



Proposed Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment in Support of Large-Scale MAGTF Live Fire and Maneuver Training

Project Update Notice Number 7—December 2010

Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
Twentynine Palms, CA

The Project Update Notices offer a focused way to provide easily accessible, wide-spread distribution of new Project information. They augment the regular updating of key Project public documents carried on MCAGCC's Land Acquisition Study webpage. Please see these other Project documents for an overview and key background information.

- **The schedule for production of the Environmental Impact Statement has been further extended for the Marine Corps project to acquire sufficient range and airspace to meet training requirements for sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver Marine Expeditionary Brigade Training**
 - More time is being taken to complete the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) than was originally scheduled. This ensures that the Marine Corps can complete a thorough analysis with the best available information of the potential environmental impacts associated with the six alternatives under study for the project.
 - The new schedule shows a Draft EIS being made available for public review and comment in February 2011
 - The new schedule still shows a Final EIS being made available to the public in Winter 2011
 - The new schedule shows the Department of the Navy's Record of Decision (ROD) now being released in April 2012
- **DOI Publishes Interim "Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation"**
 - Based on a Department of Navy request and the good progress reached in completing the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the DOI will publish a "Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting" in the Federal Register in September 2010.
 - That notice will authorize a new temporary two-year segregation of the lands being studied for possible withdrawal by USMC.
 - This extension will allow the Department of the Navy/Marine Corps time to finish the EIS and issue a ROD on any land acquisition and airspace establishment to enable sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver Marine Expeditionary Brigade training.
 - The public opportunity to comment on the proposed *Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation* has been extended to March 13, 2011 and the DOI may hold a public meeting to receive further comments.
 - Following the public comment period, public meeting, NEPA document and mineral report preparation by BLM, a Public Land Order signed by the Secretary of the Interior and published in the Federal Register would put a *Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation* in place for a maximum of five years from the announcement this month.
 - **Recreation and other uses will continue to be allowed under the Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation – exactly as the situation is today under the current segregative effect.**
 - The Marine Corps will continue to cooperate with the BLM in reviewing applications for infrastructure improvements and other permanent actions in the study area, while ensuring that we preserve the integrity of the NEPA process.

For Further Information Please Contact

29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project

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