

Draft - Summary Environmental Impact Statement for Homeland Defense Over-the-Horizon Radar at Northwest Region

August 2026



Unique Identification Number: EISX-007-57- UAF-1743672205



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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACM.....	asbestos-containing material
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
DAF.....	Department of the Air Force
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA.....	Endangered Species Act
GHG.....	greenhouse gas
GRSG	Greater sage-grouse
HLD.....	Homeland Defense
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
LBP	lead-based paint
N&NC.....	North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NORAD	North American Aerospace Defense Command
NRHP.....	National Register of Historic Places
OMD	Oregon Military Department
OTH-B.....	Over-The-Horizon Backscatter
OTHR.....	Over-the-Horizon Radar
Rx	Receiver
SSP.....	special status plant
SSW.....	special status wildlife
Tx.....	Transmitter
USNORTHCOM	U.S. Northern Command
VRM.....	visual resource management

SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts from the Proposed Action to acquire land for, and construct and operate facilities associated with a Homeland Defense (HLD) Over-the-Horizon Radar (OTHR) system in the northwest region of the United States. OTHR systems permit long-range early detection of airborne threats that may be obscured from conventional line of sight radar systems by the curvature of the Earth.

DAF is the lead agency for the Proposed Action and is responsible for the scope and content of this EIS. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a cooperating agency for the preparation of the EIS because it currently manages the federally owned land where one of the OTHR sites is proposed and has planning responsibilities for coordinating the land withdrawal process. Oregon Military Department (OMD) is a cooperating agency because it is the current landowner of the other proposed OTHR site.

The EIS was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended by Public Law 118-5, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (42 United States Code § 4321), the Department of War NEPA Implementing Procedures (2026), and DAF NEPA Implementing Procedures (2026). The requirements of other federal, state, and local regulations are also addressed in the EIS, as applicable.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The United States requires long-range early detection capability of airborne threats approaching the borders of North America to counter adversarial emerging technologies. Most radars are limited by the curvature of the Earth, allowing potential threats to fly “under the radar” without early detection. OTHR bounces high-frequency radio signals off the ionosphere, which starts about 50 miles above the Earth’s surface. The descending signals rebound off objects below, then back off the ionosphere before returning to Earth.

OTHR systems would allow DAF to detect targets at very long ranges.

HLD OTHR is one of the air domain awareness priorities for the Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) (referred to collectively as N&NC). DAF is planning to build several HLD OTHR systems, beginning in the northwest region of the United States. These HLD OTHR systems would operate independently to cover different regions and will therefore be evaluated in separate NEPA documents. Each system would have independent utility in that each radar data set will meet the purpose and need for that region.

In accordance with the Joint Statement on NORAD Modernization (Government of Canada, 2021) efforts between DAF and Royal Canadian Air Force will include the use of proven technology to significantly improve the ability of N&NC to detect and track potential airborne threats to North America from the Earth’s surface to space. The northwest siting region was initially defined by HLD requirements using the operational system coverage area and the stand-off region required to meet the desired mission coverage area. Sites considered in the northwest siting region initially focused on land currently owned or managed by the Department of War; however, none met the operational requirements. Remote federal and state lands in the siting region were identified and evaluated. Exclusive rights to the property through withdrawal or purchase rather than a right-of-way or other cooperative agreement with landowners were determined to best meet mission requirements.

1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION (EIS CHAPTER 1)

The purpose of DAF’s Proposed Action is to acquire land for, construct, and operate HLD OTHR systems to provide persistent long-range, early detection capability in the northwest region to protect North America from existing and future threats. The HLD OTHR systems comprise two major subsystems, the Transmitter (Tx) and the Receiver (Rx). The proposed Northwest HLD OTHR would provide enhanced regional long-

range, early detection capability of airborne threats that may be obscured from conventional line of sight radar systems by the curvature of the Earth.

The Proposed Action is needed in the northwest region to detect airborne threats approaching North America. These threats are difficult to detect and can strike with limited warning, which reduces the time and response options available to our national leaders and increases the risk of miscalculation and escalation during periods of heightened tension, crisis, and conflict (N&NC, 2024).

OTHR radar facilities require very specific site conditions for optimal performance.

To obtain the desired coverage area, northwest region HLD OTHR facilities are needed to detect and track potential airborne threats to North America from the Earth's surface to space (N&NC, 2024). The HLD OTHR facilities must be sited to minimize electromagnetic interference sources to provide a low ambient electromagnetic environment and also have minimal topographic obstructions. For optimal system performance the Tx and Rx sites must be paired between

40 and 140 miles apart. DAF must acquire land to provide for unencumbered operation of the HLD OTHR systems.



