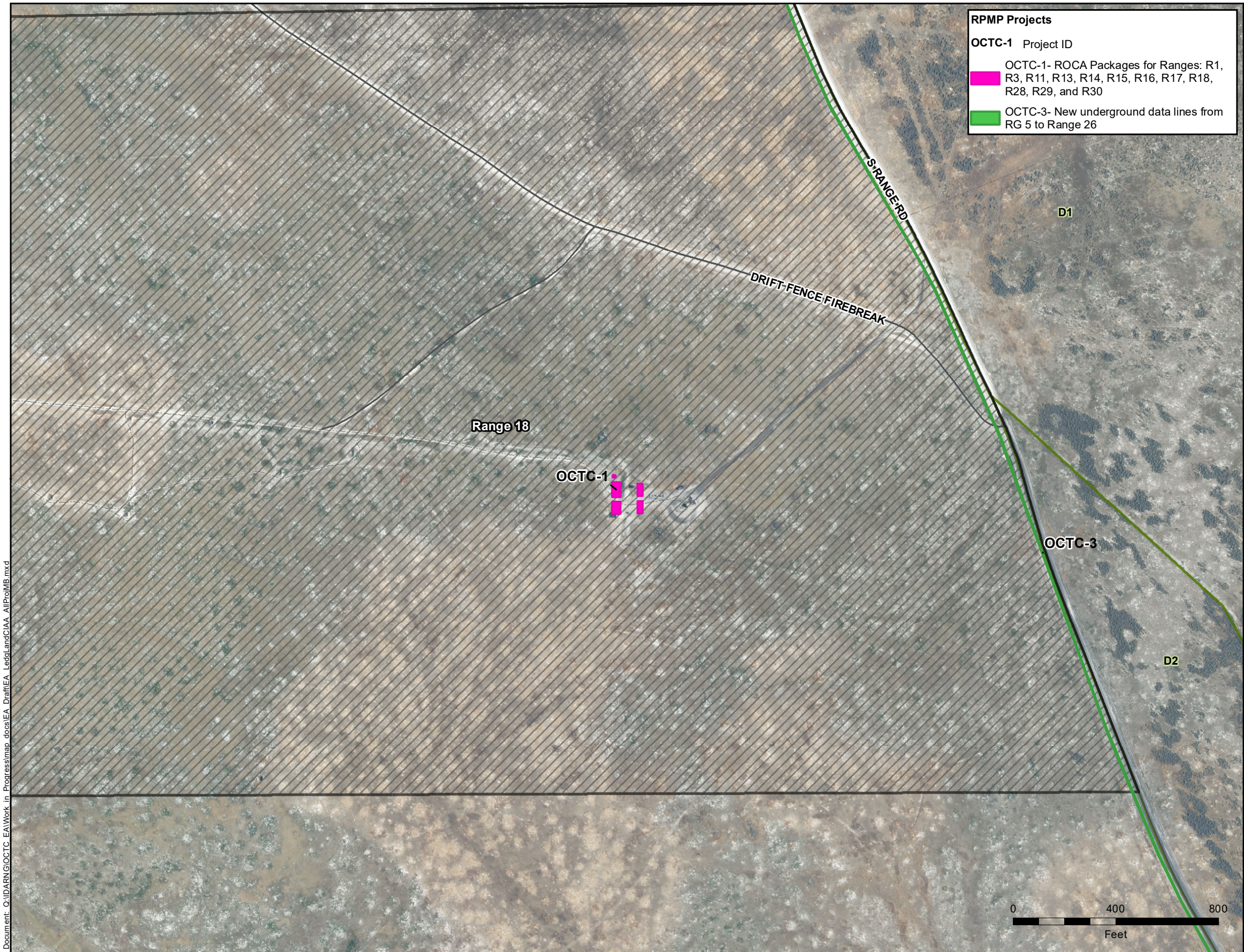
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Map Date: 12/17/2019

EA Projects, OCTC Range 17, Map 7
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

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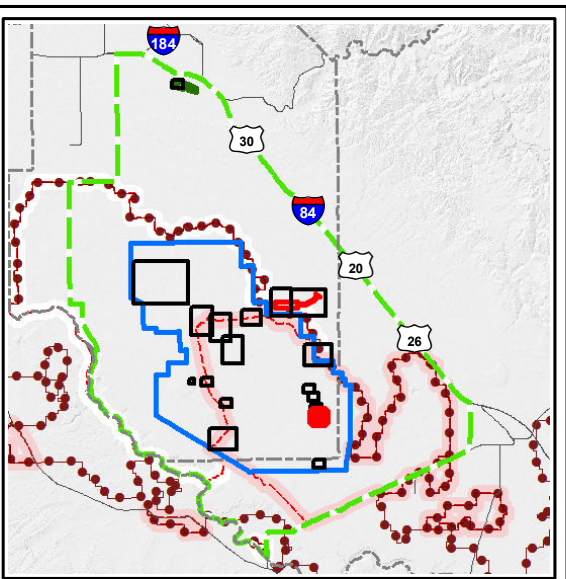


RPMP Projects

OCTC-1 Project ID

OCTC-1- ROCA Packages for Ranges: R1, R3, R11, R13, R14, R15, R16, R17, R18, R28, R29, and R30

OCTC-3- New underground data lines from RG 5 to Range 26



- Legend**
- Development District**
- Ranges
 - Maneuver Area
- Environmental Features**
- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area
 - Birds of Prey Management Area 3
 - Cumulative Impact Analysis Area
- OCTC/Catonment Area Features**
- Road
 - Trail
 - Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
 - Boundary



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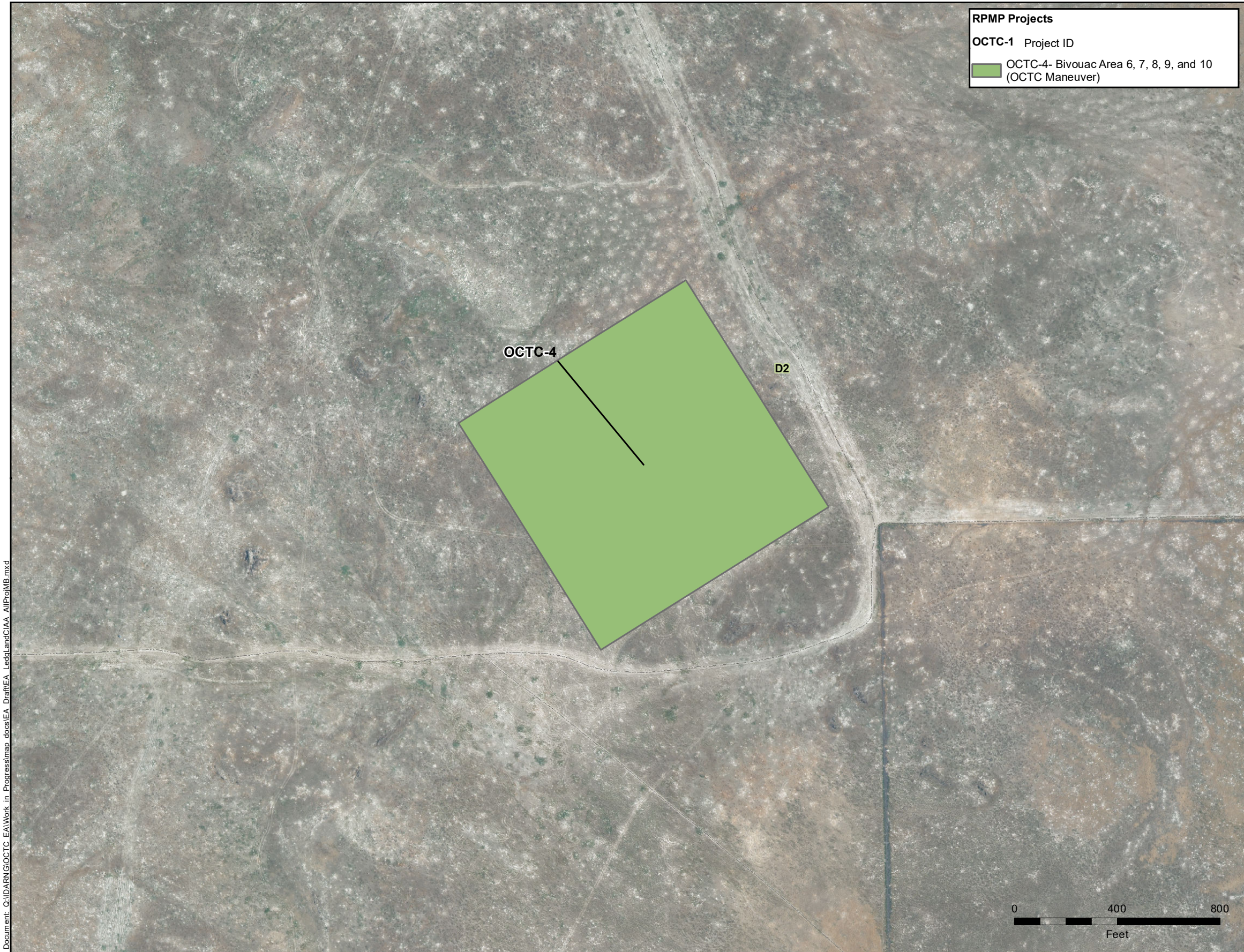
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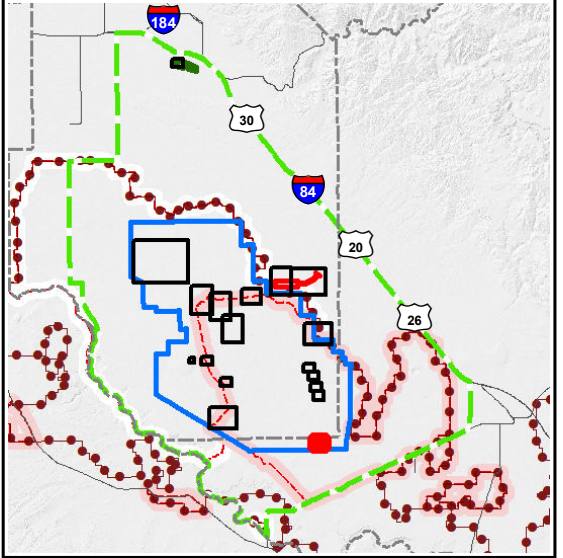
Map Date: 12/17/2019



EA Projects, OCTC Range 18, Map 8
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA



RPMP Projects
OCTC-1 Project ID
OCTC-4- Bivouac Area 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10
(OCTC Maneuver)



- Legend**
- Development District**
- Maneuver Area
- Environmental Features**
- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area
 - Birds of Prey Management Area 3
 - Cumulative Impact Analysis Area
- OCTC/Catonment Area Features**
- Trail
 - Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Boundary



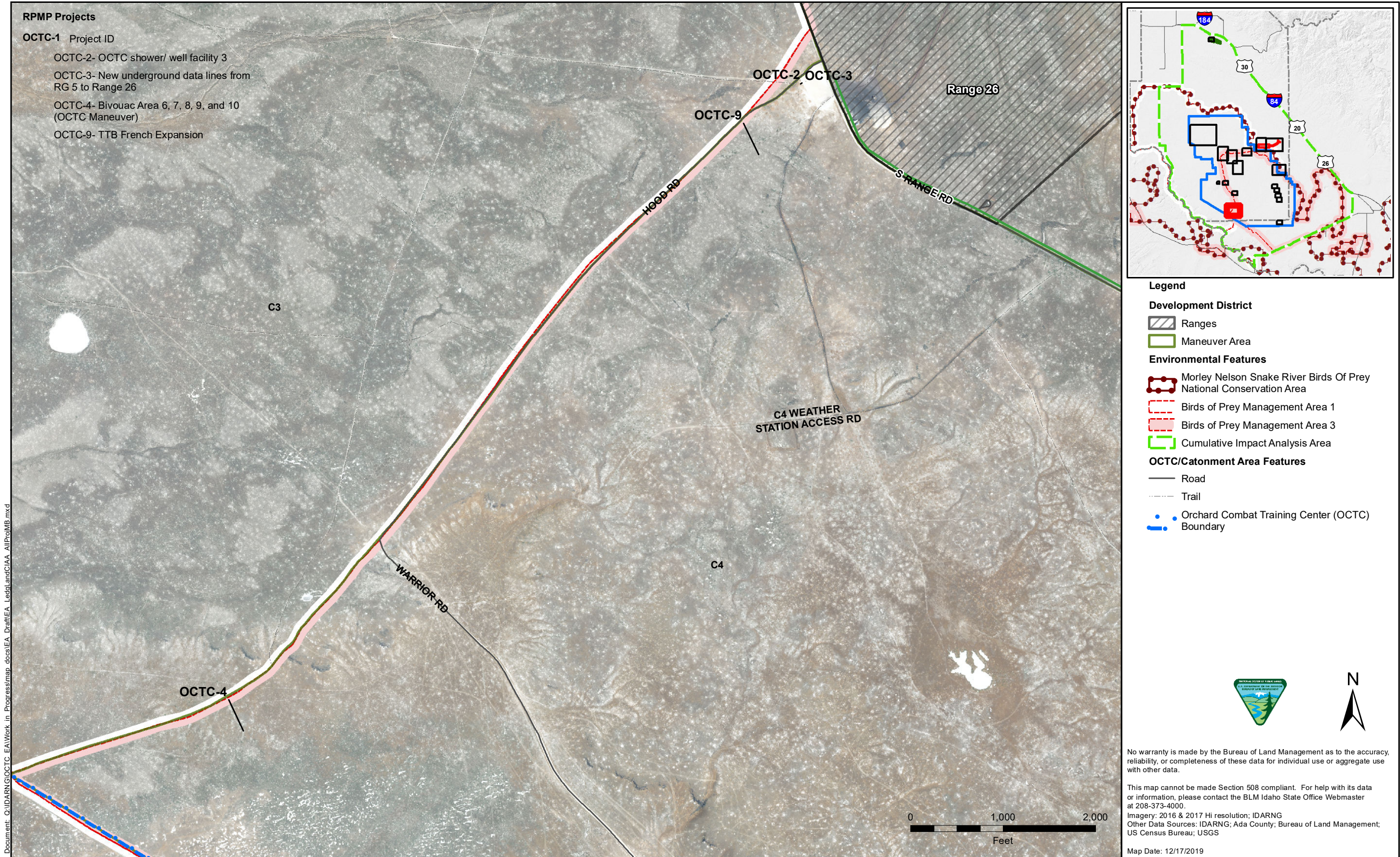
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Other Data Sources: IDARNG; Ada County; Bureau of Land Management; US Census Bureau; USGS

Map Date: 12/17/2019

EA Projects, OCTC Bivouac 10, Map 9
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

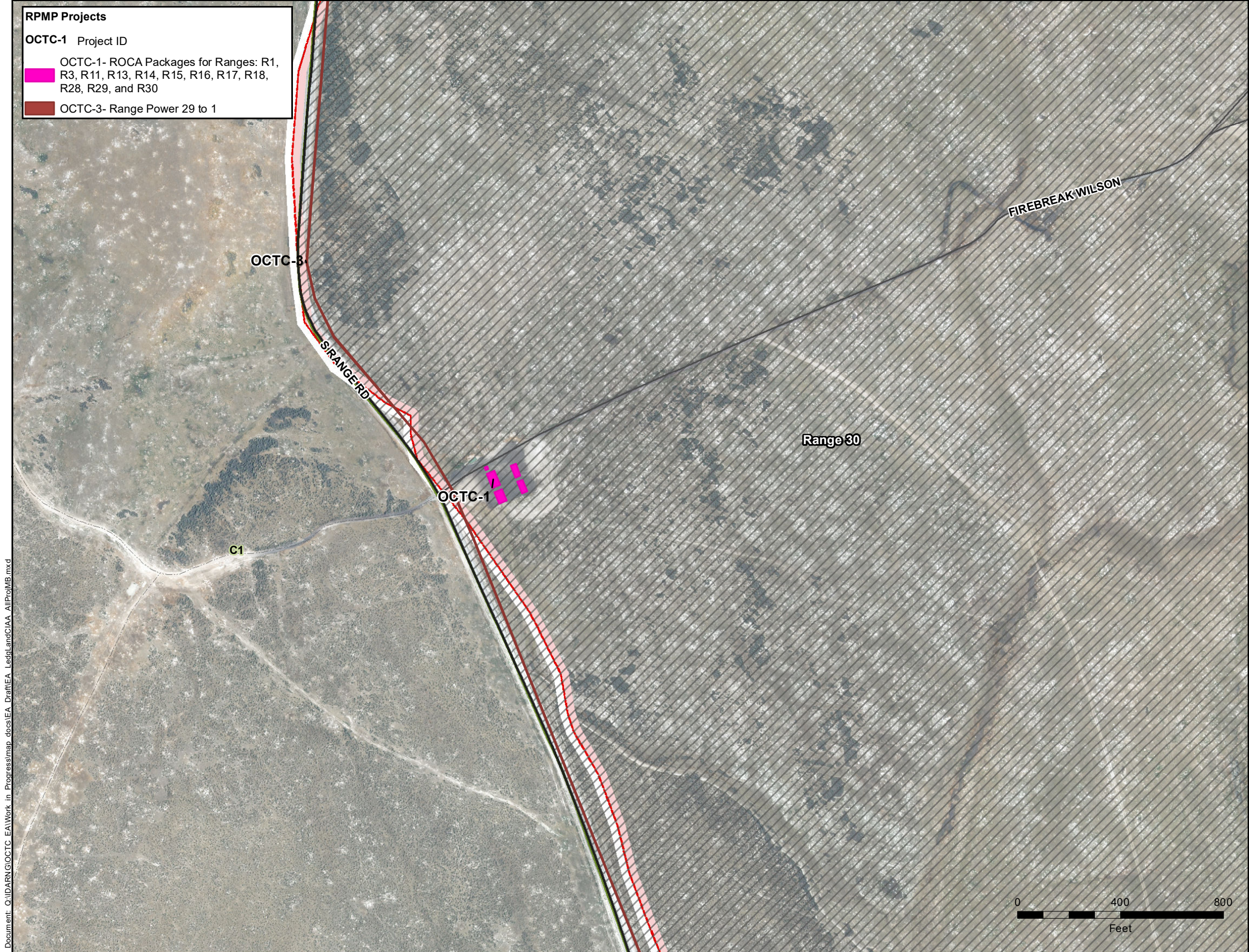


EA Projects, OCTC Southwest Bivouac Areas, Map 10
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA



EA Projects, OCTCRange 28, Range 29, Map 11
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

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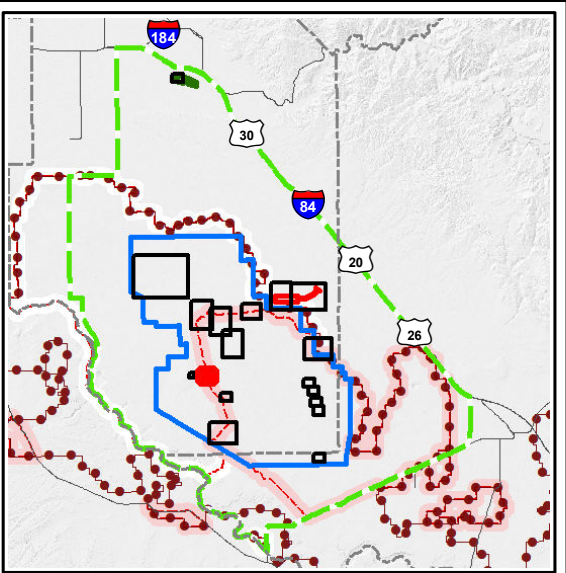


RPMP Projects

OCTC-1 Project ID

OCTC-1- ROCA Packages for Ranges: R1, R3, R11, R13, R14, R15, R16, R17, R18, R28, R29, and R30

OCTC-3- Range Power 29 to 1



Legend

Development District

- Ranges
- Maneuver Area

Environmental Features

- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area
- Birds of Prey Management Area 1
- Birds of Prey Management Area 3
- Cumulative Impact Analysis Area

OCTC/Catonment Area Features

- Road
- Trail
- Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Boundary



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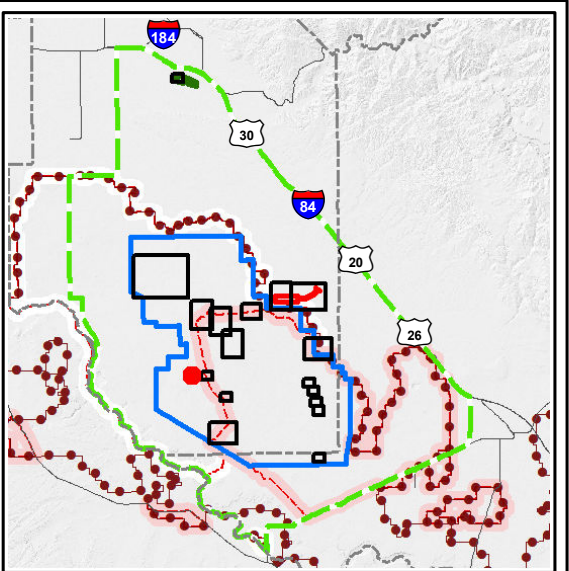
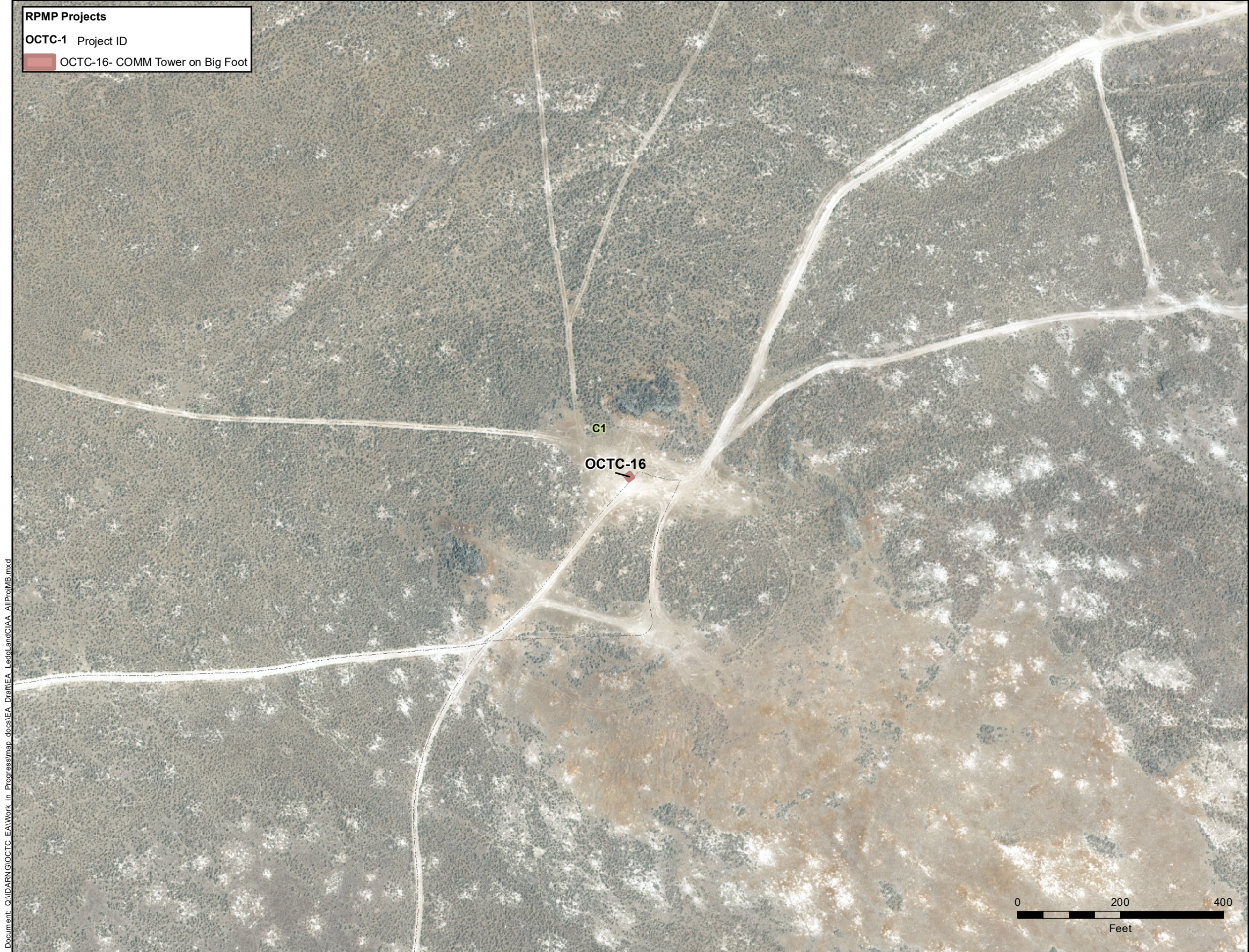
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Other Data Sources: IDARNG; Ada County; Bureau of Land Management; US Census Bureau; USGS

Map Date: 12/17/2019



EA Projects, OCTC Range 30, Map 12
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

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- Legend**
- Development District**
- Maneuver Area
- Environmental Features**
- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area
 - Birds of Prey Management Area 1
 - Cumulative Impact Analysis Area
- OCTC/Catonment Area Features**
- Trail
 - Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Boundary



