

May 2019

# U.S. Navy Environmental Projects in the Pacific Northwest



The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These documents analyze the potential environmental effects of the Navy's proposed actions and alternatives before decisions are made and actions are taken. The NEPA process also provides an opportunity for public involvement and promotes transparency by informing the public of the scope of proposed federal actions and the potential environmental effects. For general information about the Navy's NEPA program in the Pacific Northwest and links to current NEPA documents, please visit: <https://navfac.navy.mil/NWNEPA>. To obtain copies of completed Navy EISs and permitting documents that analyze training and testing on Navy at-sea ranges and in open ocean areas, please visit: [http://www.navfac.navy.mil/products\\_and\\_services/ev/products\\_and\\_services/environmental-planning/at\\_sea\\_compliance.html](http://www.navfac.navy.mil/products_and_services/ev/products_and_services/environmental-planning/at_sea_compliance.html).

- Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location.
- Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off and/or supplement the analyses of other NEPA documents.
- NEPA documents for training and testing (e.g., Northwest Training and Testing EIS) focus on activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and may involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range enhancements.
- NEPA documents for aircraft home basing actions (e.g., EA-18G Growler EIS) focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and aircraft facility needs.
- NEPA documents for installations (e.g., Manchester Fuel Tank Improvements EA) focus on infrastructure enhancements for a variety of Navy missions.
- Each NEPA document considers cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private), in addition to the proposed action.

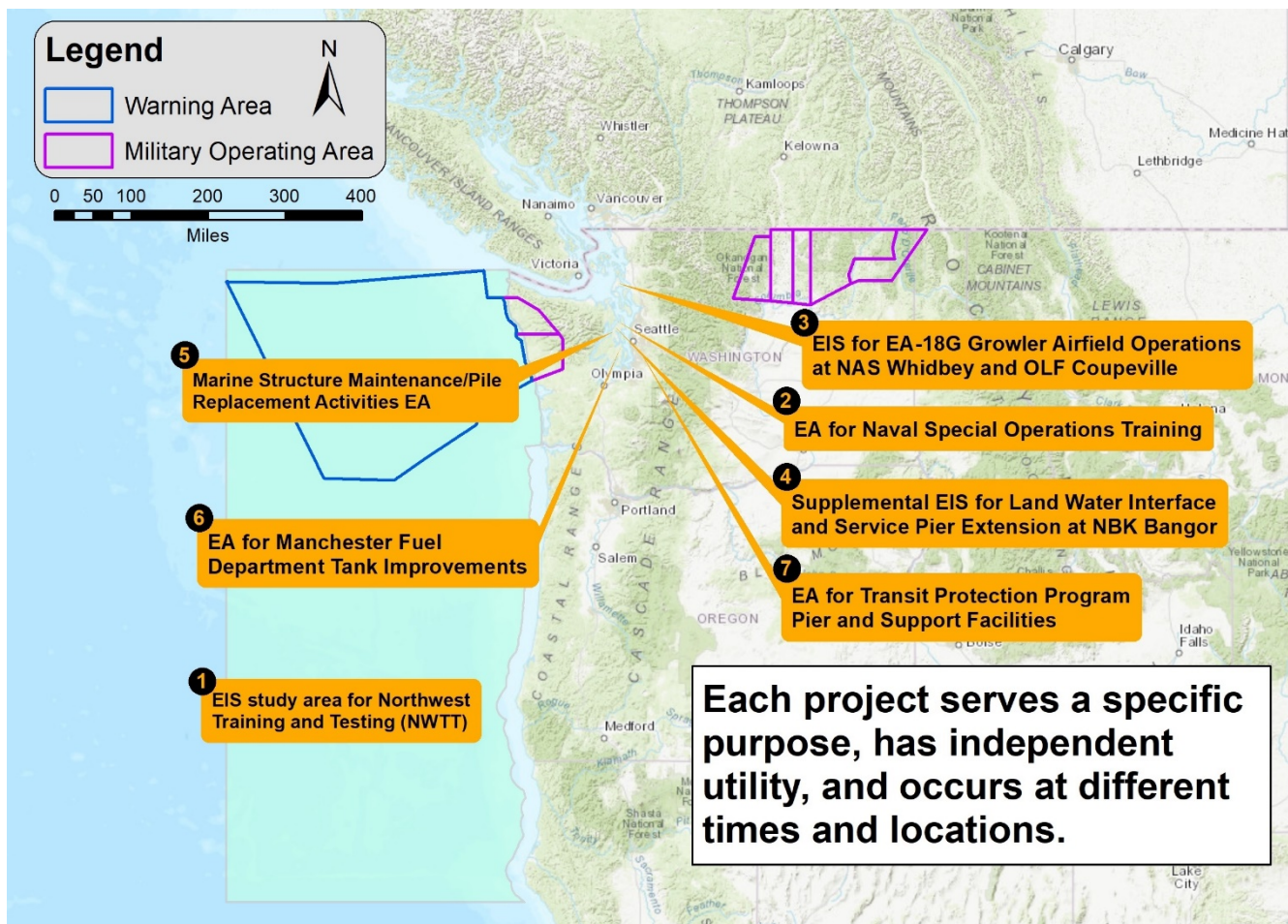
The Navy mission to maintain, train and equip combat-ready Naval forces evolves to address global events and emerging threats. Operational training and testing requirements change, as appropriate, to counter these threats. Several NEPA documents are ongoing or recently completed for proposed actions in the Pacific Northwest. These documents include:

**1. Supplement to the 2015 Final EIS for Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT):** The Navy proposes to continue training and testing activities at sea and in associated airspace at existing range complexes, military operations areas, and pier-side locations. Two phases of EISs have been completed for these activities in the past (2010 and 2016) with associated environmental authorizations. A third phase, the supplement to the EIS for NWTT, was announced on August 22, 2017, with publication of the Notice of Intent. The supplement is required to renew authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) which expire in 2020, and will also address certain adjustments to Navy activities. The Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS will be available for public review 29 March through 12 June 2019. For more information, please visit [www.nwtteis.com](http://www.nwtteis.com).

**2. EA for Naval Special Operations Training:** Naval Special Warfare Command proposes to conduct small unit, intermediate and advanced land and cold-water maritime training for naval special operations personnel. Training would occur in selected nearshore lands and in the inland waters of Puget Sound, including Hood Canal, as well as the southwestern Washington coast, with the permission of willing property owners. The intent of the training is to build trainees' skills, experience, and confidence in a challenging location with dynamic weather, land, and cold-water conditions. Trainees would learn skills needed to avoid detection, with the goal of

leaving no trace of their presence during or after training activities. The Draft EA was available for public review January 2018 to March 2018. The Navy received Coastal Zone Management Act concurrence from the Washington State Department of Ecology in September 2018, and ESA concurrence from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (October 2018) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (November 2018). The Navy is currently in the process of Section 106 consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act. For information, please visit <https://navfac.navy.mil/NSOEA>.

**3. EIS for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island Complex:** The Navy will home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island to support an expanded Department of Defense electronic attack mission. Due to the increase in aircraft and pilots, the Navy will need to conduct more Growler operations at the NAS Whidbey Island Complex, which includes Field Carrier Landing Practice that occurs at Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field Coupeville. The Navy announced the preparation of this EIS in September 2013. In October 2014, the Navy revised the EIS scope and invited the public to comment. The Draft EIS was available for public review November 2016 to February 2017. The Navy held public meetings on December 5-9, 2016. The Navy signed the Record of Decision (ROD) on March 12, 2019. For more information, please visit [www.whidbeyeis.com](http://www.whidbeyeis.com).



**4. Supplemental EIS for Land Water Interface and Service Pier Extension at Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Bangor:** The Navy proposes to extend and operate the existing Service Pier and construct and operate support facilities to provide additional berthing for maintenance of submarines. The Navy announced preparation of a Supplemental EIS on March 13, 2017. The Draft Supplemental EIS was released for public review and comment from August 18 to October 2, 2017. The Supplemental Final EIS was released on November 9, 2018 for a 30-day wait period. The Navy signed the ROD on January 11, 2019. For more information, please visit [www.nbkeis.com/lwi/](http://www.nbkeis.com/lwi/).

**5. EA for Marine Structure Maintenance/Pile Replacement Activities:** The Navy proposes to conduct maintenance and repair activities of marine waterfront structures at seven Navy locations within Navy Region Northwest. These locations include NBK Bangor, Bremerton, Keyport and Manchester, Zelatched Point, Naval Magazine Indian Island, and Naval Station Everett. The Navy released the Draft EA for public review and comment in August 2017; and, released a Revised Draft EA for public review and comment in May 2019. NMFS released the Navy's MMPA Final Rule in April 2019 and issued a Biological Opinion in April 2019. The Navy expects to issue a decision on the EA in June 2019.

**6. EA for Manchester Fuel Tank Improvements:** This project will construct six new 125,000-barrel above underground storage tanks and permanently close eight existing underground storage tanks at Manchester Fuel Department. Construction would begin as early as 2021 and continue for approximately six years. The Draft EA was released for public review and comment between June 15 to July 16, 2018. The Navy signed a Finding of No Significant Impact on the project on October 31, 2018. For more information, please visit <https://navfac.navy.mil/NWNEPA>.

**7. EA for Transit Protection Program Pier and Support Facilities:** The Navy proposes to construct a pier and upland support facilities for the Transit Protection Program (TPP) vessels at NBK Bangor. The pier would provide dedicated berthing for TPP 250-foot blocking vessels. The upland maintenance facilities would provide dedicated maintenance to other TPP vessels, which is currently conducted from facilities design for other purposes. The Navy anticipates to issue a decision on the EA in January 2021.