

NEVADA TEST AND TRAINING RANGE



LAND WITHDRAWAL PROCESS AND LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

National Environmental Policy Act

What is the National Environmental Policy Act?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is our national charter for making informed decisions while considering environmental impacts. NEPA requires all federal agencies making a proposal that may significantly impact the environment to consider:

- ▶ A range of reasonable alternatives.
- ▶ Potential environmental or human health consequences.
- ▶ Public and government agency input.

What is a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement?

A Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) is different from a typical EIS in that there is no Record of Decision. The decision on the final action will be made by Congress and written into law. The LEIS is required under NEPA and must:

- ▶ Identify and describe the affected environment.
- ▶ Evaluate the potential environmental consequences from a range of reasonable alternatives.
- ▶ Identify environmental permits and specific mitigation measures to prevent or minimize environmental impacts, if required.

An LEIS is the detailed statement required by law to be included in a recommendation or report on a legislative proposal to Congress. It shall be considered part of the formal transmittal of a legislative proposal to Congress.



What is Public Scoping?

NEPA and Air Force regulations require tribal, government, agency, and public participation throughout the environmental impact analysis process.

Tribal, government, agency, and public participation is an integral part of scoping. The purpose of soliciting input is to identify interested parties and relevant issues so they can be considered in the LEIS.

Public scoping is the first stage in the LEIS process. During scoping, the Air Force is actively seeking feedback from Federal, state and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, and the public in development of the LEIS. The public scoping phase provides opportunities to learn about and comment on the project and provides the Air Force with the opportunity to identify issues of interest or concern to frame the environmental analysis and more effectively shape the range of alternatives to be considered.

What is the Land Withdrawal Process?

- ▶ The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the land withdrawal applications and will prepare a case file for the Department of the Interior to submit to Congress.
- ▶ The rules and procedures implementing the Department of the Interior's authority to process federal land withdrawal applications are found in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.
- ▶ The initial land withdrawal process includes pre-application consultations; application and publication of the application within the Federal Register; and preparation of a case file, to include an LEIS and recommendations. The case file will be based on input provided by the Air Force, including the LEIS.
- ▶ These meetings are also being held to help inform the Bureau of Land Management about the public's concerns regarding the Air Force's Land Withdrawal applications.



Note: Preliminary Scoping Materials. Subject to Change Through the NEPA Planning Process.

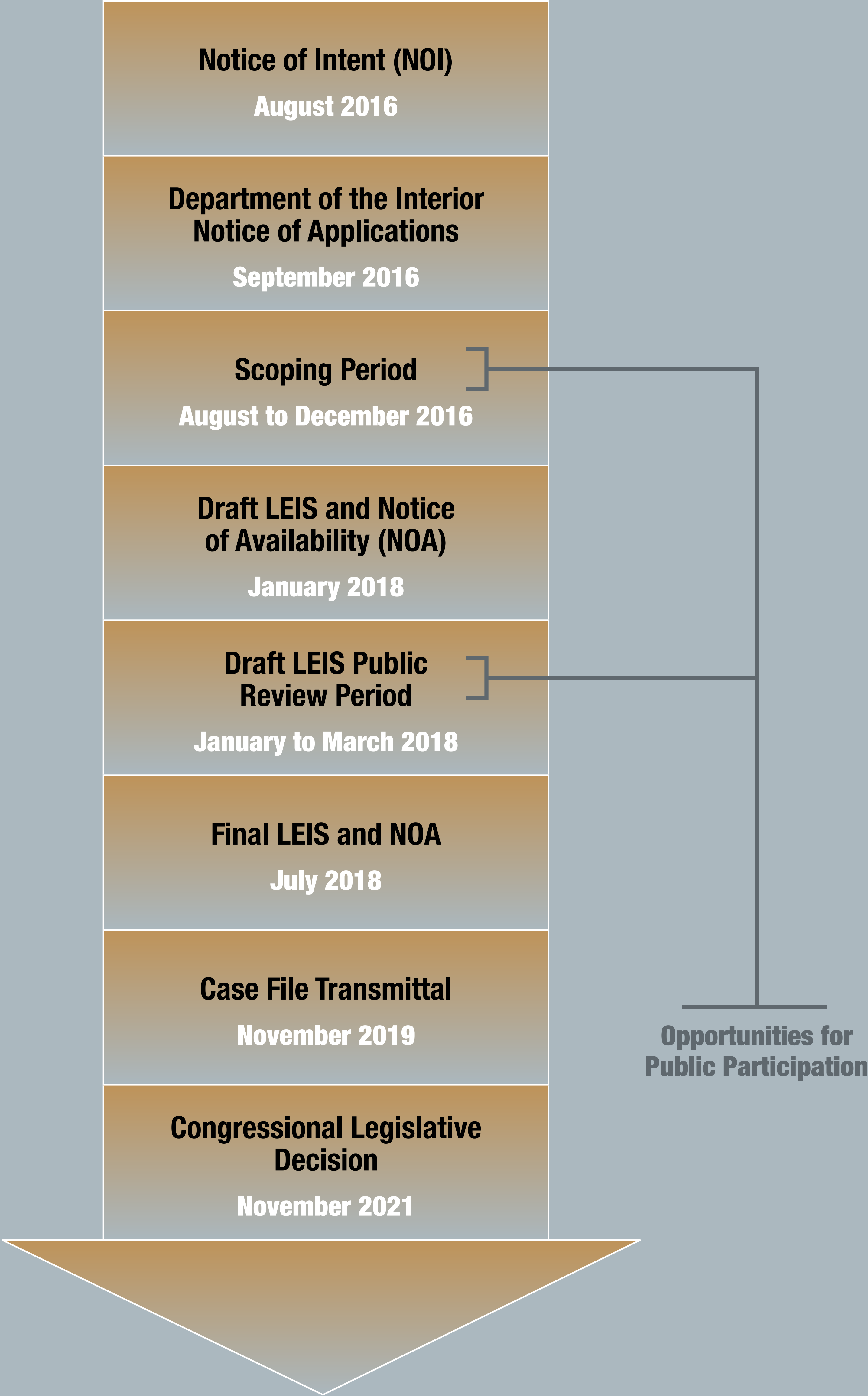


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What is the Anticipated Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) Timeline?



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Potential Environmental Resource Impact Analyses

Air Quality Analysis will focus on air emissions from the proposed action and alternatives and the potential impacts to local and regional air quality.

Airspace Use and Management Analysis will address current and proposed use of airspace and potential impacts to airspace use and aviation.

Biological Resources The Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) will address potential impacts to plant and animal species within the proposed withdrawal areas associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

Cultural Resources Analysis will focus on Native American, archaeological, and historic resources within the proposed withdrawal areas associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

Earth Resources The LEIS will analyze impacts (such as erosion) to soils and geology within the proposed withdrawal areas.

Hazardous Materials and Solid Wastes Analysis will focus on characterizing the types of hazardous and solid materials and wastes utilized and/or produced as a result of the proposed action and alternatives and the potential impacts to the environment.

Health and Safety The LEIS will address potential impacts to the health and safety of military members and the public from the proposed use of withdrawal areas under the proposed action and alternatives, to include electromagnetic radiation from potential radar emitter use.

