

Environmental Factors in Planning

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Purpose

- Present and discuss the Valued Environmental Components (VECs) used in the NEPA process.
- Increase awareness of the role of environmental factors in the planning process.



Evaluating Alternatives

- “The proponent of an action or project must identify and describe the range of reasonable alternatives to accomplish the purpose and need for the proposed action.” 32 CFR 651.9(c)

- “Alternatives depicting the long-range development of the installation, including arrangement of functional land use areas, circulation, and utility systems, will be developed.” AR 210-20, para 2-4



Focusing the environmental analysis

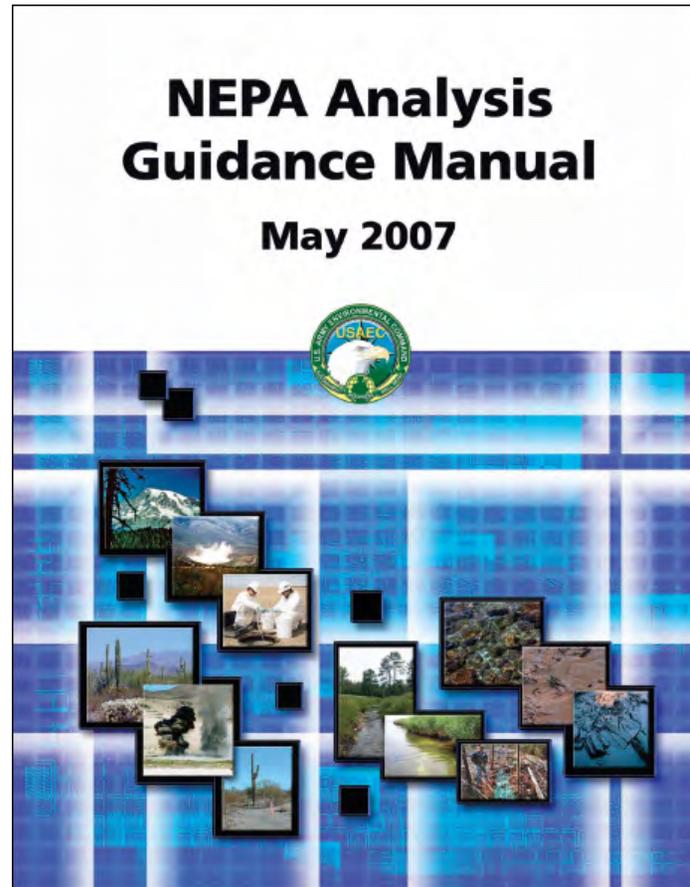
- The intent is to narrow the focus of environmental analysis to only the important ones.

“Emphasizing the portions of environmental impact statement that are useful to decision-makers and the public & reducing emphasis on background material.”¹

1. Title 40 CFR 1500.4, Federal Regulations Implementing NEPA



Army NEPA Analysis Guidance Manual



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14 Valued Environmental Components (VECs)

- Air Quality
- Airspace
- Cultural Resources
- Noise
- Soil Erosion
- Wetlands
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Water Resources
- Facilities
- Socioeconomics
- Energy
- Land Use
- Hazardous Mat'l/Waste
- Traffic and transportation



Air Quality

- Key Issues

- Identifying sources, types & quantities of emissions (vehicle, fixed sources, dust, obscurants)
- Complying with permit requirements
- Current Air Quality Status



- Questions

- Generating a new source?
- Change attainment status
- New/modified air emissions permit required?





Airspace

- Growing issue of concern
 - UAVs
 - Commercial Air Traffic



- Questions
 - Is airspace subject to over-utilization?
 - Require new airspace designation?
 - Public concerned about airspace use?



