

Cumulative Impacts



Identified Cumulative Impact Activities

Projects and activities identified by the Dugway EIS for Activities Associated with Future Programs (EIS) for the cumulative impact analysis are:

- ~ UTTR Air Training and Testing Activities
- ~ NASA Activities
- ~ Tooele Army Depot
- ~ Deseret Chemical Depot and Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility
- ~ Safety-Kleen (Aragonite) Incinerator, Transfer and Storage Facility
- ~ Envirocare of Utah Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility
- ~ Safety-Kleen (Grassy Mountain) Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility
- ~ Safety-Kleen (Clive) Treatment and Storage Facility
- ~ Magnesium Corporation of America (MagCorp) Magnesium Refining Facility
- ~ Kennecott Bingham Canyon Copper Mine and Processing Facilities
- ~ Intermountain Power Project (IPP)
- ~ Proposed Skull Valley Spent Fuel Storage Facility
- ~ FUDS (Southern Triangle and Yellow Jacket)
- ~ Tekoi Test Range (closed)
- ~ Public Land Management
- ~ Tooele County Economic Development and Growth
- ~ State Road 36 Improvement
- ~ Wildland Fires and Fire Management

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are the combined impacts on the environment of U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground's (Dugway's) activities and relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities by other groups (government or private) in the vicinity of Dugway.

Cumulative Impact Summary

The EIS findings of the cumulative impacts analysis of DPG's activities and those of groups within the vicinity of DPG are summarized below.

Geology and Soils

Geological Resources – while existing and proposed mining operations would result in identifiable localized impacts to various environmental resources, their cumulative impacts to geological resources, including those from DPG, would not be significant.

Soil Compaction and Other Ground Disturbances – regional ground disturbances due to compaction of soils from off-road vehicles and grazing activities and from ground disturbances from trenches, craters are considered to be a significant cumulative impact.

Soil Erosion – due to an increasing trend in the frequency and severity of fires, soil erosion is likely to have long-term cumulative impacts.

Soil Chemistry – Munitions residue from UTTR and DPG activities will contribute to heavy metal contaminants within the region. Spraying of crops in Skull Valley are likely to be confined to the areas sprayed.

Water Resources

Water Quantity – Overall no significant cumulative impact to water quantity would be expected in the Skull Valley area as long as DPG's withdrawal rates remain below historical values. However, cumulative impacts to water availability in Tooele Valley would be significant because of over-appropriation and increasing use of these water resources.

Water Quality – Given the extensive regional development involving hazardous materials and wastes, the existing water quality problem at Tooele Army Depot, increased horse population, and increased recreational use, cumulative water quality impacts are considered significant.

Air Resources

Cumulative impacts to air quality would not cause regulatory or policy violations, and are therefore not considered significant. However, regional air quality issues would continue to be a major regulatory and public perception concern in the future.

Cumulative Impacts Fact Sheet

EIS for Activities Associated with Future Programs



Biological Resources

Cumulative impacts on biological resources from activities resulting in ground disturbance, wild fires, and human presence are considered to be significant. No significant impacts are expected from spills in the region, overhead motion, or the use of chaff.

Socioeconomics

Overall, cumulative impacts to socioeconomics would be significant on a regional basis. However, DPG now serves as a major stabilizing factor in the regional economy because of its substantial employment and important role in the economy.

Environmental Justice

While there may not be any identifiable environmental justice issues in the region in the context of EO 12898, Tooele County, UT has a much higher share of activities and facilities (including those at DPG) dealing with dangerous or hazardous materials and wastes than a typical county.

Land Use and Access

While there are some local issues and minor changes projected in the region, land use would continue to be relatively stable, and cumulative impacts to land use and ownership are not considered significant. However, cumulative impacts to land quality in the region would be considered significant, primarily because of the widespread adverse impacts on land quality from fire, ground disturbance, increased usage, and spread of exotic vegetation.

Cultural Resources

Because of features in place to protect cultural resources on lands owned by the Federal government, cumulative impacts to cultural resources would not be significant.

Traffic and Transportation

Cumulative impacts from the traffic flow of hazardous

materials along SR 36 through Tooele City is a regional concern, and is considered significant until the traffic flow of hazardous materials can occur through a less populated area.

Visual Resources

Overall, while there would be increasing localized effects to visual resources, these impacts would not be considered significant on a regional scale. Most of the land in Tooele County, UT would remain undeveloped in the future.

Noise

UTTR operations would generally continue to be consistent with existing noise control measures and plans. However, air overflights and sonic booms would continue to occasionally occur in inappropriate areas such as near communities or the Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge. The potential for these direct impacts would be reduced by the mitigation measures identified by the AF, but would not be totally eliminated.

Health and Safety

Cumulative impacts for general occupational health and potential risks from unexploded ordnance are not considered to be significant, due to programs that are in place. Impacts to health and safety from chaff and flares are also not considered significant. While the potential for a catastrophic incident involving chemical agent or a cruise missile are low, impacts of either such an event would be significant. Similarly, while the likelihood of worker or public exposure to a hazardous substance is small, potential risks cannot be totally eliminated.

Materials and Wastes

Overall, while the use of potentially dangerous materials and generation of hazardous wastes is a major regional issue and concern, the existing legal and regulatory framework has been established to control and manage the flow of materials and wastes.

To submit comments and/or receive notices of meetings, fact sheets, brochures, or information relevant to the EIS for Activities Associated with Future Programs, please contact:

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