



Yuma Proving Ground Highway 95 Addition Legislative Environmental Impact Statement Virtual Public Meeting

The meeting will start at 5 p.m.

Phone Line: 571-616-7941

Meeting ID: 741 886 800#

Please mute yourself to reduce feedback and background noise.

Use *6 to mute/unmute the phone.

For technical assistance, use Chat box (computer) or *5 (phone).





Virtual Meeting Rules

- ✓ If you have any questions or issues, please let us know in the chat box or press *5 on the phone now.
- ✓ Feel free to enter questions in the chat box anytime.
- ✓ Participants' phone lines and audio will be muted throughout the meeting unless we call on you.
- ✓ Please be respectful and courteous. Any objectionable or rude language will be grounds for removal from the meeting.
- ✓ Phone Line: 571-616-7941 Meeting ID: 741 886 800#
- ✓ Please mute yourself to reduce feedback and background noise.



Meeting Purpose

- ✓ **Purpose of today's meeting is for the Department of the Army (Army) Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to request comments and gather information.**
- ✓ **We welcome your comments and questions and will have subject matter experts available during the Q&A portion.**
- ✓ **Nothing in today's meeting constitutes a promise and/or an agreement.**



Meeting Agenda



- ✓ **Welcome and Introductions**
- ✓ **Meeting Protocol**
- ✓ **Presentation**
- ✓ **Question and Answer**
- ✓ **Closing**





Welcome

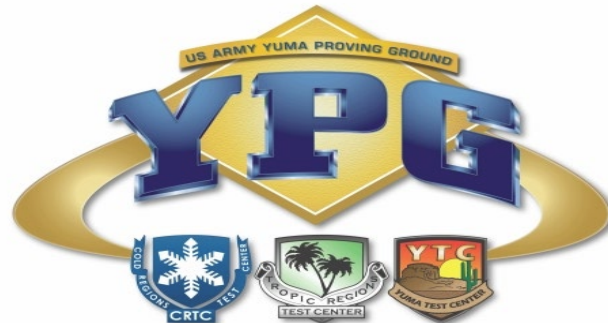


- ✓ **Welcome from Eddy Patchet, Yuma Proving Ground Acting Technical Director**
- ✓ **Welcome from David “Rem” Hawes, BLM Yuma Field Office Manager**



