



EIS CONNECTION

A Newsletter to Inform the Public About the Environmental Impact Statement for Activities Associated with Future Programs at Dugway Proving Ground

Public Input Helps Identify EIS Alternatives

The final description of the alternatives to be considered in Dugway's Future Programs Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that the public helped identify was published September 21, 2000. This description was published in the Scope of Statement, which is required by Army Regulation 200-2. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the law that regulates the overall process for the EIS.



for the EIS, the approach used in the EIS to evaluate impacts, all of the resource areas that are evaluated in the EIS, and the public scoping process used to obtain the input that helped identify the EIS alternatives.

"The Scope of Statement is Dugway's plan or blueprint for the EIS including the public's input," says Steve Klauser, Dugway's Manager for the EIS project. Being a realist, Klauser adds, "It's only a plan and changes may occur."

The Scope of Statement identifies the Proposed Action to be considered in the Future Programs EIS as:

- Diversify operations
- Expand testing activities
- Increase testing activities

The Scope of Statement also includes information about the purpose and need

THE SCOPE OF STATEMENT is available at the four EIS reading rooms listed on the back cover and on the Dugway website:

<http://www.dugway.army.mil/EIS>

- Develop a summary and organization of existing real property plans and identify new plans

As a result of the public comment period during scoping, the alternatives to be considered in the Future Programs EIS are:

- **Alternative 1** No Action — Continue Dugway's current operations and management intensity
- **Alternative 2** Decreased Mission — Reduce testing and training activities
- **Alternative 3** Expanded Mission — Expand testing and training activities to a foreseeable maximum.

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Dugway's residential community, English Village, offers views of snow-capped Deseret Peak (11,030 feet) in the Stansbury Mountains.

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Environmental Coordinator Corner

To best use project resources, the *EIS Connection* is published when project milestones listed



Steven Klauser
EIS Project Manager

in the EIS Process article on page six are completed. The second edition is published to describe the completion of the Scope of Statement milestone that is featured in the cover story.

The second edition also introduces Joe Gearo, Dugway's new Director of the Directorate of Environmental Programs. Joe continues Robert Johnson's oversight of the EIS process that was began at the EIS public scoping meetings. Joe enhances the project oversight by offering extensive NEPA experience. NEPA is the federal law that specifies the requirements of EISs. Joe's EIS experience and his commitment to Dugway's EIS is presented in the article about Joe on page seven.

This edition of the newsletter continues our presentation about Dugway's mission by reporting in our Mission Spotlight

column on the chemical and biological defensive tests that Dugway conducts during peace time. Similarly, the Environmental Stewardship column continues our presentation of Dugway's ongoing efforts to identify and manage our natural and cultural resources.

In other EIS project news, a preliminary draft of the EIS is being reviewed by Dugway.



Project Manager

Mission Spotlight: Testing Chemicals and Biological Materials During Peace Time

Dugway is known as America's premier biological and chemical defense proving ground. As a proving ground, a military term for a testing facility, Dugway's laboratories are constructed to allow safe testing of chemical and biological defense equipment. Dugway also conducts physical testing, known as reliability, durability, and climatic testing to ensure that military equipment is designed to withstand the physical and environmental stresses it will encounter during its life cycle. "Just as Consumer Reports magazine tells the public if a product works, we do the same for the Department of Defense. We test products to determine whether they perform as the developer says they will." says Melanie Moore, Dugway's Public Affairs Officer.



Decontamination Day 2000

Dugway provided a rare opportunity for the annual military conference on decontamination held in Salt Lake City in May 2000. Dugway hosted Decon 2000 Demonstration Day at Dugway's Michael Army Airfield which included active demonstrations of decontamination techniques. Decontamination is

a process to clean items or surfaces that come into contact with hazardous substances, including chemical and biological agents.