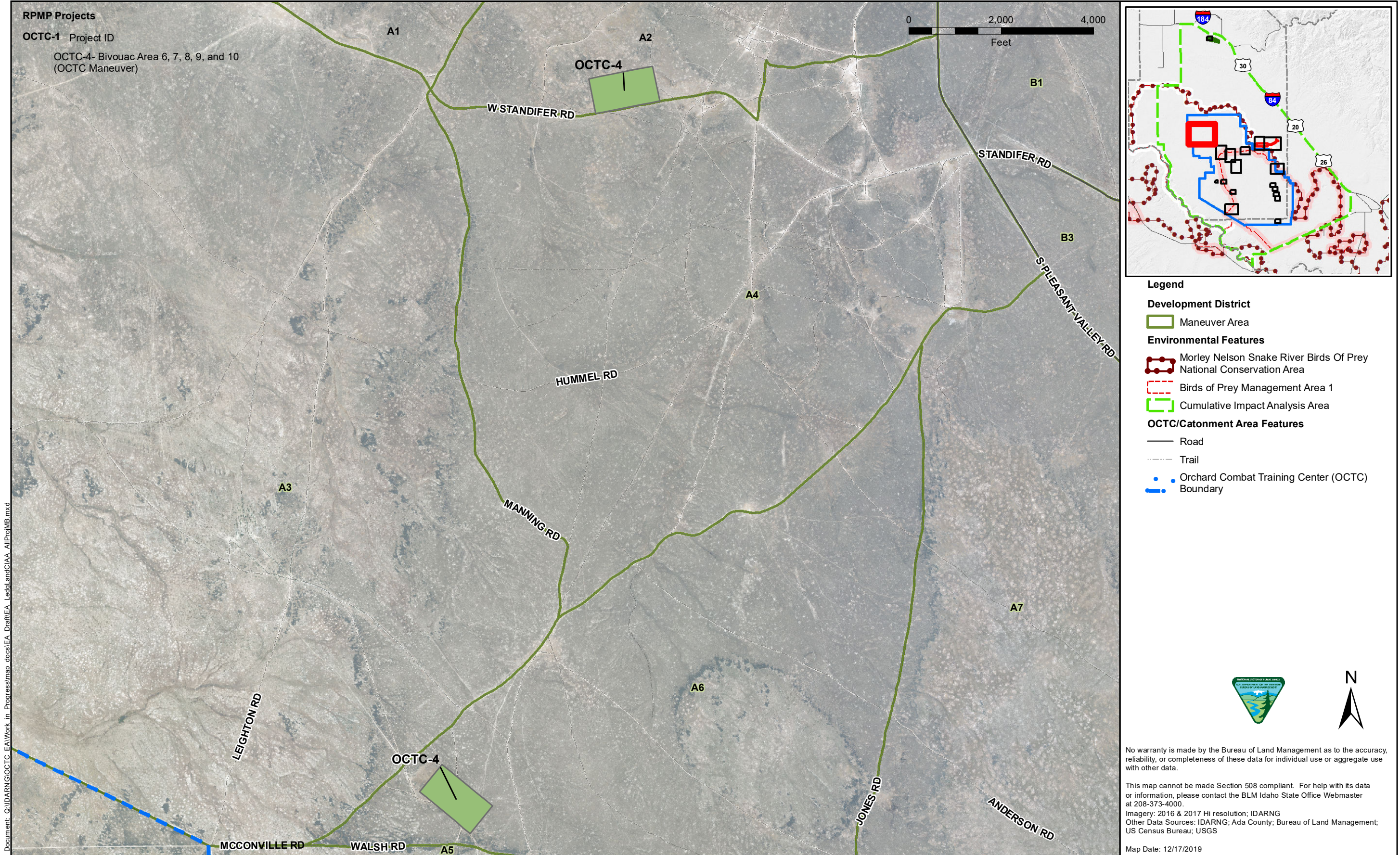
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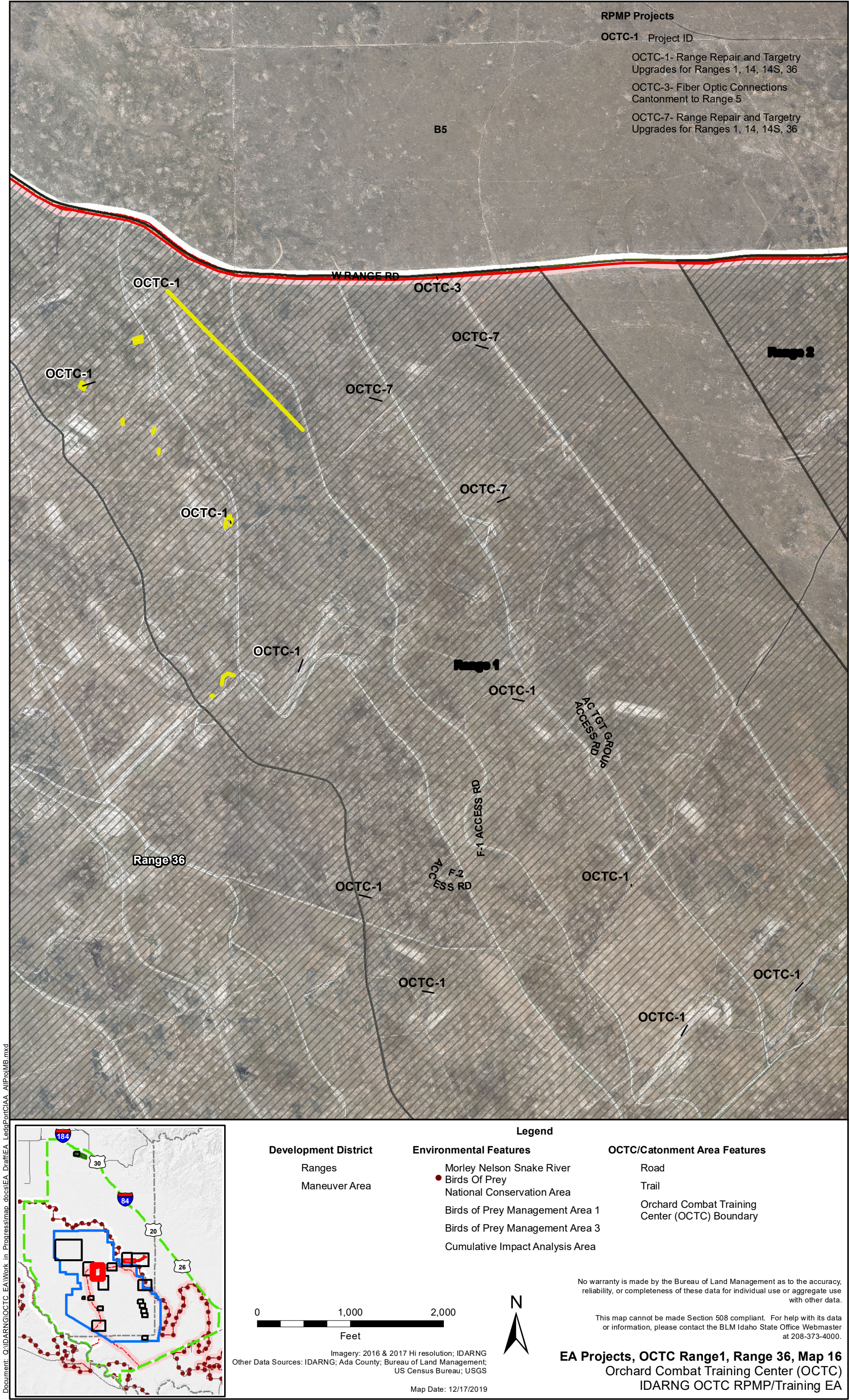
Map Date: 12/17/2019

EA Projects, OCTC Communications Tower, Map 13
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

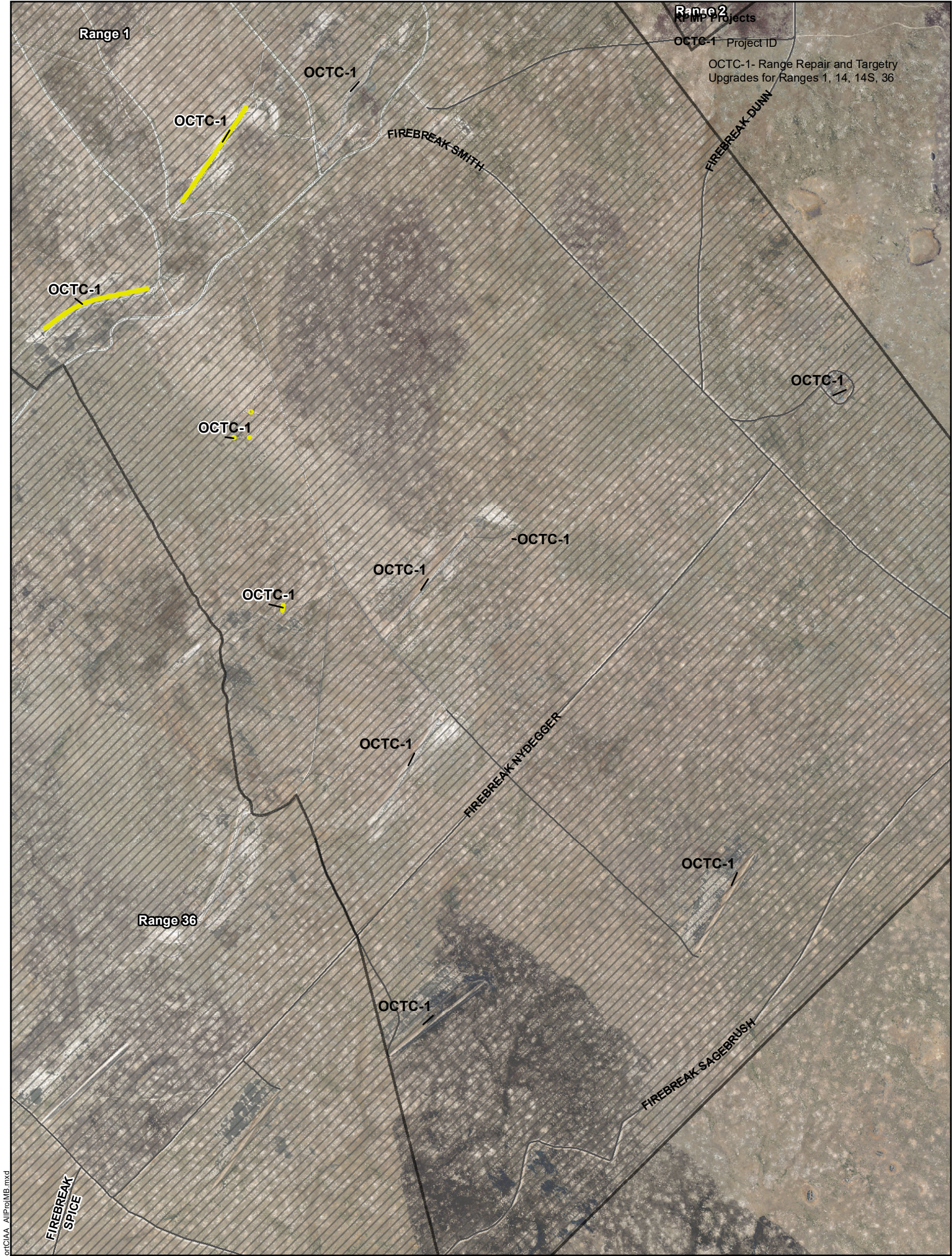


EA Projects, Northwest Bivouac Areas, Map 14
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

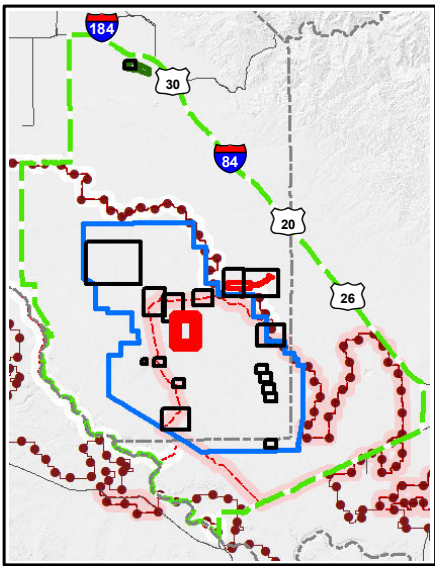
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Development District

Ranges

Environmental Features

- Morley Nelson Snake River
- Birds Of Prey
- National Conservation Area
- Birds of Prey Management Area 3
- Cumulative Impact Analysis Area

Legend

OCTC/Catonment Area Features

- Road
- Trail
- Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Boundary

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Feet

Imagery: 2016 & 2017 Hi resolution; IDARNG
Other Data Sources: IDARNG; Ada County; Bureau of Land Management;
US Census Bureau; USGS

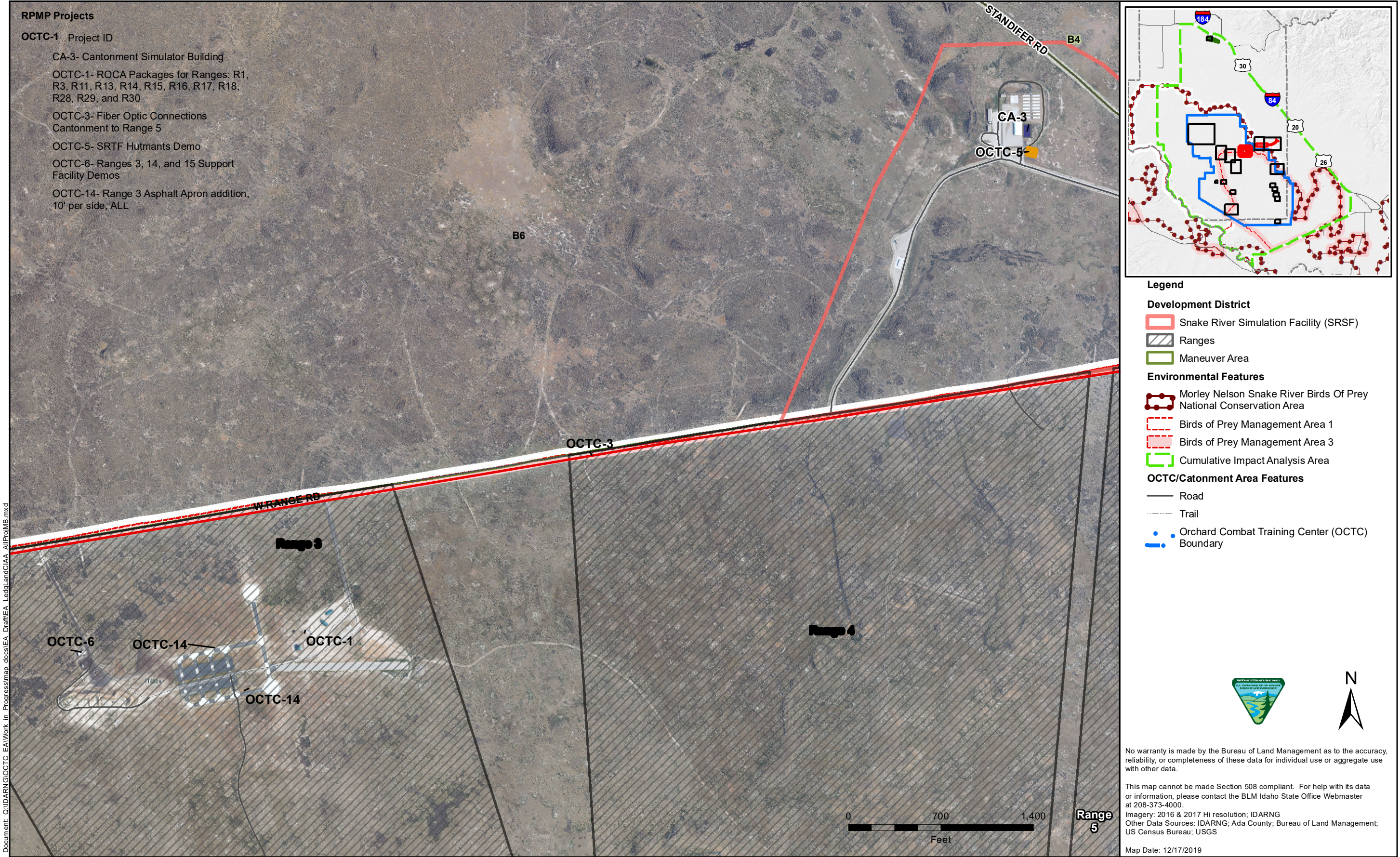
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EA Projects, OCTC Range 1 South, Map 17
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

Map Date: 12/17/2019

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EA Projects, OCTC Range 3, SRSF, Map 18
Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC)
IDARNG OCTC RPMP/Training EA

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C

Interagency Coordination and Public Involvement



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Public Meeting Summary Report



Public Meeting Summary

Environmental Assessment Addressing
Approval of the Orchard Combat Training
Center Real Property Master Plan,
Modernization of Infrastructure Improvements,
and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade
Combat Team Training

Gowen Field and Orchard Combat Training
Center, Idaho

August
2019

Table of Contents

Summary	1
Notification Process	1
Attendance	2
Project Team Attendance	2
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Project Exhibits	2
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Comments Received	3

Appendices

- A. Notification Materials
- B. Sign-in Sheet
- C. Project Exhibits
- D. Comment Form

Summary

The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) prepared a Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) for Gowen Field, the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), and the Cantonment Area consistent with the requirements of the Department of Defense (DoD) Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 2-100-01, *Installation Master Planning*, which provides guidance for RPMP development on DoD installations (DoD 2012) in accordance with federal law and Army Regulations.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared by the Army National Guard (ARNG) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with support from IDARNG, to address ARNG's proposal to approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP; implement proposed fiscal year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP projects to construct and operate modern infrastructure and facilities on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and OCTC Range Complex; and optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of up to approximately 10,500 soldiers with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

Per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping process, ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG invited the public to comment on the Proposed Action, alternatives, and environmental analysis to be considered in the EA. The following public information (scoping) meetings were held:

- July 9, 2019 (Tuesday), from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Garden Boise Airport, 3300 S. Vista Ave., Boise, ID,
- July 11, 2019 (Thursday), from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Hampton Inn Mountain Home, 3175 NE Foothills Ave., Mountain Home, ID.

Notification Process

ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG used the following methods to inform the public about the public information meetings.

- A scoping letter was mailed to the compiled list of interested publics (federal, state, and local agencies and government figures; environmental, non-profit, and academic organizations; and private individuals) on June 19, 2019. All letters were delivered; none were returned as undeliverable.
- A legal notice ran on June 16, 2019 in the Idaho Statesman
- A legal notice ran on June 19, 2019 in the Mountain Home News
- IDARNG posted the meeting information and project materials on their website (<http://emomil.state.id.us/>)
- BLM posted materials sent to interested parties (scoping letter and abbreviated DOPAA) to the e-planning site (<https://go.usa.gov/xmhYw>) and notice of the public meetings to their [Facebook page](#).

A copy of notification materials is included in Appendix A.

Attendance

Project Team Attendance

Project Team Participants

Name	Role	Contact (email)
IDARNG		
COL Matthew Godfrey	Operational Questions, Training	matthew.j.godfrey3.mil@mail.mil
CW3 Chad Melanese	Specific Questions on Projects	chad.a.melanese.mil@mail.mil
Jake Fruhlinger	Cultural Resources	jake.c.fruhlinger.nfg@mail.mil
LT COL Kyle Carpenter (PAO)	Public Affairs	Kyle.e.carpenter.mil@mail.mil
ARNG		
Jeff Coron	NEPA Questions	jeffrey.l.coron.ctr@mail.mil
BLM		
Amanda Hoffman	General NEPA, BLM Role	alhoffman@blm.gov
Kara Kirkpatrick- Kreitinger	NEPA	kkirkpatrickkreiting@blm.gov
Charlotte Alexander	BLM Process, Rights of Way	calexander@blm.gov
Joe Welden	Raptors, Educational Outreach	jweldon@blm.gov
HDR		
Michael Murray	NEPA and Project Process	Mike.murray@hdrinc.com
Laura Speerhart	NEPA and Project Process	Laura.speerhart@hdrinc.com
Carrie Applegate	Sign-in Table/Meeting Coordinator	Carrie.applegate@hdrinc.com

Public Attendance

- June 9, 2019 – There were zero attendees at the Boise meeting. One man looked through the meeting exhibits prior to the official meeting start time of 4pm, but he declined to sign in.
- June 11, 2019 – There were two attendees at the Mountain Home meeting; both signed in.

A copy of the sign-in sheet is included in Appendix B.

Project Exhibits

Exhibits were set up around the room to illustrate the design of the project:

- Welcome (sign-in table)
- Project Overview – Proposed Action
- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area - Overview
- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA – Raptors
- Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area – Vegetation Map
- Project Overview – NEPA
- Project Location
- What is the Purpose and Need of the Proposed Action?

- Modernization and Improvements Projects on Gowen Field
- Modernization and Improvements Projects on Cantonment Area
- Modernization and Improvements Projects on OCTC
- What does “Optimize Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Training Throughput” Mean?
- EA Process and Next Steps

Information sheets about the SIMCO East project cancellation and the Urban CAS project were available for distribution in case members of the public asked about either of these projects.

A copy of the project exhibits is included in Appendix C.

Comments

Public meeting attendees were encouraged to leave comments in writing. Comment forms available at the public meetings instructed attendees to submit the comments at the meeting, or mail or email them to CPT Wilford Griego by July 23, 2019, at the following addresses:

CPT Wilford U. Griego
NEPA Team Lead
National Guard Bureau
Installations & Environment Directorate
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22204-1382
Wilford.u.Griego.mil@mail.mil

The “EA Process and Next Steps” exhibit at the public meetings encouraged meeting attendees to send project-related questions via email to CPT Griego at the address above or to Charlotte Alexander with the BLM at the following mail address:

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Charlotte Alexander
3948 Development Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83705

The scoping letter mailed June 19, 2019, also encouraged recipients to send comments to CPT Griego at the email and/or mailing addresses listed above.

National Guard Bureau (NGB) elected to extend the deadline to accept comments to close of business Friday, July 26, 2019, to accommodate comments placed in the U.S. mail on July 23.

A copy of the comment form is included in Appendix D.

Comments Received

At close of business on July 26, 2019, two comments were received, one via email, one via U.S. mail.

Appendix A – Notification Materials

SCOPING LETTER



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE
ARLINGTON VA 22204-1373

June 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (ICEP) in Support of an Environmental Assessment of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) Proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho

Mr./Ms. Stakeholder Name

Title

Agency/Organization

Street Address

City, State ZIP

Dear Mr./Ms. Stakeholder Last Name, *[[For organizations that do not identify a POC please insert the agency/organization name.]]*

[[For agencies/organizations that do not identify a POC please insert the following opening sentence: "This letter is intended for your [agency's/organization's] environmental review coordinator."]]

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management *National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1*, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the Proposed Action per the NEPA scoping process. The ARNG, BLM, and the IDARNG invite the public to comment on the Proposed Action, alternatives, and environmental analysis to be considered in the EA.

The Proposed Action would implement each of the following three component actions:

a. **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP)** – Evaluate the ARNG's proposed approval of a Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 2-100-1-compliant Real Property Master Plan (RPMP);

b. **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)** – Implement the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC. These actions will support current and future ARNG collective training and readiness goals as part of the Total Army Force (the combined forces of the Army, Army Reserve, and ARNG) and allow the IDARNG to achieve the current authorized level of facilities, infrastructure, ranges, and maneuver space on Gowen Field, OCTC, and Orchard Cantonment area to support the current and future mission requirements as a Level 1 Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams [BCTs]);

-2-

c. **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)** – Optimize the annual throughput of troops training on the OCTC from approximately 4,000 up to a maximum of 10,500 troops. This maximum number is the equivalent of three brigades' worth of troops operating at 85 percent strength; the assumed and realistic rate of troop participation in ARNG training events due to school or work obligations, illness, and/or equipment supply and maintenance issues.

Enclosed with this letter is a CD copy of the Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) for the EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions. Hard copies of the DOPAA are available upon request.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. The ARNG must invest in modernizing Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area to reach its current authorization in infrastructure, facilities, and training areas in order to meet its obligations as part of the Total Army Force and achieve our nation's military objectives on readiness and mobilization requirements. No new training requirements are being proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

- a. Provide the IDARNG and ARNG with reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to infrastructure, facilities, and training spaces used to meet and sustain its platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements and readiness goals now and into the future.
- b. Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years which support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.
- c. Consider the long term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training, and mission requirements.
- d. Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10, 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure, not previously funded, that would provide the proper infrastructure and facilities to sustain training of up to 10,500 troops (the equivalent of 3 BCT units operating at 85 percent strength) and enable personnel conducting training and mobilization activities at the same time as well as multiple brigades throughout any given training year. Although training levels would increase, there would be no change to the type and manner of training operations already conducted on the OCTC. Further, the proposed training would continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG OCTC RPMP-Training EA
PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

-3-

The DOPAA is also available from the following IDARNG and BLM project websites:

IDARNG project website: <http://emomil.state.id.us/>
BLM project website: <https://go.usa.gov/xmhYw> (URL is case-sensitive)

Additional project information will be posted to these websites as it becomes available.

The BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, and 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on Behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policy and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Information Request: While the ARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data concerning Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, and its vicinity, we are seeking your feedback into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have.

Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action sites) would be appreciated:

- a. Potential environmental concerns or issues;
- b. Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers;
- c. Federally or State listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one-mile radius around the proposed sites;
- d. Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife issues;
- e. Natural resource issues;
- f. Pertinent soils and geologic data;
- g. Traffic, noise, socioeconomic, or environmental justice concerns;
- h. Air quality concerns; and/or

ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG OCTC RPMP-Training EA
PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

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i. Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced sites.

Data that you make available will provide valuable and necessary input into the NEPA analytical process. As part of the NEPA process, local citizens, groups, and agencies, among others, will have ample future opportunity to review and comment on the information and alternatives addressed in the document.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in **Section 6** of the enclosed DOPAA. Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information. Additionally, please contact us if you have questions about the current list of recipients.

Public Information Meetings: The ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG will hold public scoping meetings:

- a. Tuesday, July 9, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Garden Boise Airport, 3300 S. Vista Ave., Boise, ID.
- b. Thursday, July 11, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Hampton Inn Mountain Home, 3175 NE Foothills Ave., Mountain Home, ID.

Comments submitted at the scoping meetings will be summarized in the EA.

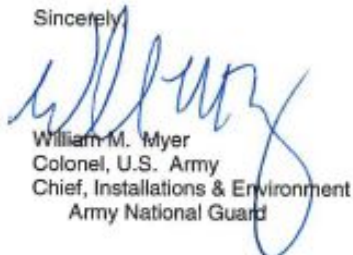
We look forward to and welcome your participation in this analysis. Please respond on or before **July 23, 2019** to enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe.

Please send your written responses via regular mail or e-mail (preferred) to:

CPT Wilford U. Griego
NEPA Team Lead
National Guard Bureau
Installations & Environment Directorate
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22204-1382
wilford.u.griego.mil@mail.mil

If you have any questions about this project, please contact CPT Griego via e-mail at wilford.u.griego.mil@mail.mil or phone at (703) 607-7990, or Ms. Charlotte Alexander via e-mail at calexander@blm.gov or phone at (208) 384-3455.

Sincerely,



William M. Myer
Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Installations & Environment
Army National Guard

Enclosure

IDAHO STATESMAN AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Ad Number	Description	DO	Amount	Cols	Length
252794	0034255581	Notice and Request for Scoping Comments: Envt	12/12/17	\$95.24	1	9.56 in

Attention: Stephanie G. Borders

HDR ENGINEERING
412 E PARKCENTER BLVD, STE 100
BOISE, ID 83706

Notice and Request for Scoping Comments:

Environmental Assessment of the Army National Guard's proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center Real Property Master Plan, Modernization of Infrastructure and Facilities, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing potential impacts from the following three component actions (Proposed Action):

- 1) Approval of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) prepared for the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) and Gowen Field;
- 2) Implement multiple RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization projects on Gowen Field, the Containment Area, and the OCTC to support current and future ARNG collective training and readiness goals as part of the Total Army Force (the combined forces of the Army, Army Reserve, and ARNG); and
- 3) Optimize the annual throughput of up to 10,500 soldiers training on the OCTC to support current and future mission requirements.

The EA will consider one alternative that would enable ARNG and IDARNG to achieve training and mission requirements, and the No Action Alternative.

Per the NEPA scoping process, ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG invite the public to comment on the Proposed Action, alternatives, and environmental analysis to be considered in the EA. The ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG will hold public scoping meetings on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Garden Boise Airport, 3300 S. Vista Ave., Boise, ID, and on Thursday, July 11, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Hampton Inn

VICTORIA RODELA, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is the Principal Clerk of The Idaho Statesman, a daily newspaper printed and published at Boise, Ada County, State of Idaho, and having a general circulation therein, and which said newspaper has been continuously and uninterruptedly published in said County during a period of twelve consecutive months prior to the first publication of the notice, a copy of which is attached hereto; that said notice was published in The Idaho Statesman, in conformity with Section 60-108, Idaho Code, as amended, for:

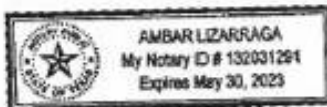
1 Insertions


Beginning issue of 05/16/2019

Ending issue of 05/16/2019


(Legal Clerk)

On this 17th day of June in the year of 2019 before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared before me Victoria Rodela known or identified to me to be the person whose name subscribed to the within instrument, and being by first duly sworn, declared that the statements therein are true, and acknowledged to me that she executed the same.




Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County

Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.
Legal document please do not destroy!

ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG OCTC RPMP-Training EA
PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

MOUNTAIN HOME NEWS AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

County of Elmore
State of Idaho

ss.

do solemnly swear that I am the Legal

News

per of general circulation, published once
tain Home, Idaho, that the notice attached
part of publication thereof, was
newspaper for 1 consecutive
ublication having been made on the
June, 2019, and the last publication
e on the 19 day of June, 2019;
issue of the paper during the period and
and that the notice was published in
and not in a supplement thereof.

ur that the said Mountain Home News
usly and uninterruptedly published in
ty during the period of 78 consecutive
first publication of the attached notice.

Antonia
orn to me this 19th day of June
Antonia

in Home, Elmore County, Idaho.

res 11-16-2022.



Environmental Assessment of the Army National Guard's proposed Approval of the Overland Combat Training Center Real Property Master Plan, Modernization of Infrastructure and Facilities, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the Overland Combat Training Center, Idaho

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and as co-lead sponsor, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing potential impacts from the following three component actions (Proposed Action):

- 1) Approval of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) prepared for the Overland Combat Training Center (OCTC) and Crown Peak.
 - 2) Implement multiple RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization projects on Owens Field, the Quartermaster Area, and the OCTC to support current and future ARNG collective training and readiness goals as part of the Total Army Force (the combined forces of the Army, Army Reserve, and ARNG); and
 - 3) Optimize the annual throughput of up to 10,000 soldiers training on the OCTC to support current and future mission requirements.
- The EA will consider one alternative that would enable ARNG and IDARNG to achieve training and mission requirements, and the No Action Alternative.

Per the NEPA scoping process, ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG invite the public to comment on the Proposed Action, alternatives, and mitigation measures to be included in the EA. The ARNG, BLM, and IDARNG will host public scoping meetings on Thursday, July 9, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Mountain Home Blue Airport, 3100 S. Vista Ave., Boise, ID, and on Thursday, July 11, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Mountain Home Blue Airport, 3175 NE Promenade Ave., Mountain Home, ID. Comments submitted at the scoping meetings will be summarized in the EA. Written comments may also be submitted.