Cultural Resources

- Key Issues:
 - NHPA, NAGPRA, ARPA, AIRFA, EO 13007





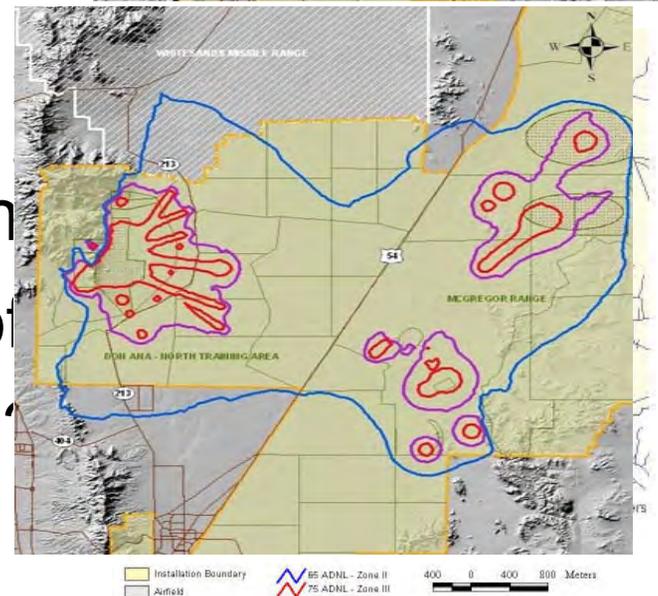
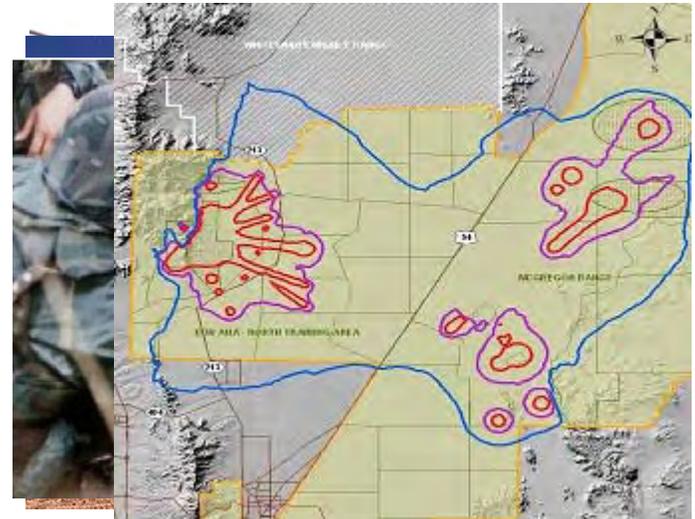
Cultural Resources

- Questions:
 - Inventory historic properties/bldgs? Any > 50?
 - Eligible for National Register?
 - Area or proposed project been surveyed?
 - Are there pre-historic or historic sites in the area?
 - Identified all Federally-recognized tribes culturally affiliated with the installation?
 - Area surveyed for cultural/historical significance?
 - Installation have a current ICRMP?



Noise

- Key Issues
 - Small arms ranges
 - Large caliber ranges
 - Aircraft
- Questions
 - Complaints from local community
 - Increase level or intensity of noise
 - Noise zones extent off post





Soil Erosion

- **Issues**

- Undermines ability of natural environment to support vegetation and the Army training mission
- Can be highly visible – particularly if contributes to sedimentation.

- **Questions**

- Proposed action increase intensity of military actions in the area?
- Are there sensitive downstream land uses or habitat?
- Sedimentation been an issue in the past?



Soil erosion at Army installation before (above) and after.





Threatened & Endangered Species

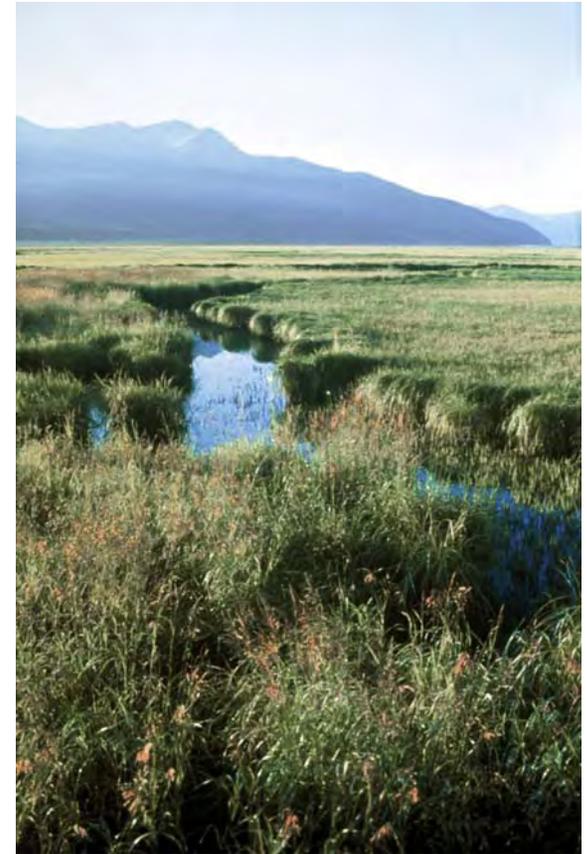
- Issues
 - Sikes Act
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Endangered Species Management Component
- Questions
 - Installation have INRMP, ESMC?
 - Will action affect TES or habitat?
 - Construction, operation & maintenance





Wetlands

- Issues:
 - Military land use significantly constrained
 - EO 11990, 1977
 - “No net loss” policy, 1988
 - No 2 wetlands are alike
 - Wetlands mitigation expensive
- Questions
 - Associated w/ T&E species?
 - Any expected loss in size and/or function ?
 - Proposed action significantly impact a wetland?





Water Resources

- Streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater, & floodplains.
- Issues
 - Usage patterns
 - Availability & quality
 - Point and non-point discharges
- Questions
 - Located above a sole source aquifer?
 - Existing water supplies stressed?
 - Sensitive receptors to point/non-point discharges?