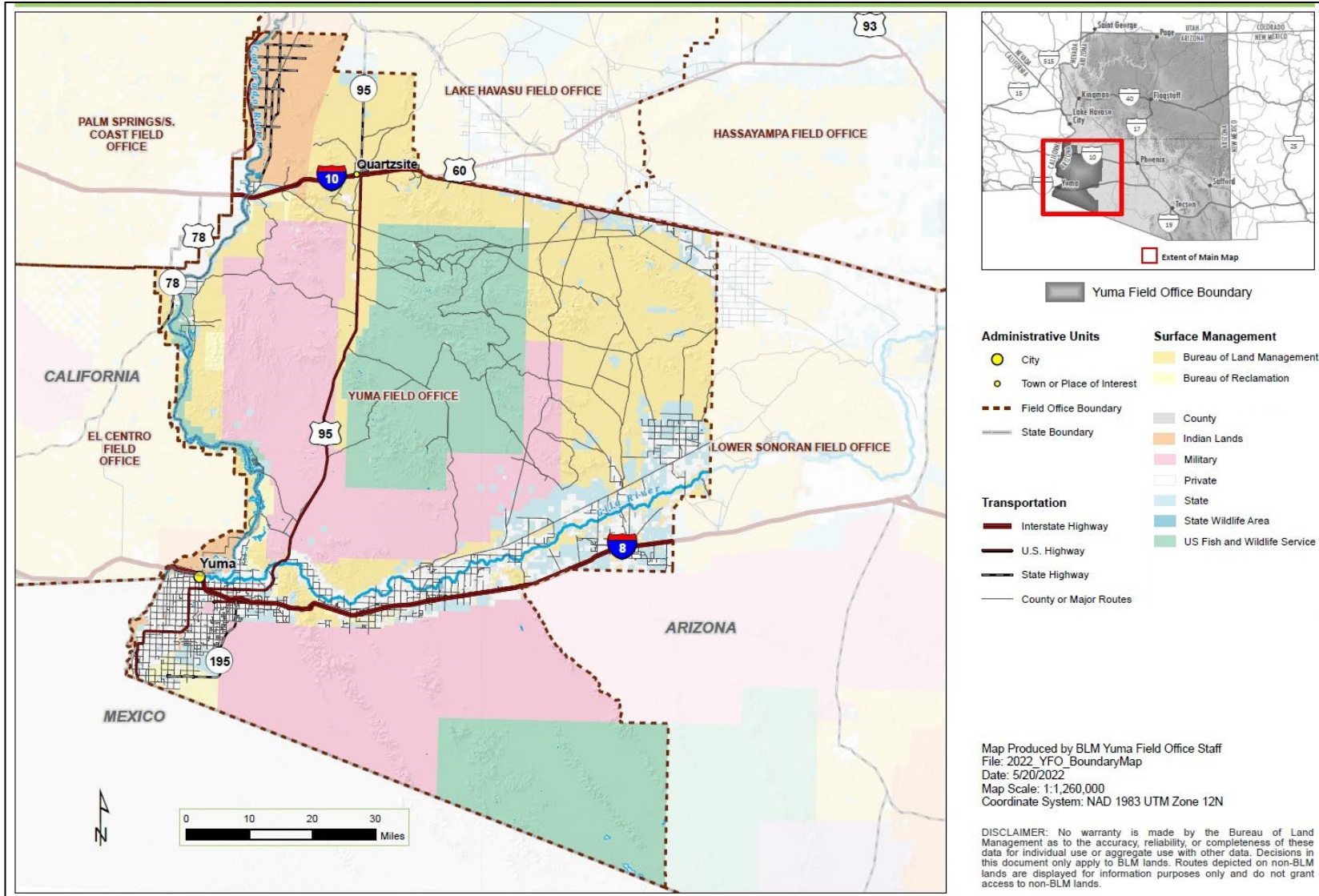
Yuma Proving Ground

Welcome from Eddy Patchet, US Army Yuma Proving Ground
Acting Technical Director