Photographs of similar Tx (left) and Rx (right) facilities.

1.2 OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES (EIS CHAPTER 2)

DAF has identified two action alternatives that meet the purpose and need: Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems and Alternative 2 – Single System. The proposed sites for the systems are the same under either alternative, and DAF would acquire the same amount of land for either alternative. The differences between the alternatives are the number and size of the facilities that would be constructed and operated and the presence or absence of on-site lodging.

The alternatives provide two options to meet the purpose and need. The differences are the number of systems (one or two), the scale of the proposed facilities, and the presence or absence of on-site lodging.

Approximately 2,622 acres of land are proposed for purchase from OMD at the former DAF Over-the-Horizon Backscatter (OTH-B) site (now obsolete and decommissioned), located approximately 18 miles east of Christmas Valley in Lake County, Oregon. Approximately 4,987 acres are proposed for withdrawal from BLM along Whitehorse Ranch Road in Oregon, located approximately 49 miles north-northwest of McDermitt, Nevada. **Figure 1** provides an overview of the project vicinity.

Although the No Action Alternative does not meet the project purpose and need, it is also analyzed in accordance with NEPA implementing procedures and represents a viable decision to not implement the Proposed Action.

Based on the results of the analysis presented in the Draft EIS and consideration of public comments received during the scoping process, DAF has identified Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative.