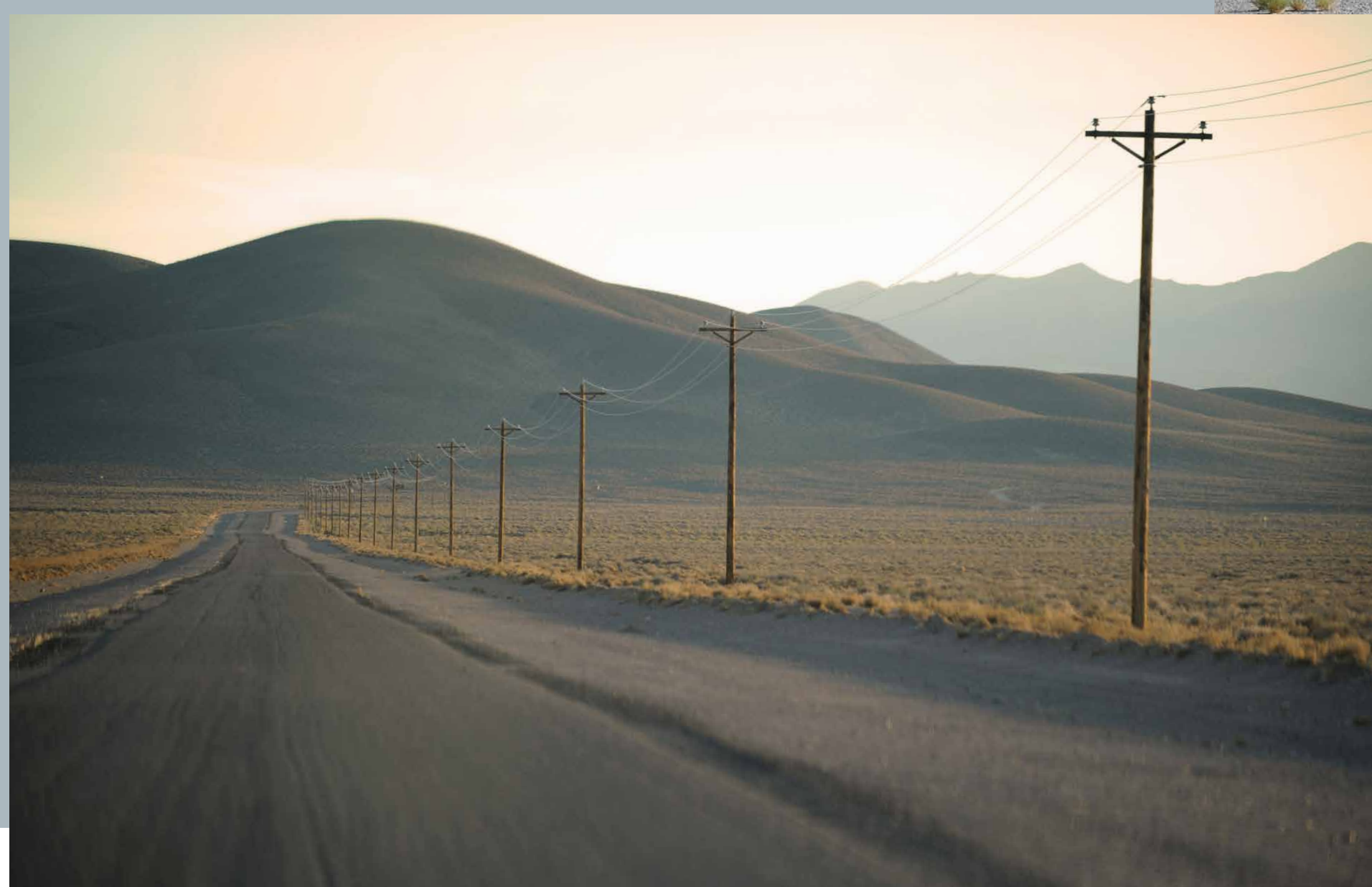
Land Use Analysis will address potential impacts to current and planned future land uses, including recreation and hunting activities, associated with the proposed land withdrawal under the proposed action and alternatives.

Noise The LEIS will analyze the potential impacts to the public and biological resources from noise generating activities associated with the proposed action and alternatives within the proposed withdrawal areas.

Socioeconomics Analysis will focus on the economic impacts of the proposed action and alternatives, to include potential environmental justice impacts to low-income and minority groups.

Water Resources The LEIS will identify potential impacts to surface and groundwater resources (such as streams, springs, wetlands, and aquifers) within the proposed withdrawal areas associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas The LEIS will specifically address potential impacts to the Proposed Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas associated with the proposed land withdrawal and potential uses.



Nellis AFB/Creech AFB/NTTR Environmental Policy Statement

We are committed to being a good neighbor to the surrounding communities. We will ensure exceptional stewardship of natural and cultural resources and protecting the quality of air, water and land resources.

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What is the Background of the Project?

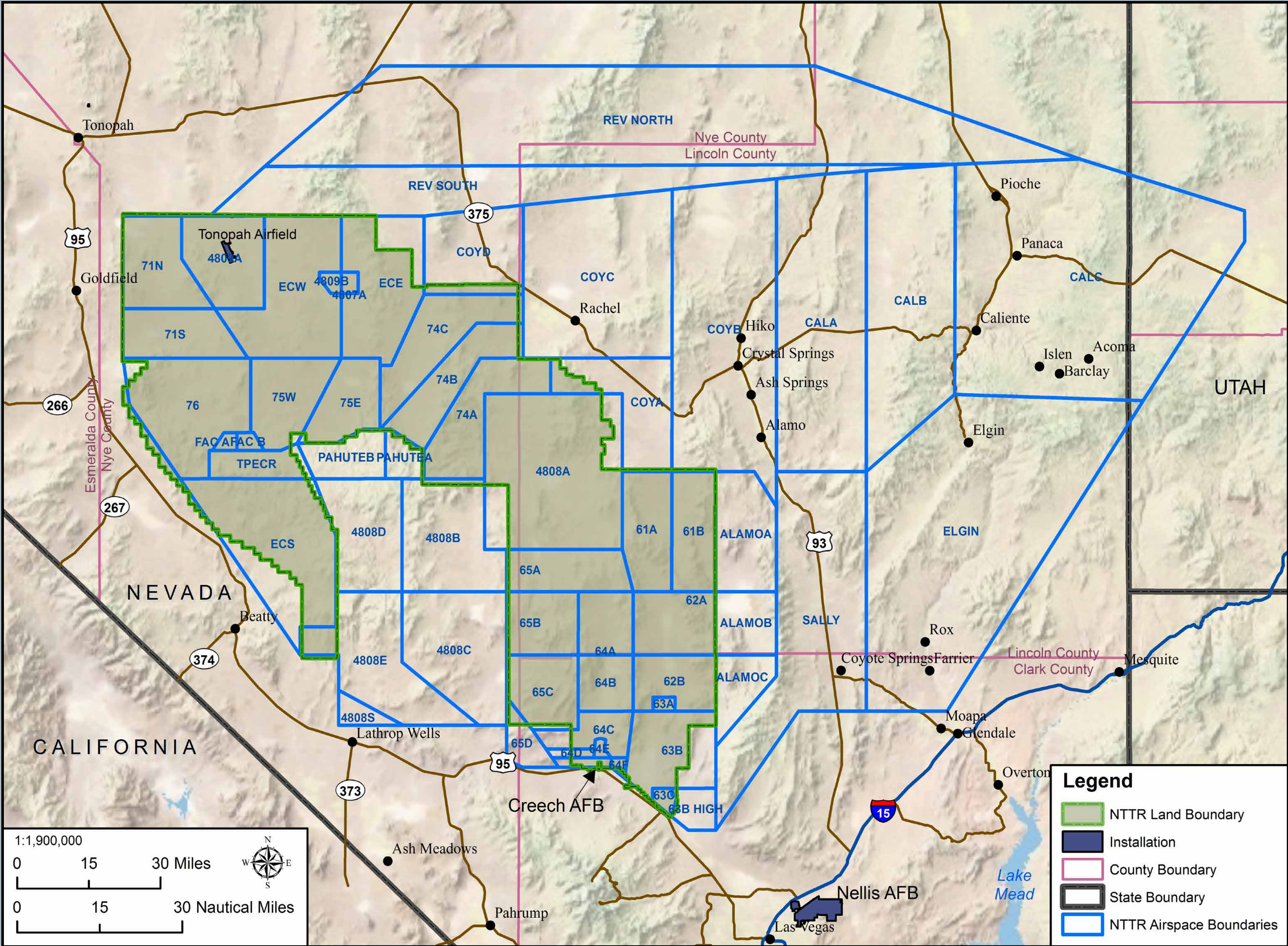
The Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) is one of the Air Force’s largest and most fully equipped ranges. The NTTR is designed to test and evaluate Department of Defense (DoD) systems and ensure combat readiness. The NTTR is critical to supporting national security, and is one of the few locations that provides the DoD with dedicated military restricted airspace on a scale that is capable of supporting Air Force Major Combat Operations training and testing.