By mail to:
CPT William D. Corbett, NEPA Team Lead
National Guard Bureau
Headquarters & Environmental Directorate
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22204-1182

By email to:
wcorbett@ngb.mil and
wcorbett@ngb.mil

Written comments are requested by July 21, 2019, to ensure sufficient time to consider public input in preparation of the EA. Publication of the EA is scheduled for late fall 2019.
One Publication, June 19, 2019


BLM FACEBOOK POST

**Bureau of Land Management - Idaho**
July 11 at 10:55 AM · 🌐

Today, from 4 to 7 p.m., BLM Idaho, the National Guard Bureau and the Idaho Army National Guard are holding a public scoping meeting at the Hampton Inn Mountain Home (3175 NE Foothills Ave., Mountain Home). The meeting will focus on an environmental assessment for the Orchard Combat Training Center Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training. Resource specialists, managers and Idaho Army National Guard staff will be available to answer questions.

To learn more: IDARNG project website: <http://emomil.state.id.us/>
BLM project website: <https://go.usa.gov/xmhYw>



 6

 Share

Appendix B – July 11, 2019, Sign-in Sheet

**Environmental Assessment for
Orchard Combat Training Center
(OCTC) Real Property Master Plan**

☐ July 9, 2019, from 4-7 p.m.,
Boise, ID
☒ July 11, 2019, from 4-7 p.m.,
Mountain Home, ID


Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or any other personally identifying information, you should be aware that this sign-in sheet—including personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Name (Please print or write clearly)	Phone Number	Address (City, State, and ZIP)	E-mail
Joseph Armstrong	208-602-4408	366 C&S/CEN	joseph.armstrong@us.af.mil
Beth Bresnahan	208 587 2142	Elmore County Land Use	bbresnahan@elmorecount.org

Appendix C – Project Exhibits

Welcome

Public Information Meeting
hosted by
Army National Guard
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Army National Guard
for the
Environmental Assessment
Addressing
Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center Real Property
Master Plan,
Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and
Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team
Training



Project Overview - Proposed Action

What is the Proposed Action?

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is proposing to implement the following three component actions which comprise the overall Proposed Action:

Component Action 1 would approve its Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) for Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.

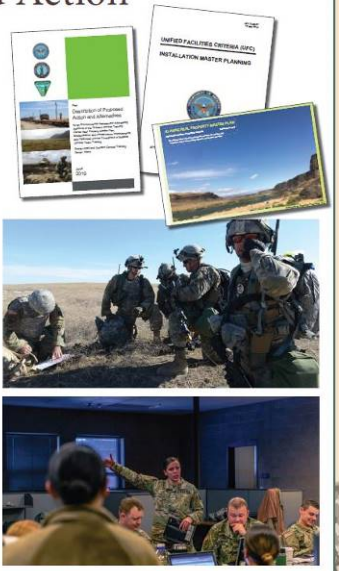
The first step in modernizing the installation and ranges is to have and approve an appropriate plan for that. The IDARNG has prepared its RPMP to be compliant with existing regulations and to support the mission requirements of the Idaho Army National Guard Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC. An appropriate NEPA analysis of the associated RPMP projects is required for the RPMP to be approved.


Component Action 2 would implement 83 modernization and infrastructure improvement projects.

The projects that would be implemented would provide housing, dining, health and welfare accommodations on the Cantonment Areas to support troops of visiting brigade sized units (e.g., barracks, classrooms, storage and warehouse, chapel, dining hall, welfare), build out the railhead area to enable efficient transport of equipment required by those visiting units during their training operations, and establish proper range facilities on the OCTC to meet current standards for the training of multiple brigade-sized units.

Component Action 3 would optimize the annual brigade combat team (BCT) training throughput on the OCTC from approximately 4,000 up to 10,500 troops (the equivalent of three BCTs training at 85 percent strength).

Rail transport of equipment to and from the OCTC and training operations would increase between June and August to support the rotation of the IDARNG and visiting BCTs. However, the type and conduct of training would not change.





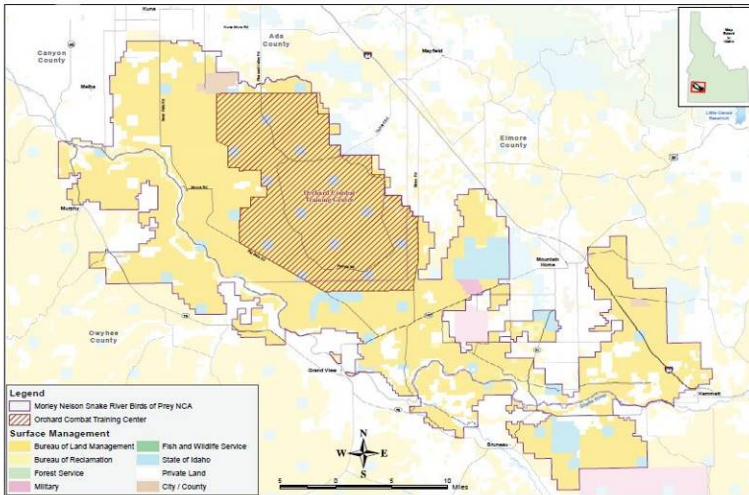


Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training

APPENDIX C: INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



- Congress designates National Conservation Areas (NCAs) to conserve, protect, enhance, and manage the public lands for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- The Snake River Birds of Prey NCA was designated in 1993¹ to provide for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of raptor populations and habitats and the natural and environmental resources and values associated therewith, and of the scientific, cultural, and educational resources and values of the public lands in the conservation area. (Public Law 103-64, Section 3(a)(2))
 - Section 4(e) of the enabling legislation provides for National Guard use of the Orchard Combat Training Center (formerly the Orchard Training Area) as long as it is compatible with the purposes for which the NCA was designated.



¹ The NCA was renamed as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA in the Omnibus Public Land Management act of 2009 to recognize Morley Nelson's work in protecting the area.

Raptors and Their Habitat

- » The NCA is home to the largest and densest population of nesting raptors in North America, if not the world.
- » The combination of ideal nesting habitat in the Snake River Canyon combined with productive hunting territory in the soil rich uplands make for efficient and effective nesting and brood rearing.
- » Every year, more than 700 pairs of raptors, representing 15 species, nest in the NCA.
- » More than 200 pairs of prairie falcon nest in the NCA, representing 5% of the species entire population.
- » The NCA boundaries were drawn to capture the hunting grounds of the prairie falcon, making it the only area in the world whose boundaries are based on science.

Cultural Resources

- » The NCA has a long archaeological record and contains resources important to Native American Tribes.
- » It also contains a historical record of westward expansion, including the Oregon National Historic Trail, mining, and agricultural development.

Science and Education

- » The area has served as a living laboratory for more than 50 years. Studies conducted in the NCA have contributed to the scientific understanding of the distribution, density, habitat, diet, home range, reproduction, and territoriality of major raptors. The longest continuous golden eagle monitoring effort in the world started in the NCA in the early 1970s and continues today.
- » Organizations such as the US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Agricultural Research Service, Boise State University, College of Western Idaho, Utah State University regularly use the NCA for scientific studies.
- » The NCA provides more than 100 educational programs every year, reaching more than 10,000 people, mostly children.



Raptors

Golden Eagle

- » Golden eagles are a resident and migratory raptor species that breeds in the NCA beginning in mid-to-late January. In the NCA, golden eagles typically nest along the cliffs of the steep canyon walls of the Snake River. A nesting territory may contain up to 18 nests, which a pair maintains and repairs as part of their courtship (Kochert and Steenhof 2012). The nesting season extends more than six months from the time eggs are laid until young reach independence. A typical golden eagle raises an average of only 1 young per year and up to 15 young over its lifetime (Kochert et al 2002). The black-tailed jackrabbit is a key prey species throughout much of the range, and eagle reproductive rates fluctuate with jackrabbit population cycles (Kochert et al 2002). Forty historical nesting territories occur throughout the NCA in and near the Snake River Canyon.

Prairie Falcon

- » Prairie falcons are a migratory raptor species that breeds in the NCA, occupying the area from late January through July. They typically nest on cliffs, outcroppings, or pinnacles in cavities, and ledges. Prairie falcons in the NCA time their annual breeding cycle with the seasonal activity of Piute ground squirrels, which are a critical food resource for breeding prairie falcons. Prairie falcons begin establishing nesting territories in late February through March, and peak egg laying corresponds with the emergence of juvenile ground squirrels, which increase the abundance of prey availability for falcons. Prairie falcons migrate from the NCA in late June or early July as summer heat and the desiccation of plant food sources prompt ground squirrels to descend into burrows to begin a period of seasonal inactivity (USDI 1979). The NCA supports the largest breeding population of prairie falcons across the species range (which covers most of the Western U.S. and extends into Canada and Mexico) and past estimates suggest the NCA supports habitat for 5% of the species known population; in a highly productive year, more than 200 breeding pairs nest in the NCA (USDI 1979; Steenhof 2013).

Ferruginous Hawk

- » Ferruginous hawks are a migratory species that migrate to the NCA in late February to begin courtship and breeding. They are opportunistic and nest in trees, shrubs, on cliffs, rock outcrops, buttes, and utility structures; breeding pairs have been documented using farm equipment as nest sites in the NCA (Oldendorff 1993). In the NCA, ferruginous hawks commonly nest on artificial nest platforms that were specifically built for the species (Howard and Hilliard 1998). Ferruginous hawks prefer open shrub steppe and grassland habitats and their primary food source during the breeding season in the NCA is the Piute ground squirrel.

Western Burrowing Owl

- » Burrowing owls are another migrant raptor species that spends its breeding season in the NCA. They generally arrive in early March and leave the NCA by October; a small number of individuals of unknown origin (owls that did not breed in the NCA) winter in the area (Belthoff & King 2002). In the NCA, burrowing owls prefer open grassland habitat and typically nest in burrows dug most often by badgers. A system of artificial nesting burrows have been installed across suitable habitat in NCA, and are also readily used by breeding burrowing owls; the artificial burrows help supplement nesting opportunities and play a role in the research of the species. Burrowing owls typically raise a brood of 8-12 young, the nestlings fledge their nest site throughout the month of June. Important prey items for burrowing owls include voles, kangaroo rats, and invertebrates such as beetles and scorpions.

Belthoff, J. R. 2002. Nest-site Characteristics of Burrowing Owls (*Atene cunicularia*) in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Idaho, and Implications to Artificial Burrow Installation. *Western North American Naturalist*. 62(1):112-119.

Kochert, M.N., and K. Steenhof. 2012. Frequency of nest use by Golden Eagles in southwestern Idaho. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:239-247.

Kochert, M. N., Karen Steenhof, C. L. McIntyre and E. H. Craig. 2002. Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). *The Birds of North America* (P. G. Rodewald, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America.

Marshall, J. M. 1997. Spatial use and Habitat Selection of Golden Eagles in Southwestern Idaho. *The Auk* 114(4):673-687.

Oldendorff, R.R. 1993. Status, biology, and management of Ferruginous Hawks: a review. Special Report, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Boise, ID, USA.

Steenhof, Karen. 2013. Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). *The Birds of North America* (P. G. Rodewald, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America <https://birdsna.org/Species-Account/bna/species/prfal>.

U.S. Department of the Interior. 1979. Snake river Birds of Prey Research Report to the Secretary of the Interior. BLM, Boise, ID.

Golden Eagles



Prairie Falcon

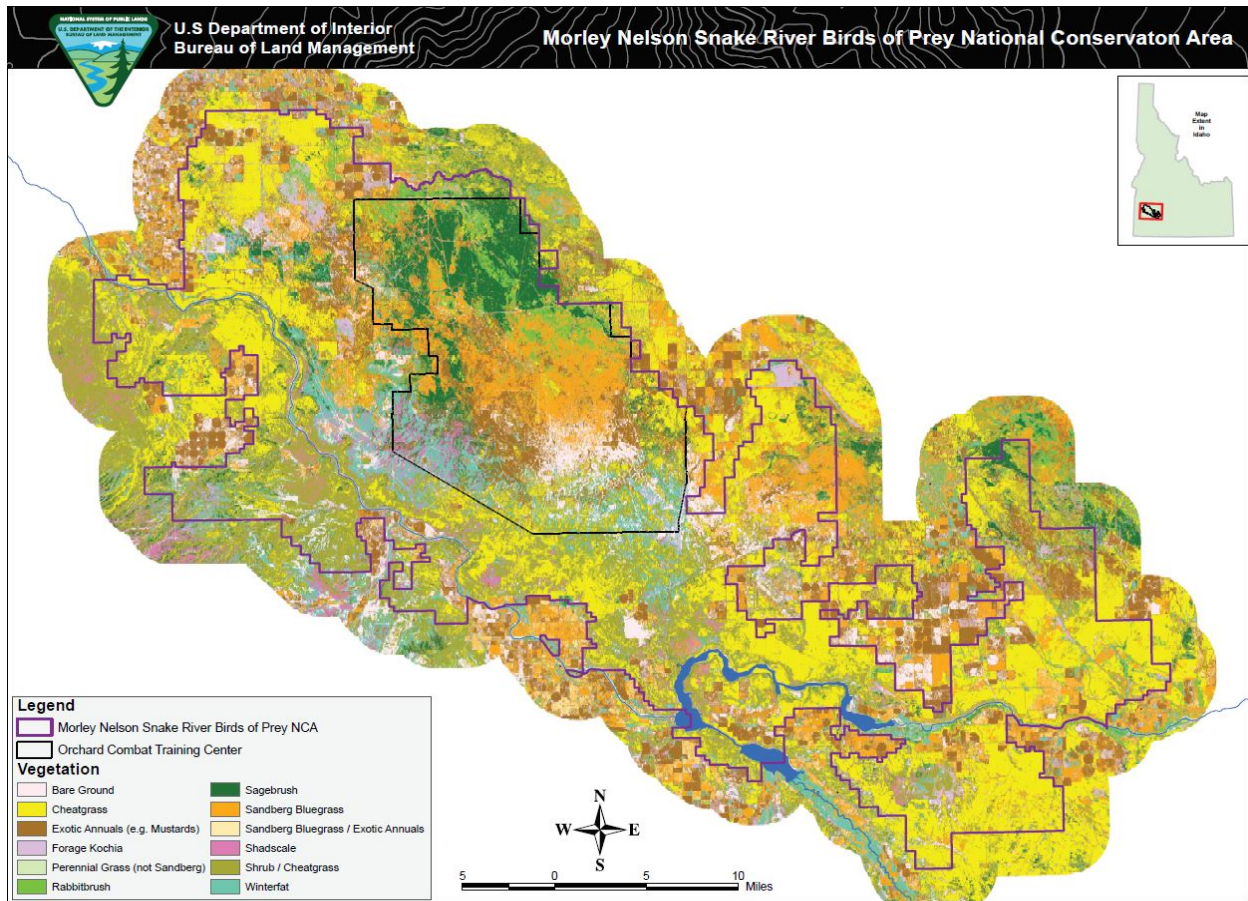


Ferruginous Hawks



Western Burrowing Owls





What is the Purpose and Need of the Proposed Action?

The ARNG is proposing to implement the following three component actions to ensure the long term sustainability of troop support, installation and range functions, and mission training capabilities by the ARNG.

Component Action 1 (Approve the RPMP)

The ARNG needs to have an approved plan for development of the installation and ranges that will support annual training by multiple brigade-sized units on the OCTC. Completion of this EA will enable the ARNG to gain approval of its RPMP and move forward on the next five years of development plans for Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.

Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)

The installation and ranges lack the capacity to actually support accommodating and training of multiple brigade-sized units each year per the mission requirements of the IDARNG ISU and the OCTC. Constructing the proposed facilities and infrastructure would provide the facility, infrastructure, and training capacities required to meet this need.

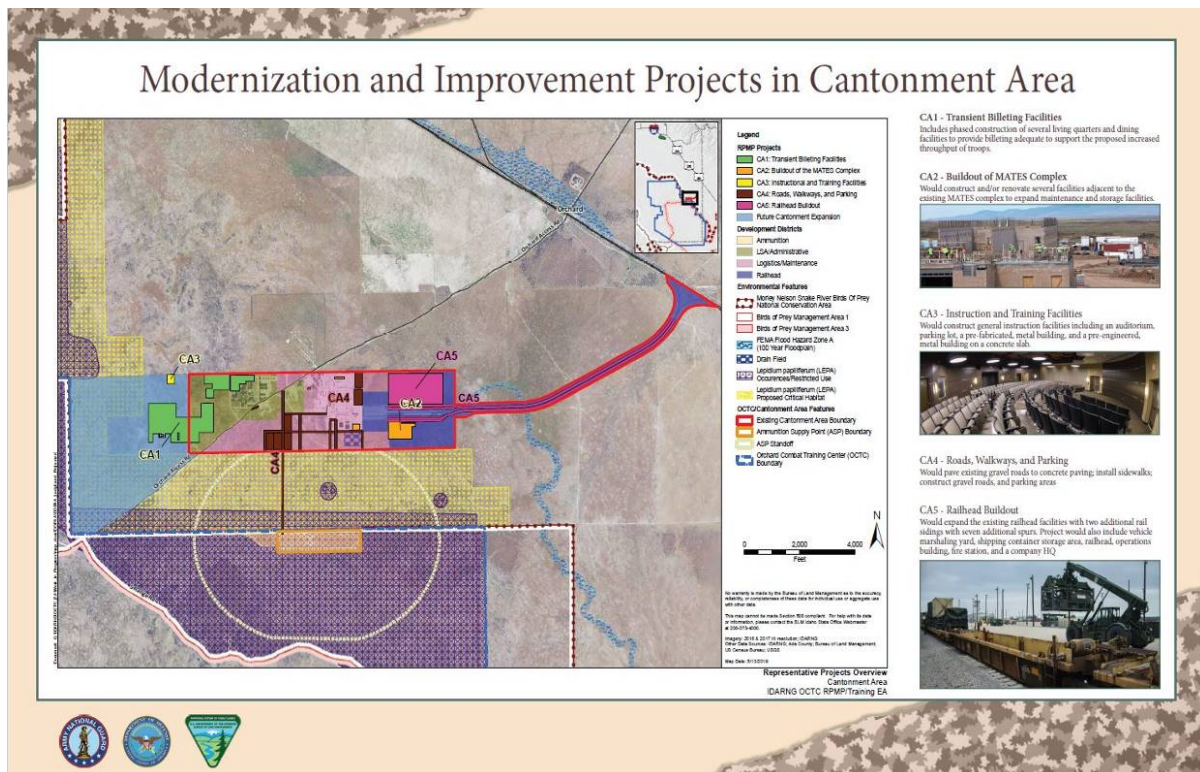
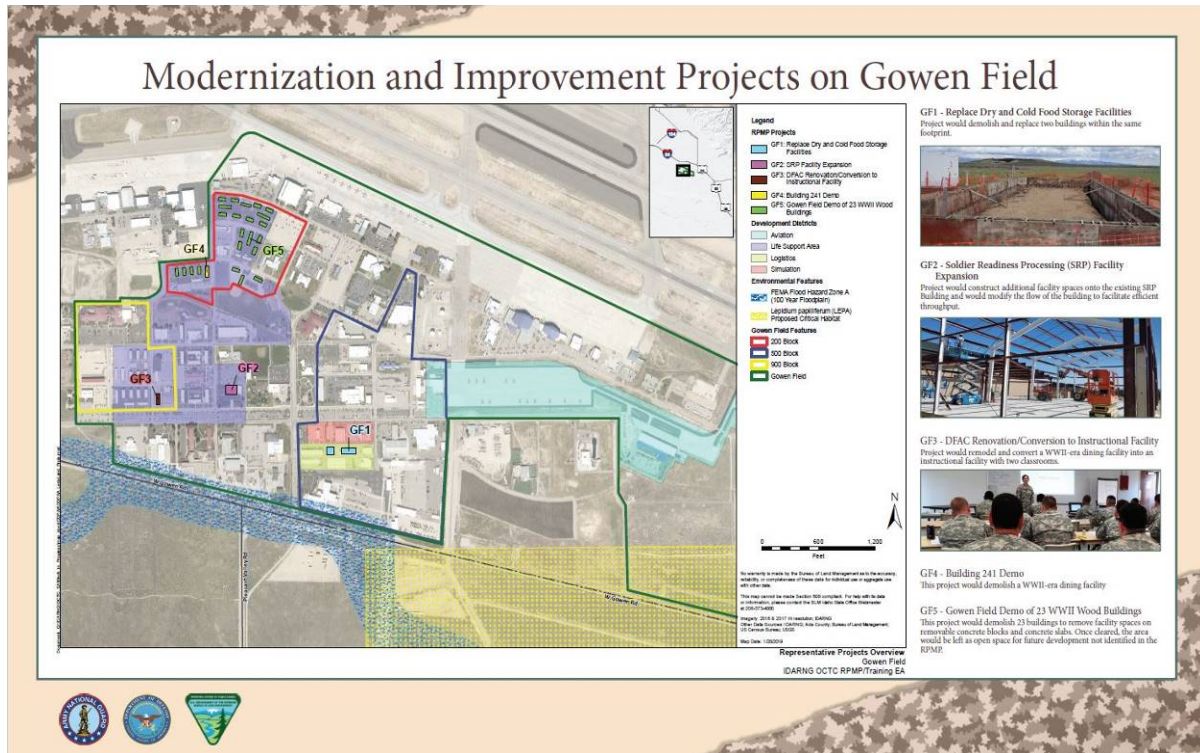
Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)

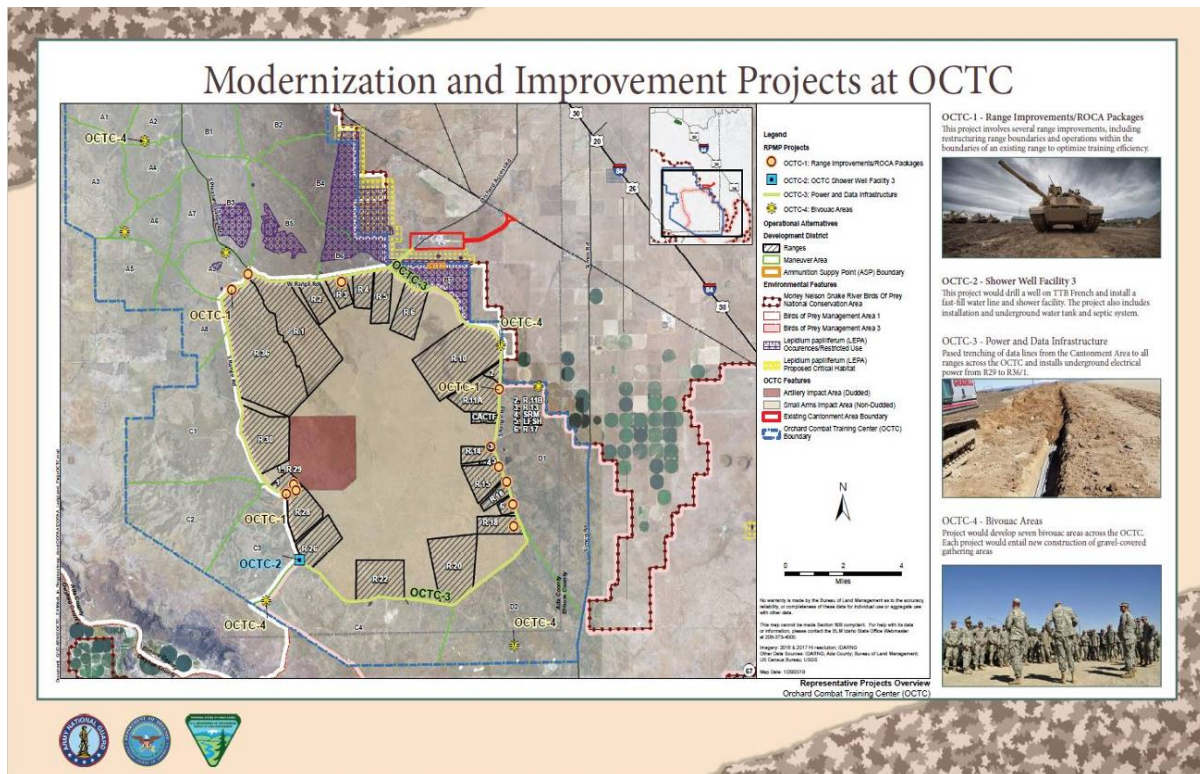
The IDARNG ISU and OCTC need to meet their mission requirements to support brigade-level training for multiple brigade-sized units. By implementing Component Actions 1 and 2, training on the OCTC would occur at its mission specified levels.

BLM

- BLM's purpose of the Proposed Action is to allow approval for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range improvement projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.
- BLM's need for the Proposed Action is established under BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 United State Code § 1701 et seq. and the BLM's ROW regulations, 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2800, which requires them to respond to a request for a ROW grant for legal access and use.







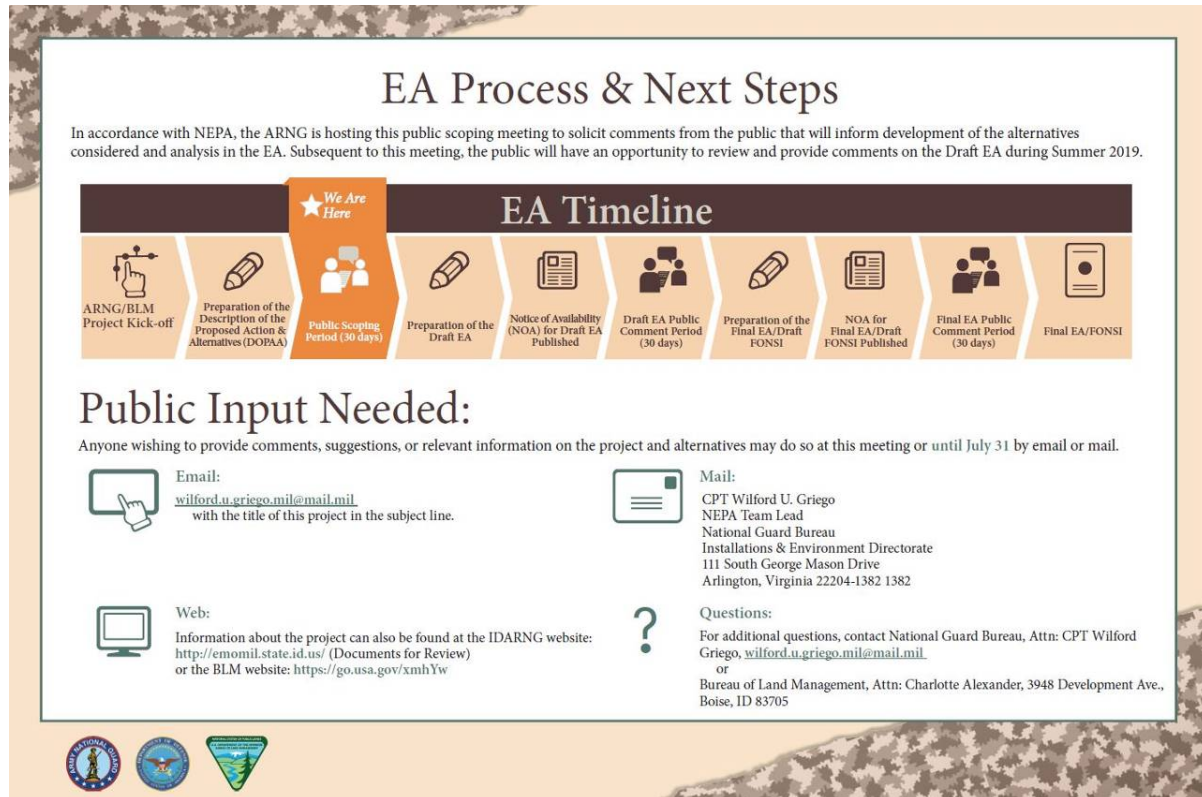
What does “Optimize Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Training Throughput” Mean?

It means that ARNG would be able to meet its mission requirement to train up to three BCT units on the OCTC per year.

Training Days	Personnel	Aircraft and Flight Operations	Railhead Operations	Munitions Expenditures
Training days for training brigade-sized units would increase from 45 to 90 days between June and August (i.e., Summer Training Period) per year.	Troop numbers on OCTC increase from approximately 4,000 (equivalent of 1 BCT) up to 10,500 (equivalent of 3 BCTs operating at 85 percent strength) per year.	No change in numbers of helicopters or associated flight operations. The number of Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) aircraft would increase from 20 aircraft to 50 aircraft.	Rail operations to/from the OCTC would increase from 18 to 34 trains, annually; 80 percent of rail activity would support the Summer Training Period.	No change in the types of equipment used or types or conduct of firing operations on the OCTC. Annual munitions expenditures associated with the proposed BCT training would approximately triple.

All proposed actions would occur within existing OCTC training and installation authorizations.





