



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Eastern Washington Airspace Extension Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

August 2024

**Eastern Washington Airspace Extension
Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
Public Involvement Summary Report**

This report summarizes public involvement and stakeholder outreach activities conducted by the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) in support of the *Final Eastern Washington Airspace Extension Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)*. A Public Involvement Summary Report, which included advanced notifications prior to the Draft EA development, public notification and information developed in support of the Draft EA, a summary of Draft EA virtual public meetings, and a summary of public comments received on the Draft EA, was prepared in April 2024 and included on the project website (<https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/NWNEPA>) and in Appendix D of the Final EA. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is a cooperating agency on this EA.

Public notices included information about the availability of the Final EA and FONSI, where the documents could be accessed, an overview of the Proposed Action and its purpose and need, and the website address for more information. Notification efforts were conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and U.S. Navy guidance.

The Navy recognizes the importance of engagement with the public and stakeholders and made efforts to notify and inform the public in a timely manner, as described in this report.

Summary of Activities

A. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

In preparation for the release of the Final EA and FONSI, the Navy developed materials to notify the public of the availability of the Final EA and FONSI for viewing. Notices were disseminated starting June 26, 2024. The following is a summary of those notices.

Newspaper Advertisements

Display advertisements were placed in four local and regional newspapers in eastern Washington. Publications began June 27, 2024, and ran for three consecutive publication days, including a Sunday, for daily newspapers and once for weekly publications. Publication dates were dependent on the newspaper's publication frequency (daily, semi-weekly, weekly).

Table 1 shows the newspapers and corresponding publication dates for each advertisement.

Table 1: Newspaper Publications for the Notice of Availability

Newspaper	Newspaper Coverage	Publication Frequency	Publication Dates
<i>The Spokesman Review</i>	Spokane, WA	Daily; except Saturday	Thursday, June 27, 2024 Friday, June 28, 2024 Sunday, June 30, 2024
<i>The Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune</i>	Okanogan Valley, WA	Weekly; Thursdays	Thursday, June 27, 2024
<i>Methow Valley News</i>	Twisp, WA	Weekly; Wednesdays	Wednesday, July 3, 2024
<i>Statesman-Examiner</i>	Colville, WA	Weekly; Wednesdays	Wednesday, July 3, 2024

Tribal and Stakeholder Notification Letters

Tribal letters were mailed via U.S. Postal Service priority mail or FedEx on June 26, 2024, to six tribal leaders of federally recognized tribes or tribal districts. Tribal letters were signed by U.S. Navy Captain J. H. Beattie of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Stakeholder letters were mailed via U.S. Postal Service on June 26, 2024, to 116 federal, state, and local elected officials and government agencies. Stakeholder letters were signed by U.S. Navy Captain J. H. Beattie of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Stakeholder and Tribal Database/Mailing List

A stakeholder and tribal database/ mailing list was developed to include elected officials, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, community and business groups, and federally recognized tribes to manage and document the distribution of project notifications.

Postcard Mailer

A postcard was mailed on June 26, 2024, to 142 nongovernmental organizations, community and business groups, and individuals.

News Releases and Media Distribution

The Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Public Affairs Officer distributed a news release announcing the availability of the Final EA and FONSI to local, regional, and national print and broadcast (radio and television) media outlets on June 27, 2024. Media outlets that published the news release can be found in Table 2: Summary of Media.

Table 2: Summary of Media

Media Log
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Welding, Mike. "Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for U.S. Navy's Eastern Washington Airspace Extension Available for Public Viewing." Whidbey Local. 27 June 2024.

B. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Project Website

A project webpage, tiered off of the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest (NAVFAC NW) NEPA project website, was established on January 11, 2024, to provide the public with easy access to the Final EA; FONSI; Draft EA, public comments on the Draft EA, a project fact sheet in both English and Spanish, maps, and project information repositories. All materials posted were compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Changes to the webpage for the Final EA and FONSI phases went "live" the evening of June 26, 2024. The website URL is <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/NWNEPA>.

The website address was included in the newspaper advertisements, stakeholder letters, tribal letters, news releases, and postcard mailers.

Information Repositories

Six information repositories were established in January 2024 to make documents available to members of the public without Internet access. A printed copy and CD-ROM of the Final EA and FONSI were mailed to each information repository:

- Colville Public Library
- Oak Harbor Public Library
- Okanogan Public Library
- Oroville Public Library
- Twisp Public Library
- Winthrop Public Library