

Eastern Washington Airspace Extension

Draft Environmental Assessment

U.S. Pacific Fleet

Virtual Public Meeting

<https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/NWNEPA>

FEBRUARY 2024

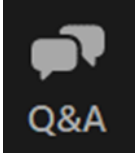
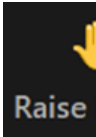


Welcome Video Message

Captain Eric Hanks
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island



How to Ask a Question

- Desktop or Mobile Applications
 - Type your question: Click on Q&A icon 
 - Question will be read by moderator
 - Speak your question: Click on Raise Hand icon 
 - Moderator will announce your name and prompt you to unmute your microphone
- Telephone
 - Press *9 for verbal question
 - After moderator prompt, press *6 to unmute Zoom
 - Make sure your phone is not muted

Questions submitted during the question-and-answer session are not an official public comment.

Please limit your question to one minute so all participants who would like to ask a question have an opportunity.





Mr. John Mosher

Program Manager
U.S. Pacific Fleet



Agenda

- Navy Presentation
 - Environmental Assessment (EA) preparation; background on Navy training in the region and use of designated airspace
 - Overview of the Proposed Action and purpose and need
 - Existing and proposed airspace
 - Overview of the alternatives
 - Summary of draft environmental assessment analysis
 - Protection of the community, environment, and traditional resources
 - National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process
 - National Environmental Policy Act process and public comment information
- Question-and-Answer Session



Draft Environmental Assessment

The Department of the Navy (Navy), working in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), has prepared a Draft EA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed airspace extension in northeastern Washington state.

- Realistic training is crucial for combat effectiveness in support of the National Defense Strategy.
- The FAA established airspace in this region in 1977 and the Navy has been using the airspace since then.



Proposed Action

The Navy is proposing the establishment of new military training airspace by the FAA adjacent to and west of existing military training airspace in northeastern Washington and the redistribution of where current training flights occur within the overall airspace.

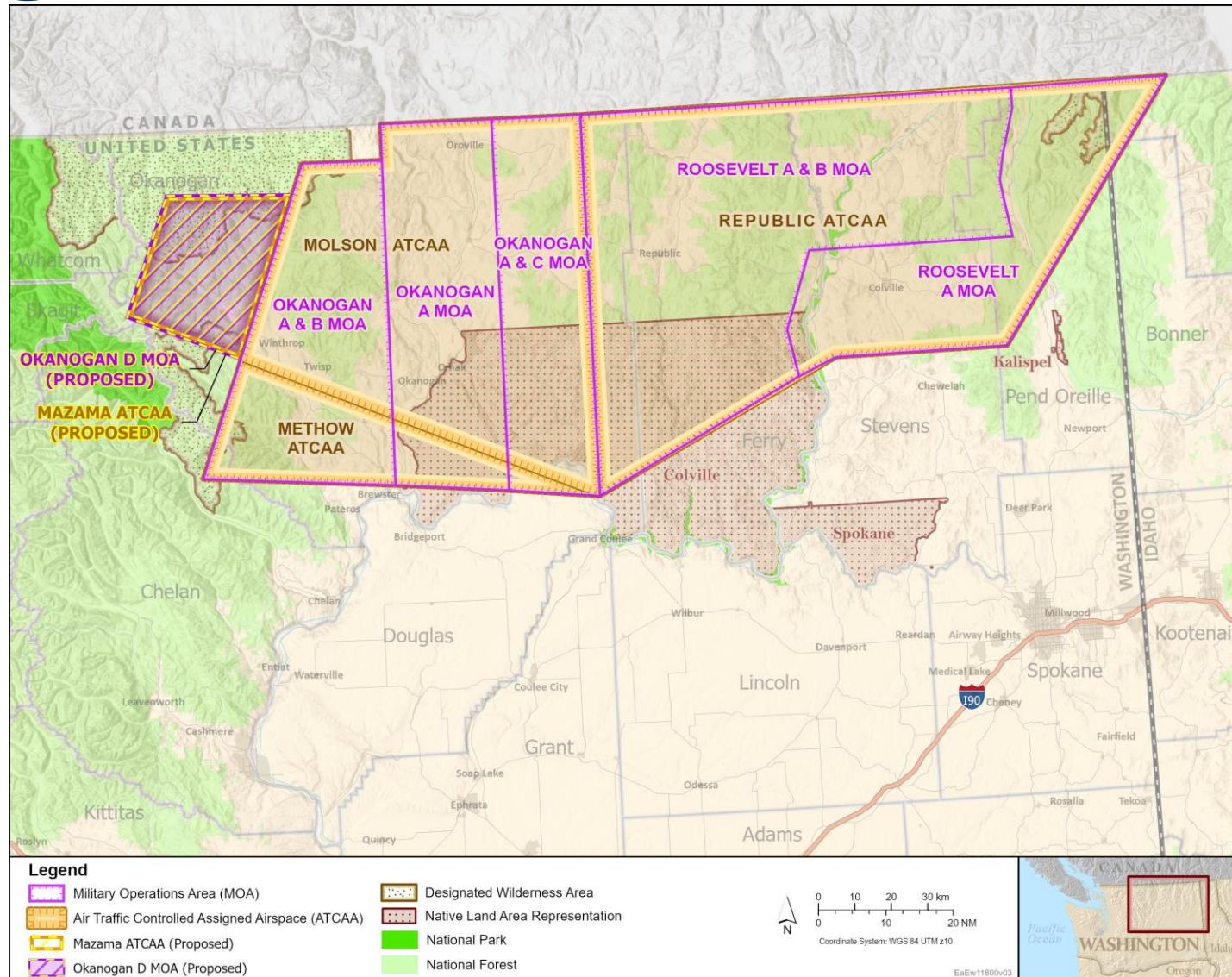
The Proposed Action would:

- Help alleviate substantial impacts from the loss of a portion of military training airspace in 2020
- Further the Navy's implementation of its congressionally mandated roles and responsibilities
- Enhance realistic training and readiness of aircrews by maintaining skills, accommodating future training requirements, and maximizing training opportunities

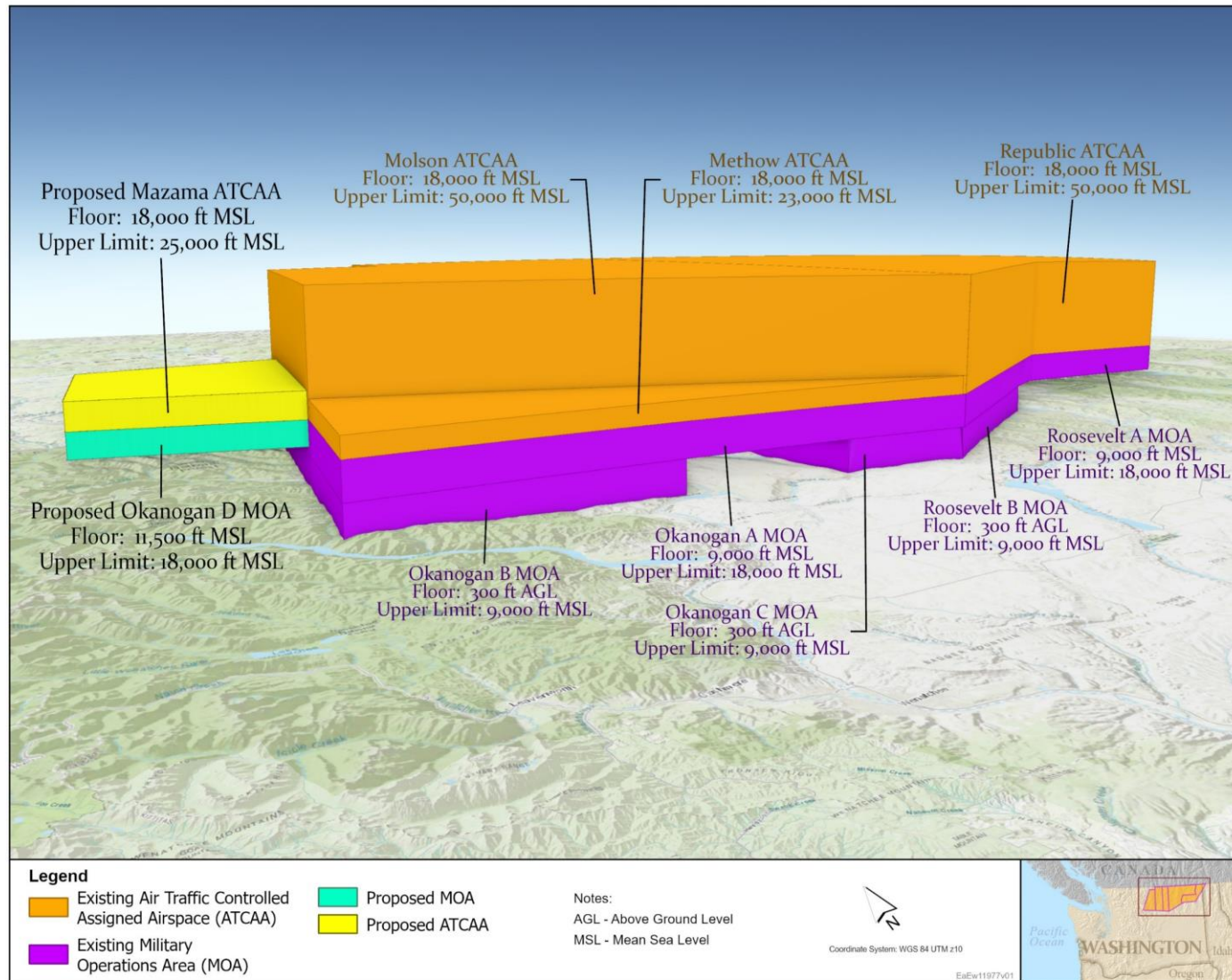


Existing and Proposed Airspace

The total area of the airspace extension would be approximately 393 square nautical miles.



Existing and Proposed Airspace



No Action Alternative

- No Airspace changes would occur; airspace would remain the same as analyzed in previous environmental documents
- Would not meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action
- A NEPA requirement



Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

- Includes a new Okanogan D MOA and the overlying Mazama ATCAA as an extension to the existing airspace
- Includes a redistribution of where training flights would occur within the existing airspace from what was analyzed in previous environmental documents
 - Redistribution equates to a 15% reduction of flights in the Okanogan MOA and a comparable increase in flights in the Roosevelt MOA

Alternative 1 is the Navy's preferred alternative and does not propose an overall increase in the number of training flights.



Alternative 2

- Includes all actions under Alternative 1
- Includes an increase in the number of training activities
- Allows for the greatest flexibility for the Navy to maintain readiness when considering potential changes in the national security environment

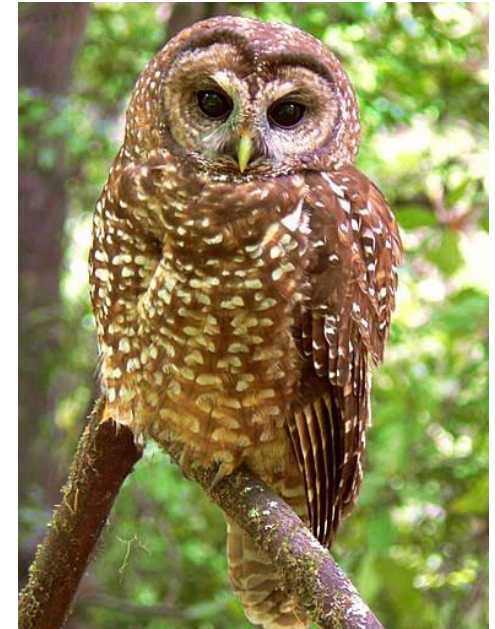


Environmental Impact Analysis

Based on the analysis, the Navy does not anticipate significant impacts on any resource area resulting from the Proposed Action.

Resource areas analyzed include:

- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- American Indian traditional resources
- Public safety and health
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental justice
- Children's environmental health and safety risk



Noise associated with military aircraft is anticipated to remain consistent with current conditions in this region.



Community and Resource Protection

- Incorporate best management practices into the Proposed Action to reduce potential environmental impacts.
- Consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on potential impacts on Endangered Species Act-listed species and designated critical habitat; confers with them on any species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.
- Engage with federally recognized tribes, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders.
- Invite local Tribes to review information to determine whether the Proposed Action may impact American Indian traditional resources.
- Conduct Government-to-Government consultation, if desired by the Tribes.



National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Process

- The participation of the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes and the public is an important part of the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process.
- The Navy encourages all to share information and seeks public input on the project's potential effects on historic properties by providing a written comment.

If you are interested in becoming a consulting party within the Section 106 process, please provide your name, organization, and email address in your comment.