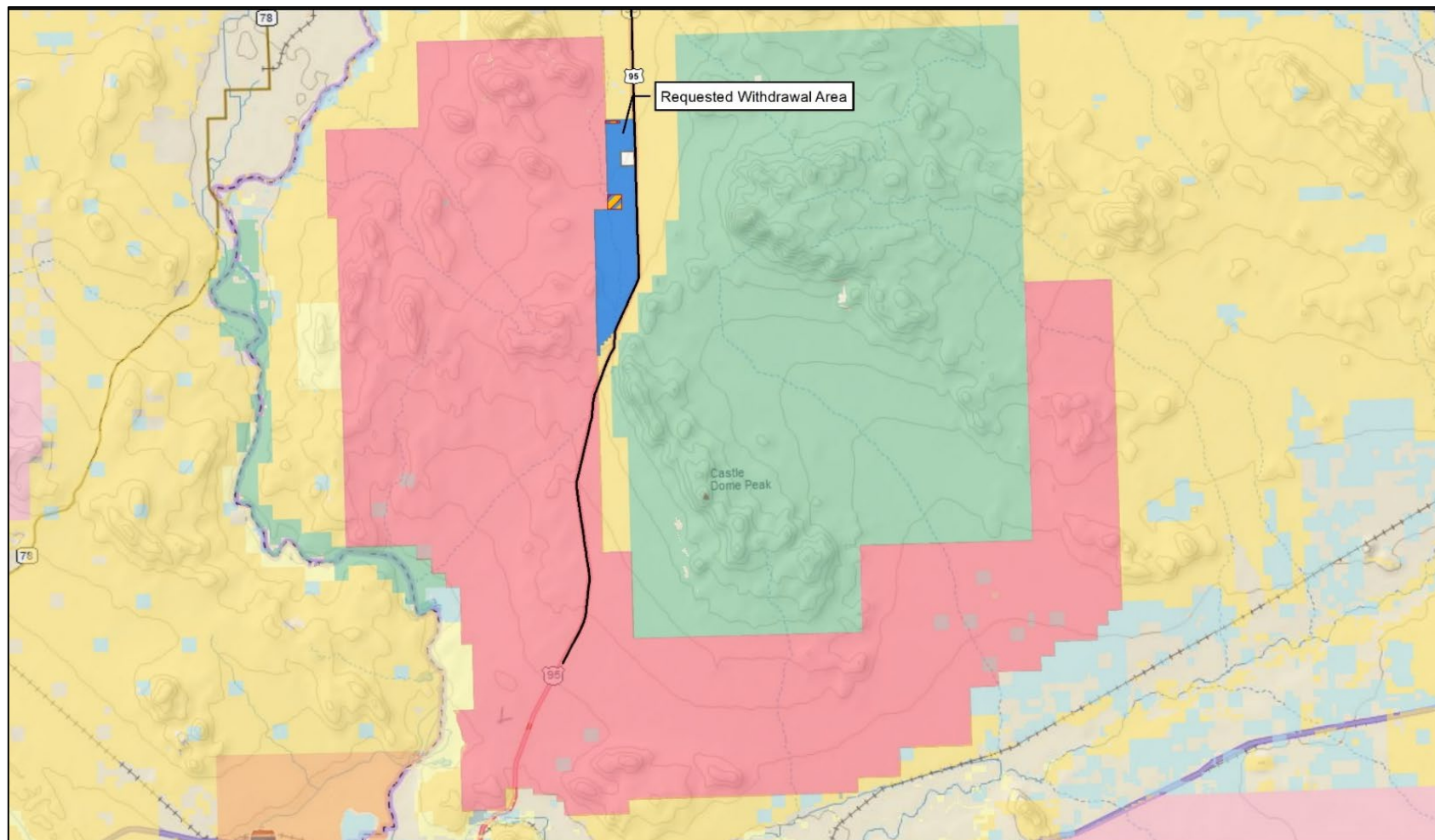


Welcome from Rem Hawes, BLM Yuma Field Manager



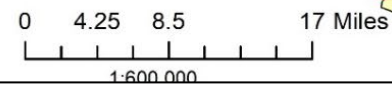
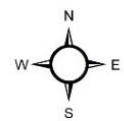