Located in southeastern Nevada, the NTTR land base consists of approximately 2.9 million acres of federal land that has been withdrawn from public use and reserved for military use, most recently by the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999, Public Law No. 106-65 (MLWA). The current withdrawal will expire in 2021 unless Congress enacts legislation to extend it.

In accordance with Section 3016 of the MLWA, the Department of the Air Force has notified Congress of a continuing military need for the NTTR land withdrawal in coordination with DoD and plans to submit a legislative proposal through the Department of the Interior to extend the withdrawal.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies to include an Environmental Impact Statement with any proposal for legislation that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Nevada Test and Training Range
Land and Airspace Boundaries



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What is the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action?

The Air Force's purpose of the proposed action is to:

- ▶ Provide a location which has the capability and capacity to support military testing and training requirements.
- ▶ Increase Major Combat Operations test/training capability and alleviate scheduling conflicts.
- ▶ Enhance Irregular Warfare test/training capability.
 - Development of insertion and extraction points
 - Overland navigation
 - Unmanned Aerial Systems coordinated efforts with overland navigation
- ▶ Increase the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) operational security and safety.

The Air Force's need for the proposed action involves several factors:

- ▶ The NTTR is critical for training various combat units of all branches of the U.S. Armed Services as well as U.S. allies. NTTR is a national asset with capabilities that cannot currently be replicated anywhere else in the world.
- ▶ The NTTR land withdrawal is critical to national security and must be extended to ensure that a unique and enduring test and training range capability is available in the future.
- ▶ The current NTTR land withdrawal expires in November 2021.
- ▶ The range capacity of the current NTTR land withdrawal area is limited in its ability to support realistic training and testing operations.

The Air Force proposes to withdraw and reserve for military use, lands to support the modernization of the NTTR to increase range capacity for improved training and testing capabilities. The Air Force is evaluating alternatives that would extend or expand the current military land withdrawal in order to safely execute its missions in a more realistic and operationally relevant manner.

Congress has reserved the authority for renewing the NTTR land withdrawal for itself, through the Defense Withdrawal Act of 1958 (43 USC Sections 155–158) and will make the final decision as to whether or not to renew the NTTR land withdrawal.

The Legislative Environmental Impact Statement is the detailed environmental statement required by law that will support the legislative proposal. The Air Force is evaluating alternatives that would extend the current NTTR land withdrawal as well as withdraw additional lands for the NTTR mission.



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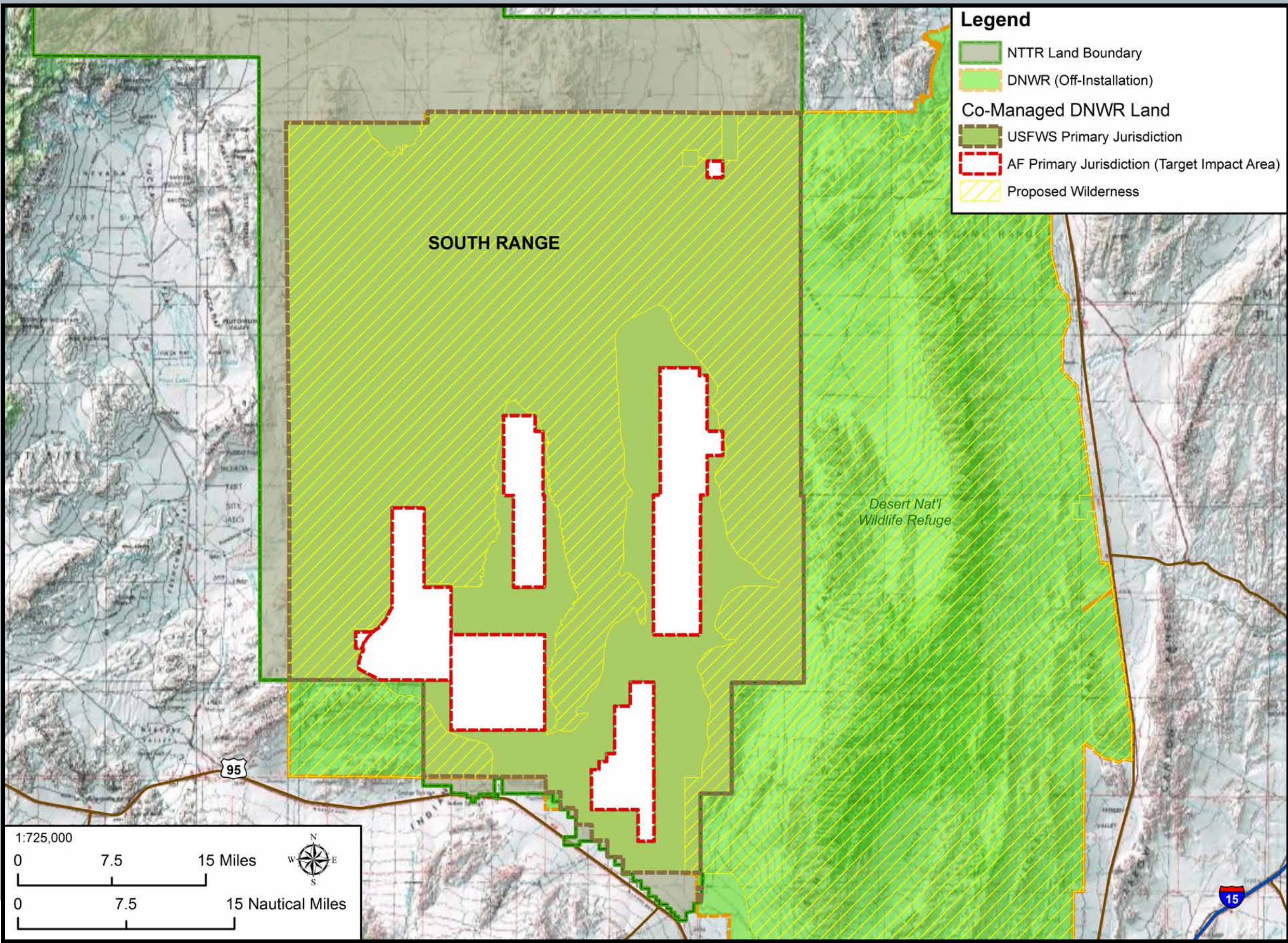
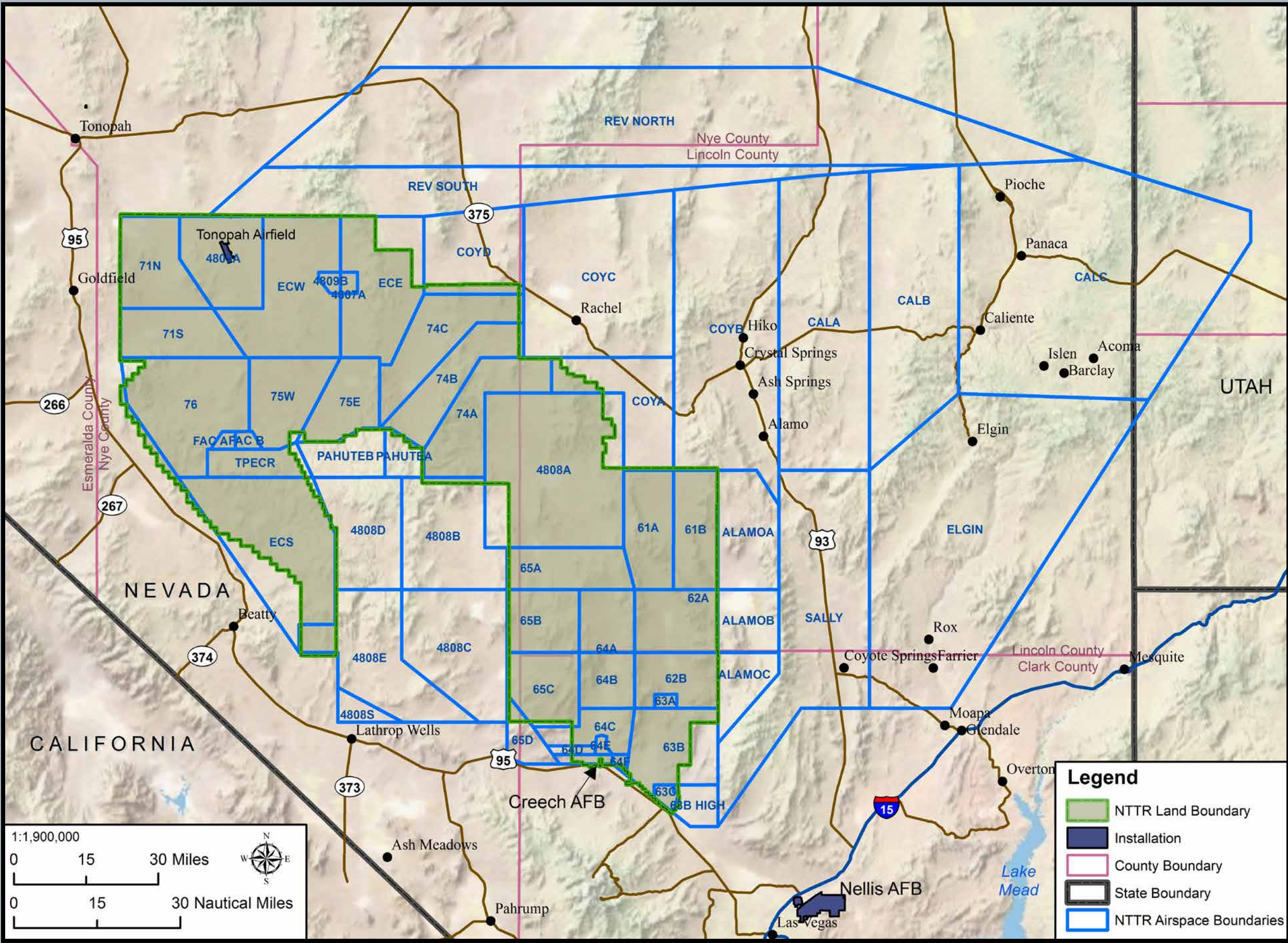
Proposed Alternatives 1 & 2