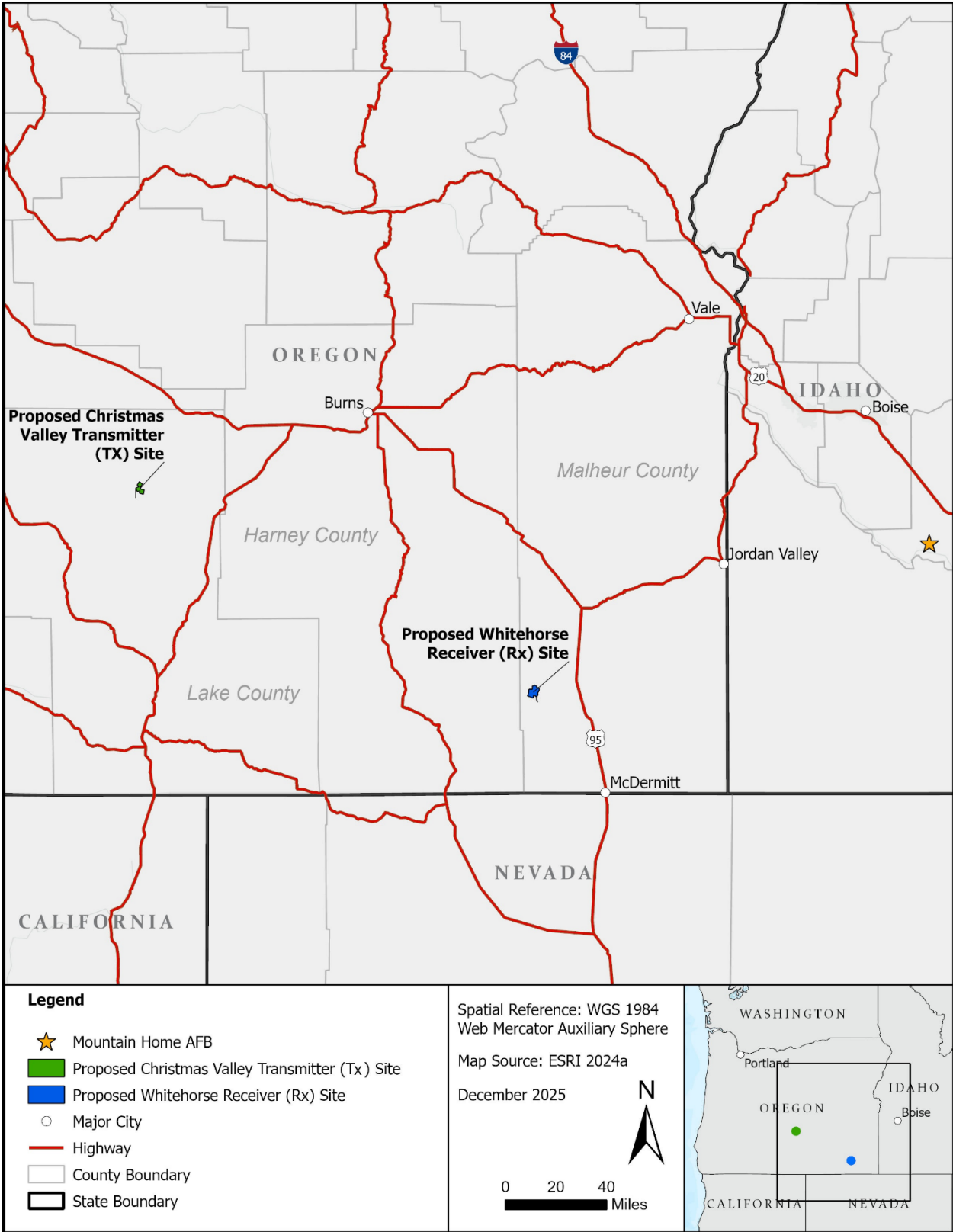


Figure 1 Proposed Homeland Defense Over-the-Horizon Radar Project Vicinity Map

1.2.1 Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems

Under Alternative 1, DAF would acquire land for, construct, and operate two co-located HLD OTHR systems (two transmitters and two receivers) at two sites in the northwest region of the United States (see **Figures 2 and 3**).

1.2.2 Alternative 2 – Single System

Under Alternative 2, DAF would acquire land for, construct, and operate one HLD OTHR system (one transmitter and one receiver) at two sites in the northwest region of the United States. Alternative 2 would provide a smaller scale system and require fewer facilities and infrastructure compared to Alternative 1.

1.2.3 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, DAF would not construct and operate the proposed HLD OTHR systems in the northwest region, and no land would be acquired for such systems at this time. NORAD and USNORTHCOM would not have enhanced persistent long-range early detection capabilities. Without HLD OTHR, airborne threats could approach North America without early detection, resulting in reduced decision time for military and national leaders to deter, de-escalate, or defeat threats placing North America at risk. The lands proposed for the HLD OTHR would continue to be managed by OMD and BLM under applicable laws, regulations, and land use plans.