Yuma Proving Ground



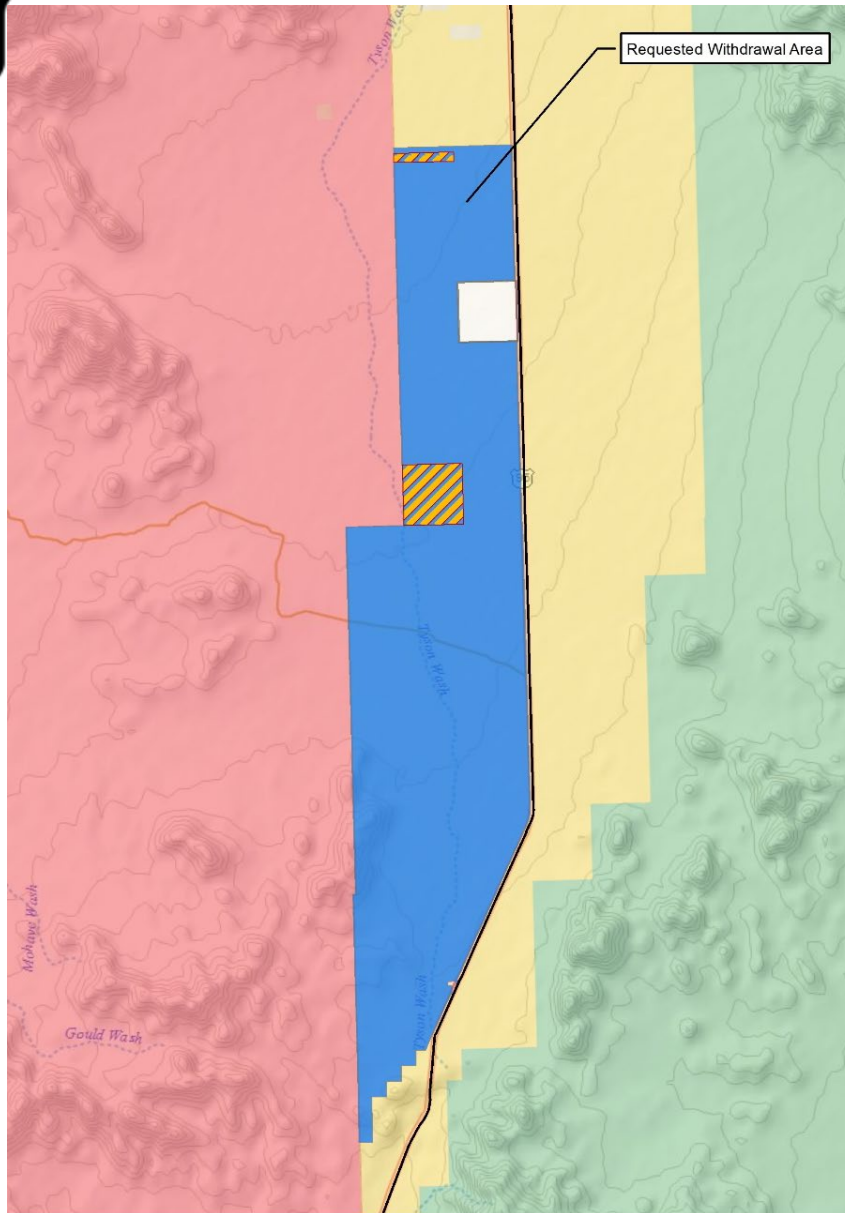
Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Non-Federal Land | Bureau of Land Management (BLM) |
| Surface Only Withdrawal | US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) |
| Requested Withdrawal Area | |
| YPG | |





Yuma Proving Ground



- ✓ Adds approximately 22,000 acres to the 830,000-acre YPG.
- ✓ Runs from approximately Mile Marker 74 to Mile Marker 91 along Highway 95.
- ✓ A nonfederal entity owns the subsurface rights to 800 acres.
- ✓ Additionally, there are 640 acres of private lands that are excluded from the withdrawal area.





What is a Withdrawal?

- ✓ Army's 22,000-acre YPG Highway 95 withdrawal application received by BLM.
- ✓ BLM processes Federal land withdrawal per:
 - Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) regulations (43 CFR 2300)
 - The Engle Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 155-158)
- ✓ A withdrawal means that, if approved, the requested lands are reserved for use by the Army and would no longer be subject to public land laws and mining-related laws that may allow a use or development, such as a mine, which may interfere with the Army's requested parachute air delivery safety buffer use. A withdrawal is subject to valid existing rights.
- ✓ As part of the withdrawal request, the Army is preparing a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS), and a public meeting helps in gathering information for the LEIS process.



Yuma Proving Ground Legislative Environmental Impact Statement





National Environmental Policy Act

- ✓ **Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).**
- ✓ **Lead agency: Army.**
- ✓ **Cooperating agency: Bureau of Land Management (BLM).**
- ✓ **Public participation: Native American Tribes; federal, state, and local governments; and members of the public.**
- ✓ **This is the beginning of the process of gathering information to assist in the analysis.**
- ✓ **The LEIS will include proposed and alternative actions.**





Army Withdrawal LEIS Process

- ✓ **Army published the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register.**
- ✓ **Public comment meetings.**
- ✓ **Army develops LEIS based on comments and affected environment.**
- ✓ **Draft LEIS will be available for public comment.**
- ✓ **Army will incorporate comments and prepare a Final LEIS.**
- ✓ **LEIS and application case file is presented to Congress through BLM.**