Proposed Alternative #1: Extend Existing Land Withdrawal and Management of the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR), North and South Range

- ▶ No changes to current NTTR land boundary.
- ▶ North Range would support the majority of Major Combat Training Operations.
- ▶ Administrative management of the NTTR would continue with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service having primary jurisdiction in NTTR’s South Range, except for five target impact areas (approximately 112,000 acres).
- ▶ The area designated as “Proposed Wilderness” located in the South Range would remain designated as such.
- ▶ Continue to provide “ready access” to North Range; access to the South Range would be limited to impact areas.
- ▶ Alternative would not fully meet the purpose and need.

Proposed Alternative #2: Extend Existing Land Withdrawal and Provide Ready Access in the North and South Ranges

- ▶ No changes to current NTTR land boundary.
- ▶ Provide “ready access” for conducting military operations in the NTTR South Range.
 - This may involve changes in Proposed Wilderness status, primary jurisdiction for who manages the lands, or development of future agreements or specific legislative provisions for military use.



Proposed Alternatives 1 and 2

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Proposed Alternative #3 Expand Existing Withdrawal of Public Lands for the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR)

This proposed alternative includes the current NTTR boundary, plus various options for additional lands needed for operational requirements.

Three proposed sub-alternatives that include ready access:

► **Proposed Alternative 3A: Range 77 – Electronic Combat (EC) South Withdrawal**

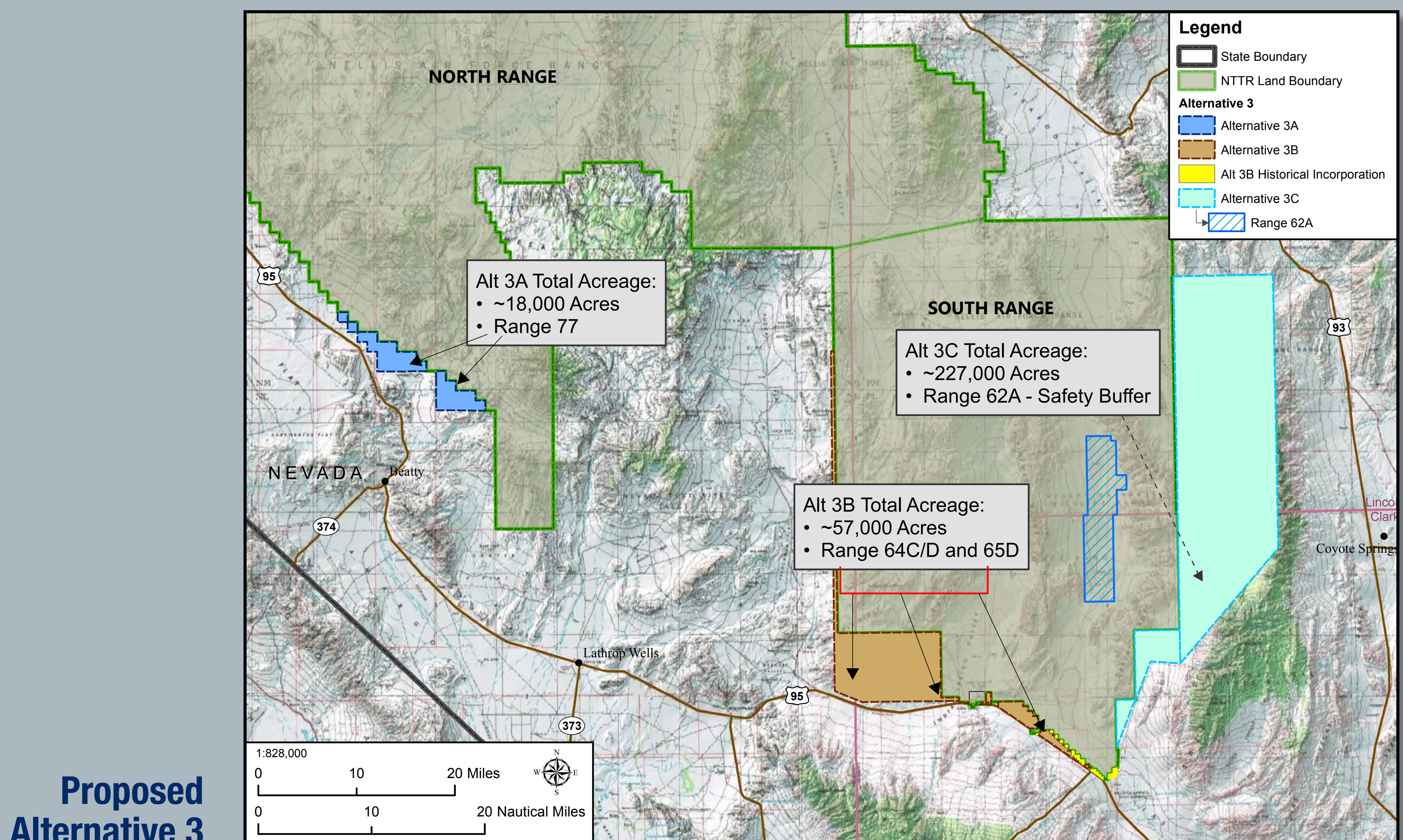
- EC South area would be redesignated as “Range 77.”
- Increase the NTTR boundary by approximately 18,000 acres to add a buffer to the safety footprint of Range 77.
- No construction disturbance or munitions use would occur in this proposed withdrawal area.

► **Proposed Alternative 3B: Enhance Operational Security and Safety 64C/D and 65D Expansion**

- Withdraw approximately 57,000 acres along the southeastern NTTR border.
- No munitions use would occur in this proposed withdrawal area.

► **Proposed Alternative 3C: Alamos Withdrawal**

- Request the withdrawal of approximately 227,000 acres of Desert National Wildlife Range under the Alamos airspace.
- Provides safety buffers associated with target areas in existing South Range (Range 62A); no new target impact areas would be proposed.