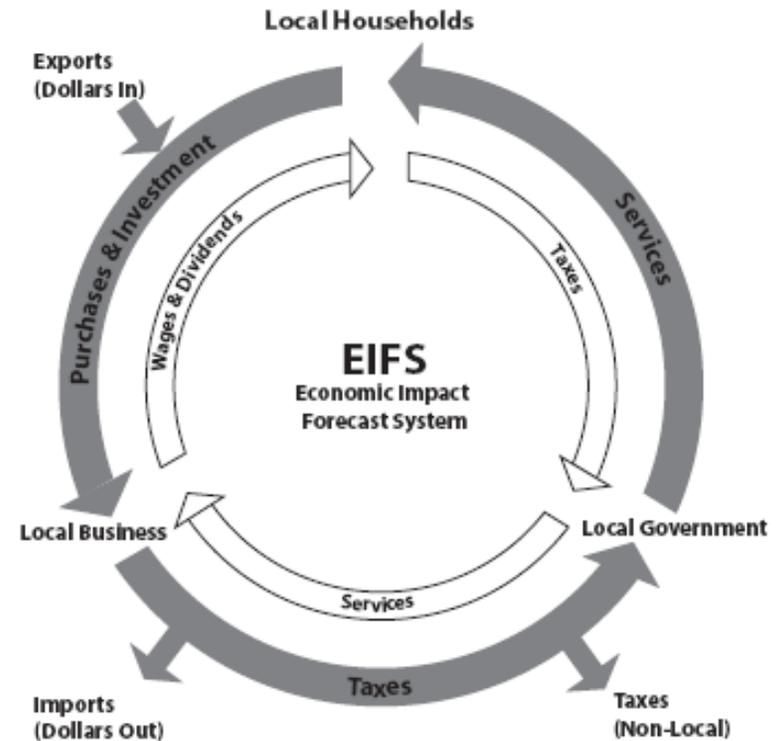
Facilities

- Encompasses all aspects of real property management: land, facilities & infrastructure
 - Land & interests in land, leaseholds, timber
 - Buildings & improvements
 - Infrastructure – supporting systems that enable use of the land.
- Questions
 - What is local community's growth trend
 - Will proposed action stress existing facilities?
 - New facilities required to support proposed action?



Socioeconomics

- Army actions can be positive or negative; can be controversial.
 - Schools
 - Employment
 - Local businesses
 - Tax revenues
 - Housing
 - Recreation
 - Environmental Justice
 - Health care





Socioeconomics

- Questions
 - Is community experiencing trend in growth or reduction in growth?
 - Will proposed action add/change that trend?
 - Proposed action affect socioeconomic factors?



Energy

- Major infrastructure and budget challenge for the Army
 - Army bill for energy in FY00 >\$865M
 - 85% for buildings
- Questions?
 - Have energy (not just fuel) costs been rising?
 - Does proposed action expand installation's demands?
 - Does action meet LEED criteria?



Land Use

- Issues
 - Ranges & maneuver areas
 - Enhanced Use Leasing
 - Leaseholds
 - RPMP contains information vital for addressing cumulative effects on land use.
- Questions
 - Are their land use controls?
 - Joint Land Use Study been conducted?
 - Cooperation between installation & off-post planning agencies?
 - Need to change > 5% of on-post land classification?



Hazardous Mat'l/Waste

- Sources:
 - Maintenance facilities, air/water pollution control
 - Weapon combustion products, batteries, power cells, fuels, antifreeze, CARC paint, adhesives
 - Bldg demo: asbestos, lead based paint
- Questions
 - Proposed action addressed in SPCCP?
 - Proposed action increase haz waste generation?
 - Local/regional concerns about surface or groundwater contamination?



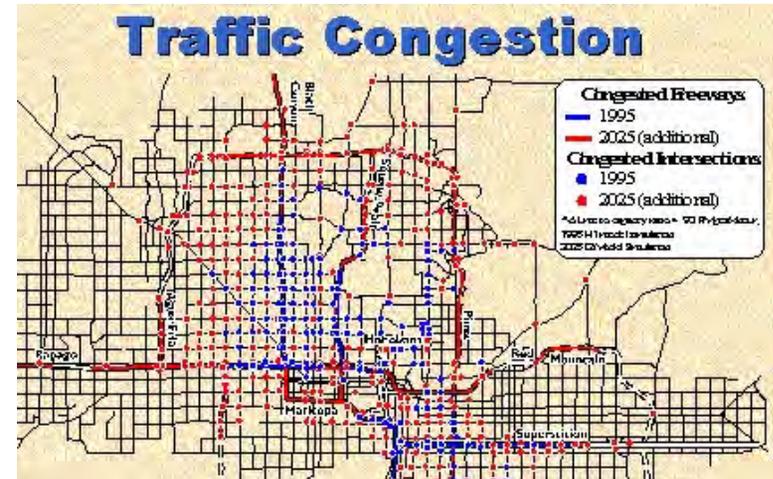
Traffic & Transportation

- Transportation & Land Use inextricably linked.

- On-post
- Local Community

- Questions

- Traffic data > 5 yrs old?
- Installation have transportation improvement plan?
- What is relationship between installation and local planning/transportation agencies?





Summary

- Valued Environmental Components essential part of the NEPA process.
- Can be a valuable part of the planning process.



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Questions?