LEIS Timeline

Army Federal
Register Notice of
Intent to Prepare
(Sept 9)

Fall 2022

We are here

LEIS Scoping
(Sep 9 –Dec 8)

Fall 2022

Prepare Draft
LEIS

2023

Army
Publish
Notice of
Availability
(NOA)

2024

Draft LEIS
Public
Review
Period
90 Days

Summer 2024

Prepare
Final LEIS

2025

NOA for
Final LEIS
for Public
Review

Winter 2025

LEIS and
Supporting
Reports to
BLM

2026

Congressional
Estimated
Decision
Date

2028





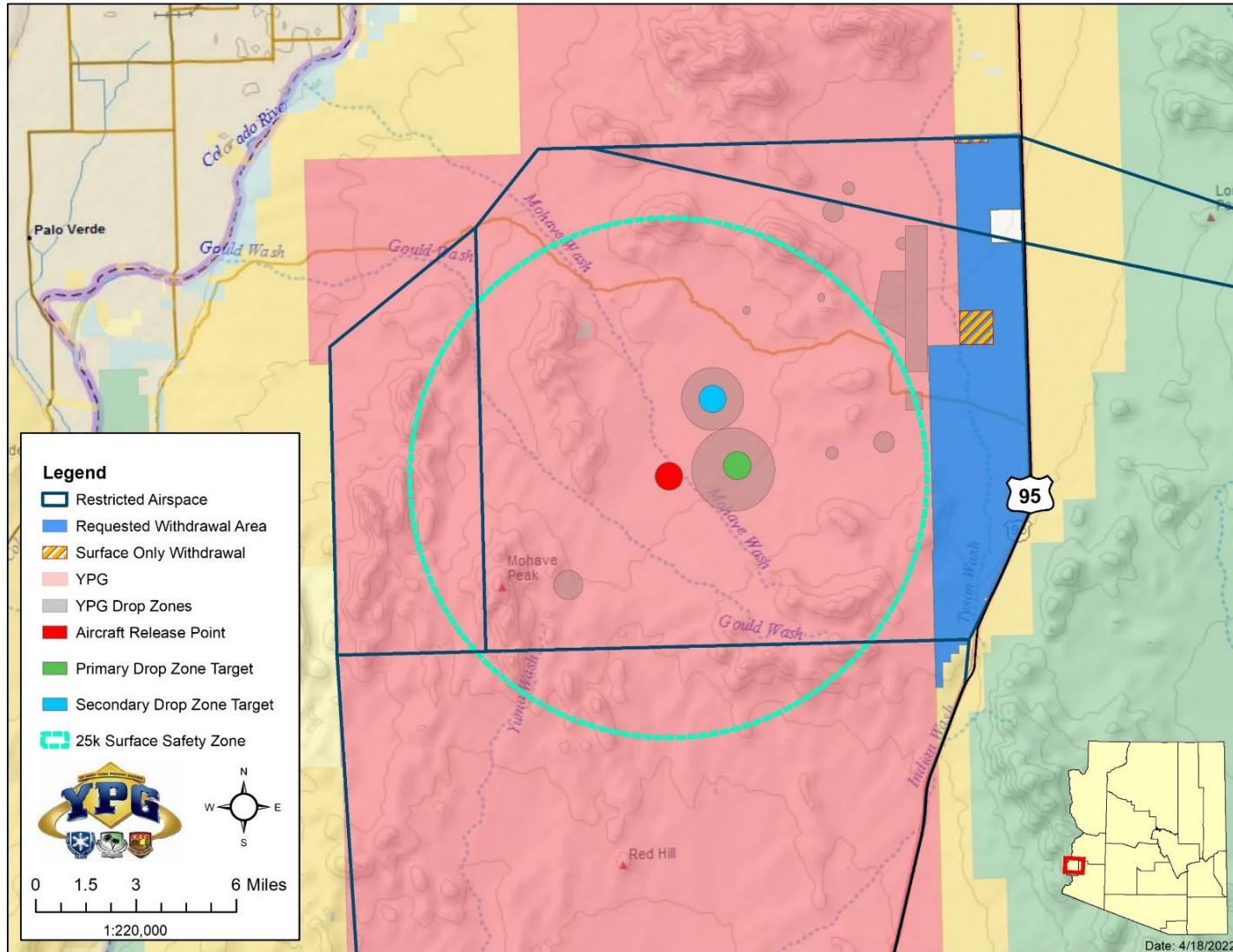
Purpose and Need

- ✓ The withdrawal would provide an *additional safety buffer* to support air delivery testing at higher altitudes on existing Drop Zones within the existing YPG boundary.



