



**Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC)  
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC)  
Twentynine Palms, CA**



**Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment in Support of  
Large-Scale Training Exercises**

*The Project Update Notices provide new information to augment public documents available on MCAGCC's Land Acquisition Study webpage.*

**Project Update Notice #20, August 2016**

➤ **Temporary closure of the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area**

- The Johnson Valley Shared Use Area was closed August 14-20, 2016 for military training and returned to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage for public access until the next training event in August 2017.
- The Marine Corps continues to acquire privately owned parcels within the newly approved lands, finalize the tortoise translocation plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and establish new airspace in order to use the Shared Use Area for eventual Marine Expeditionary Brigade-sized (MEB) training as Congress intended.
- The Johnson Valley Shared Use Area will be temporarily closed to the public August 1-30, 2017 for military training. As with August 2016 training, the closure period will include the time required to ensure the Shared Use Area is clear of recreation prior to training and to confirm the land is clear of hazards prior to reopening to the public. The adjacent Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area will remain open to the public during Shared Use Area closure.
- The Marine Corps will continue robust outreach to ensure the public is informed of the temporary change in land use as training approaches, is conducted, and concludes.

➤ **Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)**

- A Notice of Intent to prepare a SEIS was published in the Federal Register on August 24, 2016. The SEIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts of action alternatives addressing different methodologies and locations for implementing a desert tortoise translocation program in support of MEB-sized training exercises on the newly acquired lands. Potential impacts will be analyzed for biological resources, land use, and air quality.
- Since the 2012 Final EIS and 2013 Record of Decision (ROD), the Marine Corps has conducted detailed studies and has worked cooperatively with USFWS and the BLM on alternative translocation plans for the desert tortoise, as required in the 2012 Biological Opinion (BO) and 2013 ROD. In light of new information gained from these efforts, the Department of the Navy (DoN) has elected to prepare a SEIS focusing on the evaluation of potential impacts of alternative tortoise translocation plans; BLM is a cooperating agency on the SEIS.
- By supplementing the 2012 Final EIS, the SEIS will advance the National Environmental Policy Act's purpose of informing decision-makers and the public about the environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

**For Further Information Please Contact**

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