Over 300 people from the decontamination community representing governments, academia, and industry from

EIS Connection

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Canada's Irvine Aerospace demonstrated their cascade foam decontamination system at Dugway for Decon 2000 Conference attendees.

twelve countries attended the decontamination demonstration at Dugway. They saw chemical and biological warfare decontamination materials in all shapes and sizes — wet foams, aerosols, and dry formulas in mobile backpacks, vehicle units and large tent-like structures.

The technologies demonstrated are being evaluated for their ability to make the decontamination process easier, more environmentally friendly, and less toxic to the war fighter. For example, a decontamination product was demonstrated that does not use water, which is a scarce resource in many areas. Another demonstration was blast mitigation, which showed how a chemical or biological weapon (with or without explosives) could be put inside a tent filled with a foam decontaminant and contain the blast with very little damage to the surrounding area.

Decon Green was among the decontaminates demonstrated by the military as a more user and environment

friendly decontaminate solution while an industry representative, Advanced Concept Systems, demonstrated their Transportable Mass Casualty Decontamination Unit, a system that provides showers for large groups of personnel.

The Future Programs EIS discusses Dugway's role as the testing entity for diverse decontamination technologies.



Raid Challenge team members practice sampling techniques at Dugway to identify materials in a simulated weapons of mass destruction incident.

The Raid Challenge

Since Dugway has been an expert in the biological defensive testing for 50 years, it only makes sense that Dugway has started training Federal Emergency Management Agency Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams to respond to terrorist incidents involving chemical and biological weapons. Dugway was the choice of the Colorado National Guard to train their Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team. The ten-day training, dubbed the Raid Challenge, provided hands-on experience at Dugway in deploying, coordinating the scene, logistics, operations, and command and control in situations that involve weapons of mass destruction.

Dugway Project Manager of the Raid Challenge, Mike Francks, was pleased that Dugway can contribute to training for such a critical incident. "This is great for us because it gives us the opportunity to use our chemical and biological resources to ensure that these teams are prepared for a real world incident." Ron Delgacio, testing/

training officer summed it up best when he said, "We have set a strong precedent for future training efforts. Dugway may soon become as well known for its chemical and biological training efforts as it is for its defense testing." e

Environmental Stewardship Before the EIS: Efforts at Dugway to Understand and Protect the Environment

Before Dugway undertook the commitment to produce an EIS to analyze the impacts of their future activities on the environment, Dugway was already involved with two ongoing efforts to protect natural and cultural resources on the installation.

Protecting Natural Resources

Since 1989, Dugway has had a program in place to inventory and monitor land conditions, integrate training and testing with land conditions, mitigate damage, and maintain natural resources. Natural resources include plants, animals, and their environment. This Army program is known as ITAM, the Integrated Training Area Management program. In the EIS, the ITAM program will play an important role in mitigating damages to natural resources caused by Dugway's proposed mission activities.

The program was first implemented at Dugway when land condition trend analysis (LCTA) studies were conducted from 1990 through 1997. This analysis has been conducted over the years by the U.S. Army Construction Engineering and Research Laboratories, Colorado State University, Brigham Young University, and Dugway. The focus of this analysis is to identify and survey 192 vegetation plots periodically to determine vegetation structure and character and the age and species of shrubs. This information is used to monitor changes in vegetation as a result of military testing and training. Chad Horman of BYU is coordinating the LCTA program for Dugway.

When funding was obtained in 1998 to implement the Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance component of the ITAM program, BYU began several projects on Dugway to restore ranges degraded by military testing and training activities. These projects support the Land

Rehabilitation and Maintenance component of ITAM. The focus of this restoration maintenance is to implement management operations such as reseeding or constructing firebrakes, both of which slow runoff water that causes erosion at

***Cultural resources
on the installation
will be managed
within an installation-
wide framework of
interrelated components
... rather than existing
as a single,
unassociated entity.***

***-from U.S. Army Dugway
Proving Ground ICRMP***

Dugway. In speaking about Dugway's commitment to the Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance component, Horman says, "To be good neighbors, we must try to come up with a way to keep fires that start at Dugway within Dugway. This way the public will not incur any costs for fire suppression from Dugway fires."