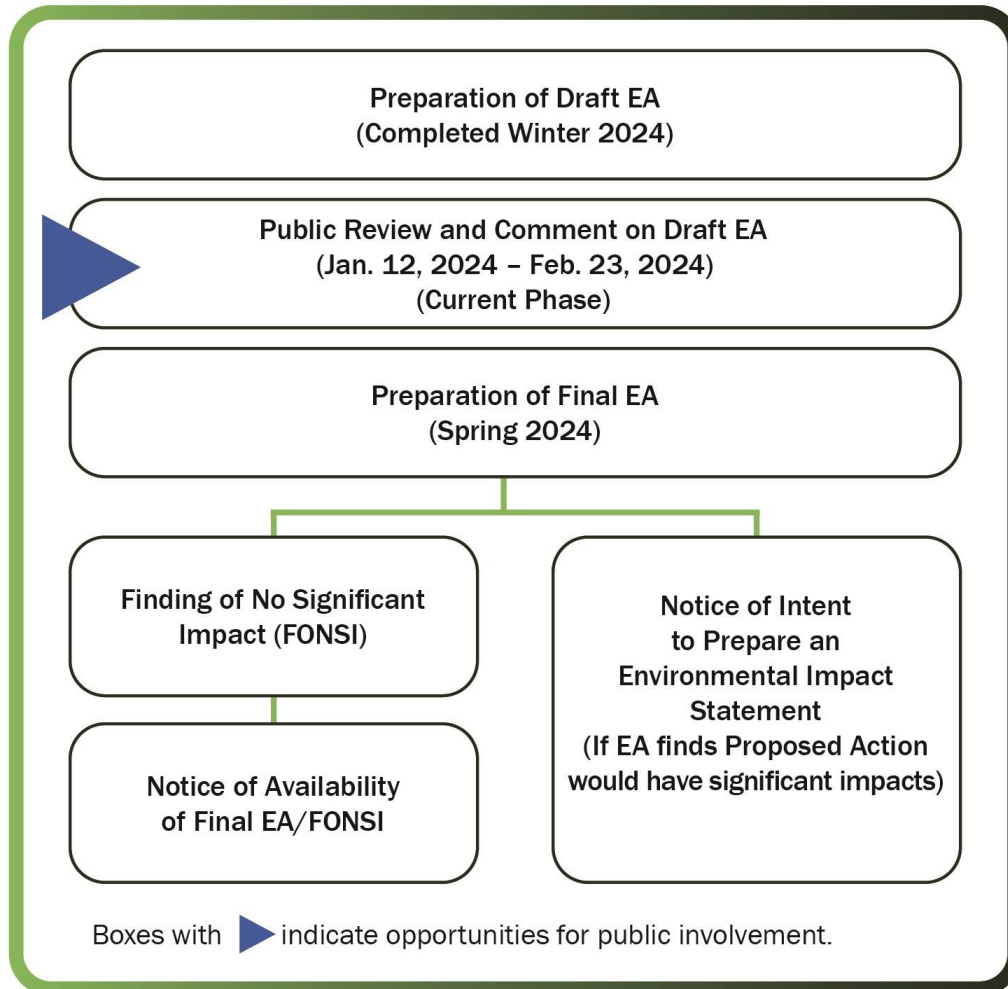
Eastern Washington Airspace Extension Draft Environmental Assessment



National Environmental Policy Act Process

Public involvement is a fundamental aspect of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

The Navy welcomes and appreciates the public's participation.



Public Review and Comment

The Navy invites you to review the Draft EA and welcomes your substantive comments on the accuracy and adequacy of the environmental impact analysis and whether the project would affect historical properties.

- **Project Website:** <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/NWNEPA>

- Project information
- Draft EA
- Fact Sheet (English and Spanish)
- Information repository locations

- **Written Comments:**

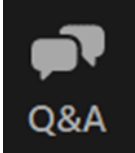
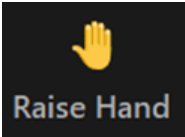
- Email to: navfac-nw-NEPA@us.navy.mil
- Mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest
Attention: Code EV23
1101 Tautog Circle
Silverdale, WA 98315

Comments must be postmarked or received electronically by 11:59 p.m. PST on Feb. 23, 2024, for consideration in the Final EA.



How to Ask a Question

- Desktop or Mobile Applications
 - Type your question: Click on Q&A icon 
 - Question will be read by moderator
 - Speak your question: Click on Raise Hand icon 
 - Moderator will announce your name and prompt you to unmute your microphone
- Telephone
 - Press *9 for verbal question
 - After moderator prompt, press *6 to unmute zoom
 - Make sure your phone is not muted

Questions submitted during the question-and-answer session are not an official public comment.

Please limit your question to one minute so all participants who would like to ask a question have an opportunity.