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Proposed Alternative #4 Establish the Period of Withdrawal

This proposed alternative includes three sub-alternatives based on the length of the new withdrawal period.

The new withdrawal period is anticipated to begin upon the expiration of the existing withdrawal period scheduled to end on November 5, 2021, but is subject to a subsequent act of Congress.

The length of each sub-alternative is denoted in its name:

- ▶ Alternative 4A – 20-Year Withdrawal Period
- ▶ Alternative 4B – 50-Year Withdrawal Period
- ▶ Alternative 4C – Indefinite Withdrawal Period



No Action Alternative

The National Environmental Policy Act requires the alternatives analysis in an Environmental Impact Statement to include a No Action Alternative.

The No Action Alternative:

- ▶ Provides a baseline against which decision makers can compare the magnitude of potential environmental effects of the action alternatives.
- ▶ Congress would exercise its constitutional authority to not take action to extend the withdrawal legislation in time to support expiration in November 2021.
- ▶ If Congress does not extend the withdrawal, the military would discontinue use of the lands, clean up lands from military activities, and return lands to the Department of the Interior.



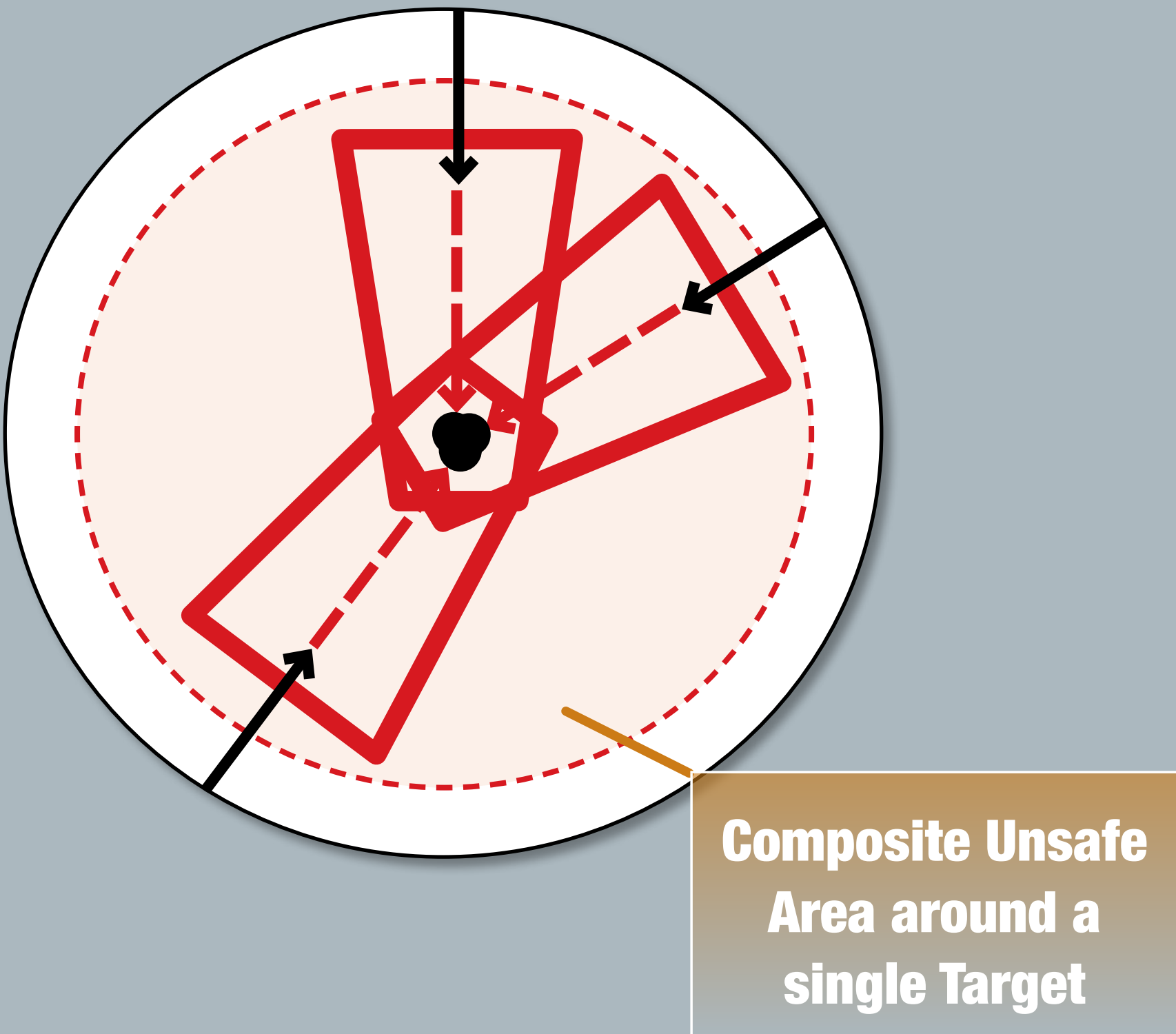
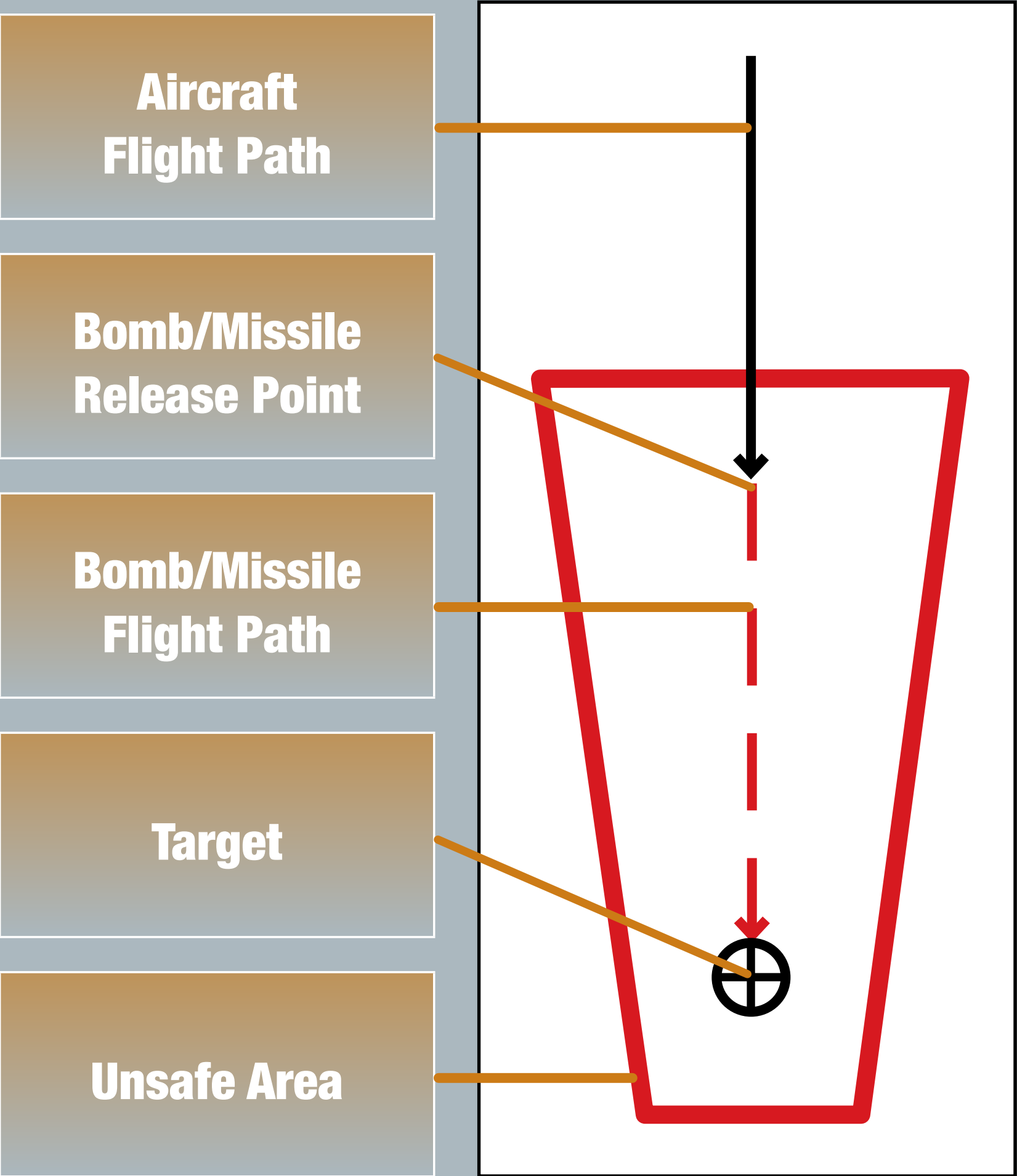
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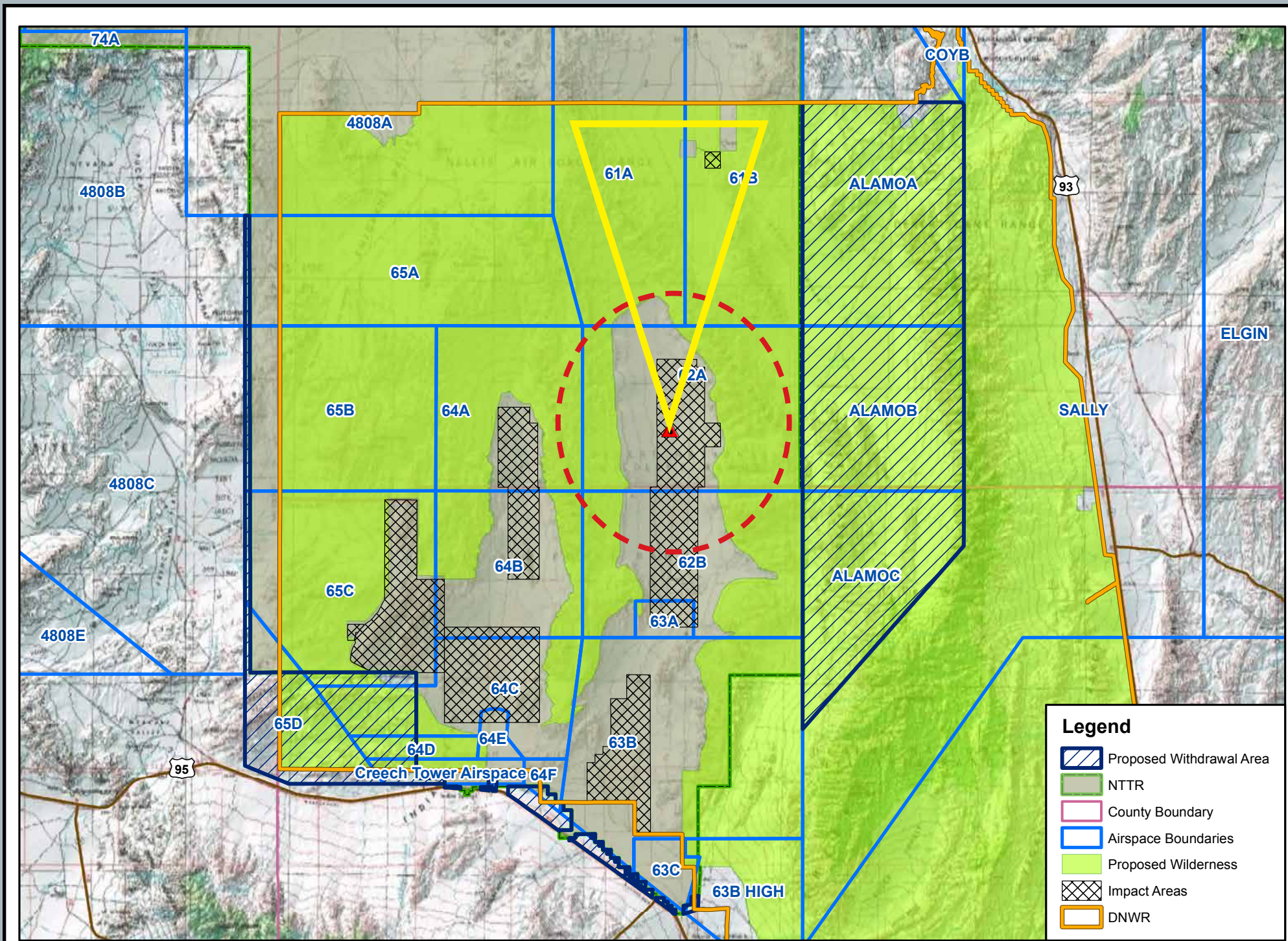