BYU is also investigating approaches to maximize success in meeting land rehabilitation objectives. By monitoring and researching changes in vegetation and land conditions through the ITAM program, Dugway will have baseline information to develop best management practices to maintain and rehabilitate their land while conducting their test and training mission.

Preserving Cultural Resources

To identify, protect, and manage the fragile, nonrenewable remains of human history at Dugway while performing their military testing and

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Dugway is continually inventorying cultural resources at various sites such as this one at Camels Back Cave.

Stewardship, continued from page 4

training mission, Dugway developed an Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan in 1996.

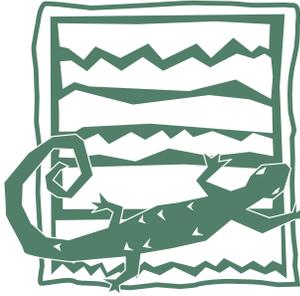
Because Dugway has to balance the importance of cultural resources, a link to understanding history in and around Dugway with its

military mission, Dugway relies on the guidance of the ICRMP. The ICRMP includes procedures for Dugway to comply with Federal acts that regulate cultural resources.

To administer this plan, Dugway has a Cultural Resources Management Officer. The CRMO at Dugway is Kathleen Callister. "In the EIS, Dugway's cultural resources management plan will be a management tool for mitigating damages to cultural resources at Dugway," says Callister.

The ICRMP identifies three periods from which cultural resources found at Dugway are classified and managed. The ICRMP also identifies mitigation approaches to reduce the effects of Dugway's mission on cultural resources. The primary approach is to inventory cultural resources on unsurveyed Dugway land.

Vast tracts of Dugway's 798,855 acres have not been surveyed for cultural resources. The ICRMP identifies a priority system for conducting the inventories by overlaying cultural resource location maps with testing and training location maps at Dugway. The highest priority area for conducting a cultural resource inventory at Dugway is 17,500 acres that have a high potential for cultural resources that is currently being used for testing and training activities. (e)



Public Input, continued from page 1

To analyze the effects of Dugway's future activities, the EIS compiles data on the existing conditions at Dugway in 13 resource areas then reviews the impacts to the environment from the proposed action and each alternative. The EIS also reports ways to mitigate or lessen adverse impacts.

Some important decisions affecting the scope of Dugway's EIS that are described in detail in the Scope of Statement include:

- All tenant activities will be analyzed in the EIS. Activities of the Air Force will be considered in the required cumulative impacts analysis of the EIS since Dugway does not have authority over Air Force activities. The cumulative impacts analysis analyzes the cumulative impact of the Proposed Action in conjunction with regional activities. Tenant activities that Dugway has authority over, such as the Utah National Guard, will be considered as part of the Proposed Action.
- Regulatory programs that are similar to NEPA, such as programs that regulate Dugway's hazardous materials and air emissions, will also be presented in the EIS. But, because these programs have their own public comment forums, they are not open for public comment under this EIS.

RESOURCE AREAS ANALYZED IN THE EIS
• Air resources
• Cultural and archeological resources
• Environmental justice
• Geology and soil
• Hazardous materials and waste management
• Health and safety
• Land use
• Noise
• Socioeconomics
• Traffic and transportation
• Visual resources
• Water resources
• Wildlife and vegetation

- The announcement about the Future Programs EIS stated that Dugway would develop a master plan about Dugway's real property needs. Since the time of the announcement, Dugway determined that a summary of real property planning known as a Summary Development Plan satisfies the master plan requirement and is more cost effective. Dugway is developing a Summary Development Plan to identify requirements for future financial and real property needs. This SDP establishes a relationship between environmental planning and real property master planning and is part of the Proposed Action in the EIS. The environmental consequences of the real property planning decisions will be addressed in the EIS.
- A seven-year planning outlook is being used for the EIS. However, if programs do not change substantially, Dugway expects the EIS to meet the spirit and intent of NEPA beyond this seven-year time frame.