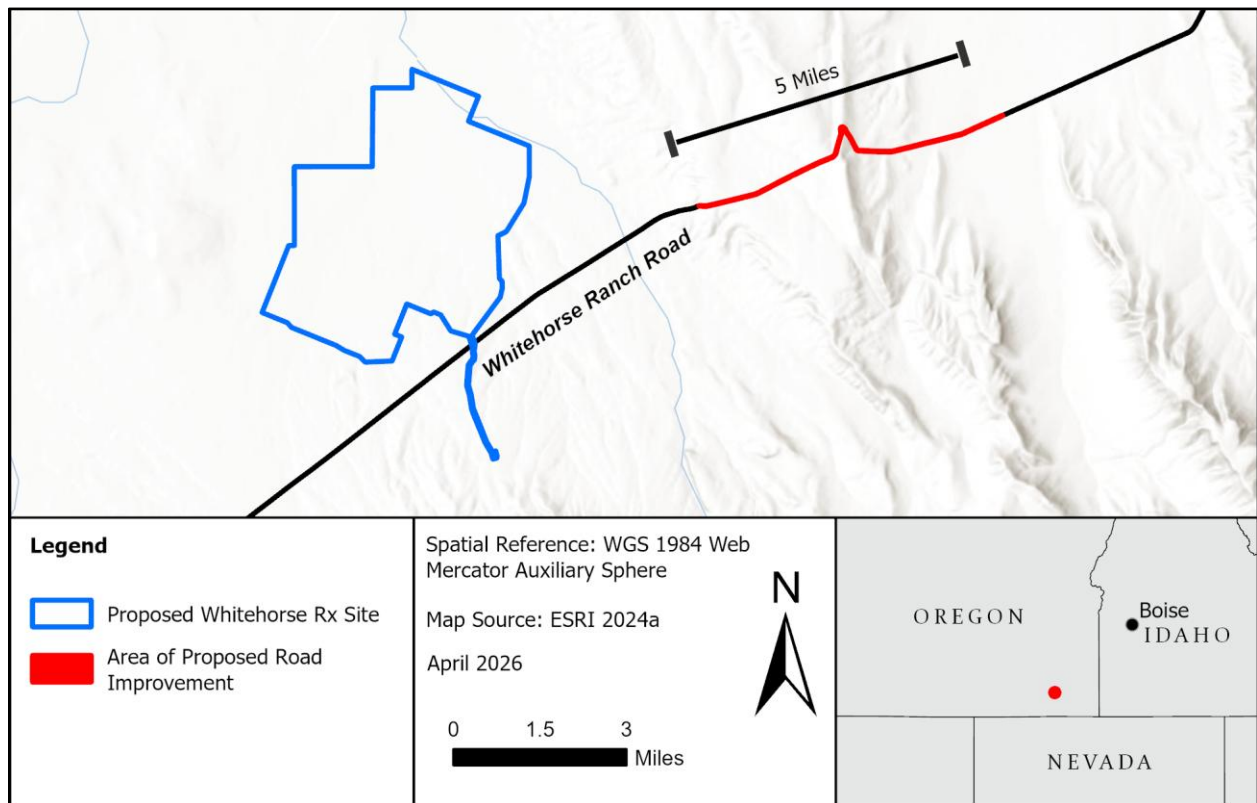


Figure 2 Proposed Whitehorse Ranch Road Improvement Area

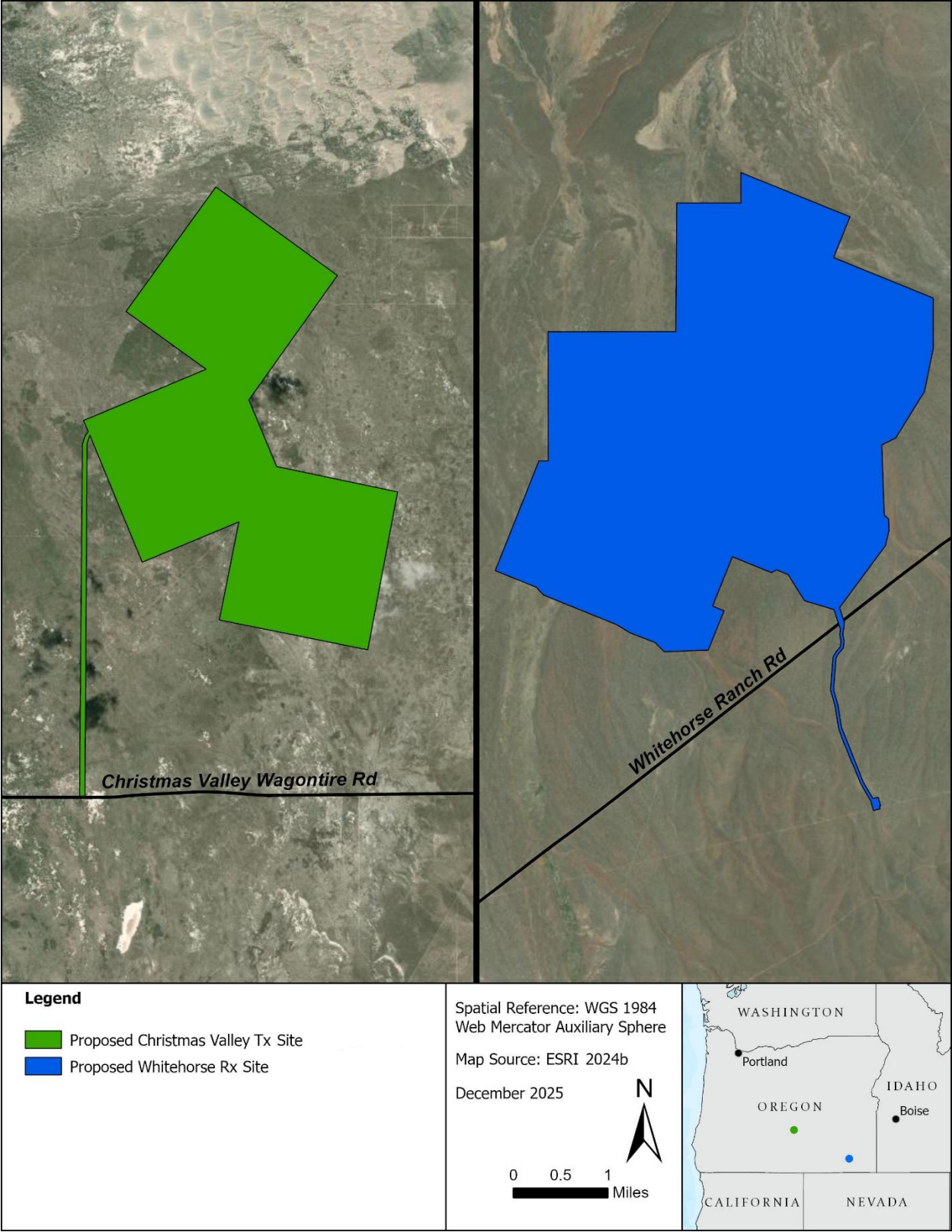


Figure 3 Proposed Homeland Defense Over-the-Horizon Radar Sites

1.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

DAF solicited public and agency comments during a 45-day scoping period from April 18, 2025, through June 2, 2025. Public scoping meetings were held in Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada as detailed in **Table 1**. A virtual meeting was also held. Comments were also accepted on the project website at www.othrnweis.com. Comments received during the scoping period were considered in preparing the Draft EIS and helped determine the scope of the environmental issues to analyze. DAF understands the public has concerns about the effect of the project on grazing, water use, wildlife, cultural resources, dark skies, and the potential for electromagnetic interference (see **Appendix B** in the Draft EIS for a summary of comments).

DAF solicited, heard, and considered public comments throughout the NEPA process.

Table 1 Public Scoping Meetings

Date	Location
May 6, 2025	American Legion Hall Post 101 715 S 3rd Street Mountain Home, ID 83647
May 7, 2025	McDermitt Community Hall Located adjacent to the McDermitt Library at 135 Oregon Road, McDermitt, NV 89421
May 8, 2025	Four Rivers Cultural Center 676 SW 5th Avenue Ontario, OR 97914
May 13, 2025	Christmas Valley Community Hall 87345 Holly Lane Christmas Valley, OR 97641
May 14, 2025	Community Center at the Harney County Chamber of Commerce 484 North Broadway Avenue Burns, OR 97720
May 19, 2025	Virtual Meeting

1.4 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The EIS evaluates the potential effects of the Proposed Action (Alternatives 1 and 2) and the No Action Alternative on the following resources: water resources, air quality, infrastructure/utilities, safety and occupational health, transportation, earth resources, biological/natural resources, noise/acoustic environment, land use, socioeconomics, hazardous materials and wastes, visual resources, and cultural resources. Under Alternative 2, land acquisition would be the same as under Alternative 1 and would generate the same types of potential impacts on resources. The difference between the two alternatives is the number and size of the proposed facilities.

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed Christmas Valley and Whitehorse Ranch sites would not be conveyed to DAF, the proposed Tx and Rx facilities would not be built and operated, and the proposed improvements to Whitehorse Ranch Road would not occur. Therefore, no environmental consequences are anticipated from the Proposed Action; the sites would remain subject to current management.

The EIS includes a detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. These findings are summarized in **Table 2** by resource and alternative. Based on the results of the analysis presented in the Draft EIS and consideration of public comments received during the scoping process, DAF has identified Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative.