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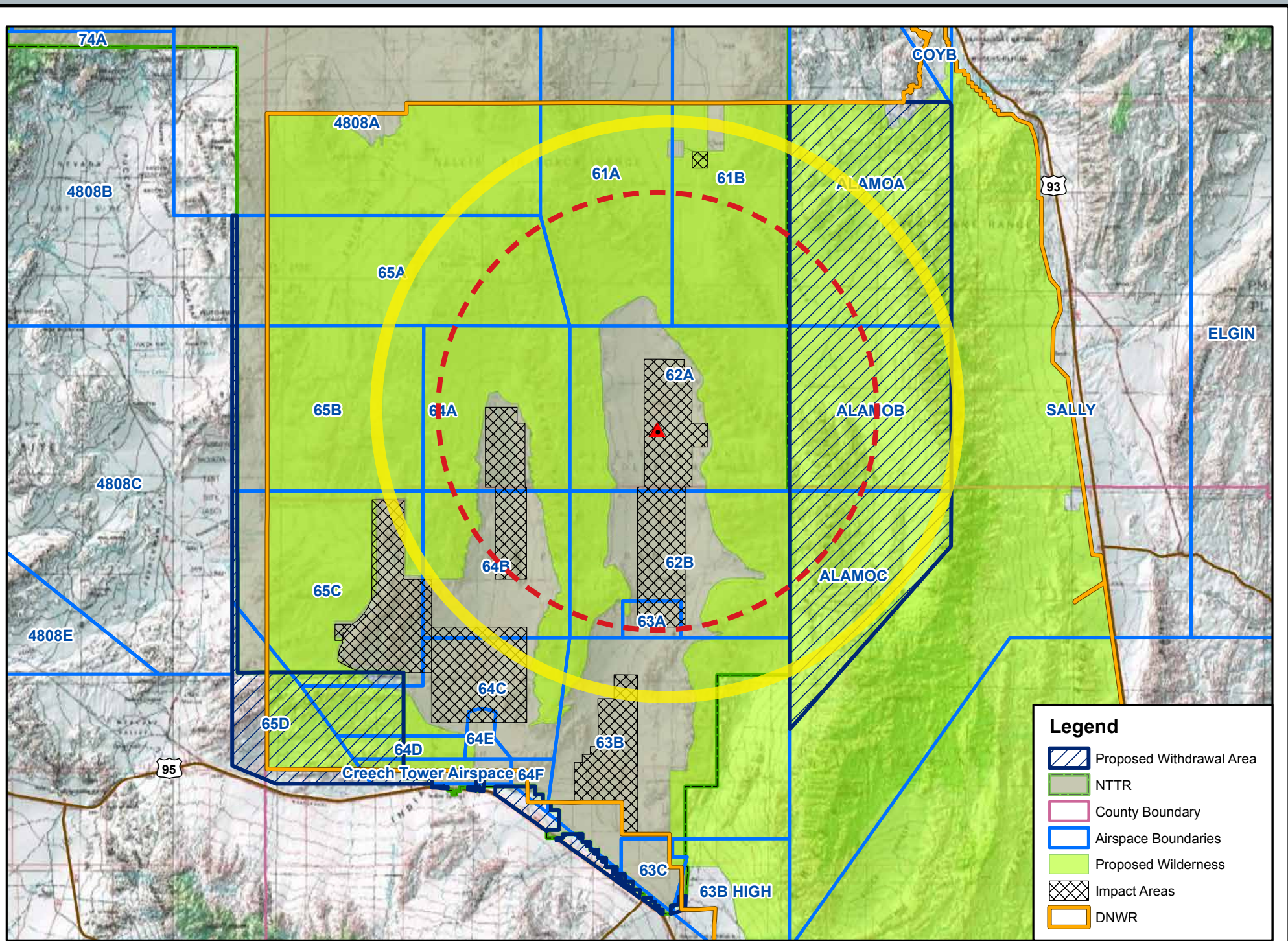
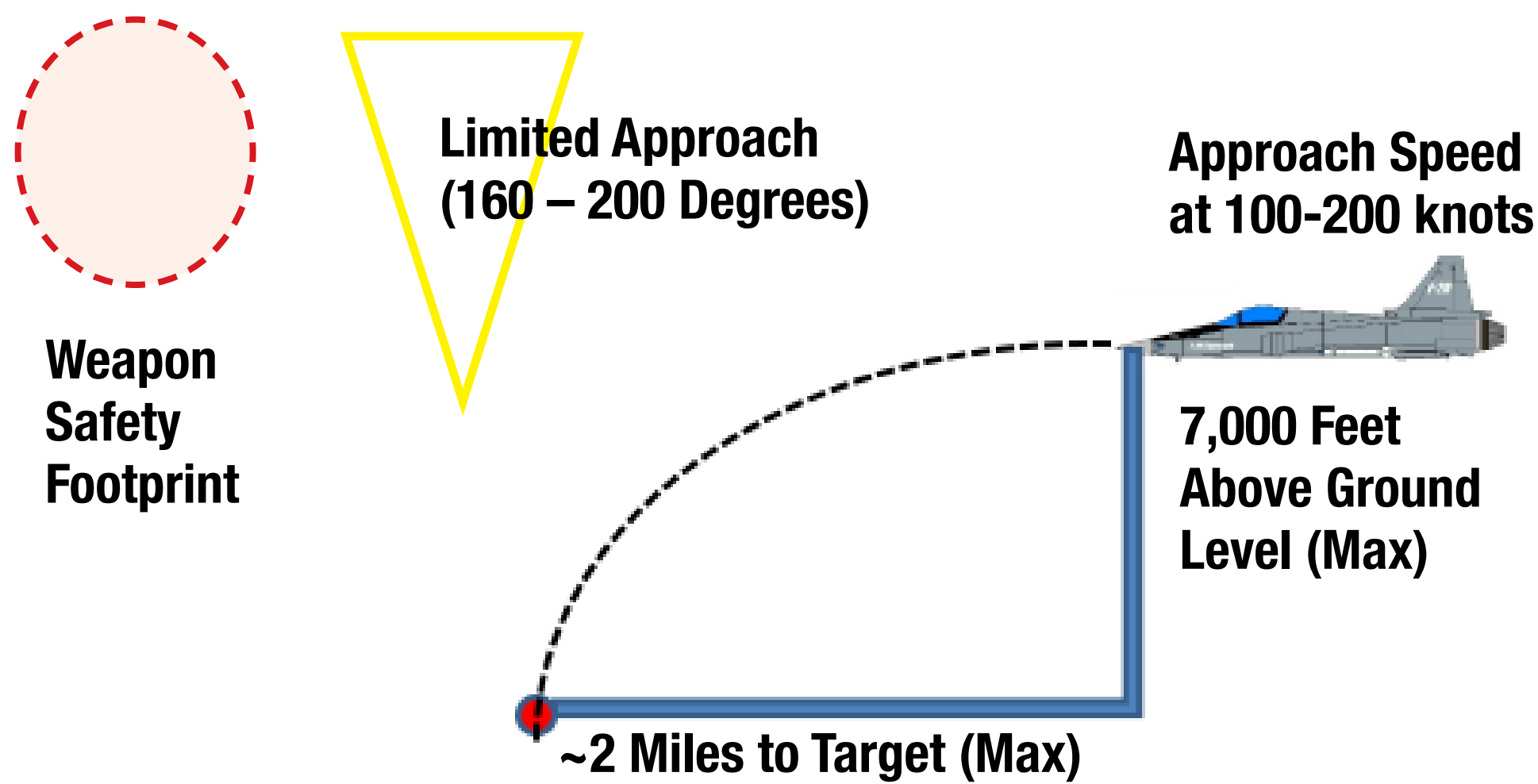
Bomb Safety Footprint