[illegible]

Public Scoping Comments Received

19 JUL 2019



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
BOISE REGIONAL OFFICE
1445 North Orchard Street • Boise, ID 83706-2239 • (208) 373-0550

DEQ Response to Request for Environmental Comment

Date:	July 5, 2019
Agency Requesting Comments:	Bureau of Land Management
Date Request Received:	June 27, 2019
Applicant/Description:	DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2019-0014-EA

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your request for comment. While DEQ does not review projects on a project-specific basis, we attempt to provide the best review of the information provided. DEQ encourages agencies to review and utilize the Idaho Environmental Guide to assist in addressing project-specific conditions that may apply. This guide can be found at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/ieg/>.

The following information does not cover every aspect of this project; however, we have the following general comments to use as appropriate:

1. Air Quality

- Please review IDAPA 58.01.01 for all rules on Air Quality, especially those regarding fugitive dust (58.01.01.651), trade waste burning (58.01.01.600-617), and odor control plans (58.01.01.776).

For questions, contact David Luft, Air Quality Manager, at 373-0550.

- IDAPA 58.01.01.201 requires an owner or operator of a facility to obtain an air quality permit to construct prior to the commencement of construction or modification of any facility that will be a source of air pollution in quantities above established levels. DEQ asks that cities and counties require a proposed facility to contact DEQ for an applicability determination on their proposal to ensure they remain in compliance with the rules.

For questions, contact the DEQ Air Quality Permitting Hotline at 1-877-573-7648.

2. Wastewater and Recycled Water

- DEQ recommends verifying that there is adequate sewer to serve this project prior to approval. Please contact the sewer provider for a capacity statement, declining balance report, and willingness to serve this project.
- IDAPA 58.01.16 and IDAPA 58.01.17 are the sections of Idaho rules regarding wastewater and recycled water. Please review these rules to determine whether this or future projects will require DEQ approval. IDAPA 58.01.03 is the section of Idaho rules regarding subsurface disposal of wastewater. Please review this rule to determine whether this or future projects will require permitting by the district health department.

All projects for construction or modification of wastewater systems require preconstruction approval. Recycled water projects and subsurface disposal projects

require separate permits as well.

- *DEQ recommends that projects be served by existing approved wastewater collection systems or a centralized community wastewater system whenever possible. Please contact DEQ to discuss potential for development of a community treatment system along with best management practices for communities to protect ground water.*
- *DEQ recommends that cities and counties develop and use a comprehensive land use management plan, which includes the impacts of present and future wastewater management in this area. Please schedule a meeting with DEQ for further discussion and recommendations for plan development and implementation.*

For questions, contact Todd Crutcher, Engineering Manager, at 373-0550.

3. Drinking Water

- *DEQ recommends verifying that there is adequate water to serve this project prior to approval. Please contact the water provider for a capacity statement, declining balance report, and willingness to serve this project.*
- *IDAPA 58.01.08 is the section of Idaho rules regarding public drinking water systems. Please review these rules to determine whether this or future projects will require DEQ approval.*

All projects for construction or modification of public drinking water systems require preconstruction approval.

- *DEQ recommends verifying if the current and/or proposed drinking water system is a regulated public drinking water system (refer to the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/drinking-water.aspx>). For non-regulated systems, DEQ recommends annual testing for total coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite.*
- *If any private wells will be included in this project, we recommend that they be tested for total coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite prior to use and retested annually thereafter.*
- *DEQ recommends using an existing drinking water system whenever possible or construction of a new community drinking water system. Please contact DEQ to discuss this project and to explore options to both best serve the future residents of this development and provide for protection of ground water resources.*
- *DEQ recommends cities and counties develop and use a comprehensive land use management plan which addresses the present and future needs of this area for adequate, safe, and sustainable drinking water. Please schedule a meeting with DEQ for further discussion and recommendations for plan development and implementation.*

For questions, contact Todd Crutcher, Engineering Manager at 373-0550.

4. Surface Water

- *A DEQ short-term activity exemption (STAE) from this office is required if the project will involve de-watering of ground water during excavation and discharge back into surface water, including a description of the water treatment from this process to prevent excessive sediment and turbidity from entering surface water.*
- *Please contact DEQ to determine whether this project will require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. If this project disturbs more than one*

19 JUL 2019

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acre, a stormwater permit from EPA may be required.

- If this project is near a source of surface water, DEQ requests that projects incorporate construction best management practices (BMPs) to assist in the protection of Idaho's water resources. Additionally, please contact DEQ to identify BMP alternatives and to determine whether this project is in an area with Total Maximum Daily Load stormwater permit conditions.
- The Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act requires a permit for most stream channel alterations. Please contact the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Western Regional Office, at 2735 Airport Way, Boise, or call 208-334-2190 for more information. Information is also available on the IDWR website at: <http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/WaterManagement/StreamsDams/Streams/AlterationPermit/AlterationPermit.htm>
- The Federal Clean Water Act requires a permit for filling or dredging in waters of the United States. Please contact the US Army Corps of Engineers, Boise Field Office, at 10095 Emerald Street, Boise, or call 208-345-2155 for more information regarding permits.

For questions, contact Lance Holloway, Surface Water Manager, at 373-0550.

5. Hazardous Waste And Ground Water Contamination

- **Hazardous Waste.** The types and number of requirements that must be complied with under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Idaho Rules and Standards for Hazardous Waste (IDAPA 58.01.05) are based on the quantity and type of waste generated. Every business in Idaho is required to track the volume of waste generated, determine whether each type of waste is hazardous, and ensure that all wastes are properly disposed of according to federal, state, and local requirements.
- No trash or other solid waste shall be buried, burned, or otherwise disposed of at the project site. These disposal methods are regulated by various state regulations including Idaho's Solid Waste Management Regulations and Standards, Rules and Regulations for Hazardous Waste, and Rules and Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution.
- **Water Quality Standards.** Site activities must comply with the Idaho Water Quality Standards (IDAPA 58.01.02) regarding hazardous and deleterious-materials storage, disposal, or accumulation adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of state waters (IDAPA 58.01.02.800); and the cleanup and reporting of oil-filled electrical equipment (IDAPA 58.01.02.849); hazardous materials (IDAPA 58.01.02.850); and used-oil and petroleum releases (IDAPA 58.01.02.851 and 852).

Petroleum releases must be reported to DEQ in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.851.01 and 04. Hazardous material releases to state waters, or to land such that there is likelihood that it will enter state waters, must be reported to DEQ in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.850.

- **Ground Water Contamination.** DEQ requests that this project comply with Idaho's Ground Water Quality Rules (IDAPA 58.01.11), which states that "No person shall cause or allow the release, spilling, leaking, emission, discharge, escape, leaching, or disposal of a contaminant into the environment in a manner that causes a ground water quality standard to be exceeded, injures a beneficial use of ground water, or is not in

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accordance with a permit, consent order or applicable best management practice, best available method or best practical method."

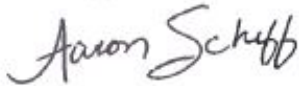
For questions, contact Albert Crawshaw, Waste & Remediation Manager, at 373-0550.

6. Additional Notes

- *If an underground storage tank (UST) or an aboveground storage tank (AST) is identified at the site, the site should be evaluated to determine whether the UST is regulated by DEQ. EPA regulates ASTs. UST and AST sites should be assessed to determine whether there is potential soil and ground water contamination. Please call DEQ at 373-0550, or visit the DEQ website (<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/storage-tanks.aspx>) for assistance.*
- *If applicable to this project, DEQ recommends that BMPs be implemented for any of the following conditions: wash water from cleaning vehicles, fertilizers and pesticides, animal facilities, composted waste, and ponds. Please contact DEQ for more information on any of these conditions.*

We look forward to working with you in a proactive manner to address potential environmental impacts that may be within our regulatory authority. If you have any questions, please contact me, or any of our technical staff at 208-373-0550.

Sincerely,



Aaron Scheff
aaron.scheff@deq.idaho.gov
Regional Administrator
Boise Regional Office
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

ec: CM#2019AEK128



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3188

JUL 23 2019

REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR'S
DIVISION

CPT Wilford U. Griego, NEPA Team Lead
National Guard Bureau
Installations and Environment Directorate
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22204-1382

Dear CPT Griego:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the National Guard announcement to prepare an Environmental Assessment for addressing approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at Gowen Field and Orchard Combat Training Center in Ada and Elmore Counties, Idaho (EPA Region 10 Project Number 19-0040-DOD). Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

According to the June 18, 2019 request for scoping comments announcement, the National Guard Bureau, jointly with the Bureau of Land Management, is proposing to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposal to approve the Orchard Combat Training Center Real Property Master Plan, modernize and improve infrastructure identified in the RPMP for fiscal year 2018-22, and optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training on the OCTC. Because the existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the Army National Guard's current requirements, the project would bring the facilities in compliance with the Army National Guard requirements to achieve national military readiness and mobilization objectives.

We appreciate the NGB's decision to analyze the proposed action's potential impacts on environmental resources within the analysis area. Accordingly, we encourage the agency to develop an EA that fully evaluates and compares project alternatives and comprehensively assesses direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of this action. If the analysis of impacts reveals that significant impacts would result from the proposed action in accordance with NEPA, an Environmental Impact Statement would be warranted. In addition to the preliminary list of resources and issues already identified in the project proposal, we offer the attached comments to highlight issues that we believe are important to consider in the NEPA analysis for the proposed action.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments at this stage of your project planning. If you have questions about our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-6322 or at mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theogene", is written over a circular stamp that partially overlaps the "Sincerely," text.

Theogene Mbabaliye, NEPA Reviewer
Environmental Policy and Review Branch

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Scoping Comments on the proposed
Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center Real Property Master Plan,
Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual
Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training
Gowen Field and OCTC, ID**

Range and Comparison of Alternatives

We recommend that the EA include a range of reasonable alternatives that meet the stated purpose and need and are responsive to the issues identified during the scoping process. The Council on Environmental Quality recommends consideration of all reasonable alternatives, even if some of them could be outside the capability or the jurisdiction of the NGB.¹ To the greatest extent possible, we encourage you to quantify the potential impacts of each alternative and, in a comparative form, present each alternative's impacts. We also recommend that it would also be useful to decision makers and the public if the EA lists each alternative's impacts and corresponding mitigation measures. We encourage selection of the environmentally preferable alternative that would minimize environmental degradation in the EA.

Environmental Effects

We recommend that the proposed EA analysis evaluate the potential impacts from this project on natural resources and identify any necessary measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate those effects. This would involve the delineation and description of the affected environment or analysis area, indication of the impacted resources, the nature of the impacts, and proposed mitigation measures to reduce those impacts. We recommend that providing adequate information in the EA on the following topics would be especially helpful for decision makers and the public.

Water Quality

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires the State of Idaho and tribal governments with EPA-approved water quality standards to identify water bodies that do not meet water quality standards and to develop water quality restoration plans to meet established water quality criteria and associated beneficial uses. We recommend the EA include the following information:

- Impacted waters, the nature of the impacts, and specific pollutants likely to affect those waters;
- Water bodies potentially affected by the project that are listed as impaired on the State's most current EPA-approved 303(d) list;
- Existing restoration and enhancement efforts for those waters, how the proposed project will coordinate with on-going protection efforts, and any mitigation measures implemented to avoid further degradation of impaired waters; and
- How the project would meet the antidegradation provisions of the CWA which prohibit degrading water quality within water bodies that are currently meeting water quality standards.

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/G-CEQ-40Questions.pdf>

Because the CWA also requires any construction project resulting in the disturbance of one or more acres to have authorization under the construction storm water discharge permit for industrial activities, we recommend providing the following information in the EA:

- Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from storm water discharges;
- How the project would meet the requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for potential discharges of stormwater runoff to waters of the United States. We note that NPDES permits are now either authorized by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality or the EPA, depending on the type of permit required, as the program is in the process of being phased over completely from the EPA to IDEQ;² and
- Best management practices, erosion and sediment control, and other mitigation measures to minimize impacts.

We recommend that the EA also assess whether the proposed action would affect drinking water (quantity and quality) and sources. If these resources would be impacted, the EA will need to include information on contaminants of concern and measures to be taken to protect drinking water and related source areas, consistent with the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA and Department of Defense have also detected elevated levels of two emerging contaminants found in firefighting foam, PFOS (Perfluorooctane sulfonate) and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid), in drinking water at or near military installations.³ These contaminants may reduce training/readiness; restrict use of ranges; increase operation, maintenance, and cleanup costs; and divert important resources from mission needs. Therefore, we recommend that the EA include information about these emerging contaminants (e.g., PFOS, PFOA, perchlorate, RDX, and nitroglycerin), how they may pose human health and environmental risks within the analysis area, and actions to be taken to reduce such risks.

For water use and conservation, we encourage the NGB to include a discussion in the EA about conservation measures to implement to ensure sustainable water use during implementation of the proposed action. The program design may include elements such as use of recycled water for landscaping, xeric landscaping, and water conservation education to maximize water conservation. For information on measures that can be taken, please consult the EPA's *Water Conservation Plan Guidelines*.⁴ We also believe that it would be important for the EA to include a discussion on water reliability for the program, factoring in the effects of climate change.

Use of facilities in the analysis area may also compact the soil, thus changing hydrology, runoff characteristics, and affecting flows and delivery of pollutants to waterbodies and ecological function of the area. We recommend that the EA include a detailed discussion of the cumulative effects from this and other projects on the hydrologic conditions of the analysis area. The document should clearly depict reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to groundwater and surface water resources. For groundwater, the potentially affected groundwater basin should be identified and any potential for subsidence and impacts to springs or other open waterbodies and biologic resources should be analyzed.

Aquatic resources and impacts

² <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/permitting/water-quality-permitting/npdes/>

³ <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-78#summary>

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/water-conservation-plan-guidelines>

There may be aquatic resources located within the project analysis area. If so, we recommend describing all waters of the United States, including wetlands, that could be affected by the proposed action and their locations within the analysis area, preferably using maps. We also recommend including data in the EA on wetland acreages and stream channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of the waters and related wetlands. In case activities related to the proposed action would result in impacts to aquatic resources, e.g., filling of wetlands, the NGB would need to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the proposed action would need a CWA §404 permit for discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the U.S.

Please also note that activities affecting floodplains are also regulated under the CWA §404 and Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*. For impacts to floodplains, we recommend that the EA discuss why activities would need to be in floodplains, alternatives considered, and steps to be taken to reduce impacts to floodplains.

Solid Waste, Hazardous Materials and Wastewater Management

As the proposed action may result in direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts due to use of hazardous and non-hazardous materials, we recommend that the EA address these impacts. Hazardous materials such as compressed gas, petroleum products, and others may be used and/or stored in the community. Although proper management is presumed to be safe, concerns remain about the possibility of accidents resulting in the release of hazardous materials to the environment. We recommend that the EA:

- Describe measures that would be taken to minimize the chances of accidental spills or release of pollutants in the environment, and emergency response measures that would be taken should an accident occur;
- Address the applicability of state and federal hazardous materials, pollution prevention, and solid waste requirements, and appropriate mitigation measures to prevent and minimize the generation of solid and hazardous materials; and
- Assess the need to prepare and implement a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure and provide information addressing this SPCC.⁵

Please also note that if pesticides and herbicides will be used during implementation of the proposed project, then we recommend that the EA address any potential toxic hazards related to the application of the chemicals and describe what actions will be taken to assure that impacts by toxic substances released to the environment will be minimized.

Air Quality Impacts

Because activities under the proposed action may result in impacts on air quality, we recommend that the EA include:

- A detailed discussion of ambient air conditions (baseline or existing conditions), National Ambient Air Quality Standards and criteria pollutant non-attainment areas in the analysis area and vicinity, if applicable;
- Estimates of emissions of criteria pollutants for the analysis area and discuss the timeframe for release of these emissions from construction through the lifespan of the proposed project. For estimation of emissions, it would be helpful to specify all emission sources and quantify related emissions;

⁵ https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-04/documents/b_40cfr112.pdf

- Specific information about pollutants from mobile sources, stationary sources, and ground disturbance;
- An Equipment Emissions Mitigation Plan that identifies actions to reduce diesel particulate, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and oxides of nitrogen;
- Potential effects from air pollutants, including air toxics, to workers, ground crews, nearby residents, businesses, and any sensitive receptor locations, such as, schools, medical facilities, senior centers and residences, daycare centers, outdoor recreation areas (e.g., parks);
- Mitigation measures to minimize the proposed project impacts to air quality; and
- Address the Clean Air Act §112(r), and, as applicable, the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, EPCRA § 303, 311, & 312, and related state and county regulatory programs. Information in the NOI indicates there may be hazardous materials routinely found at LNG and natural gas facilities within the analysis area. Flammable fluids and gases, for example, are potential toxic gaseous pollutants that could be released during drilling, maintenance or as the result of an accident.^{6,7}

Habitat, vegetation, and wildlife species impacts

Because of proposed activities, it is possible that there would be impacts on vegetation, wildlife and wildlife habitat areas. We recommend the EA describe the current location, quality and capacity of habitat, its use by wildlife in the project area, and the potential to affect resident and migratory species. Some of the impacts to consider may include disturbance, disruption of normal and necessary behaviors, such as, nesting, foraging/feeding, resting/roosting, rearing young, social interactions, dispersal, daily and seasonal movement/migration patterns, use of available habitat, predator/prey interactions, and direct mortality or injuries due to aircraft/wildlife collisions or other mishaps.

Endangered Species

The proposed project may impact endangered, threatened or candidate species listed under the Endangered Species Act, their habitats, as well as state sensitive species. Evaluation of the proposed gas transmission project should identify the endangered, threatened, and candidate species under ESA, and other sensitive species within the project corridor and surrounding areas. We recommend providing information in the EA document on the critical habitat for the species; impacts the project could have on the species and their critical habitats; and how the proposed project will meet all requirements under ESA, including consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration- Fisheries. The EA may need to include a biological assessment and a description of the outcome of consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 of the ESA.

Seismic and other risks

Construction and operation of facilities may cause or be affected by increased earthquake activity in tectonically active zones. We recommend that the EA:

- Discuss the potential for and approaches to evaluate, monitor and manage seismic risk in the area;
- Include a seismic map or a reference to one;

⁶ http://www.epa.gov/oem/docs/chem/caa112_rmp_factsheet.pdf

⁷ <http://www2.epa.gov/epcra/what-epcra>

- Include information on seismic design and construction standards and practices to minimize seismic, landslide, and other risks; and
- Identify measures to be taken to avoid and mitigate the risks.

Cumulative Effects

The proposed action should assess impacts over the entire area of impact and consider the effects of the proposed projects when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future projects in and outside the analysis area, including those outside of NGB's jurisdiction. Considering all the actions in this area together will help decision makers to understand more clearly what the cumulative impacts on environmental resources are likely to be. The EPA has issued guidance on how we are to provide comments on the assessment of cumulative impacts, *Consideration of Cumulative Impacts in EPA Review of NEPA Documents*.⁸ The guidance states that to assess the adequacy of the cumulative impact assessment, there are five key areas to consider:

- Resources, if any, that are being cumulatively impacted;
- Appropriate geographic area and the time over which the effects have occurred and will occur;
- All past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that have affected, are affecting, or would affect resources of concern;
- A benchmark or baseline; and
- Scientifically defensible threshold levels.

Climate Adaptation

The EPA recommends that the EA include a discussion of reasonably foreseeable effects that changes in the climate may have on the proposed program and the program area. This could help inform the development of measures to improve the resilience of the program. If projected changes could notably exacerbate the environmental impacts of the program, the EPA recommends these impacts also be considered as part of the NEPA analysis.

Coordination with Land Use Planning Activities

We recommend that the EA discuss how the proposed action would support or conflict with the objectives of federal, state, tribal or local land use plans, policies and controls in the analysis area and vicinity. Of importance, the EA should address existing constraints in the analysis area e.g., power lines and utility Right-Of-Ways, floodplains, and how acceptable land uses will be consistent with other land use plans in the area and ability to obtain needed permits and authorizations for activities in the project area. For example, we note that the proposed action may be affected by the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan requirement and it will be helpful to discuss how the proposed action would be affected by this plan and vice versa.

Coordination with Tribal Governments

We recommend the NEPA document describe the process and outcome of government-to-government consultation between FERC and each of the tribal governments that would be affected by the project, issues that were raised, if any, and how those issues were addressed. See Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*.⁹

⁸ <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/nepa/cumulative.pdf>

⁹ https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/nepapub/nepa_documents/RedDont/Req-EO13175tribgovt.pdf

Environmental Justice and Public Participation

If the analysis area includes environmental justice populations, the EA would need to address the potential for disproportionate adverse impacts to the populations. See Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*.¹⁰ One tool available to locate Environmental Justice populations is the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool or EJSCREEN.¹¹

Permits and Authorizations

As construction and operation of facilities under the proposed action would likely require a variety of authorizations, we recommend that the EA include a list of all permits/authorizations that the proposed project already has and will need including modification(s) to any existing permit or authorization, what activity and/or facility is regulated by the permit or authorization, entities that will issue each permit and authorization, when each will expire, and conditions to assure protection of human health and the environment. Such information, presented in a consolidated fashion, will assist agency decision-makers and the public in evaluating the proposed project's impacts and mitigation required to address those impacts.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

The proposed project has the potential to affect a variety of resources for an extended period. As a result, we recommend that the project design include an environmental inspection and mitigation monitoring program to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures and assess their effectiveness. We recommend that the EA describe the monitoring program and its use as an effective feedback mechanism so that any needed adjustment can be made during construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of any facilities. As existing facilities have been in operation for a long time, we recommend that lessons learned from past practices in managing the facilities and monitoring impacts, combined with the need to account for new challenges, such as climate change, be incorporated into the EA to help inform the design and management of the currently proposed facilities.

¹⁰ <https://www.archives.gov/files/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

Elmore County Board of Commissioners

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150 South 4th East Suite #3
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

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Albert Hofer
(208) 599-1620

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CPT Wilford U. Griego
NEPA Team Lead
National Guard Bureau
Installations Ad
Environment Directorate
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22204-1382

Elmore County (the "County") is fully supportive of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC). We would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit our concerns regarding the improvements to the OCTC in Ada County and Elmore County, Idaho.

The County's primary concerns are in regard to how the OCTC plans to deal with increased traffic, noise, fire potential, and dust.

With the proposed increase in the activities at the OCTC, this will bring an increase in the traffic on the roads. The proposal states there would be a proposed increase of 400 tracked vehicles and 3,000 wheeled vehicles a year. The County is extremely concerned with the increase of traffic on the county roads. This increase in the traffic will be in a large part from heavy equipment being transported and traveling on the roads. With the increase in traffic would be the potential for increased collisions with wildlife and livestock.

The County is also concerned with the proposed increase in noise. The OCTC proposal states that the firing of live rounds will from 857,952 to 6,793,789 rounds and blank rounds fired will increase from 2,359,530 to 8,071,759 rounds. The proposal states there will be no increase in the small arms, Mortar, artillery and engineering and aviation gunnery. The proposed increases are in vehicle gunnery, XCTC (rounds fired from HMMWVs, IFVs and Main Battle tanks) and AYST (rounds fired from IFVs and Battle Tanks, Mortar FRTR, XM1122 Howitzer). The number of days for training is also proposed to increase from 45 days to 90 consecutive days during the summer training period.

With the proposed increase in summer training in the summer months, there is an increased potential for wildfires. Additionally, due to potential increase in firing of rounds and the increase of vehicle movement, there is the potential of increase in wildfires

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spreading throughout Elmore County and Ada County. We are concerned with our ability to communicate with the training range if an emergency arises in the area.

Dust is a concern for the county. With the new construction at the OCTC, approximately 23% of the planned development would occur on previously disturbed land, the remainder of 77% would be where new development would occur. This construction will cause a significant increase in the amount of dust that will be produced.

The County would like to suggest a few ways of mitigating our concerns. A suggestion for mitigating the noise would be to inform all the landowners, like City of Mountain Home and Elmore County with the dates of any upcoming exercises.

The increase in the potential for wildfires may be mitigated by having fire trucks onsite during live and blank round firing exercises and during vehicle movements.

Increases in potential traffic accidents may be mitigated by posting signs along Simco Road as well as providing funds for road maintenance and for emergency medical services and extraction services.

Elmore County would like to have an opportunity to discuss these concerns with the leaders of OCTC by meeting with you to discuss the issues that we have addressed. We would also like to discuss the impact on the Mountain Home Air Force Base.

Elmore County would also request the name and a phone number for a point of contact for when the County and the City of Mountain Home receives complaints from citizens on the issues that we have mentioned in this letter. Please contact Shelley Essl, Elmore County Clerk at 208-587-2130 ext. 1210 or email to sessl@elmorecounty.org to set up a meeting to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,
Elmore County Board of Commissioners,


Franklin Corbus, Chairman

ABSENT
Wesley Wootan, Commissioner


Albert Hofer, Commissioner



D

Cumulative Impacts Analysis – Past and Future RPMP Project Lists

- IDARNG CATEX RPMP Projects (FYs 17, 18, and 19)
- IDARNG RPMP Projects (FYs 17 and 18) Addressed via Environmental Assessment
- IDARNG Future RPMP Projects (FY23 and Beyond)



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Table D-1. IDARNG CATEX RPMP Projects (FYs 17, 18, and 19)

O&M Project #	MILCON Project #	FY	Category	NEPA Coverage	Project Title	Location	Project Description
162018111 162018112 162018113 162018114 162018115 162018284 162018247		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Bldg. 908 Barracks Repair	Gowen	Remodel WWII Wood Barracks, upgrade latrine, electrical and interior.(Bldgs: 908, 909, 910, 913, 914, 915, and 917.
162018248 162018249 162018250		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Bldg. 918 Barracks Repair	Gowen	Remodel WWII Wood Barracks, upgrade latrine, electrical and interior (Bldgs 918, 919, 920)
	160143	18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Barracks (Gowen)	Gowen	Transient billeting for 400 enlisted soldiers. To construct a 24,000 SF National Guard Transient Training Barracks that supports training, administrative, and logistical requirements. One 24,000 sf two-story barracks. Impervious surface 1,333 sy, utilizing existing parking.
162017116		17	I	CATEX/REC-Check	Railhead Spur #4 Expansion	Cantonment	Will extend existing Spur #4 1,300 linear (lf) to existing rail yard. Extension of Spur #4 is complete. Rail MILCON projects: 160191 (FY19 unspecified minor military construction [UMMC]) and 160024 (FY20 IRP) are to construct two additional sidings with seven additional spurs. Additional sidings will begin where the existing sidings split (NE edge of rail line at the "Y") and run parallel one per side of the existing sidings (approximately 11' offset from edge of siding) approximately 2.5 miles and connect into one siding prior to the bridge as the current sidings do. The additional spurs (three to the north/ four to the south) will be offset approximately 25' from the each other and current spurs. 160191 (Sidings) will be complete prior to 160024 (Spurs) start.
162017117		17	I	CATEX/REC-Check	Railhead staging yard	Cantonment	Construct 310' x 750' gravel compound with security fencing. East (150') and West (100') to be concrete.
162016076		17	C	CATEX/REC-Check	BN Issue Compound 1 - 3 (CAB Sized)	Cantonment	Construct three 300'x600' fenced gravel parking lots. Compounds should eventually be concrete. Total impervious area is 18,750 SY/compound, 56,250 SY total.
162018094		17	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Troop Medical Center	Cantonment	Construct a 60'x90' pre-engineered metal building with concrete slab foundation. Facility will have underground water, sanitary sewer, and electrical.