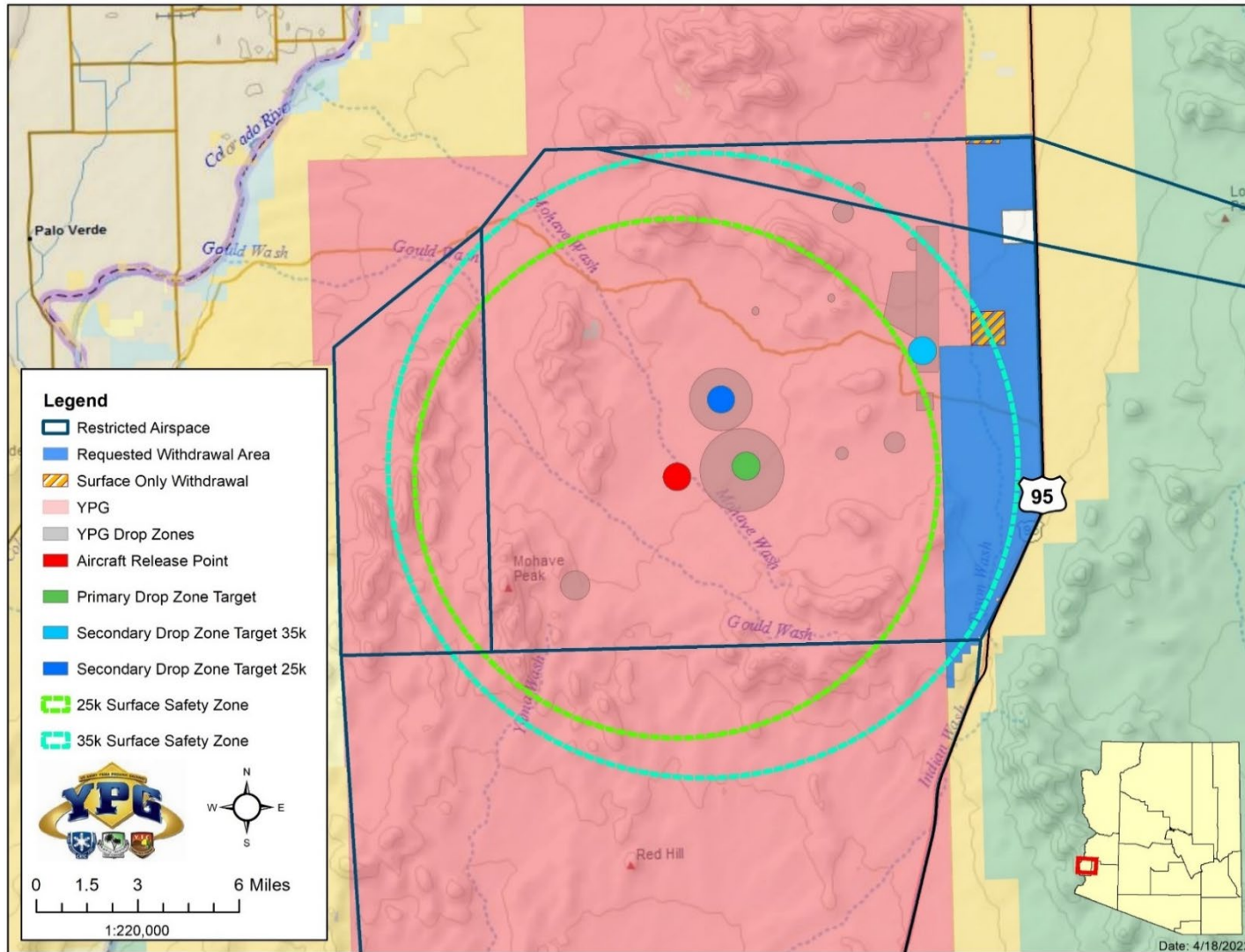


No Action: Current Capability





Proposed Action





Proposed Action



- ✓ **Withdrawal of approximately 22,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands.**
- ✓ **Reserved for military purposes.**
- ✓ **Indefinite period or until there is no longer a military need for the land.**





Preliminary Alternatives

Alternative 1: Withdrawal would be the same as the Proposed Action, but for a defined period (i.e., 25 years).

Extensions would require:

- ✓ BLM processing of the withdrawal application
- ✓ Congressional Approval.

No Action Alternative:

- ✓ Airdrop altitude would not increase.
- ✓ Army would not expand test capability.
- ✓ Does not meet the modern military/YPG Mission requirements.

Other alternatives may be determined based on internal/external scoping.





Preliminary Resources to be Analyzed

- ✓ **Land use, public access, and recreation**
- ✓ **Socioeconomics**
(mining and/or renewable energy development)
- ✓ **Issues identified during public comment period will be considered and carried forward for analysis if warranted**





- ✓ **Proposed Action would reduce public access and opportunities for mining and/or renewable energy development.**
- ✓ **Current recreational activities (i.e., camping, hiking, target shooting, sightseeing, and photography) would be restricted.**