To review the entire Scope of Statement, visit one of the reading rooms listed on back page of the EIS Connection. (e)



The EIS Process Completing Some EIS Milestones

By law, the EIS process consists of several steps to ensure compliance with the spirit and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA, which was enacted 31 years ago, requires Federal agencies like the U. S. Army to:

- Consider the environmental effects of proposed actions
- Evaluate possible alternatives
- Disclose these considerations to the public.

An EIS does not state decisions regarding the proposed Federal action; rather, it provides information for officials to use when making decisions. The EIS process involves input from the public and affected government groups and:

- Details the purpose and need for the Federal proposed actions, and describes that action
- Identifies and assesses reasonable alternatives to this action
- Reports on the existing environment including the land, air, water, wildlife and cultural resources
- Reviews the context, duration, and intensity of potential impacts to the existing environment from the

proposed action and each alternative

- Investigates and reports on ways to mitigate or lessen adverse impacts.

The EIS process includes the following milestones:

- Notice of Intent
- Scoping Process
- Draft EIS
- Final EIS
- Record of Decision

Another Milestone

With the publication of the Scope of Statement (See the feature story on page 1.) Dugway has completed another important milestone in the EIS process. Public comment has been considered and the scope of the EIS has been defined.

As the first step in actually writing the EIS, existing information about the numerous testing and training activities had to be compiled to develop an existing condition for DPG. The existing condition is also known as the baseline condition. The EIS team has had to research hundreds of existing documents and conduct interviews with many personnel at Dugway, as well as Dugway tenants, to obtain information for the

EIS. “Data collection was a big part of the early stages of the EIS process and took a lot of time because there are so many organizations and sources of infor-

*We wanted to
be sure to get
the baseline
information right.*

*S. Klauser
EIS Project Manager*

mation at Dugway. We wanted to be sure to get the baseline information right,” says the EIS project manager, Steve Klauser. To ensure accuracy and consistency, EIS sections based on the collected data were distributed as they were completed for review by various reviewers at Dugway and Army headquarters.

With data compilation finished and a complete preliminary draft of the EIS currently being reviewed by Dugway personnel, Dugway is on its way to meeting the third milestone of issuing the Draft EIS to the public. Once the preliminary Draft EIS is reviewed by Dugway and Army headquarters, their comments will be incorporated and a Draft EIS released to the public.

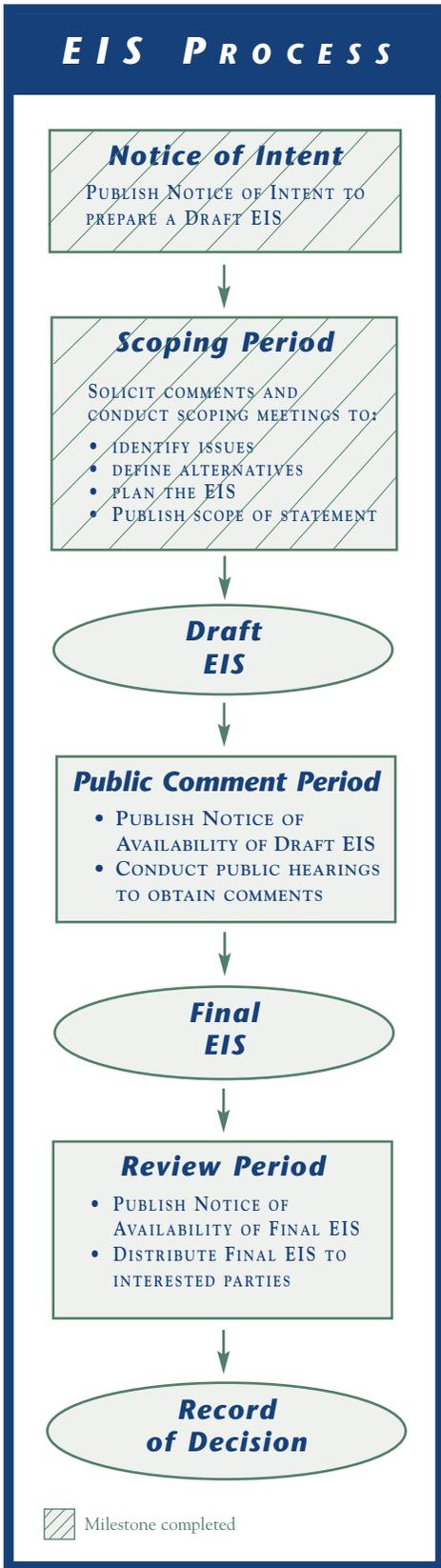
Dugway is forming a core group of environmental and technical staff to make decisions about how to expeditiously address comments. This group will assist with comments from both the Army and the public.