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O&M Project #	MILCON Project #	FY	Category	NEPA Coverage	Project Title	Location	Project Description
162018039		17	L	CATEX/REC-Check	CL I Warehouse	Cantonment	Construct 75'x80'CL warehouse (metal building with concrete foundation). Facility will have underground electrical trenched to facility.
162018095		17	L	CATEX/REC-Check	CL I cold storage Building	Cantonment	Construct 65'x55' CL cold storage building (metal building with concrete) foundation includes underground electric, water, and sanitary sewer. 34'x80' concrete loading dock.
162018043		17	I	CATEX/REC-Check	MATES Railhead LED upgrade	Cantonment	Replace existing lighting with LED lighting.
162018031		17	C	CATEX/REC-Check	BLDG 665 roof & HVAC repair	Cantonment	Replace existing roof on Building 665. Replace HVAC unit.
162012025		17	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Cleaning / Maintenance BLDG	Cantonment	Construct 35'x75' cleaning/maintenance building (metal building with concrete foundation). Install underground 9'x11' concrete holding tank. 20'x40' concrete pad to west of facility.
162018097		17	C	CATEX/REC-Check	General Instruction Building	Cantonment	Construct 80'x100' general instruction building (metal building with concrete foundation).
162018098		17	C	CATEX/REC-Check	DPW Maintenance Bay	Cantonment	Construct 60'x100' maintenance bay (metal building with concrete foundation). Project includes electrical, water, and sanitary sewer. Vehicle Maintenance Facility.
162018101		17	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Classroom facility for RSOI Briefing	Cantonment	Construct 80'x75' metal building with concrete foundation.
162014074		17	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Cantonment Area Helipad	Cantonment	Construct 330'x330' helipad. 230'x230' asphalt/concrete with exterior gravel. 1,000'x20' gravel road.
16208302		18	L	CATEX/REC-Check	Cantonment Area Fuel Station Repair	Cantonment	Need to automate Fuel distribution and tracking (current system is all manual). Current fuel pumps are functional but need improved (QRPA). Fuel point requires overhead Fire Suppression System. Overhead protection is required to facilitate fire suppression system. (ERVT). Remove underground tanks and move them to above ground (ERVT). Fuel farm needs to be constructed on the West side of FP to allow future expansion of wash rack. Current fuel holding capacity is 35K gal of fuel; 3 tanks of JP8 (33k Gal) one 2k Gal tank of gasoline. Additional above ground storage tanks are required (minimum 100k gal) (ERVT)

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O&M Project #	MILCON Project #	FY	Category	NEPA Coverage	Project Title	Location	Project Description
162018252		18	L	CATEX/REC-Check	Cantonment Area Fuel Station Expansion	Cantonment	Add additional above ground fuel tanks, approx. 120,000ga. Expand concrete pads and access gates. Current fuel holding capacity is 35K gal of fuel; 3 tanks of JP8 (33k Gal) one 2k Gal tank of gasoline. Additional above ground storage tanks are required (minimum 100k gal) (ERVT)
162013002		18	L	CATEX/REC-Check	CL IX Dry Storage Building II	Cantonment	Construct a 100'x120' warehouse. Facility will be pre-engineered metal building on concrete foundation. Project includes utilities and fenced gravel compound approximately 5,000 sy.
162018253		18	I	CATEX/REC-Check	Cantonment Tank Trail	Cantonment	Construct 30' wide gravel tank trail approx. 2 miles in length along southern property line and parallel Orchard Access Road.
162017052		18	I	CATEX/REC-Check	Fire Station Heated Storage / Org Parking Expansion	Cantonment	Construct 40'x200' vehicle storage building. Pre-engineered metal building package on concrete slab foundation. Expand existing compound south 25,000sy
162018304		18	I	CATEX/REC-Check	Cantonment Area Land Purchase	Cantonment	Purchase 30 acres of private land to trade for cantonment expansion.
162018305		18	L	CATEX/REC-Check	Covered Fueler Parking	Cantonment	Construct an 40'x80' concrete parking pad with overhead cover. Parking pad to be curbed for secondary containment for fuelers.
162018089		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	BN Transient Training Compounds 4 & 6-9	Cantonment	Construct five Battalion Issue Compounds. Project includes base and sub-base material (gravel), concrete, and fencing. Total impervious area is 18,750 SY/compound, 93,750 SY total.
162018255		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Rail Staging Yard II	Cantonment	Construct 310' x 750' gravel compound with security fencing. East (150') and West (100') to be concrete.
162018306		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	ACP #1	Cantonment	Construct 10'x20' guard shack, search lane, gate across existing Orchard Access Road, security lighting, and overhead cover across road.
162019066		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	937/938 Move/Addition	Cantonment	Move the existing 1,400sf facility south of fire station and add an additional 1,400 sf.

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O&M Project #	MILCON Project #	FY	Category	NEPA Coverage	Project Title	Location	Project Description
162018099		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	MCC Administrative Facility	Cantonment	Construct a 80'x100' Administrative Building for in-processing/out-processing transient soldiers, performing S1 and miscellaneous administrative support. Structure to be a pre-engineered metal building; includes steel frame and corrugated roof, interior furnishings, heating, electrical, and audio visual for briefings and administrative support.
162018237		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Cantonment Shower/Toilet Addition	Cantonment	Construct a latrine addition to the existing shower facility to accommodate water closets and urinals.
162018230		18	L	CATEX/REC-Check	EMO/ENG Maintenance Facility	Cantonment	Construct 75'x80' metal building with concrete foundation. Facility will have underground electrical trenched to facility.
162018257		18	L	CATEX/REC-Check	Controlled Waste Facility	Cantonment	Construct a 100'x450' gravel compound with concrete pads and overhead protection for the sorting and disposal of refuse and recyclables.
162013015		18	L	CATEX/REC-Check	DOL Admin BLDG	Cantonment	Construct a 100'x120' warehouse. Facility will be pre-engineered metal building on concrete foundation. Project includes utilities and fenced gravel compound approximately 5,000 sy.
	160174	18	I	CATEX/REC-Check	Water Tower/ sewer expansion	Cantonment	To construct a 1 Million Gallon potable water storage tank. This water tank will support the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) cantonment area and water requirements for the IDARNG.
	160193	19	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Fire Station Expansion	Cantonment	Construct a 16,000 addition to Fire Station to include paved driveway and aprons.
162018140		19	I	CATEX/REC-Check	MILES Overhead Cover II	Cantonment	Construct a 100'x300' concrete pad with overhead cover.
	160191	18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Cantonment Rail Siding	Cantonment	Construction of an additional 1.5 miles of rail siding at the railhead. Project will add 15,000 sy, which is the area the rail siding will cover. Delete project. Only MILCON Project 160191 will provide this facility. Will be Rec/Check.
162018303		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	Rail Access Road	Cantonment	Construct 30' wide gravel road approx. 1.5 miles in length along parallel existing rail siding.
162018110		18	I	CATEX/REC-Check	Underground Comm Lines I and COM BLDG	Cantonment/OCTC	Construct a 20'x20' communications building to house switches and communication infrastructure. Pull additional communication lines in existing conduit.

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O&M Project #	MILCON Project #	FY	Category	NEPA Coverage	Project Title	Location	Project Description
162017109		17	R	CATEX/REC-Check	RG 1 target concrete coffins	OCTC	Replace twenty-eight (28) existing wood target emplacements with concrete target emplacements.
162018086		17	R	CATEX/REC-Check	Range 14 ROCA	OCTC	Construct a 1,000 sf Operations and Storage Building, 1,000 sf Classroom, a 30' x 50' Covered Bleacher, 30' x 60' Covered Mess, and 100 sf Ammunition Breakdown Building. All structure to be constructed of pre-engineered metal building packages.
162017110		17	R	CATEX/REC-Check	RG 13 construct new pistol range	OCTC	Upgrade existing eight lane Combat Pistol Range to standard 15 lane per TC 25-8 standards.
162017113		17	R	CATEX/REC-Check	RG 18 power to Sniper complex / range	OCTC	Emplace underground electrical in existing conduit from the tower 1,000m to existing targetry on range.
162014006		17	R	CATEX/REC-Check	Range Power 22-29	OCTC	Install 37,000lf of underground electrical in the Range Road Row.
162016078		17	R	CATEX/REC-Check	Range 1 Tower Repair	OCTC	Interior repair of existing tower. Paint exterior.
162017111		17	R	CATEX/REC-Check	Range 15 retaining wall for mounted	OCTC	Project includes constructing retaining walls in existing berm and installing 50'x156' concrete pad on existing cinder area.
162018035		17	R	CATEX/REC-Check	RCOM Asphalt repair	OCTC	Pave existing road inside Range Center of Maintenance (RCOM) compound.
162018293		18	R	CATEX/REC-Check	Range 1 lane 4 berm (improvements)	OCTC	Add fill on top of existing B2 Lane to create an earth berm 10' high, 1,500' in length.
162012026		18	I	CATEX/REC-Check	OCTC TUAS Hanger, Runway & Recovery Site	OCTC	Construct a 50' x 1,000' paved runway with an 80' x 100' hangar. Pre-engineered metal building on concrete slab. Hangar to be fenced.
162018258		18	C	CATEX/REC-Check	SRTF (OCTC) SAMT Building	OCTC	Construct a 80'x100' pre-engineered metal building for simulators on concrete slab foundation. Electrical and comm required.
162018057		18	L	CATEX/REC-Check	OCTC Well/Fast Fill and Shower Facility	OCTC	Drill a well on TTB Brumpton. Install a fastfill water line and 30'x80' shower facility. Project includes 5,000 gal underground water tank and septic system

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O&M Project #	MILCON Project #	FY	Category	NEPA Coverage	Project Title	Location	Project Description
	160151	20	C	CATEX/REC-Check	ASP Expansion	OCTC	Construct two large ammunition holding bunkers in accordance to standard Army design. Provides increased storage and throughput for BDE CL V operations. Construct two large ammunition holding bunkers in accordance to standard Army design. 40'x80' Bunkers x (2). Earth covered above ground bunkers. FY20 project.
162020029 162021019 162017089		17, 18, 19, 20	R	CATEX/REC-Check	Range 5 DMPTR	OCTC	Projects would develop a digital multipurpose training range for Ranges 5, 6, and 26. Scope above (Add additional targetry and underground electrical/data per TC 25-8 standard. Total 18 Infantry Clusters, 30 SATs, 5 Urban Facades, 6 MATs, two machinegun bunkers with trench, 10 BPs, and two 2,000m gravel lanes. Approx. 20,000lf underground electrical).
162019059 162018087 162020042		19	R	CATEX/REC-Check	Range 5, 6, and 26 ROCAs	OCTC	Projects would construct ROCA packages for Ranges 5, 6, and 26 that would entail several facilities including: a 1,000 sf Operations and Storage Building, 1,000 sf Classroom, 1,000 sf AAR Building, a 30' x 50' Covered Bleacher, 30' x 60' Covered Mess, 100 sf Ammunition Loading Dock, Vehicle Instrumentation Docks, 3 Operation Storage Buildings, 3 Latrines, 11 Battle Positions, 18 Infantry Clusters per ROCA, 15 SAT Targets, 10 MAT Targets, 11 Battle Positions, below ground power lines, and on-range roads. All structures to be constructed of pre-engineered metal building packages on concrete slabs. Total structure area will be 3,200 sf plus additional 367 sy of concrete for bleachers and mess area.
162018287		18	L	CATEX/REC-Check	Orchard Access Road Repair	Other	Re-grade, shape, and compact existing road between the OCTC and the Cantonment Area. Replace base course material. This also includes the resurfacing of the Orchard Access Road segment extending east from the Cantonment Area.

Table Key: C – Construction, I – Infrastructure, L – Logistics, R – Range

Table D-2. IDARNG RPMP Projects (FY17 through FY18) – Addressed Via Environmental Assessment

O&M Project #	MILCON Project #	FY	Category	NEPA Coverage	Project Title	Location	Project Description
162018085		18	R	MP-1 EA	Range 6 (MPTR) Infrastructure	OCTC	Infrastructure Project - Construction of 5 Urban Facades, two 1,500-foot MATs, and two machinegun bunkers with trench.
162017089 162017115 162017114 162020029 162021018 162021019 162017115 162018297 162021017		17	R	MP-1 EA	Range 26 Expansion	OCTC	Projects would add additional targetry and underground electrical/data per TC 25-8 standard. Total 18 Infantry Clusters, 30 SATs, 5 Urban Facades, 6 MATs, two machinegun bunkers with trench, 10 BPs, and two 2,000m gravel lanes. All emplacements are at grade with berming around. Approx. 20,000lf underground electrical.
162020024		17	R	MP-1 EA	Range 6/10 ATHP 1	OCTC	Construct a 250'x350 fenced area for unit ammunition security. The facility will have a 1,300 lf x 20'w gravel road, 100'x100' concrete pad, and two 20'x20' concrete pads with metal overhead cover.
162017035		18	L	MP-1 EA	ATHP 2 (Range 1)	OCTC	Construct a 250'x350 fenced area for unit ammunition security. The facility will have a 1,300lf x 20'w gravel road, 100'x100' concrete pad, and two 20'x20' concrete pads with metal overhead cover.
162019047		19	L	MP-1 EA	ATHP 3 (OP 7 Cinder Pit)	OCTC	Construct a 250'x350 fenced area for unit ammunition security. The facility will have a 1,300lf x 20'w gravel road, 100'x100' concrete pad, and two 20'x20' concrete pads with metal overhead cover.
162017036 162016052		20 21	L	MP-1 EA	ATHP 4 (26)	OCTC	Projects would construct a 250'x350 fenced area for unit ammunition security for ATHP 4 (R26) and for ATHP 5 (Location TBD). The facility will have a 1,300lf x 20'w gravel road (26,000 SY) 100'x100' concrete pad (10,000 SF), and two 20'x20' concrete pads (800 SF) with metal overhead cover.
162022036		22	L	MP-1 EA	ATHP 6 (Range 3) Fence and Repair	OCTC	Project to fence and repair existing ATHP at Range 3 to meet the same standard as the other ATHP's.

Table Key: C – Construction, I – Infrastructure, L – Logistics, R – Range

Table D-3. IDARNG Future RPMP Projects (FY23 and Beyond)

O&M Project #	MILCON Project #	FY	Category	Project Title	Location	Project Description (from IDARNG).
	160199	NA	C	Waste water Treatment Plant	Cantonment	Future construction of a wastewater treatment plant. Studies underway to determine system type and size.
	160099, 160029, 160030, 160094	23, 24, 25, 26	C	BN Set TT Barracks (Training Cantonment)	Cantonment	Adds 1200 bed spaces, three 4-story barracks (63,592 sf), and one 3-story Officer Barracks (33,869 sf) each year. Action will add a total of 4,800 bed spaces, 16 4-story barracks, and 12 3-story Officer Barracks over four years. In total action will result in 763,104 sf of added facility space and 22,000 sy of added impervious surface.
	160032	23	C	BDE HQ	Cantonment	Construct one standard Administrative HQ Building and 4 BDE storage facilities, totaling 14,300 sf of added facility space and 1,100 sy added impervious surface.
		NA	C	Mission Training Center	Cantonment	Construct a standard design Army Mission Training Complex's (MTC) based upon there designated size of small (46,000 SF/3 acres). The MTC will provide the ability to operate with least amount of resources in classified environment; easy interoperability to other MTCs joining units from other installations into one exercise; proper HVAC for extensive electronic operations; space for technical hardware; AAR functions; mechanical & storage; loading docks, communications hub; support staff; expandable classrooms; workcells; Reconfigurable Tactical Operations Centers (RTOC); TOC Pads and parking.
	160095	27	C	Training Center HQ	Cantonment	Construct a 9,700 sf foot facility for the Training Center Headquarters. ISU Readiness Center, Cantonment Area totaling 97,000 sf of added facility space and 20,000 sy impervious surface.
162020037		NA	R	OCTC shower/ well facility 4	IDL Lands	Drill a well on Idaho State Land Simco East. Install a fastfill water line and 30'x80' shower facility. Project includes 5,000 gal underground water tank and septic system. Location will be on State parcel T3S R4E Section 36, with exact location pending test well results.
162017083		25	I	Cantonment Security Fencing	Cantonment	Install perimeter security fencing around the Cantonment Area; Total when complete will be 35,000 linear feet; adding 21,000 new linear feet.

Table Note: RPMP modernization projects listed in this table would not be completed until after FY22 and/or as needs dictate with availability of funding. Implementation of these actions would require analysis in separate NEPA effort.

Table Key: C – Construction, I – Infrastructure, L – Logistics, R – Range



E

Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Documentation



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USFWS Concurrence



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Boise, Idaho 83709
Telephone (208) 378-5243
<http://IdahoES.fws.gov>



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R9/ES/IFWO/2020-I-0803

April 22, 2020

Charlie Baun, Conservation Branch Manager
Idaho National Guard
Environmental Management Office
4715 South Byrd St. Bldg 518
Boise, ID 83705

Subject: Idaho Army National Guard Real Property Master Plan, Ada County, Idaho -
Concurrence

Dear Mr. Baun,

This letter responds to the Army National Guard and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (Agencies) request for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) concurrence on effects of the subject action to species and habitats listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; [Act]). The Agencies' request dated April 07, 2020, and received by the Service on the same date, included a biological assessment entitled *Biological Assessment of the Effects of the Idaho Army National Guard Real Property Master Plan* (Assessment) dated April 07, 2020. Information contained in the Assessment is incorporated here by reference.

Through the Assessment, the Agencies determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) or its proposed critical habitat (PCH). The Service concurs with the Agencies' determination for slickspot peppergrass and its PCH and presents our rationale below.

Proposed Action

The Federal action is to optimize Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) training throughput and improve associated infrastructure to do so. To meet training center qualifications, the IDARNG will increase the annual throughput in southwest Idaho from approximately 4,000 up to 10,500 troops per year. To support this increase, 83 construction and infrastructure development project elements are planned (e.g., construction or expansion of new buildings,

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Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Improved Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training
APPENDIX E: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION

Charlie Baun, Conservation Branch Manager
Real Property Master Plan

facilities, or surfaces; replacement or remodeling of existing buildings, facilities, or surfaces; and demolition of existing structures).

The action area includes sub-action areas of Gowen Field, Cantonment, and Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), which are parsed out by differences in use and location. Gowen Field is collocated with the Boise Airport and contains roughly 220 hectares used for administrative purposes. The Cantonment sub-action area is a multi-use space approximately 32 kilometers southeast of Boise, Idaho that encompasses around 272 hectares adjacent to the northern border of the OCTC. The OCTC lies within the Bureau of Land Management's Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and covers approximately 58,034 hectares used primarily for military training and maneuvering.

The Assessment provides a complete description of the proposed action (pp. 9-16, Appendix A) and associated conservation measures (pp. 18-21). The environmental baseline and effects of the proposed action are discussed in detail in the Assessment (pp. 18-44).

Species and Habitat Presence in the Action Area

The Gowen Field sub-action area contains 6 hectares of PCH for slickspot peppergrass that are approximately 500 meters from the closest project element. However, the remainder of the field is highly developed and does not have potential for slickspot peppergrass habitat or occurrences (Assessment, p. 22, 30). The Cantonment sub-action area contains 188 hectares of unoccupied habitat and 84 hectares of Habitat Integrity Zone (HIZ); a 0.8 kilometer buffer that surrounds an element occurrence (EO) (Assessment, Appendix B). The Cantonment area does not contain occupied habitat or PCH but slickspot peppergrass occurrences have been recorded south of the sub-action area within 15 meters of the nearest project element (Assessment, p. 22-24). The OCTC sub-action area contains unoccupied, occupied, and potential habitat as well as slickspot peppergrass EOs, corresponding HIZ buffers, and PCH (Assessment, p. 25-26, 30).

Potential Impacts and Effects from the Proposed Action

A full analysis of effects to slickspot peppergrass from the action are described in the Assessment (pp. 31-44). Gowen Field sub-action project elements occur on impervious surfaces outside of PCH and will not affect slickspot peppergrass or its PCH (Assessment, p. 33). In the Cantonment and OCTC sub-action areas, project elements could indirectly impact slickspot peppergrass by reducing local pollinator abundance from habitat loss. However, the loss of pollinator habitat is minimal and an abundance of alternative flowering plants within and adjacent to the sub-action areas reduce pollinator impacts to insignificant levels (Assessment p. 38). Furthermore, conservation measures are in place to avoid removal of flowering plants where possible.

The OCTC sub-action area project elements will result in the permanent loss of 10.1 hectares of slickspot peppergrass habitat and 0.2 hectares of an EO. No slickspot peppergrass occurrences

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Charlie Baun, Conservation Branch Manager
Real Property Master Plan

have been recorded within construction footprints or project element impact buffers within areas of permanent loss (Assessment, p. 35). Areas of unknown occupancy have the potential to contain viable seeds within the soil. However, slickspot microsites of unknown occupancy within affected habitat are most likely non-functional due to heavy soil disturbance from past activities and invasive plants (Assessment p. 36). Additionally, construction footprints and related impact buffers for project elements will be surveyed prior to work to avoid potential slickspot peppergrass plants and microsites. Construction of access roads will be limited to existing disturbed paths when possible to reduce new disturbance (Assessment p. 19).

Construction activities in Cantonment and OCTC sub-action areas may cause local, short term effects to slickspot peppergrass through an increase in fugitive dust and potential crushing or removal of other vegetation (Assessment p. 35-37). It is unlikely that fugitive dust will rise to significant levels; dust would be temporary and potentially affected areas are next to well-traveled gravel roads. These roads commonly produce dust and slickspot peppergrass is known to occur in similar instances throughout the OCTC (ibid, p. 36). Disturbances to habitat from vegetation trampling or removal of other plant species will be localized, minor, and mitigated through on-site restoration; potential effects are not expected to last more than two growing seasons (Assessment p. 19). Furthermore, conservation measures are in place to address the potential spread of harmful invasive plants and monitoring will be conducted to identify and treat any noxious weeds within affected areas (ibid). Thus, effects to slickspot peppergrass relating to disturbance, habitat loss, and pollinator habitat loss are insignificant or discountable.

Training throughput will increase in the Cantonment and OCTC sub-action areas but the type, manner, and location of operations would remain relatively unchanged. Conservation measures are in place to offset potential effects such as briefing non-local personnel on off-limit areas, noxious weed prevention, ground disturbance stabilization, and increasing the number of wildlife fighting crews in case of training related ignition (e.g., ammunition exercises, vehicle use, etc.) (Assessment, p. 20-21). These conservation measures will help reduce the effects of increased training on slickspot peppergrass to insignificant levels (Assessment p. 38).

Additionally, these provisions will avoid or minimize effects to physical and biological features (PBFs) of slickspot proposed critical habitat in the action areas; specifically ecologically functional slick spots (PBF 1), and slickspot peppergrass pollinators and their habitat (PBFs 3 and 4) (Assessment, pp. 39-41). The baseline condition of all habitat indicators will be maintained or unaffected by project activities, and thus this action will not adversely affect the functionality of proposed critical habitat for slickspot peppergrass.

Concurrence

Based on the Service's review of the Assessment, we concur with the Agencies' determination that the action outlined in the Assessment and this letter, may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect slickspot peppergrass or its proposed critical habitat. This concurrence is based on the availability of adjacent pollinator habitat and implementation of conservation measures that

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*PARTIAL

INTERIOR REGION 12 PACIFIC ISLANDS

AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAII, NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Improved Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training
APPENDIX E: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION

Charlie Baun, Conservation Branch Manager
Real Property Master Plan

avoid and minimize impacts of the proposed action to slickspot peppergrass and its proposed critical habitat to insignificant and discountable levels.

This concludes informal consultation. Further consultation pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Act is not required. Reinitiation of consultation on this action may be necessary if: (1) new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or proposed critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in the assessment; (2) the action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in the analysis; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the proposed action.

Thank you for your continued interest in the conservation of threatened and endangered species. If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please contact Robert Jaeger of this office at (208) 378-5249.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN HENDRICKS

Digitally signed by KATHLEEN
HENDRICKS
Date: 2020.04.22 12:48:24 -06'00'

for

Christopher Swanson
Acting State Supervisor

cc: IDARNG, Boise (Tinkle, Hardin, Rubinoff)
BLM, Boise (McGee)
USFWS, IFWO (Fisher, Hendricks)

INTERIOR REGION 9
COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST

IDAHO, MONTANA*, OREGON*, WASHINGTON

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INTERIOR REGION 12
PACIFIC ISLANDS

AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAII, NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS



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NHPA Section 106 Documentation



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NHPA Section 106 and Tribal Consultation Documentation

TRIBAL CONSULTATIONS:

- The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes were consulted during formal Government-to-Government consultation on June 20, 2019 and September 19, 2019. *Concerns regarding protection of cultural resources were identified.*
- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes were consulted during staff-to-staff consultation on October 4, 2019. *No concerns were identified.*

Scoping Letters Sent to Tribes



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Pat Baird, THPO
Nez Perce Tribal
Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540-0305

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Mr. Baird:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management *National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1*, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

- 1) **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP)** - Evaluate the ARNG's proposed approval of a Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 2-100-1-compliant Real Property Master Plan (RPMP);
- 2) **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)** - Implement the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.
- 3) **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)** - Optimize the annual throughput of troops training on the OCTC from approximately 4,000 up to a maximum of 10,500 troops.

June 2019
Page 2

Enclosed with this letter is the Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) for the EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

- Provide the IDARNG and ARNG with reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to infrastructure, facilities and training spaces used to meet and sustain its platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements and readiness goals now and into the future.
- Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years that support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.
- Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.
- Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.
- Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because:

- 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area;
- 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policy and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts

June 2019
Page 3

analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Information Request: While the ARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data concerning Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, and its vicinity, we are seeking your feedback into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have.

Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action sites) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues;
- Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers;
- Federally or state listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one-mile radius around the proposed sites;
- Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife issues;
- Natural resource issues;
- Pertinent soils and geologic data
- Traffic, noise, socioeconomic, or environmental justice concerns;
- Air quality concerns; and/or
- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced sites.

Data that you make available will provide valuable and necessary input into the NEPA analytical process as well as help determine culturally significant areas or cultural areas of concern.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Section 6 of the enclosed DOPAA. Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information. Additionally, please contact us if you have questions about the current list of recipients.

Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the IDARNG has conducted cultural site clearances of the entire area. All surveys were conducted to Secretary of Interior standards. The IDARNG cultural staff will provide any information to you regarding the locations of any Native American archaeological sites or any other sites that may be of

June 2019
Page 4

interest. The IDARNG will not make this information available to the public during any NEPA or Section 106 consultation process.

We look forward to meeting with you as soon as it's convenient and welcome your participation and review of this proposed project. Please direct any issues, questions, or concerns to Mr. Jake Fruhlinger, IDNG Cultural Resources Manager and Tribal Liaison at 208-272-4192 or jake.c.fruhlinger.nfg@mail.mil.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Carolyn Boyer-Smith
Cultural Resources Director
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Ms. Smith:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

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June 2019
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Enclosed with this letter is the Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) for the EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

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- Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.
- Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because:

- 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area;
- 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policy and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction,

June 2019
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operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Information Request: While the ARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data concerning Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, and its vicinity, we are seeking your feedback into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have.

Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action sites) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues;
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- Natural resource issues;
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- Traffic, noise, socioeconomic, or environmental justice concerns;
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- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced sites.

Data that you make available will provide valuable and necessary input into the NEPA analytical process as well as help determine culturally significant areas or cultural areas of concern.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Section 6 of the enclosed DOPAA. Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information. Additionally, please contact us if you have questions about the current list of recipients.

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In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the IDARNG has conducted cultural site clearances of the entire area. All surveys were conducted to Secretary of Interior standards. The IDARNG cultural staff will provide any information to you regarding the locations of any Native American archaeological sites or any other sites that may be of interest. The IDARNG will not make this information available to the public during any NEPA or Section 106 consultation process.

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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Lynneil Brady
Cultural Resources Manager
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
P.O. Box 219
Owyhee, NV 89832

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Ms. Brady:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management *National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1*, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Ladd Edmo, Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
PO Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
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Dear Chairman Edmo:

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- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced sites.

Data that you make available will provide valuable and necessary input into the NEPA analytical process as well as help determine culturally significant areas or cultural areas of concern.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Section 6 of the enclosed DOPAA. Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information. Additionally, please contact us if you have questions about the current list of recipients.

Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

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NEPA or Section 106 consultation process.

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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Eugene Greene, Jr., Chairman
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
1233 Veterans St.
Warm Springs, OR 97761

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Chairman Greene:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

- 1) **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP)** - Evaluate the ARNG's proposed approval of a Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 2-100-1-compliant Real Property Master Plan (RPMP);
- 2) **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)** - Implement the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.
- 3) **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)** - Optimize the annual throughput of troops training on the OCTC from approximately 4,000 up to a maximum of 10,500 troops.

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Enclosed with this letter is the Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) for the EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

- Provide the IDARNG and ARNG with reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to infrastructure, facilities and training spaces used to meet and sustain its platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements and readiness goals now and into the future.
- Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years that support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.
- Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.
- Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.
- Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because:

- 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area;
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operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Information Request: While the ARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data concerning Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, and its vicinity, we are seeking your feedback into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have.

Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action sites) would be appreciated:

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Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Eric Hawley, Chairperson
Burns Paiute Tribe
100 Pasigo Street
Burns, OR 97720-9303

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Chairman Hawley:

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Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

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to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



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The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Ted Howard, Chairman
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
P.O. Box 219
Owyhee, NV 89832

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
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Dear Chairman Howard:

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Major General
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Enclosures:
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MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Justina Paradise
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes
P.O. Box 457
McDermitt, NV 89421

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
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Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Section 6 of the enclosed DOPAA. Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information. Additionally, please contact us if you have questions about the current list of recipients.

Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the IDARNG has conducted cultural site clearances of the entire area. All surveys were conducted to Secretary of Interior standards. The IDARNG cultural staff will provide any information to you regarding the locations of any Native American archaeological sites or any other sites that may be of interest. The IDARNG will not make this information available to the public during any

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NEPA or Section 106 consultation process.

We look forward to meeting with you as soon as it's convenient and welcome your participation and review of this proposed project. Please direct any issues, questions, or concerns to Mr. Jake Fruhlinger, IDNG Cultural Resources Manager and Tribal Liaison at 208-272-4192 or jake.c.fruhlinger.nfg@mail.mil.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Darren Parry, Chairman
Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation
707 North Main Street
Brigham City, UT 84302

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Chairman Parry:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

- 1) **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP)** - Evaluate the ARNG's proposed approval of a Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 2-100-1-compliant Real Property Master Plan (RPMP);
- 2) **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)** - Implement the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.
- 3) **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)** - Optimize the annual throughput of troops training on the OCTC from approximately 4,000 up to a maximum of 10,500 troops.

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Page 2

Enclosed with this letter is the Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) for the EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

- Provide the IDARNG and ARNG with reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to infrastructure, facilities and training spaces used to meet and sustain its platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements and readiness goals now and into the future.
- Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years that support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.
- Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.
- Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.
- Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because:

- 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area;
- 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policy and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts

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analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Information Request: While the ARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data concerning Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, and its vicinity, we are seeking your feedback into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have.

Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action sites) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues;
- Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers;
- Federally or state listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one-mile radius around the proposed sites;
- Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife issues;
- Natural resource issues;
- Pertinent soils and geologic data
- Traffic, noise, socioeconomic, or environmental justice concerns;
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- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced sites.

Data that you make available will provide valuable and necessary input into the NEPA analytical process as well as help determine culturally significant areas or cultural areas of concern.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Section 6 of the enclosed DOPAA. Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information. Additionally, please contact us if you have questions about the current list of recipients.

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June 2019
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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Tildon Smart, Chairman
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes
P.O. Box 457
McDermitt, NV 89421

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Chairman Smart:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

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- 3) **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)** - Optimize the annual throughput of troops training on the OCTC from approximately 4,000 up to a maximum of 10,500 troops.

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Enclosed with this letter is the Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) for the EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

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- Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.
- Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.
- Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because:

- 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area;
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operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Information Request: While the ARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data concerning Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, and its vicinity, we are seeking your feedback into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have.

Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action sites) would be appreciated:

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June 2019
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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Diane Teeman, Cultural Resources Director
Burns Paiute Tribe
100 Pasigo Street
Burns, OR 97720-9303

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Ms. Teeman:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

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June 2019
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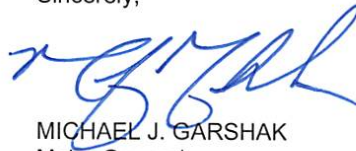
June 2019
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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Patty Timbimboo-Madsen
Cultural Resources Director
Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation
707 North Main Street
Brigham City, UT 84302

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Ms. Timbimboo-Madsen:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

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- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced sites.

Data that you make available will provide valuable and necessary input into the NEPA analytical process as well as help determine culturally significant areas or cultural areas of concern.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Section 6 of the enclosed DOPAA. Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information. Additionally, please contact us if you have questions about the current list of recipients.

Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the IDARNG has conducted cultural site clearances of the entire area. All surveys were conducted to Secretary of Interior standards. The IDARNG cultural staff will provide any information to you regarding the locations of any Native American archaeological sites or any other sites that may be of

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Page 4

interest. The IDARNG will not make this information available to the public during any NEPA or Section 106 consultation process.

We look forward to meeting with you as soon as it's convenient and welcome your participation and review of this proposed project. Please direct any issues, questions, or concerns to Mr. Jake Fruhlinger, IDNG Cultural Resources Manager and Tribal Liaison at 208-272-4192 or jake.c.fruhlinger.nfg@mail.mil.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

June 24, 2019

Shannon Wheeler, Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540-0305

SUBJECT:

- *Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP);*
- *Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan;*
- *Modernization of Infrastructure, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC in Idaho.*

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

- 1) **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP)** - Evaluate the ARNG's proposed approval of a Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 2-100-1-compliant Real Property Master Plan (RPMP);
- 2) **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)** - Implement the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC.
- 3) **Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput)** - Optimize the annual throughput of troops training on the OCTC from approximately 4,000 up to a maximum of 10,500 troops.

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Enclosed with this letter is the Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) for the EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

- Provide the IDARNG and ARNG with reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to infrastructure, facilities and training spaces used to meet and sustain its platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements and readiness goals now and into the future.
- Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years that support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.
- Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.
- Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.
- Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because:

- 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area;
- 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policy and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts

June 2019
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analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Information Request: While the ARNG maintains a wealth of current environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic data concerning Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and the OCTC, and its vicinity, we are seeking your feedback into this process concerning any specific environmental issues or concerns your agency may have.

Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action sites) would be appreciated:

- Potential environmental concerns or issues;
- Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers;
- Federally or state listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one-mile radius around the proposed sites;
- Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife issues;
- Natural resource issues;
- Pertinent soils and geologic data
- Traffic, noise, socioeconomic, or environmental justice concerns;
- Air quality concerns; and/or
- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced sites.

Data that you make available will provide valuable and necessary input into the NEPA analytical process as well as help determine culturally significant areas or cultural areas of concern.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in Section 6 of the enclosed DOPAA. Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this Proposed Action, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information. Additionally, please contact us if you have questions about the current list of recipients.

Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the IDARNG has conducted cultural site clearances of the entire area. All surveys were conducted to Secretary of Interior standards. The IDARNG cultural staff will provide any information to you regarding the locations of any Native American archaeological sites or any other sites that may be of

June 2019
Page 4

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We look forward to meeting with you as soon as it's convenient and welcome your participation and review of this proposed project. Please direct any issues, questions, or concerns to Mr. Jake Fruhlinger, IDNG Cultural Resources Manager and Tribal Liaison at 208-272-4192 or jake.c.fruhlinger.nfg@mail.mil.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. GARSHAK
Major General
The Adjutant General, Idaho

Enclosures:
DOPPA

Government-to-Government Consultation Letters to Tribes



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Pat Baird, THPO
Nez Perce Tribal
Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai ID 83540-0305

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Baird:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

a. **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP)** - Approve the UFC 2-100-01-compliant RPMP. Army National Guard (ARNG) Master Planning reviewed and approved the RPMP on 25 September 2018.

b. **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)** - Implement the fiscal year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization development projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and OCTC to support multiple brigade-sized units and training, and allow the IDARNG to achieve the current authorized level of facilities, infrastructure, ranges, and maneuver space on Gowen Field, OCTC, and Cantonment Area to support the current and future

-2-

mission requirements as a Regional Collective Training Capabilities (RCTC) Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

c. Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) - Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

Enclosed with this letter is the preliminary Final EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are being proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

a. Provide the IDARNG and ARNG with reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to infrastructure, facilities and training spaces used to meet and sustain its platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements and readiness goals now and into the future.

b. Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years which support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.

c. Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.

d. Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.

e. Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-

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managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, and 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on Behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policies and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will need to respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Lynneil Brady
Cultural Resources Manager
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
P.O. Box 219
Owyhee NV 89832

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Ms. Brady:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1*, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

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-2-

mission requirements as a Regional Collective Training Capabilities (RCTC) Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

c. Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) - Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

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b. Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years which support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.

c. Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.

d. Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.

e. Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-

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managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, and 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on Behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policies and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will need to respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Ladd Edmo, Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
PO Box 306
Fort Hall ID 83203

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Chairman Edmo:

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-2-

Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

c. Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) - Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

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BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation

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Area, and 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on Behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policies and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will need to respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

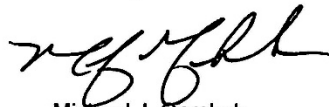
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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Eric Hawley, Chairperson
Burns Paiute Tribe
100 Pasigo Street
Burns, OR 97720-9303

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Chairman Hawley:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

a. **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP)** - Approve the UFC 2-100-01-compliant RPMP. Army National Guard (ARNG) Master Planning reviewed and approved the RPMP on 25 September 2018.

b. **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)** - Implement the fiscal year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization development projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and OCTC to support multiple brigade-sized units and training, and allow the IDARNG to achieve the current authorized level of facilities, infrastructure, ranges, and maneuver space on Gowen Field, OCTC, and Cantonment Area to support the current and future mission requirements as a Regional Collective Training Capabilities (RCTC) Level I

-2-

Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

c. Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) - Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

Enclosed with this letter is the preliminary Final EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are being proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

a. Provide the IDARNG and ARNG with reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to infrastructure, facilities and training spaces used to meet and sustain its platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements and readiness goals now and into the future.

b. Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years which support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.

c. Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.

d. Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.

e. Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation

-3-

Area, and 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on Behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policies and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will need to respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the IDARNG has conducted cultural site clearances of the entire area. All surveys were conducted to Secretary of Interior standards. The IDARNG cultural staff will provide any information to you regarding the locations of any Native American archaeological sites or any other sites that may be of interest. The IDARNG will not make this information available to the public during any NEPA or Section 106 consultation process.

We look forward to meeting with you as soon as it's convenient and welcome your participation and review of this preliminary Final EA and the proposed project as a whole. In light of the current health situation, if a conference call is preferred to discuss the proposed EA and projects associated with it, we can gladly facilitate it. Please direct any issues, questions, or concerns to Mr. Jake Fruhlinger, IDNG Cultural Resources Manager and Tribal Liaison at 208-272-4192 or jake.c.fruhlinger.nfg@mail.mil.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Ted Howard, Chairman
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
P.O. Box 219
Owyhee NV 89832

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Chairman Howard:

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Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

c. Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) - Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

Enclosed with this letter is the preliminary Final EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are being proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

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b. Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years which support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.

c. Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.

d. Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.

e. Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation

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Area, and 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on Behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policies and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will need to respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the IDARNG has conducted cultural site clearances of the entire area. All surveys were conducted to Secretary of Interior standards. The IDARNG cultural staff will provide any information to you regarding the locations of any Native American archaeological sites or any other sites that may be of interest. The IDARNG will not make this information available to the public during any NEPA or Section 106 consultation process.

We look forward to meeting with you as soon as it's convenient and welcome your participation and review of this preliminary Final EA and the proposed project as a whole. In light of the current health situation, if a conference call is preferred to discuss the proposed EA and projects associated with it, we can gladly facilitate it. Please direct any issues, questions, or concerns to Mr. Jake Fruhlinger, IDNG Cultural Resources Manager and Tribal Liaison at 208-272-4192 or jake.c.fruhlinger.nfg@mail.mil.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Patty Timbimboo-Madsen
Cultural Resources Director
Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation
707 North Main Street
Brigham City UT 84302

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Timbimboo-Madsen:

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mission requirements as a Regional Collective Training Capabilities (RCTC) Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

c. Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) - Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

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c. Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.

d. Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.

e. Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-

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managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, and 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on Behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policies and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will need to respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

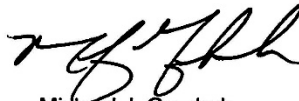
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Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Justina Paradise
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes
P.O. Box 457
McDermitt, NV 89421

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Ms. Paradise:

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Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

c. Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) - Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

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c. Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.

d. Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.

e. Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation

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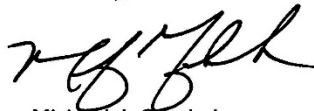
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Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Darren Parry, Chairman
Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation
707 North Main Street
Brigham City UT 84302

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Chairman Parry:

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Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

c. Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) - Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

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b. Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years which support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.

c. Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.

d. Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.

e. Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-managed lands within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation

-3-

Area, and 2) projects and operations implemented in the NCA must comply with the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of Idaho on Behalf of the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management; the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan; and other relevant BLM policies and regulations. In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way (ROW) regulations, the BLM will need to respond to the ARNG's request for a ROW approval for legal access. Based upon the scope of the action and impacts analysis, the BLM will determine its approval or denial for the construction, operation, and maintenance of range modernization projects that are necessary to accommodate current and projected training operations on the OCTC.

Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the IDARNG has conducted cultural site clearances of the entire area. All surveys were conducted to Secretary of Interior standards. The IDARNG cultural staff will provide any information to you regarding the locations of any Native American archaeological sites or any other sites that may be of interest. The IDARNG will not make this information available to the public during any NEPA or Section 106 consultation process.

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Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. The IDNG looks forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Tildon Smart, Chairman
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes
P.O. Box 457
McDermitt, NV 89421

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Chairman Smart:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Final Rule, 29 March 2002); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; as well as the Army National Guard 2011 NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA*, Bureau of Land Management National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790-1, and as co-lead agencies, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with the assistance of the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), have initiated development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the following three component actions which comprise the Proposed Action:

a. **Component Action 1 (Approve the UFC 2-100-01 RPMP)** - Approve the UFC 2-100-01-compliant RPMP. Army National Guard (ARNG) Master Planning reviewed and approved the RPMP on 25 September 2018.

b. **Component Action 2 (Implement Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements)** - Implement the fiscal year 2018 (FY18) to FY22 RPMP infrastructure and facilities modernization development projects on Gowen Field, the Cantonment Area, and OCTC to support multiple brigade-sized units and training, and allow the IDARNG to achieve the current authorized level of facilities, infrastructure, ranges, and maneuver space on Gowen Field, OCTC, and Cantonment Area to support the current and future mission requirements as a Regional Collective Training Capabilities (RCTC) Level I

-2-

Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

c. Component Action 3 (Optimize Annual BCT Training Throughput) - Optimize the annual throughput of brigade-level training operations on the OCTC to support the training of approximately 10,500 soldiers (the equivalent of three brigade combat teams at 85 percent troop participation) with associated equipment, per the authorized mission of the IDARNG Installation Support Unit (ISU) and the OCTC.

Enclosed with this letter is the preliminary Final EA, which fully describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as the proposed development and training actions.

Briefly summarized, past budget constraints prevented allocation of financial resources to the IDARNG that were necessary to fulfill its entire congressionally authorized training facility and range requirements on Gowen Field, the OCTC, and the OCTC Cantonment Area. The existing facilities, ranges, and infrastructure capabilities do not meet the ARNG's current authorized and expected requirements, nor will they meet these existing requirements in the future. No new training requirements are being proposed as part of the proposed action. If implemented, the Proposed Action would:

a. Provide the IDARNG and ARNG with reliable, economically efficient, and operationally sustainable access to infrastructure, facilities and training spaces used to meet and sustain its platoon-, company-, and brigade-level mission training requirements and readiness goals now and into the future.

b. Identify projects, within current authorizations, to be executed over the next four years which support current readiness, training, and mission requirements of the IDARNG and ARNG.

c. Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.

d. Allow the OCTC to optimize the training operation tempo in order to build and maintain ARNG BCT readiness as part of the Total Army Force and fulfill its mission as a Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation per National Guard Regulation 5-3, *Army National Guard Garrison Training Centers*, dated August 10 2015. This would be achieved with the buildout of currently authorized facilities and infrastructure.

e. Continue to be conducted in accordance with the 2008 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

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Pursuant to the Department of Defense (DOD) Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes and DOD American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy, and numerous Presidential Memorandums, the IDARNG is requesting a meeting to discuss the details related to the proposed lease, infrastructure requirements, and military maneuver training. As stated in the attached scoping packet, the BLM will be responsible for conducting formal consultation on their involvement in the project.

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Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Carolyn Boyer-Smith
Cultural Resources Director
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall ID 83203

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed . Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Ms. Smith:

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mission requirements as a Regional Collective Training Capabilities (RCTC) Level I Garrison Training Center and Contingency Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) (an installation that supports post-mobilization of individual and collective training for multiple brigade combat teams).

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c. Consider the long-term planning horizon by providing a foundation of longer-term projects (5-10 years), still within current authorizations, along with identified developmental areas that can be easily adapted to changing future readiness, training and mission requirements.

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Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure



MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO

4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Diane Teeman
Cultural Resources Director
Burns Paiute Tribe
100 Pasigo Street
Burns OR 97720-9303

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

Dear Ms. Teeman:

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BLM is a co-lead agency on this EA because: 1) much of the OCTC exists on BLM-

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Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
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Enclosure



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4040 W. GUARD STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

April 6, 2020

Shannon Wheeler, Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal
Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai ID 83540-0305

SUBJECT: Request for review of the preliminary Final Environmental Assessment and Government to Government consultation for Section 106 compliance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Army National Guard's (ARNG's) proposed Approval of the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC, Idaho.

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Sincerely,



Michael J. Garshak
Major General
The Adjutant General/Commander, IDNG

Enclosure

SHPO Concurrence



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

13 January 2020

Jake Fruhlinger
Idaho Air National Guard
4040 West Guard Street
Building 600
Boise, Idaho 83705-5004

**Re: IICEP in Support of an Environmental Assessment of the
ARNG's Proposed Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan,
Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Optimized
Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training at the OCTC,
Idaho. / SHPO Rev. 2019-758**

Dear Mr. Fruhlinger:

Thank you for consulting with our office on the above referenced project. We understand the scope of the work includes conducting an Environmental Assessment of the ARNG's Proposed Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, which will include modernization and infrastructure improvements for Orchard Combat Training Center in Ada County, Idaho.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800, we have applied the criteria of effect to the proposed undertaking. Based on the information received 2 July, 14 November, 13 December of 2019 and 6 January 2020, we concur the proposed project actions will have **no adverse effect** to historic properties.

We have reviewed the report and concur with eligibility determinations for the historic properties recorded as part of this project. Please see the attached "Project Site Eligibility Determinations" for more information.

In the event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during implementation of this project, work shall be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by the appropriate consulting parties.

If you have any questions or the scope of work changes, please contact me via phone or email at 208.488.7463 or ashley.brown@ishs.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Brown'.

Ashley Brown
Historical Review Officer
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Preserving the past, enriching the future.

Project Site Eligibility Determinations

Agency Name: DOD

Project Name: IICEP in Support of an Environmental Assessment of the ARNG's Proposed Approval of the OCTC Real Property
Project No:

Review No: 2019-758

Temporary No	Smithsonian No	IHSI No	Site Name	Address	City	Eligibility	Finding Date	Reviewer
		01-19895				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19896				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19897				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19898				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19899				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19900				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19901				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19902				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19903				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19904				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19905				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19906				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19907				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19908				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19917				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19918				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19919				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19920				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19921				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-19922				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-20087				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-24498				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-24499				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP
		01-24500				Ineligible	11/14/2019	AB/TP

Monday, January 13, 2020

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Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Improved Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training
APPENDIX F: NHPA SECTION 106 DOCUMENTATION

Project Name: IICEP in Support of an Environmental Assessment of the ARNG's Proposed Approval of the OCTC Real Pro
Project No:

Review No: 2019-758

Temporary No	Smithsonian No	IHSI No	Site Name	Address	City	Eligibility	Finding Date	Reviewer
203			Building 203		Boise	Ineligible	12/13/2019	AB/TP
206			Building 206		Boise	Ineligible	12/13/2019	AB/TP
254			Building 254		Boise	Ineligible	12/13/2019	AB/TP
906			Building 906		Boise	Ineligible	12/13/2019	AB/TP
GF-164						Ineligible	12/2/2019	TP
GF-165						Ineligible	12/2/2019	TP
GF-166						Ineligible	12/2/2019	TP
GF-167						Ineligible	12/2/2019	TP
GF-168						Ineligible	12/2/2019	TP
GF-169						Ineligible	12/2/2019	TP
GF-170						Ineligible	12/2/2019	TP
GF-171						Ineligible	12/2/2019	TP
	10AA264					Eligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA265					Eligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA366					Eligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA417		Historic RR (Oregon Shor			Eligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA550		Historic Road			Ineligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA551		Historic Road			Ineligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA552		Historic Road			Ineligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA577		Historic RR (Oregon Shor			Eligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA806					Ineligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA807					Ineligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA809					Ineligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP
	10AA868					Ineligible	1/3/2020	AB/TP



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Air Quality — Supporting Calculations



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Construction Emissions for the Proposed Action Alternative – Gowen Field

Summary	Summarizes total emissions by calendar year for Gowen Field Construction and Demolition Activities as part of the RPMP and OCTC Improvement Projects
Combustion	Estimates emissions from non-road equipment exhaust.
Fugitive	Estimates particulate emissions from construction and demolition activities including earthmoving, vehicle traffic, and windblown dust.
Grading	Estimates the number of days of site preparation, to be used for estimating heavy equipment exhaust and earthmoving dust emissions.
Haul Truck On-Road	Estimates emissions from haul trucks hauling construction, paving, and fill materials to the job site.
Construction Commuter	Estimates emissions for construction workers commuting to the site.
County Emissions	Summarizes total emissions for the Ada County Tier report for 2014, to be used to compare 2019+ Gowen Field Construction and Demolition emissions to regional emissions. Comparisons to local thresholds of significance and to General Conformity de minimis thresholds (if applicable) are made in the text.

Air Emissions for 2018 Construction Project - Gowen Field - Alternative 1

Construction Emissions	NO _x (ton)	VOC (ton)	CO (ton)	SO ₂ (ton)	PM ₁₀ (ton)	PM _{2.5} (ton)	CO ₂ (ton)
Combustion	3.060	0.317	1.247	0.247	0.195	0.189	353.34
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	0.614	0.061	-
Haul Truck On-Road	0.103	0.009	0.034	0.000	0.003	0.003	25.76
Commuter	0.010	0.009	0.112	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	9.32
TOTAL	3.17	0.34	1.39	0.25	0.81	0.25	388.43

Note: Total PM_{10/2.5} fugitive dust emissions are assuming USEPA 50% control efficiencies.

CO ₂ emissions converted to metric tons =	352 metric tons
State of Idaho's CO ₂ emissions from fuel combustion =	18,482,000 metric tons (DOE 2019)
Percent of Idaho's Fuel Combustion CO ₂ emissions =	0.002%
United States' CO ₂ emissions =	5,189,397,770 metric tons (DOE 2019)
Percent of USA's CO ₂ emissions =	0.00001%

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (U.S. DOE/EIA). 2019. Table 1. State Emissions by Year (Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide). Available online <<http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/>>. 2016 data values are the most recent. Data accessed 30 April 2019.

Since future year budgets were not readily available, actual 2014 air emissions inventories for the county was used as an approximation of the county inventory.

Because construction emissions for this project are several orders of magnitude below significance, the conclusion would be the same, regardless of whether future year budget data set were used.

Year	Ada County Point and Area Sources Combined					
	NO _x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO ₂ (tpy)	PM ₁₀ (tpy)	PM _{2.5} (tpy)
2014	11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964

Source: USEPA National Emissions Inventory (NEI) (<https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/2014-national-emissions-inventory-nei-data>). Site visited on 30 April 2019.

Air Emissions from Gowen Field Construction and Demolition Activities Point and Area Sources Combined						
NO _x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO ₂ (tpy)	PM ₁₀ (tpy)	PM _{2.5} (tpy)	
11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964	
3	0.3	1	0.2	1	0.3	
0.028%	0.002%	0.002%	0.134%	0.003%	0.006%	

County Emissions
Emissions
% of Regional

Construction Emissions for the Proposed Action Alternative – Cantonment Area

Summary	Summarizes total emissions by calendar year for Cantonment Construction and Demolition Activities as part of the RPMP and OCTC Improvement Projects
Combustion	Estimates emissions from non-road equipment exhaust.
Fugitive	Estimates particulate emissions from construction and demolition activities including earthmoving, vehicle traffic, and windblown dust.
Grading	Estimates the number of days of site preparation, to be used for estimating heavy equipment exhaust and earthmoving dust emissions.
Haul Truck On-Road	Estimates emissions from haul trucks hauling construction, paving, and fill materials to the job site.
Construction Commuter	Estimates emissions for construction workers commuting to the site.
County Emissions	Summarizes total emissions for the Ada County Tier report for 2014, to be used to compare 2019+ Cantonment Construction and Demolition emissions to regional emissions.
Comparisons to local thresholds of significance and to General Conformity de minimis thresholds (if applicable) are made in the text.	

Air Emissions for 2018 Construction Project - Cantonment - Alternative 1

Construction Emissions	NO _x (ton)	VOC (ton)	CO (ton)	SO ₂ (ton)	PM ₁₀ (ton)	PM _{2.5} (ton)	CO ₂ (ton)
Combustion	4.653	0.528	1.925	0.342	0.300	0.291	953.67
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	33.562	3.356	-
Haul Truck On-Road	2.499	0.227	0.821	0.005	0.081	0.074	627.81
Commuter	1.129	0.979	12.081	0.007	0.029	0.029	1,006.84
TOTAL	8.28	1.73	14.83	0.35	33.97	3.75	2,588

Note: Total PM_{10/2.5} fugitive dust emissions are assuming USEPA 50% control efficiencies.

CO ₂ emissions converted to metric tons =	2,348 metric tons
State of Idaho's CO ₂ emissions from fuel combustion =	18,482,000 metric tons (DOE 2019)
Percent of Idaho's Fuel Combustion CO ₂ emissions =	0.013%
United States' CO ₂ emissions =	5,189,397,770 metric tons (DOE 2019)
Percent of USA's CO ₂ emissions =	0.00005%

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (U.S. DOE/EIA). 2019. *Table 1. State Emissions by Year (Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide)*. Available online <<http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/>>. 2016 data values are the most recent. Data accessed 30 April 2019.

Since future year budgets were not readily available, actual 2014 air emissions inventories for the county was used as an approximation of the county inventory.

Because construction emissions for this project are several orders of magnitude below significance, the conclusion would be the same, regardless of whether future year budget data set were used.

Ada County						
Point and Area Sources Combined						
Year	NO _x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO ₂ (tpy)	PM ₁₀ (tpy)	PM _{2.5} (tpy)
2014	11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964

Source: USEPA National Emissions Inventory (NEI) (<https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/2014-national-emissions-inventory-nei-data>). Site visited on 30 April 2019.

Air Emissions from Cantonment Construction and Demolition Activities						
Point and Area Sources Combined						
NO _x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO ₂ (tpy)	PM ₁₀ (tpy)	PM _{2.5} (tpy)	
11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964	
8	2	15	0.4	34	4	
0.074%	0.009%	0.025%	0.193%	0.132%	0.095%	

County Emissions
Emissions
% of Regional

Construction Emissions for the Proposed Action Alternative - OCTC

Summary	Summarizes total emissions by calendar year for OCTC Construction and Demolition Activities as part of the RPMP and OCTC Improvement Projects
Combustion	Estimates emissions from non-road equipment exhaust.
Fugitive	Estimates particulate emissions from construction and demolition activities including earthmoving, vehicle traffic, and windblown dust.
Grading	Estimates the number of days of site preparation, to be used for estimating heavy equipment exhaust and earthmoving dust emissions.
Haul Truck On-Road	Estimates emissions from haul trucks hauling construction, paving, and fill materials to the job site.
Construction Commuter	Estimates emissions for construction workers commuting to the site.
County Emissions	Summarizes total emissions for the Ada County Tier report for 2014, to be used to compare 2019+ OCTC Construction and Demolition emissions to regional emissions.

Comparisons to local thresholds of significance and to General Conformity de minimis thresholds (if applicable) are made in the text.

Air Emissions for 2018 Construction Project - OCTC - Alternative 1

<i>Construction Emissions</i>	NO_x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO₂ (tpy)	PM₁₀ (tpy)	PM_{2.5} (tpy)	CO₂ (tpy)
Combustion	4,638	0.329	1,919	0.392	0.294	0.285	562.91
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	76.278	7.628	-
Haul Truck On-Road	3.882	0.352	1.275	0.008	0.125	0.116	975.32
Commuter	1.129	0.979	12.081	0.007	0.029	0.029	1,006.84
TOTAL	9.6	1.7	15.3	0.4	76.7	8.1	2,545

Note: Total PM_{10/2.5} fugitive dust emissions are assuming USEPA 50% control efficiencies.

CO ₂ emissions converted to metric tons =	2,308 metric tons
State of Idaho's CO ₂ emissions from fuel combustion =	18,482,000 metric tons (DOE 2019)
Percent of Idaho's Fuel Combustion CO ₂ emissions =	0.012%
United States' CO ₂ emissions =	5,189,397,770 metric tons (DOE 2019)
Percent of USA's CO ₂ emissions =	0.00004%

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (U.S. DOE/EIA). 2019. *Table 1. State Emissions by Year (Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide)*. Available online <<http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/>>. 2016 data values are the most recent. Data accessed 30 April 2019.

Since future year budgets were not readily available, actual 2014 air emissions inventories for the county was used as an approximation of the county inventory. Because construction emissions for this project are several orders of magnitude below significance, the conclusion would be the same,

regardless of whether future year budget data set were used.