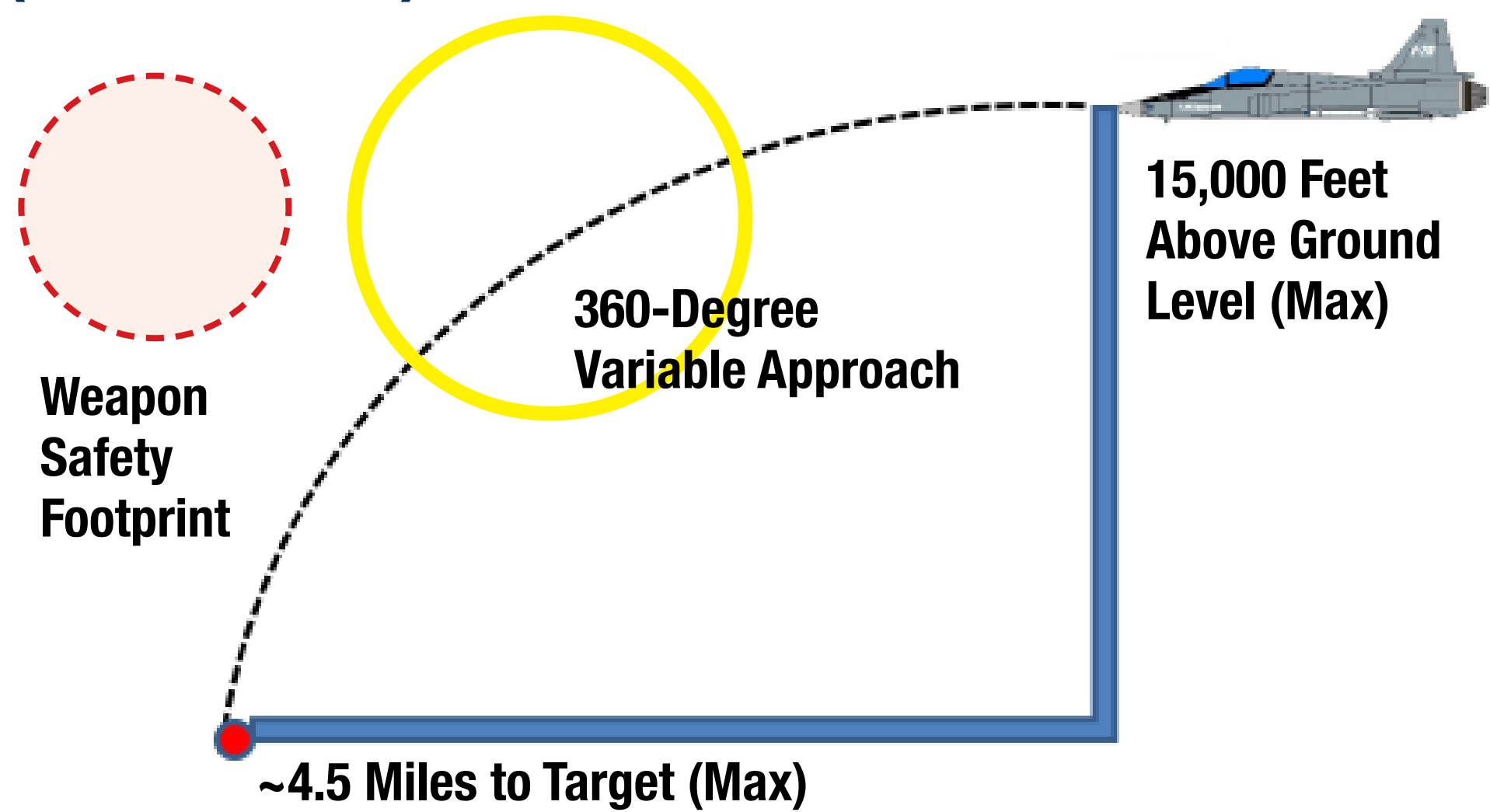
- Unsafe area varies based on weapon and delivery
- Higher and faster releases make larger footprints



