



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, YUMA
301 C STREET
YUMA AZ 85365-9498

September 14, 2022

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The U. S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (USAGYPG) has initiated the development of a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze the environmental impacts of the withdrawal and reservation for military purposes of approximately 22,000 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). A Notice of Intent to prepare the LEIS was published in the Federal Register on September 9, 2022. This withdrawal would add to the existing withdrawal for Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and would extend the boundary to Arizona Highway 95, as shown on the enclosed map.

The Army requires this additional land as a safety buffer for testing of advanced air delivery technologies and aviation systems, as well as more complex air delivery and tactical scenarios on existing drop zones on YPG. In particular, GPS-guided parachute systems are requiring larger Surface Safety Zones than are currently available at YPG. The additional land space would allow for higher altitude parachute release and provide an additional buffer area in case of release point errors and system failures, which would meet test and training requirements and improve public safety.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on behalf of YPG, have submitted a land withdrawal application to the BLM and they are processing this request. The BLM published a Notice of Withdrawal Application April 4, 2022 and will be a cooperating agency for preparation of the LEIS. BLM will join the Army in the public participation process to fulfill requirements for both agencies to inform the public about the proposed action. Publication of the BLM notice initiated a 90-day public comment period that ended July 5, 2022.

Written comments identifying potential environmental impacts to be analyzed in the LEIS will be welcomed and accepted through December 8, 2022. The public will also be invited to review and comment on the Draft LEIS when it is released. During the 90-day comment period, there will be two public meetings scheduled for October 19 and 20, 2022. The public meeting will be hosted online and by telephone with meeting materials available on the YPG NEPA public website [at https://ypg-environmental.com/highway-95-land-withdrawal-leis/](https://ypg-environmental.com/highway-95-land-withdrawal-leis/). Information needed to join each meeting is outlined on page two of this letter.

a. Public meeting 1: October 19, 2022, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm Mountain Standard Time (MST).

b. Public meeting 2: October 20, 2022, 5:00 pm MST

Please use the following link to join by computer:

https://dod.teams.microsoft.us//meetup-join/19%3adod%3ameeting_0d0a58abd5b34090b72f93c0b5a68cc2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fae6d70f-954b-4811-92b6-0530d6f84c43%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22459a70db-7b43-4f6a-a5bf-eb8721fd5717%22%7d

You can also join by phone at: +1 571-616-7941 Conference ID: 741 886 800#

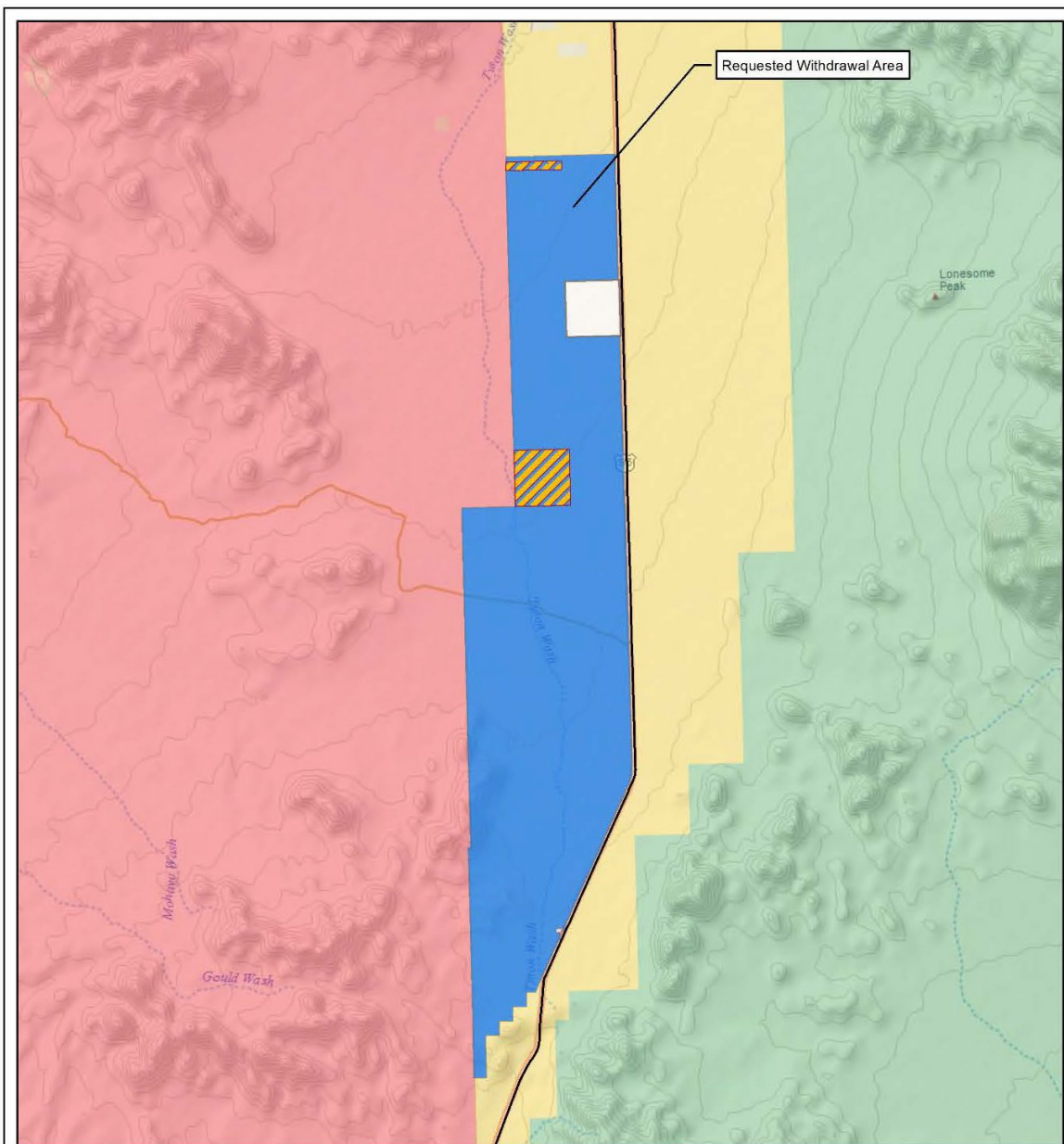
Information about the proposed withdrawal and meeting materials are available on the YPG NEPA website: <https://ypg-environmental.com/highway-95-land-withdrawal-leis/>. For all, including those without computer and/or internet access, inquiries about the proposed withdrawal, requests for scoping-related materials, and comments regarding the proposal may be submitted directly to Mr. Daniel Steward via the contact information contained below or via email to usarmy.ypg.imcom.mbx.nepa@army.mil. To ensure the Army has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft LEIS, scoping comments should be submitted via email or to the address listed below, by no later than December 8, 2022.

Your input is valued, and we look forward to working with you during this process. Comments can be submitted to the USAG YPG Environmental Sciences at U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground, 301 C Street, IMYM-PWE, Yuma, AZ 85365-9498 or via email to Daniel.m.steward.civ@army.mil. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Daniel Steward at (928) 328-2125.

Sincerely,

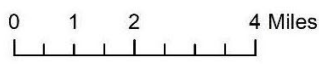

Kenneth O. Musselwhite Sr.
Acting Garrison Manager

Enclosure



Legend

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



1:150,000



Date: 4/14/2022