- ✓ **Hunting could be allowed through the YPG Hunting Program.**



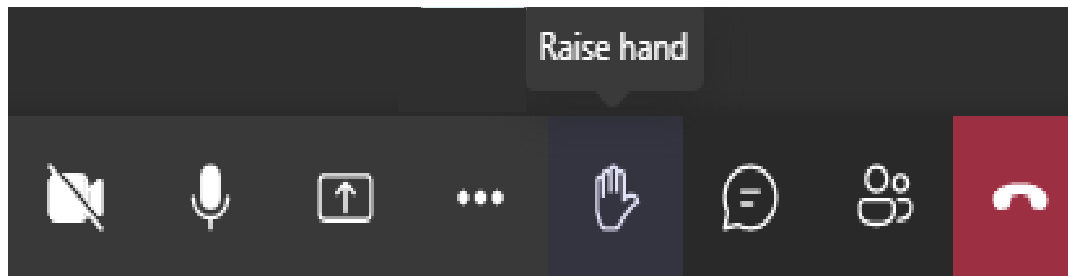


Public Comment and Question and Answer Portion



Instructions:

- ✓ Phone Line: **571-616-7941**, Meeting ID: **741 886 800#**
- ✓ To raise your hand, use ***5** on your phone or the raise hand tool.
- ✓ When called upon, use ***6** to unmute/mute on the phone.
- ✓ Please introduce yourself before stating your comment or question.
- ✓ Each speaker has a 2-minute time limit for questions or comments.
- ✓ Use ***5** to lower your hand after you ask your question.
- ✓ If you have questions during a comment, please use the chat feature.
- ✓ Be respectful and courteous.





How to Comment Effectively



Comments should focus on:

- ✓ Potentially affected resources
- ✓ Uses of these lands
- ✓ Other nearby projects
- ✓ Important public use areas.

LEIS Comments will be due by December 8:

- ✓ Please email comments to usarmy.ypg.imcom.mbx.nepa@army.mil to be included in the LEIS project record and addressed in the LEIS.



Additional Project Information



For more information check the project website:
<https://ypg-environmental.com/highway-95-land-withdrawal-leis/>

Yuma Proving Ground Contact:
Daniel Steward, (928) 328-2125
usarmy.ypg.imcom.mbx.nepa@army.mil

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will not be disclosed.