Table 2 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Alternative	Environmental Consequences	Mitigation Proposed
 Water Resources (EIS Section 3.2)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant, short- or long-term adverse effects on surface waters, water quality, wetlands, and floodplains. If significant short-term adverse impacts from groundwater drawdown during construction of the proposed facilities are identified, mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce impacts to less than significant.	Pending completion of the groundwater drawdown studies.
Alternative 2 – Single System	No significant, short- or long-term adverse impacts on surface waters, water quality, wetlands, or floodplains. If significant short-term adverse impacts from groundwater drawdown during construction of the proposed facilities are identified, mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce impacts to less than significant.	Pending completion of the groundwater drawdown studies.
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on water resources under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Air Quality (EIS Section 3.3)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	Potentially significant, short-term adverse impacts from construction activities at both sites would be reduced through protective measures. Less than significant, long-term, adverse impacts at both sites due to fuel-burning combustion equipment. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at both sites constitute a small fraction of statewide and national totals and would have no significant regional impacts.	Yes
Alternative 2 – Single System	Emissions substantially lower than for Alternative 1 but would result in impacts similar to Alternative 1 and would be reduced through protective measures. Annual estimated GHG emissions would also be substantially lower than for Alternative 1 and impacts would be the same as those described as for Alternative 1.	Yes
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on air quality under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Infrastructure/Utilities (EIS Section 3.4)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects on infrastructure and utilities at both sites from upgrades needed to support construction and operations. Temporary shutdowns or rerouting of utility networks may be necessary during system upgrades. Proposed facilities operations are not expected to exceed the capacity of existing networks at either of the sites as DAF would coordinate with the local power companies.	No
Alternative 2 – Single System	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects on infrastructure and utilities at both sites. The need for utility network upgrades and the potential for impacts on nearby facilities or communities would be less under Alternative 2 due to the reduced facilities footprint at both sites. Proposed facilities operations are not expected to exceed the capacity of existing networks at either of the sites as DAF would coordinate with the local power companies.	No
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on infrastructure/utilities under the No Action Alternative.	No