Ada County						
Point and Area Sources Combined						
Year	NO_x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO₂ (tpy)	PM₁₀ (tpy)	PM_{2.5} (tpy)
2014	11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964

Source: USEPA National Emissions Inventory (NEI) (<https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/2014-national-emissions-inventory-nei-data>). Site visited on 30 April 2019.

Air Emissions from OCTC Construction and Demolition Activities					
Point and Area Sources Combined					
NO_x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO₂ (tpy)	PM₁₀ (tpy)	PM_{2.5} (tpy)
11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964
10	2	15	0.4	77	8
0.086%	0.008%	0.026%	0.221%	0.298%	0.203%

County Emissions
Emissions
% of Regional

Operational Emissions for the Proposed Action Alternative – Optimized BCT Training Operations

Summary	Summarizes total emissions by calendar year for 2018 and all future years annual operational emissions.
Ground Vehicle Operations	Estimates emissions for additional Brigade Combat Teams to deploy to OCTC for exercises. Includes engine combustion emissions and fugitive dust emissions.
Aircraft	Estimates emissions for emergency generators required to provide life-safety power during outages.
Rail	Estimates emissions for railroad engine emissions.
Munitions	Estimates emissions for boilers required to provide building comfort heat.
County Emissions	Summarizes total emissions for the Ada County Tier report for 2014, to be used to compare future year OCTC + Cantonment operational emissions to regional emissions.
	Comparisons to local thresholds of significance and to General Conformity de minimis thresholds (if applicable) are made in the text.

Air Emissions for Future Years - Alternatives 1

	CO (ton)	NO _x (ton)	PM ₁₀ (ton)	PM _{2.5} (ton)	SO ₂ (ton)	VOC (ton)	CO ₂ e (metric ton)
Construction Emissions							
Ground Vehicles	260.7	522.0	638.6	132.2	12.0	39.8	40,176.1
Aircraft	0.9	0.003	0.0002	0.0002	0.0009	0.08	2.5
Rail	1.3	8.8	0.3	0.3	0.003	0.71	329.2
Mobile Source Total	262.85	530.77	638.92	132.54	11.96	40.60	40,507.8
Munitions	9.48	1.37	11.51	3.37	0.00	0.04	141.1
Stationary Source Total	9.48	1.37	11.51	3.37	0.00	0.04	141.1
TOTAL	272.33	532.14	650.43	135.91	11.97	40.63	40,648.9

CO₂ emissions converted to metric tons = 40,649 metric tons
 State of Idaho's CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion = 18,482,000 metric tons (DOE 2019)
 Percent of Idaho's Fuel Combustion CO₂ emissions = 0.22%
 United States' CO₂ emissions = 5,189,397,770 metric tons (DOE 2019)
 Percent of USA's CO₂ emissions = 0.0008%

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (U.S. DOE/EIA). 2019. Table 1. State Emissions by Year (Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide). Available online <<http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/>>. 2016 data values are the most recent. Data accessed 30 April 2019.

Since future year budgets were not readily available, actual 2014 air emissions inventories for the county was used as an approximation of the county inventory. Because construction emissions for this project are several orders of magnitude below significance, the conclusion would be the same, regardless of whether future year budget data set were used.

Ada County Point and Area Sources Combined						
Year	NO _x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO ₂ (tpy)	PM ₁₀ (tpy)	PM _{2.5} (tpy)
2014	11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964

Source: USEPA National Emissions Inventory (NEI) (<https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/2014-national-emissions-inventory-nei-data>). Site visited on 30 April 2019.

Air Emissions from OCTC and Cantonment Future Operational Emissions Point and Area Sources Combined					
NO _x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO ₂ (tpy)	PM ₁₀ (tpy)	PM _{2.5} (tpy)
11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964
532	41	272	12	650	136
4.72%	0.20%	0.46%	6.51%	2.53%	3.43%

Regional Emissions
Emissions
% of Regional

Operational Emissions for the Proposed Action Alternative – Infrastructure Operations

Worksheets in this Workbook:

Summary	Summarizes total emissions by calendar year for 2018 and all future years annual operational emissions.
Employee Commuter	Estimates emissions for additional workers to be employed at the Cantonment Area and OCTC due to the Infrastructure Improvements
Boilers and Heaters	Estimates emissions for munitions firing and detonation.
AQCR Tier Report	Summarizes total emissions for the Ada County Tier report for 2014, to be used to compare future year OCTC + Cantonment operational emissions to regional emissions. Comparisons to local thresholds of significance and to General Conformity de minimis thresholds (if applicable) are made in the text.

Air Emissions for Future Years – Alternatives 1

	CO (ton)	NO _x (ton)	PM ₁₀ (ton)	PM _{2.5} (ton)	SO ₂ (ton)	VOC (ton)	CO ₂ e (metric ton)
Construction Emissions							
Employee Commuter	19	2	0.1	0.06	0.01	1.8	1,672
Mobile Source Total	19.25	2.20	0.07	0.06	0.01	1.84	1,672
Boilers and Heaters	2	1	0.2	0.2	0.02	0.2	3,942
Stationary Source Total	2	1	0.2	0.2	0.02	0.2	3,942
TOTAL	21.69	3.65	0.29	0.28	0.03	2.00	5,614

CO₂ emissions converted to metric tons =

State of Idaho's CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion =

Percent of Idaho's Fuel Combustion CO₂ emissions =

United States' CO₂ emissions =

Percent of USA's CO₂ emissions =

5,614 metric tons
18,482,000 metric tons (DOE 2019)
0.03%
5,189,397,770 metric tons (DOE 2019)
0.0001%

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (U.S. DOE/EIA). 2019. *Table 1. State Emissions by Year (Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide)*. Available online <<http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/>>. 2016 data values are the most recent. Data accessed 30 April 2019.

Since future year budgets were not readily available, actual 2014 air emissions inventories for the county was used as an approximation of the county inventory. Because construction emissions for this project are several orders of magnitude below significance, the conclusion would be the same, regardless of whether future year budget data set were used.

Ada County						
Point and Area Sources Combined						
Year	NO _x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO ₂ (tpy)	PM ₁₀ (tpy)	PM _{2.5} (tpy)
2014	11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964

Source: USEPA National Emissions Inventory (NEI) (<https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/2014-national-emissions-inventory-nei-data>). Site visited on 30 April 2019.

Air Emissions from OCTC and Cantonment Future Operational Emissions						
Point and Area Sources Combined						
NO _x (tpy)	VOC (tpy)	CO (tpy)	SO ₂ (tpy)	PM ₁₀ (tpy)	PM _{2.5} (tpy)	
11,264	19,999	59,153	184	25,756	3,964	
4	2	22	0.03	0.3	0.3	
0.03%	0.01%	0.04%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	

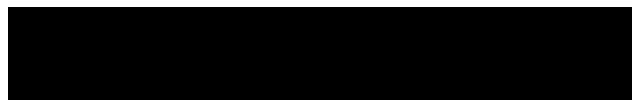
Regional Emissions
Emissions
% of Regional

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Installation Soils — Maps
and Summaries



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Installation Soils: Maps and Summaries

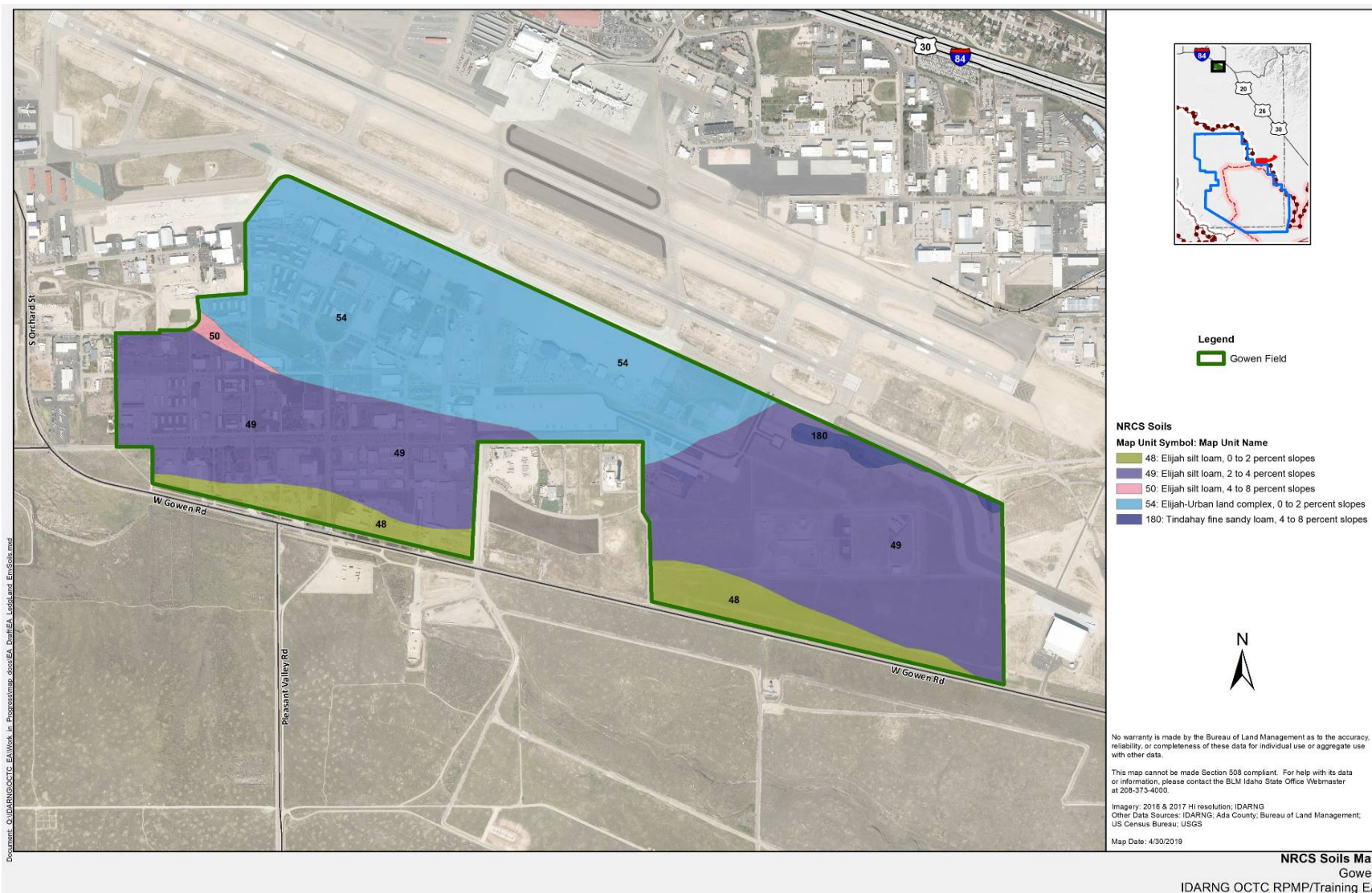


Figure H-1. Soils at Gowen Field

Table H-1. Description of Soil Units at Gowen Field

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	% Slope	% of ROI	Natural Drainage Class	Water Storage Capacity	Depth to Restrictive Feature (inches)	K-Factor	Wind Erodibility Group
48	Elijah silt loam	0 to 2	8.9	Well-drained	Moderate	20-40	0.49	5
49	Elijah silt loam	2 to 4	51.4	Well-drained	Moderate	20-40	0.49	5
50	Elijah silt loam	4 to 8	0.5	Well-drained	Moderate	20-40	0.49	5
54	Elijah-Urban land complex	0 to 2	37.9	Well-drained	Moderate	20-40	0.49	5
180	Tindahay fine sandy loam	4 to 8	1.3	Somewhat excessively drained	High	> 80	0.24	3

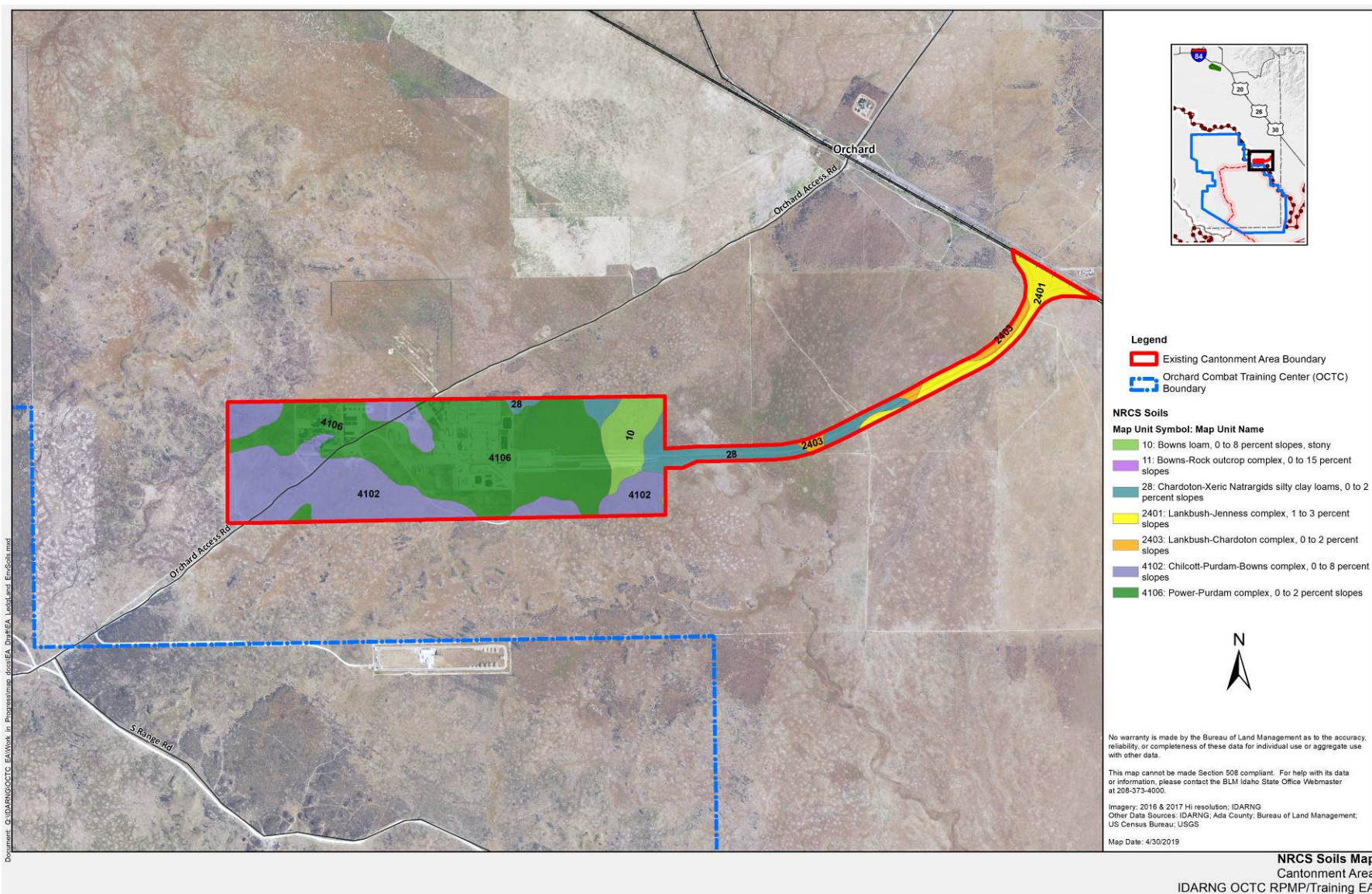


Figure H-2. Soils at the Cantonment Area

Table H-2. Description of Soil Units at the Cantonment

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	% Slope	% of ROI	Natural Drainage Class	Water Storage Capacity	Depth to Restrictive Feature (inches)	K-Factor	Wind Erodibility Group
10	Bowns loam, stony	0 to 8	3.7	Well-drained	Moderate	20-40	0.49	5
11	Bowns-Rock outcrop complex	0 to 15	<0.1	Well-drained	Very Low to Moderate	0-40	0.37	6
28	Chardoton-Xeric Natrargids silty clay loams	0 to 2	5.3	Well-drained	Very Low to High	1-80	0.49	5
2401	Lankbush-Jenness complex	1 to 3	3.6	Well-drained	Low to Moderate	> 80	0.28	3
2403	Lankbush-Chardoton complex	0 to 2	1.2	Well-drained	Moderate to High	> 80	0.28	3
4102	Chilcott-Purdam-Bowns complex	0 to 8	29.2	Well-drained	Low to Moderate	20-40	0.49	5
4103	Banbury-McPan-Rock outcrop complex	2 to 15	1.6	Well-drained	Very Low to Low	0-39	0.28	6
4104	Catchell-Chilcott-Banbury complex	1 to 12	3.0	Well-drained	Very Low to Moderate	10-40	0.55	5
4105	Chilcott-Catchell-Chardoton complex	0 to 4	21.3	Well-drained	Low to High	20 to >80	0.49	5
4106	Power-Purdam complex	0 to 2	31.2	Well-drained	Low to High	20 to > 80	0.43	5

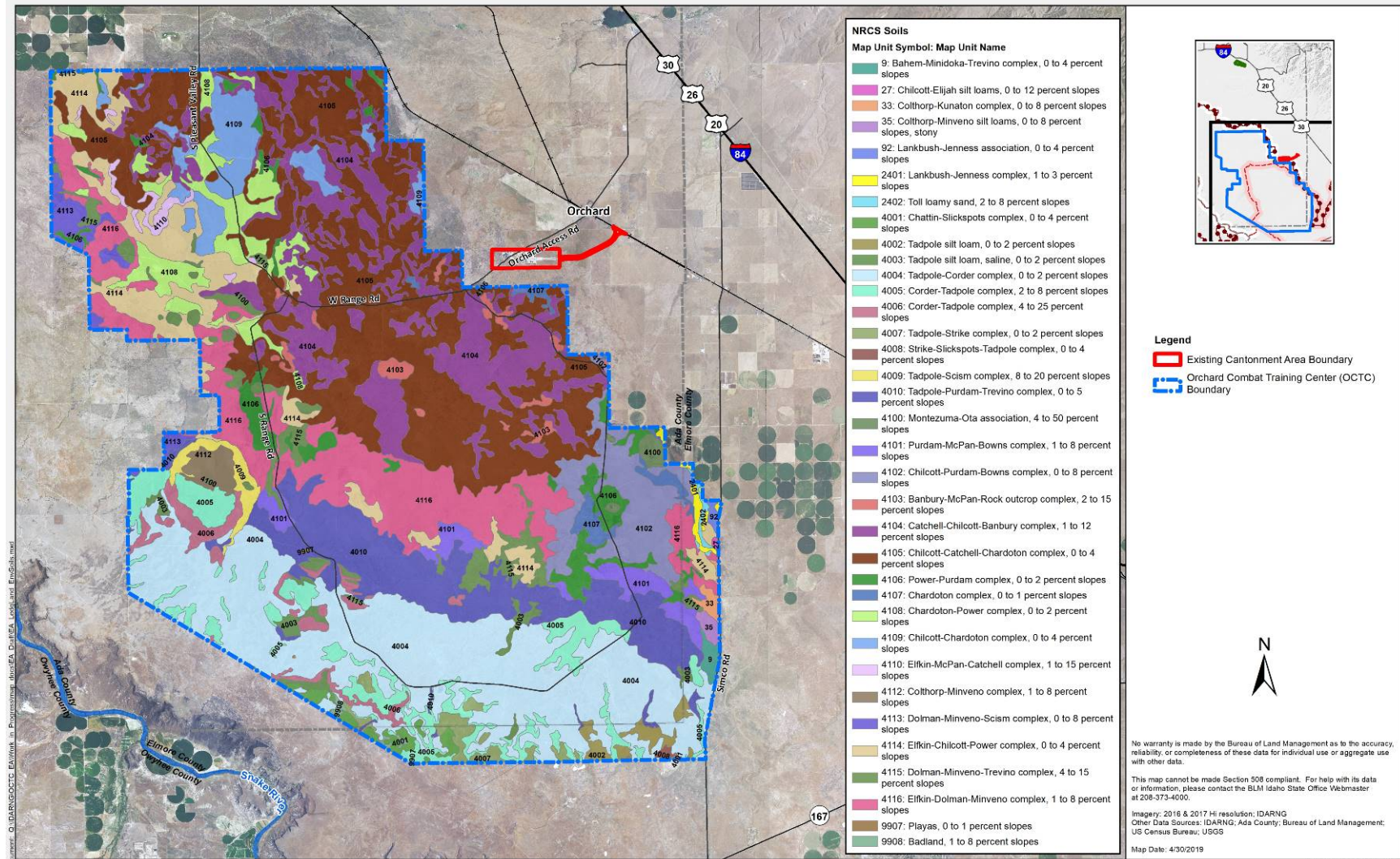


Figure H-3. Soils at the OCTC

Table H-3. Description of Soil Units at the OCTC

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	% Slope	% of ROI	Natural Drainage Class	Water Storage Capacity	Depth to Restrictive Feature (inches)	K-Factor	Wind Erodibility Group
9	Bahem-Minidoka-Trevino complex	0 to 4	2.1	Well-drained	Low to High	8 to > 80	0.49	4L
27	Chilcott-Elijah silt loams	0 to 12	<0.1	Well-drained	Low to Moderate	20 to 40	0.49	5
33	Colthorp-Kunaton complex	0 to 8	0.2	Well-drained	Very Low to Low	10 to 20	0.49	5
35	Colthorp-Minveno silt loams	0 to 8	0.2	Well-drained	Very Low to Low	10 to 20	0.49	5
92	Lankbush-Jenness association	0 to 4	<0.1	Well-drained	Moderate	> 80	0.20	3
2401	Lankbush-Jenness complex	1 to 3	0.3	Well-drained	Moderate	> 80	0.28	3
2402	Toll loamy sand	2 to 8	0.1	Somewhat excessively drained	Very Low	> 80	0.15	
4001	Chattin-Slickspots complex	0 to 4	0.6	Well-drained	Moderate	> 80	0.55	5
4002	Tadpole silt loam	0 to 2	0.6	Well-drained	High	> 80	0.55	5
4003	Tadpole silt loam, saline	0 to 2	0.7	Well-drained	High	> 80	0.55	5
4004	Tadpole-Corder complex	0 to 2	16.9	Well-drained	Low to High	10 to > 80	0.55	5
4005	Corder-Tadpole complex	2 to 8	4.4	Well-drained	Low to High	10 to > 80	0.55	5
4006	Corder-Tadpole complex	4 to 25	1.5	Well-drained	Very Low to High	10 to > 80	0.28	6
4007	Tadpole-Strike complex	0 to 2	0.8	Well-drained	High	> 80	0.55	5
4008	Strike-Slickspots-Tadpole complex	0 to 4	<0.1	Well-drained	Moderate to High	> 80	0.55	
4009	Tadpole-Scism complex	8 to 20	0.6	Well-drained	Low to High	20 to > 80	0.55	5
4010	Tadpole-Purdam-Trevino complex	0 to 5	7.5	Well-drained	Very Low to High	10 to > 80	0.55	5
4100	Montezuma-Ota association	4 to 50	0.3	Well-drained	Low	30 to >80	0.17	3
4101	Purdam-McPan-Bowns complex	1 to 8	1.6	Well-drained	Low to Moderate	20 to 40	0.49	5
4102	Chilcott-Purdam-Bowns complex	0 to 8	3.5	Well-drained	Low to Moderate	20 to 40	0.49	5

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	% Slope	% of ROI	Natural Drainage Class	Water Storage Capacity	Depth to Restrictive Feature (inches)	K-Factor	Wind Erodibility Group
4103	Banbury-McPan-Rock outcrop complex	2 to 15	0.7	Well-drained	Very Low to Low	0 to 39	0.28	6
4104	Catchell-Chilcott-Banbury complex	1 to 12	11.0	Well-drained	Very Low to Moderate	10 to 40	0.55	5
4105	Chilcott-Catchell-Chardoton complex	0 to 4	20.0	Well-drained	Low to High	20 to > 80	0.49	5
4106	Power-Purdam complex	0 to 2	2.7	Well-drained	Low to High	20 to > 80	0.43	5
4107	Chardoton complex	0 to 1	0.8	Well-drained	High	> 80	0.49	5
4108	Chardoton-Power complex	0 to 2	3.2	Well-drained	Low to High	20 to > 80	0.49	5
4109	Chilcott-Chardoton complex	0 to 4	2.8	Well-drained	Moderate to High	20 to > 80	0.49	5
4110	Elfkin-McPan-Catchell complex	1 to 15	0.5	Well-drained	Low	20 to 39	0.55	5
4112	Colthorp-Minveno complex	1 to 8	0.6	Well-drained	Very Low to Low	10 to 20	0.55	5
4113	Dolman-Minveno-Scism complex	0 to 8	1.0	Well-drained	Very Low to Low	10 to 20	0.49	5
4114	Elfkin-Chilcott-Power complex	0 to 4	5.2	Well-drained	Low to High	20 to > 80	0.55	5
4115	Dolman-Minveno-Trevino complex	4 to 15	2.4	Well-drained	Very Low to Low	10 to 40	0.49	5
4116	Elfkin-Dolman-Minveno complex	1 to 8	9.0	Well-drained	Very Low to Low	10 to 40	0.55	5
9907	Playas	0 to 1	<0.1	Very poorly drained	Very Low	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated	4
9908	Badland	1 to 8	<0.1	Somewhat excessively drained	Very Low	0 to 20	0.24	4

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BLM Livestock Grazing Supplemental Information



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BLM Grazing Allotments

BLM Grazing Allotments and Seasons on the OCTC

Sunnyside Spring/Fall #ID00825:

Operator	Authorization #	Pasture	Livestock #	Begin Date	End Date	% Public Land	Type Use	AUMs *
LG Davison & Sons Inc.	1100763	NA	72 Cattle	April 1	June 15	100	Adaptive	182
LG Davison & Sons Inc.	1100763	NA	57 Cattle	October 16	December 15	100	Adaptive	119
LG Davison & Sons Inc.	1102572	NA	73 Cattle	April 1	May 15	100	Active	108
John Anchustegui Jr.	1101636	NA	750 Sheep	April 1	May 31	100	Active	301
John Anchustegui Jr.	1101636	NA	130 Sheep	November 1	February 28	100	Active	103
John Anchustegui Jr.	1101636	NA	237 Cattle	November 1	February 28	100	Active	935
TFI Incorporated	1101678	Common	1,173 Cattle	April 1	June 30	97	Active	3,404
TFI Incorporated	1101678	Common	1,989 Cattle	April 1	May 31	100	Active	3,989
TFI Incorporated	1101678	Leone FFR	4 Cattle	April 1	June 30	100	Active	12
TFI Incorporated	1101678	Prison FFR	4 Cattle	April 1	June 30	100	Active	12
TFI Incorporated	1101678	Common	1,221 Cattle	November 1	December 15	97	Active	1,752
TFI Incorporated	1101678	Common	1,067 Cattle	October 16	December 15	100	Active	2,140
TFI Incorporated	1101678	Leone FFR	5 Cattle	November 1	December 15	100	Active	7
TFI Incorporated	1101678	Prison FFR	5 Cattle	November 1	December 15	100	Active	7

Sunnyside Winter #ID00826:

Operator	Authorization #	Pasture	Livestock #	Begin Date	End Date	% Public Land	Type Use	AUMs *
TFI Incorporated	1101678	NA	2,179 Cattle	December 16	February 28	100	Active	5,373
Soulen Grazing Association LLC	1101687	NA	9,865 Sheep	December 16	February 28	100	Active	4,865
LG Davison & Sons Inc.	1102572	NA	422 Cattle	December 16	February 28	100	Active	1,041

Source: BLM 2008a

Note: (*) - An Animal Unit (AU) is generally one mature cow of approximately 1,000 pounds and a calf as old as six months, or their equivalent. An Animal Unit Month (AUM) is the amount of forage required by one animal unit for one month.

Key: AUM – NA – not applicable.

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BLM and IDARNG 2017
MOU



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BLM and IDARNG 2017 Training MOU

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

THE GOVERNOR OF IDAHO

ON BEHALF OF THE IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION (IMD)

and

THE IDAHO STATE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

I. DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

The Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), formally known as the Orchard Training Area (OTA), is located within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA), and contains approximately 143,000 acres of federal and state lands centered about 22 miles south of Boise, Idaho (Exhibits A and B). The OCTC is the second largest National Guard (NG) training range in the United States, and is used for armored vehicles, artillery, infantry, and helicopter training by all branches of NG and Reserve forces from across the nation. The OCTC is also used for cooperative training by local and regional law enforcement units.