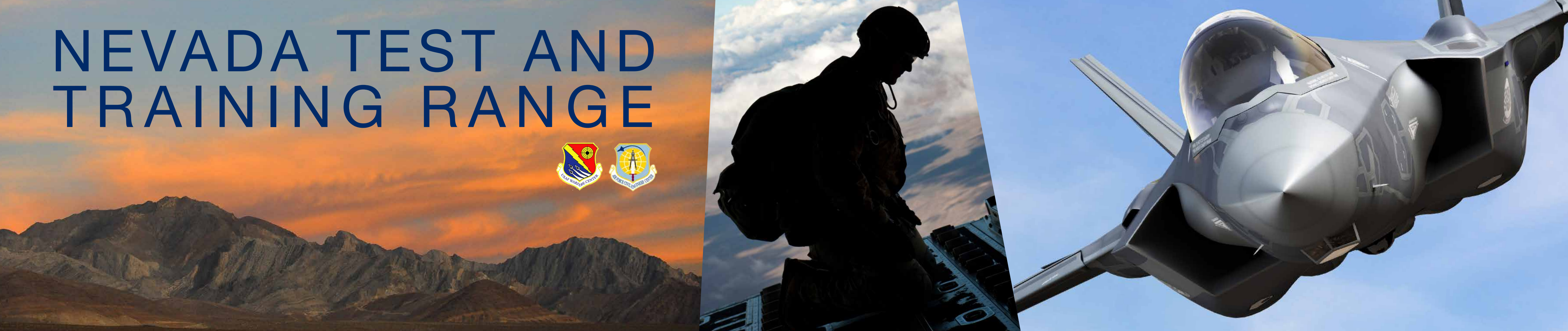
Current Weapons Employment - Limited (Not to Scale)



Required Weapons Employment (Not to Scale)



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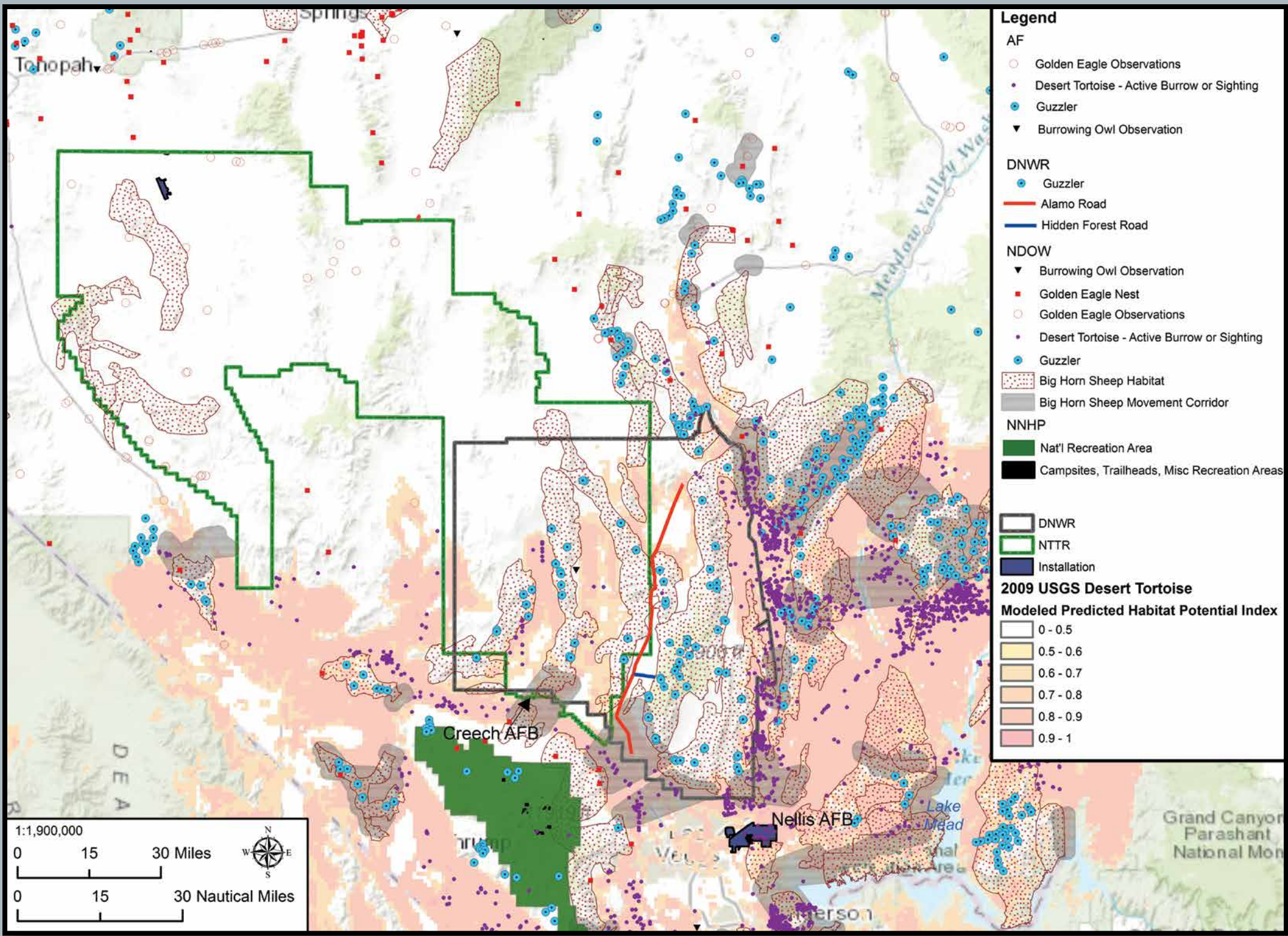
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What are the Potential Biological Impacts?

The Nevada Test and Training Range Land Withdrawal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) will address potential impacts to biological resources, which includes both plant and animal species, within proposed withdrawal areas. The impact analysis will focus on the potential uses of the proposed withdrawal areas and how those uses may affect biological resources.

Through coordination with Nevada Department of Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Air Force is supporting initial field surveys within the proposed withdrawal areas to supplement existing data and identify the presence of sensitive plant and animal species. Some of the species and impacts to be addressed in the LEIS include (but are not limited to):

- ▶ Bighorn Sheep and guzzler impacts
- ▶ Burro and Horse Management Areas
- ▶ Desert Tortoise
- ▶ Las Vegas Buckwheat
- ▶ Las Vegas Bear Poppy
- ▶ Bald/Golden Eagle
- ▶ Burrowing Owls
- ▶ Spring resources and impacts
- ▶ Invasive Species



Key Biological Resources



What are the Potential Cultural Impacts?

Cultural Resources include Native American tribal resources, historical properties, and archaeological sites and artifacts.

The Nevada Test and Training Range Land Withdrawal Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) will address potential impacts to cultural resources within proposed withdrawal areas; the impact analysis will focus on the potential uses of the proposed withdrawal areas and how those uses may affect cultural resources.

The Air Force is consulting and coordinating with the following Native American tribes to understand their concerns and address them properly within the LEIS:

Tribes with Ancestral Ties to NTTR		
Benton Paiute Indian Tribe	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	Moapa Band of Paitues
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Yomba Shoshone Tribe	Pahrump Paiute Tribe
Bishop Paiute Tribe	Ely Shoshone Tribe	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Fort Independence Indian Tribe	Chemehuevi Indian Tribe	Colorado River Indian Tribes
Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	Kaibab Band of Southern Paiutes	Fort Mojave Tribe
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	



Through coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management, the Air Force is supporting initial field surveys to supplement existing data and identify potential cultural resources within the proposed withdrawal areas.

The Air Force will consult with all interested Native American tribes, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and cooperating agencies to understand and address cultural resource management concerns throughout the proposed withdrawal areas.