



File Code: 1950

Date: June 26, 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The Forest Service, Olympic National Forest, Pacific Ranger District, is preparing to adopt an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the Navy called the Electronic Warfare (EW) Range project.

PROPOSED ACTION

The project proposes to install and operate communication equipment on an existing tower in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) at Octopus Mountain and Operation of Mobile Electronic Warfare Training System (MEWTS) mobile emitters in the Olympic Peninsula on USFS lands (existing roads) to facilitate training in the Olympic MOAs and Warning Area. The enclosed map shows the project's proposed locations on the Pacific Ranger District.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to sustain and enhance the level and type of EW training currently being conducted by Navy assets using the Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC), to provide the ability to accommodate growth in future training requirements, and to maximize the ability of local units to achieve their training requirements on local ranges. The following identifies the EW training and needs that will be met by establishment of the Pacific Northwest EW Range: (1) EA-18G and EA-6B Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) personnel and Fleet Squadron Personnel training requirements; (2) support of basic and intermediate EW training for all user requirements of the NWTRC, primarily the locally assigned air, surface, and subsurface units; (3) live training, augmented by virtual training; (4) support of unit EW certifications and sustainment level training; (5) maximization and balance of local unit quality of training with local unit quality of life; (6) reduction in costs of training by conducting more training locally; and (7) reduction in the use of fossil fuel consumption from transit to and from training sites outside the state of Washington.

The Forest Service encourages your comments on this proposed action, along with supporting reasons the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision. Your comments will be used to help with the development of the EA. Please submit your comments for us to receive them by July 10, 2014.



For additional information concerning this project or to submit comments, contact Greg Wahl, Environmental Coordinator, at the Olympic National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Suite A, Olympia, WA 98512, or in person at this address Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm, by phone 360-956-2375, or by email at gtwahl@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dean R. Millett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

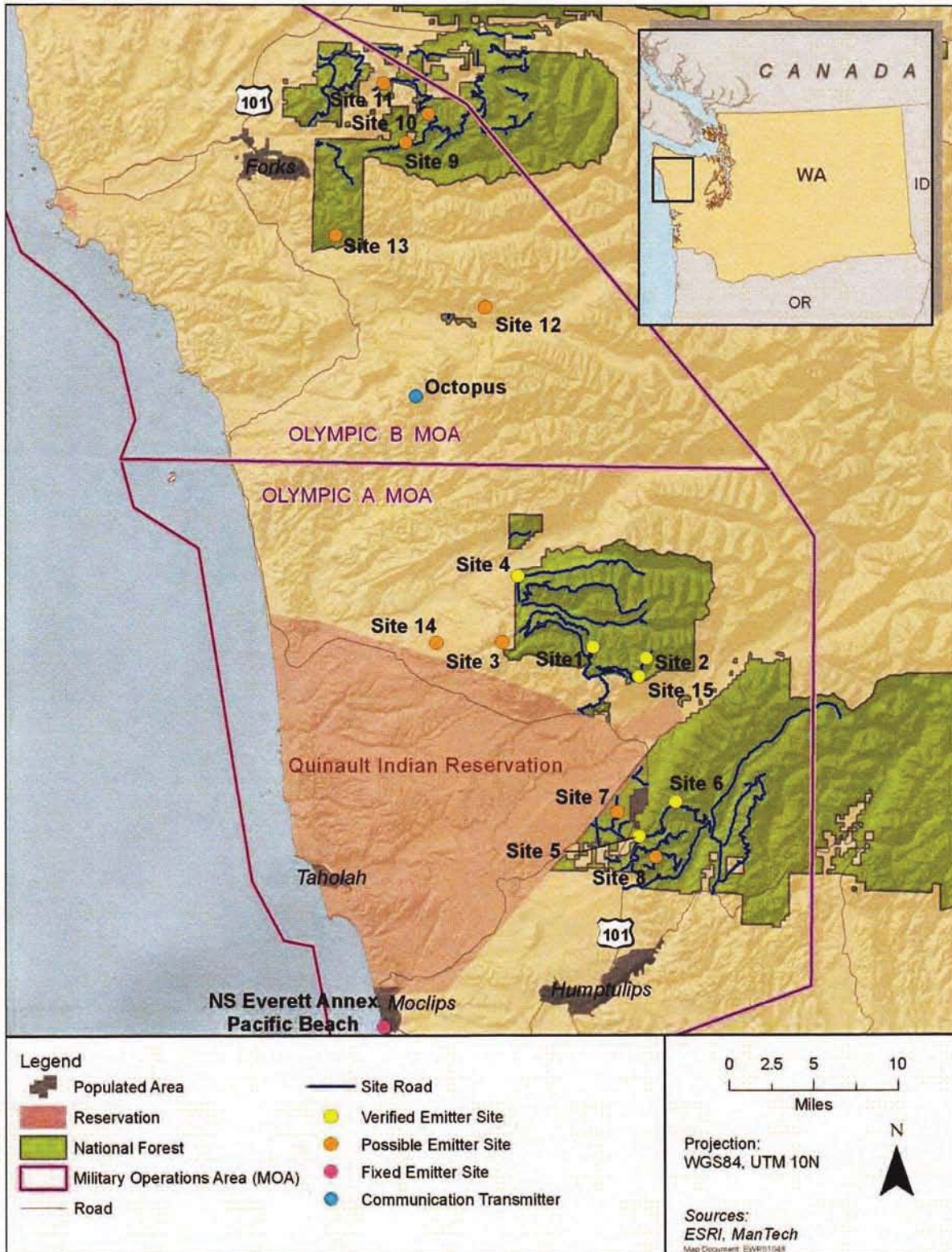
DEAN R. MILLETT
District Ranger

Enclosures



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Figure 1-1: Northwest Training Range Complex Study Area



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Figure 1-2: Proposed Emitter Sites in the Olympic Military Operations Area