The public has an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIS for a minimum of 45 days after it is released. The Draft EIS will be available as a 25-page executive summary or the full 1,000 pages either in print

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Pronghorn antelope inhabit Dugway and have been studied to identify natural resource management practices to support Dugway's mission.



or electronic, as requested. Use the Draft EIS Request card in this newsletter to request a copy of the Draft EIS.

During this public comment period, public hearings staff are held to solicit formal comments. All comments regarding the Draft EIS are considered, and substantive comments receive a formal response.

The Final EIS

Comments from the public hearings are addressed in the Final EIS. The public has an opportunity to review and comment on the Final EIS for a minimum of 30 days. No sooner than 90 days after distributing the Draft EIS and 30 days after distrib-



uting the Final EIS, Dugway makes a decision on the Proposed Action.

The Record of Decision

The final stage in the EIS process, prior to implementing the Proposed Action, is the Record of Decision. The ROD notifies the public of which action was chosen and why.

It identifies all of the alternatives that were considered, all the factors considered in the decision-making process, and how these factors entered into the final decision. The ROD may also contain mitigation commitments for reducing or avoiding the chosen action's adverse environmental effects.

EIS Leadership Continues: Gearo Replaces Johnson

Colonel Fisher, Dugway's Commander, has high regard for Dugway's new Director of Environmental Program Office. This office is the entity at Dugway responsible for the activities associated with Future EIS Programs. "Joe Gearo brings superb environmental experience and exemplary leadership/partnering skills to Dugway," said Fisher.



Joseph Gearo, Jr., an environmental scientist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy in Washington D.C. replaces retired Robert Johnson who represented Dugway at the public scoping meetings. Gearo continues Dugway's commitment to the EIS and enhances the project with his in depth experience

with NEPA documents from his experience as a DOE contract manager for the Office NEPA Policy and Assistance. He has earned numerous national awards for his contributions and accomplishments in working to maintain the environment.

In support of Dugway's EIS, Gearo states, "I want Dugway to foster the most effective and efficient ways to excel in environmental compliance, restoration, natural resource conservation, and cultural/archeological preservation because we value human health and the environment while accomplishing Dugway's national defense mission."

Welcome Joe!

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Resources

To be added to the mailing list, submit questions, or receive additional information (including fact sheets) relevant to the EIS for Activities Associated with Future Programs, please contact:

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Reading Rooms

All written material pertaining to the EIS for Activities Associated with Future Programs is available to the public in reading rooms at the following locations:

Dugway
Dugway Public Library
(435) 831-2178

Tooele
Tooele City Public Library
(435) 882-2182

Salt Lake City
Whitmore Library
(801) 944-7533
– and –
University of Utah
J. Willard Marriott Library
(801) 581-8863

Next Issue

Highlights of Activities Associated with Future Programs Draft EIS