The OCTC is one of the most advanced armored vehicle training ranges in the world, with 22 firing ranges located around the periphery of an approximate 53,500-acre Impact Area. The Impact Area is surrounded by an approximate 89,500-acre Maneuver Area in which tracked and wheeled vehicle training, on-foot maneuver, and bivouacs are conducted.

II. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Idaho Military Division (IMD) began using the public lands in the NCA for military training in 1953.

In 1971, approximately 26,000 acres of public land along the Snake River Canyon were withdrawn by Public Land Order (PLO) 5133 as the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area (BPNA) to protect the densest known nesting population of birds of prey in North America. When the BPNA was established, the BLM initiated a research and monitoring program to study the habitat needs of raptors nesting in the area. In 1980, based on findings from this research, the

Secretary of Interior withdrew approximately 482,640 acres by PLO 5777 as the Snake River Birds of Prey Area (BOPA).

On June 25, 1979, the Governor of Idaho, on behalf of the IMD, and the BLM Idaho State Director first entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to authorize continued NG military training activities on the public lands now known as the OTA. The latest MOU was signed in 2010, has a thirty (30) year term, and specifies that it be reviewed at five (5) year intervals.

On August 4, 1993, Congress established the NCA by Public Law 103-64 [16 USC 460iii, et. seq.], hereinafter referred to as "the Act," for the purpose of conserving, protecting, and enhancing raptor populations and habitats, and the scientific, cultural, and educational resources and values of the public lands in the conservation area. Among other things, the Act set forth provisions for Reserve and NG use of the OTA. On March 30, 2009, Section 2301 of Subtitle D of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (Public Law 111-11) renamed the NCA in honor of Morley Nelson.

On September 30, 2008, the BLM Idaho State Director signed a Record of Decision for the NCA Resource Management Plan (RMP), which provides for continued military training activities in the OCTC by NG and Reserve forces.

III. PURPOSE

- A. To authorize military use of the OCTC pursuant to the 2008 NCA RMP.
- B. To provide the IMD with continued long-term authorization, as required by Department of Defense and NG Bureau regulations, in order to allow for adequate amortization of developments and improvements.
- C. To provide for the continued use of the OCTC by the IMD at a level that is compatible with the protection for raptor populations and habitats, and the scientific, cultural and educational resources and values of the public lands in the NCA.
- D. To provide a mechanism for subsequent review of the MOU and to provide an amendment procedure to implement mutually acceptable modifications.

IV. OBJECTIVES

- A. To continue military use of the public lands in the OCTC consistent with Section 4(e) of the Act.
- B. To provide BLM and IMD clear operating procedures, responsibilities, and limitations for the use and management of the OCTC.
- C. To ensure the safety of the general public, BLM, and military units using the OCTC.
- D. To provide for the authorization and protection of IMD facilities in the OCTC.
- E. To provide for the rehabilitation of areas disturbed by military training or military training-related fires.
- F. To provide a means to control unauthorized use of the OCTC.

V. AUTHORITY

The authority for this MOU is contained in Section 4(e) of the Act of August 4, 1993 (PL 103-64); and the BLM/IDARNG MOU of March 19, 2002 (ID-237, Amendment 1).

- A. Additional BLM authority:
 - (1) Section 307(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579; 43 USC 1732), as limited by Section 302(b)
 - (2) Section 2.10 of the 2008 NCA RMP
 - (3) Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (PL 90-577)
- B. Additional IMD authority:
 - (1) Idaho Code (Title 46)
 - (2) Executive Orders of the Governor of Idaho
 - (3) NG Bureau Directives

VI. DEFINITIONS

A. IA - Impact Area: That area within the perimeter of the Range Road marked on attached Exhibit A. This area is used for live firing of small arms, and various mortars, tank, and artillery weapons. All projectiles fired within the OCTC must land in the IA.

B. Artillery IA: That smaller (3 km x 3 km) area so marked on attached Exhibit A, which is located inside the IA and into which all high explosive artillery and mortar rounds must fall.

C. MA - Maneuver Area: That area of the OCTC located outside the IA.

D. OCTC – Orchard Combat Training Center: Entire training area used by IMD, encompassing both the IA and MA, generally shown on attached Exhibit A, and shown by the legal description attached as Exhibit B.

E. Training: All activities associated with IMD use of the OCTC, including managing resources, developing personnel skills, and improving proficiencies to meet military objectives.

F. Support to IMD: Those active components of the Armed Forces that support the NG by providing personnel, equipment, and logistical support utilized in training NG personnel, as projected in the annual operating plan and updates thereto.

G. The Act: The Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Act of August 4, 1993 (PL 103-64), and amendment thereto [Section 2301 of Subtitle D of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of March 30, 2009 (PL 111-11)].

VII. MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

BLM and IMD agree:

A. The level of military training activity will be compatible with the purpose of the enabling legislation in accordance with Sections 4(b)(1) and 4(b)(2) of the Act.

B. To meet annually during the first quarter (Oct. - Dec.) of the federal fiscal year to discuss and outline IMD's annual operating plan and review the prior year's activities.

C. To jointly assess, by the end of each calendar year, soil and vegetation disturbance (including fires) caused by training activities that require remediation.

D. To review this MOU at approximate five (5) year intervals beginning with the date of approval of this document.

E. To develop and keep current an annual OCTC Prescribed Fire Plan per BLM requirements (Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Guide PMS 484).

F. To protect and manage cultural resources within the OCTC in accordance with the 1989 Cultural Resources Memorandum of Agreement and subsequent amendments or revisions thereto.

G. To develop and keep current a Law Enforcement Standard Operating Procedures for the OCTC, Exhibit C.

VIII. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

A. IMD:

- (1) Coordinate and control military use of the OCTC.
- (2) Provide BLM with information concerning major changes in operations or activities in sufficient time to ensure BLM can respond with appropriate and timely authorization.
- (3) Conduct all training activities in accordance with Section 4(e) of the Act and other applicable federal laws and regulations, as well as any Conservation Agreements and/or Conservation Strategies (and associated mitigation or conservation measures) to protect special status plant and animal species.
- (4) Install and maintain warning, safety, and closure signs around the perimeter of the IA, as required by County ordinance. BLM published in the Federal Register a federal closure order for the IA on January 9, 1986. The closure was subsequently adopted as an Ada County ordinance. IMD shall be responsible for control of unauthorized public access into the IA. However, BLM confers no law enforcement authority on IMD for this purpose.
- (5) Install and maintain temporary warning signs on roads likely used by the public to enter the OCTC when IMD temporarily closes the OCTC or portions thereof to enhance public safety during periods of concentrated use.
- (6) Conduct aerial and/or ground reconnaissance prior to all live firing or other military activities that pose a threat to public safety to ensure that humans are out of the IA or any other unsafe areas.
- (7) Take action to prevent fires from IMD activities, and to control or suppress all fires within the OCTC. In accordance with the annual OCTC Prescribed Fire Plan, and as soon as possible following containment, report all fires to the BLM Boise District fire dispatch office, giving location, size, time of containment, and cause (if known).
- (8) In accordance with federal law and regulations and subject to appropriated funds, reimburse all direct BLM suppression and rehabilitation costs incurred for fires caused by military activities, including: 1) inventorying for cultural resources and special status species as required by the National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 2) if reasonably required by BLM, fencing and signing of treated sites to protect them from subsequent recreation use, livestock grazing, and military training activities, 3) reimbursing

BLM for reasonable costs expended for post-fire contracted NEPA compliance, project implementation, and post-implementation monitoring, plus other costs, including seed, herbicide, and direct equipment costs.

(9) Following the joint assessment discussed in Section VII.C. above, develop proposals to rehabilitate areas within the OCTC disturbed by military training-related fire and other military activities, and submit the proposals to BLM for review and approval. Project proposals shall be submitted timely, and shall include areas to be treated, species to be planted, seeding application rates, control of competing vegetation, timing of treatment(s), and post-treatment monitoring and site protection.

(10) Repair or replace range improvements, including fences and cattle guards, damaged or destroyed by military activities. All range improvements must be kept in good repair during the period of April 1 - June 30 and October 16 - February 28, the normal periods of authorized livestock use.

(11) Annually remove debris and litter generated by IMD activities unless otherwise agreed by the BLM Boise District Manager.

(12) Take reasonable efforts to locate and destroy all unexploded munitions within the area, and eliminate any other similar hazards that may result from military use of the OCTC.

(13) Subject to future federal legislative appropriation, if use of the OCTC is abandoned or this MOU is terminated, decontaminate the affected public lands in accordance with federal law.

(14) Defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the BLM from all lawful damages and claims for damages caused by military activities within the OCTC in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act.

(15) Obtain appropriate BLM authorization for removal and use of cinders or other mineral materials from deposits on public lands and perform timely reclamation of disturbed sites following expiration of permits.

(16) Obtain appropriate BLM authorization prior to construction of facilities, structures, or roads on public lands in the OCTC. Conduct compensatory mitigation and enhancement associated with each new RoW approval per mutually agreed process.

(17) Reasonably assist and cooperate with BLM in the form of available funding and/or staff assistance for monitoring studies required under Section VIII.B(5) of this MOU.

(18) With BLM concurrence, IMD may take actions to retire Animal Unit Months (AUMs) and reduce grazing preference in the Sunnyside Spring/Fall and Winter Allotments by purchasing AUMs from existing permittees.

(19) IMD will continue with periodic and annual reporting of usage, incidents, wildfires, etc. in the OCTC. As required by the 2008 Law Enforcement Standard Operating Procedures, the IDARNG Security Operations Center Supervisor will, at least quarterly, provide the BLM District Law Enforcement Ranger with an electronic copy of incidents in the OCTC for statistical data sharing purposes. Likewise, in accordance with the annual OCTC Prescribed Fire Plan, as discussed in Section VIII.A.(7), IMD will report all fires in the OCTC as soon as possible to the BLM Boise District fire dispatch office.

B. BLM:

(1) Give prior notice to OCTC Range Control and receive escort from OCTC Range Control when entering the IA. Give prior notice to OCTC Range Control when entering the training area.

(2) Provide law enforcement in a timely manner when requested by the IDARNG SOC.

(3) Review and approve IMD proposals for facilities, structures, and roads on public lands in the OCTC in accordance with federal law and subject to Section IX.C. of this MOU.

(4) Pursuant to the 2008 NCA RMP, either annually conduct or provide for monitoring studies to ensure that military vehicular maneuver training does not adversely affect vegetation communities in the OCTC with 10% or greater shrub canopy cover.

(5) Pursuant to the BLM-IDARNG Cooperative Fire Agreement, Exhibit D, may take actions to aid in suppressing wildfires within the OCTC and will notify OCTC Range Control immediately when taking such actions.

(6) Provide IMD with a breakdown of all direct reimbursable costs being requested as a result of military training-related fire suppression and emergency habitat

rehabilitation, or other mutually agreed upon projects.

IX. LIMITATIONS

A. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as limiting or modifying in any way the authority, or statutory or regulatory responsibilities of the Governor of Idaho or BLM State Director, or as binding either the State or BLM to perform beyond their respective authorities, or as requiring either party to assume or expend any sum in excess of available appropriations. Each and every provision of this MOU is subject to applicable laws of the State of Idaho and of the United States, and applicable federal regulations.

B. Active components of the Armed Forces may only use the OCTC when conducting joint operations with Idaho Military Division (IMD) or when those exercises are either supervised, coordinated, and approved by IMD.

C. IMD may be authorized new levels or types of training, additional land use authorizations, or rights-of-way within the OCTC if it can be demonstrated that the proposal is compatible with the enabling legislation.

X. EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU will be effective upon approval by the signatures of the Governor of Idaho and the BLM Idaho State Director and will remain in full force and effect for 30 years after the date of the last approving signature, unless either formally terminated by mutual consent or by either party upon five (5) years advance written notice to the other party.

XI. REVIEW OF THE MOU

A. A review of the MOU will commence on January 1 every fifth year following the date of the last signature hereto. The review period will extend from January 1 through June 30. One issue to be discussed at each five (5) year review will be the extension of the MOU to maintain a thirty (30) year life. Issues not discussed during the prescribed review period will be reviewed during the next five (5) year review period, unless addressed in the amendment process outlined in Section XII of this MOU.

XII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this MOU may be proposed by either party at any time and shall become effective upon approval by the BLM Boise District Manager and the Adjutant General, State of Idaho.

2) Recommended for approval this 25 day of August, 2017

L. DM
District Manager, BLM Boise District

1) Recommended for approval this 18 day of August, 2017

Harry Sample
Adjutant General, State of Idaho

4) Approved by the State of Idaho this 24th day of October, 2017

Bob Butcher
Governor, State of Idaho

3) Approved by BLM this 22nd day of September, 2017

Debra J. Dillon
for BLM Idaho State Director

APPENDIX J: BLM AND IDARNG 2017 MOU



Exhibit C	
Public Lands Lying Within the Orchard Combat Training Center	PLSS BLM 2012
<u>Boise Meridian, Idaho:</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<u>T. 1 S. R. 1 E.</u>	
Sec. 1 thru 2, all	1,261.86
Sec. 11 thru 14, all	2,565.34
Sec. 23 thru 25, all	1,926.29
Sec. 26 ,that portion lying north of the Sunnyside Spring/Fall - Winter Division Fence	479.54
	<u>6,233.03</u>
<u>T. 1 S. R. 2 E.</u>	
Sec. 1 thru 15, all	9,488.73
Sec. 17 thru 35, all	12,093.70
	<u>21,582.43</u>
<u>T. 1 S. R. 3 E.</u>	
Sec. 6 thru 7, all	1,370.75
Sec. 17 thru 20, all	2,677.07
Sec. 29 thru 33, all	<u>3,323.27</u>
	<u>7,371.09</u>
<u>T. 2 S. R. 1 E.</u>	
Sec. 1, all	<u>659.06</u>
	<u>659.06</u>
<u>T. 2 S. R. 2 E.</u>	
Sec. 1 thru 6, all	3,184.23
Sec. 7, N1/2	311.10
Sec. 8, N1/2	319.65

Final EA Addressing Approval of the OCTC Real Property Master Plan, Modernization and Infrastructure Improvements, and Improved Annual Throughput of Brigade Combat Team Training
APPENDIX J: BLM AND IDARNG 2017 MOU

Sec. 9 thru 15	4,485.21
Sec. 21 E1/2	320.07
Sec. 22 thru 35, all	8,300.64
	<u>16,920.90</u>
<u>T. 2 S. R. 3 E.</u>	
Sec. 1 thru 15, all	8,955.56
Sec. 17 thru 35, all	12,018.22
	<u>20,973.78</u>
<u>T. 2 S. R. 4 E.</u>	
Sec. 18 thru 19, all	1,398.83
Sec. 28, W1/2	320.21
Sec. 29 thru 33, all	3,308.73
Sec. 34, W1/2NW1/4, SW1/4	<u>239.87</u>
	<u>5,267.64</u>
<u>T. 3 S. R. 2 E.</u>	
Sec. 1 thru 15, all	9,868.38
Sec. 17, 18, 20, 21 (those portions lying north of the powerline- FPC Project No. 2055)	1,623.63
Sec. 22 thru 25, all	2,559.72
Sec. 26, 27, 28, 35 (those portions lying north of powerline - FPC Project No. 2055)	942.58
	<u>14,994.31</u>
<u>T. 3 S. R. 3 E.</u>	
Sec. 1 thru 15, all	9,617.22
Sec. 17 thru 35, all	12,047.54
	<u>21,664.76</u>
<u>T. 3 S. R. 4 E.</u>	

Sec. 2, that portion lying west of the Simco Road right-of-way No. IDI-21406	17.50	
Sec. 3 thru 10, all	5,186.03	
Sec. 15, all	639.26	
Sec. 17 thru 22, all	3,844.50	
Sec. 27, that portion lying west of the Simco Road right-of-way No. IDI-21406	603.43	
Sec. 28 thru 33, all	3,815.76	
Sec. 34, that portion lying west of the Simco Road right-of-way No. IDI-21406	<u>468.58</u>	
		<u>14,575.06</u>
<u>T. 4 S. R. 3 E.</u>		
Sec. 1 thru 4, all	2,558.55	
Sec. 5 and 6 (those portions lying north of powerline - FPC Project No. 2055	<u>759.25</u>	
		<u>3,317.80</u>
<u>T. 4 S. R. 4 E.</u>		
Sec. 3, that portion lying west of the Simco Road right-of-way No. IDI-21406	337.21	
Sec. 4 thru 6, all	<u>1,943.76</u>	
		<u>2,280.97</u>
<u>Total Acreage</u>		<u>135,840.83</u>

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BLM Special Status Species List



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NCA Special Status Species List

Special Status Species^a for the MNSRBOPNCA and likelihood of occurrence for the OCTC RPMP/Training EA

Species (Type/Status ^b)	Habitat Associations	Habitat Present	Species Present ^c	Species/Habitat Affected
Mammals				
Big Brown Bat – <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> (2/S)	Roosting; hibernation: Snags or living trees, cave and mine entrances; caves, mines, human structures Foraging: Juniper, sagebrush, particularly around clearings and lake edges	No	No	No
Bighorn Sheep – <i>Ovis canadensis</i> spp. (2/S)	Rugged desert canyonlands and mountains in sagebrush steppe/grassland habitat	No	No	No
Canyon Bat – (formerly Western Pipistrell) – <i>Parastrellus hesperus</i> (2/S)	Roosting; Hibernation: rock crevices, caves, mines, and human structures; non-migratory Foraging: Canyon areas near water	No	No	No
Fringed Myotis – <i>Myotis thysanodes</i> (2/S)	Roosting; Hibernation: rock crevices, caves, mines, human structures, bridges Foraging: forested and desert with vegetation where insects are likely gleaned	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kit Fox – <i>Vulpes macrotis</i> (2/S)	Inhabits arid and semiarid regions encompassing desert scrub, chaparral, halophytic, and grassland communities. Loose textured soils may be preferred for denning.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Little Brown Bat – <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> (2/S)	Roosting; Hibernation: forested areas with snags; mines and caves Foraging: variety of areas near water where aquatic insects important diet component	No	No	No
Long-eared Myotis – <i>Myotis evotis</i> (2/S)	Roosting: forested areas in exfoliated bark and cavities but also in human structures, rock crevices and mines Foraging: over water or among trees	Yes	Yes	Yes
Long-legged Myotis – <i>Myotis volans</i> (2/S)	Roosting; Hibernation: forested areas in exfoliated bark and cavities, human structures, rock crevices, cracks in the ground; caves and mines Foraging: variety of areas near open water	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pallid Bat – <i>Antrozous pallidus</i> (2/S)	Roosting: rock crevices, mines, tree cavities, and vacant buildings Foraging: visual and aural hunters of mostly ground dwelling arthropods	Yes	Yes	Yes

Species (Type/Status ^b)	Habitat Associations	Habitat Present	Species Present ^c	Species/ Habitat Affected
Pygmy Rabbit – <i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i> (S/2)	Throughout much of the Great Basin; relatively large areas of tall/dense sagebrush and deep soils. In Idaho, closely associated with large stands of sagebrush; prefers areas of tall, dense sagebrush cover with high percent woody cover.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Silver-haired Bat – <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i> (2/S)	Roosting; Hibernation: forested areas in exfoliated bark and cavities; caves and mines Foraging: variety of areas over open water, forest canopies, and shrubs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spotted Bat – <i>Euderma maculatum</i> (2/S)	Roosting: cracks and crevices in cliffs Foraging: xeric shrublands, some needleleaf forests, lava, and vegetated lava cover types	No	No	No
Townsend's Big-eared Bat – <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> (2/S)	Roosting; Hibernation: caves, abandoned mines, buildings, bridges, and hollow trees; caves and mine tunnels Foraging: mesic and xeric shrublands, forest uplands, most needleleaf forests	No	No	No
Western Small-footed Myotis – <i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i> (2/S)	Roosting; Hibernation: rock crevices, under rocks, exfoliated bark, and buildings; caves and mines Foraging: along cliffs and rocky slopes Wide variety of habitats, it is most commonly associated with arid, rocky areas, such as canyons, cliffs, rock outcrops, and badlands, within a variety of habitats, such as montane forest, juniper woodlands, sagebrush steppe	No	No	No
Yuma Myotis – <i>Myotis yumanensis</i> (2/S)	Roosting: Crevices in cliffs, old buildings, mines, caves, bridges, and abandoned cliff swallow nests Foraging: Closely associated with streams and other open water	Yes	Yes	Yes
Birds				
Bald Eagle – <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> (2/S)	Restricted to large rivers and water bodies near mixed conifer forest, occasionally sagebrush foothills. Winters along the Snake River in the NCA.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Black Tern – <i>Chlidonias niger</i> (2/S)	Generally semi-colonially breeders (clusters of 11–50 nests) in shallow freshwater marshes with emergent vegetation (e.g., margins of lakes, ponds, rivers, islands, or sloughs).	Yes	Yes	No

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 APPENDIX K: BLM SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES LIST

Species (Type/Status ^b)	Habitat Associations	Habitat Present	Species Present ^c	Species/ Habitat Affected
Black-throated Sparrow – <i>Amphispiza bilineata</i> (2/S)	Open areas with scattered shrubs and trees including deserts and semi-desert grasslands.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brewer's Sparrow – <i>Spizella breweri</i> (2/S)	Nest in canopies of sagebrush and occasionally other shrubs. Use a wide variety of shrub cover levels, but decline with increasing tree density.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Burrowing Owl – <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (2/S)	Sagebrush steppe and grasslands, typically use natural burrows excavated by American badgers. Also use artificial nesting burrows in the NCA.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ferruginous Hawk – <i>Buteo regalis</i> (2/S)	Arid to semi-arid regions, grasslands and agricultural areas.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Golden Eagle – <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (2/S)	Open habitats in mountains and hill country, prairies and other grasslands. Open sagebrush areas adjacent to nesting cliffs. Found on prairies, tundra, open wooded country, and barren areas, especially in hilly or mountainous areas. In the NCA, eagles predominantly nest in the Snake River Canyon.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grasshopper Sparrow – <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> (2/S)	Prairies, open grasslands, cultivated fields, open shrublands.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greater Sage-grouse – <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> (2/S)	Large, contiguous sagebrush- dominated landscapes.	No	No	No
Green-tailed Towhee – <i>Pipilo chlorurus</i> (2/S)	Mixed-species shrub communities, including open sagebrush steppe, montane shrubland, and successional growth in disturbed coniferous forest.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lewis' Woodpecker – <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> (2/S)	Open woodland and forests, including riparian woodland.	No	No	No
Loggerhead Shrike – <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> (2/S)	Open country with scattered trees and shrubs, in savannas, desert scrub, and occasionally, in open juniper woodlands.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Long-billed Curlew – <i>Numenius americanus</i> (2/S)	Open short-grass or mixed-prairie habitat with level to slightly rolling topography, and generally avoid areas with trees, high-density shrubs, and tall, dense grasses, and tall noxious weeds.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern Goshawk – <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (2/S)	Deciduous and coniferous forest, along edges and in open woodlands. In Idaho, summers and nests in coniferous and aspen forest; winters in riparian and agricultural areas. Do not breed in the NCA; have been observed during fall and spring migration.	No	Yes	No
Olive-sided Flycatcher – <i>Contopus cooperi</i> (2/S)	Mixed-conifer forest edges and openings caused by natural or anthropogenic disturbances, including small forest gaps resulting from tree death in old-growth forests, or along the edges of early successional forests.	No	No	No
Sage Sparrow – <i>Amphispiza belli</i> (2/S)	Sagebrush obligate; nest on the ground or in shrubs using a wide range of shrub cover and height. They favor sagebrush shrublands, use woodland edges, but avoid dense woodlands.	Yes	Yes	Yes

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APPENDIX K: BLM SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES LIST

Species (Type/Status ^b)	Habitat Associations	Habitat Present	Species Present ^c	Species/Habitat Affected
Sage Thrasher – <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i> (2/S)	Sagebrush obligate that needs large continuous stands of sagebrush or sage steppe.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Short-eared Owl – <i>Asio flammeus</i> (2/S)	Sagebrush steppe and grasslands.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Willow Flycatcher – <i>Empidonax traillii</i> (2/S)	Found in thickets, scrubby and brushy areas, open second growth, swamps, and open woodlands. In Idaho, associated with mesic and xeric willow (riparian) habitats.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> (1/T)	Large tracts of cottonwood and willow habitats with dense sub-canopies; restricted to Snake River. Critical Habitat does not occur in the NCA.	No	Yes	No
Reptiles				
Longnose Snake – <i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i> (2/S)	Found in desert lowland areas that have sandy or loose soils and numerous burrows.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Great Basin Black-collared Lizard – <i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i> (2/S)	Associated with low elevation arid habitats, with sparse vegetation and the presence of rocks and boulders.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ground Snake – <i>Sonora semiannulata</i> (2/S)	Desert habitats with loose or sandy soils.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Amphibians				
Columbia Spotted Frog – <i>Rana luteiventris</i> (Great Basin Population) (2/S)	In southwestern Idaho, wetland habitat occupied by frog populations is generally associated with springs or small lowland and foothill streams. The largest populations occur in structurally complex wetlands with diverse pool and meadow components. Suitable sites contain shallow breeding pools and deeper-water overwintering sites.	Yes	Yes	No
Northern Leopard Frog – <i>Lithobates pipiens</i> (2/S)	Marshes and wet meadows from low valleys to mountain ridges.	Yes	Yes	No
Western/Boreal Toad – <i>Anaxyrus boreas</i> (2/S)	Ephemeral pools and streams, all upland habitats.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Woodhouse's Toad – <i>Anaxyrus woodhousii</i> (2/S)	Lower elevation habitats, sagebrush desert, woodlands, grasslands, farmlands.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fish				
White Sturgeon – <i>Acipenser transmontanus</i> (Snake River population above Hells Canyon Complex Only) (2/S)	Large, deeper pools of main river channels.	No	No	No

Species (Type/Status ^b)	Habitat Associations	Habitat Present	Species Present ^c	Species/ Habitat Affected
Bull Trout – <i>Salvelinus confluentus</i> (1/T)	Cold water streams and rivers with complex habitat and with lots of large woody debris.	No	No	No
Redband Trout – <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri</i> (2/S)	Also found in streams and rivers throughout the Boise District.	No	No	No
Invertebrates				
Bliss Rapids Snail – <i>Taylorconcha serpenticola</i> (1/T)	Cobble boulder substrate in water temperatures between 59 – 61 degrees Fahrenheit in cold water springs and spring-fed tributaries to the Snake River and in some reaches of the Snake River.	No	No	No
Bruneau Dunes Tiger Beetle – <i>Cicindela waynei</i>	This species primarily occurs in the sparsely vegetated margins of sand dunes. Adults can be found on dunes but spend much of their time on more stabilized substrate in saddles between dunes. Larvae develop in burrows in flat areas in the narrow area between the drifting sand of the dunes and the established desert plant community.	No	No	No
Bruneau Hot Springs Snail- <i>Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis</i> (1/E)	Warm water springs in Hot Creek and along an 8 mile stretch of the Bruneau River.	No	No	No
Columbia Pebblesnail – <i>Fluminicola fuscus</i> (2/S)	Small to large rivers, in swift current on stable gravel to boulder substrate in cold, unpolluted, highly oxygenated water.	Yes	No	No
SNAKE RIVER PHYSA SNAIL – <i>Haitia [Physa] natricina</i> (1/E)	Confined to the Snake River and distributed over 300 river miles (RM) from Ontario, OR, (RM 368) to just below Minidoka Dam, ID, (RM 675). Found in swift current on sand to boulder substrate.	Yes	No	No
California Floater – <i>Anodonta californiensis</i> (2/S)	Lakes and large streams at lower elevations in areas with soft substrates and relatively slow currents.	Yes	No	No
Shortface Lanx – <i>Fisherola nuttali</i> (2/S)	River reaches with a swift current and highly oxygenated, often near rapids.	Yes	No	No

^aSee IDIM-2015-009, Idaho Bureau of Land Management Special Status Species List Update, January 2015

^b**Type 1** = Species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as Endangered (E) or Threatened (T), Experimental Essential (XE) populations, and designated Critical Habitat (CH).

Type 2 = Idaho BLM Sensitive Species: Includes State Director designated species(S) as well as FWS Candidate species (C), FWS Proposed species (P), FWS Experimental Nonessential Populations (XN), and species delisted from ESA Threatened or Endangered status within the past 5 years (D).

Categories include species presence documented (**Yes**), species likely to occur based on preferred habitat and local species abundance and nearby (<5 miles) occurrences within 5 miles (**Probable**), species may occur based on preferred habitat and occurrences within 25 miles (**Possible**), species not likely to occur based on limited or lack of preferred habitat and occurrence over 50 miles (**Improbable**), and species not present due to lack of habitat (**No**).