Table 2 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Alternative	Environmental Consequences	Mitigation Proposed
 Safety and Occupational Health (EIS Section 3.5)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects on safety and occupational health at both sites, including emergency services, wildland fire risk and management, electromagnetic environment, and vehicle safety. All applicable best management practices (BMPs) would be followed to manage inherent risk during construction and demolition. Operations and maintenance would follow applicable regulations and technical orders.	No
Alternative 2 – Single System	No significant adverse effects on safety and occupational health. All applicable BMPs would be followed to manage inherent risk during construction and demolition. Operations and maintenance would follow applicable regulations and technical orders. Shift length and absence of onsite lodging facilities may result in an increased risk of vehicle accidents. The types of impacts to emergency services, wildland fire risk and management, and the electromagnetic environment would be the same as those described for Alternative 1, but the intensity of impacts would be less under Alternative 2 due to the reduced facilities footprint.	No
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on safety and occupational health under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Transportation (EIS Section 3.6)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects on transportation at both sites due to short-term increases in traffic from construction activities or indefinite increase in personnel activities and deliveries of supplies in the long-term. Road improvements near the Whitehorse Ranch site would have a beneficial impact by increasing the safety and capacity of Whitehorse Ranch Road.	No
Alternative 2 – Single System	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects on transportation. Impacts under Alternative 2 would be similar to those described under Alternative 1 except that operations personnel would commute to and from the sites.	No
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on transportation under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Earth Resources (EIS Section 3.7)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects on earth resources at both sites. Underlying geological features at both sites would not be disturbed and mineral resources (aggregates) for construction may be obtained from BLM-managed locations off site. The Whitehorse Ranch site would be removed from public mineral location and entry, however the lands comprising the site have no to low mineral potential. Soils suitable for construction would be imported to the site as necessary. BMPs would be implemented to reduce soil erosion and accidental spills would be cleaned up in accordance with site-specific plans.	No
Alternative 2 – Single System	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects on earth resources. Environmental effects under Alternative 2 would be similar to, but	No

Table 2 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Alternative	Environmental Consequences	Mitigation Proposed
	less than those described under Alternative 1 because of the reduced facilities footprint.	
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on earth resources under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Biological/Natural Resources (EIS Section 3.8)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	Potentially significant short- and long-term adverse effects on biological resources at both sites as a result of the loss of managed habitat for Greater sage-grouse (GRSG) (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>) and big game, and habitat for BLM and state sensitive and protected plant species at the Whitehorse Ranch site. Vegetation and Habitat. Land clearing would both temporarily and permanently remove vegetation and habitat at both sites. Temporarily cleared land would be replanted with native vegetation, which would return some vegetation to the baseline condition. Two special status plants, the BLM special status plant (SSP) and state-endangered Davis' peppergrass (<i>Lepidium davisii</i>) and the BLM SSP and state sensitive tufted Townsend daisy (<i>Townsendia scapigera</i>), may be adversely affected by land clearing and any loss of individuals may be significant if they are present. Any losses could increase the need for either federal or state protection through listing. Wildlife. Land clearing may displace, injure, or kill wildlife, destroy nests or dens, and remove suitable wildlife habitat. Additionally, associated noise and dust could temporarily disturb local wildlife. Land clearing would also remove a less than significant amount of potential habitat for two species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>) and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>), at both sites. In accordance with ESA Section 7, DAF has determined that Alternative 1 <i>would not jeopardize the continued existence</i> of these species. While golden eagles (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) have been documented near the sites, the sites do not lie within any no-disturbance buffers around known nests. The loss of habitat and temporary disturbance during construction could also adversely affect several BLM special status wildlife (SSW) and Oregon-listed (kit fox) and sensitive species. Land clearing may result in a loss of western bumble bee (<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>), a BLM SSW, if they are present and may be significant. Potential impacts on other BLM and Oregon listed and sensitive species would not be significant. Long-term adverse impacts on wildlife may result from the presence of antennas, fences, and roads through risk of collisions, but any such impacts would not be significant. Clearing at the Whitehorse Ranch site would result in a loss of GRSG habitat designated as BLM Priority Habitat Management Areas and General Habitat Management Areas. GRSG may be adversely affected by both short- and long-term disturbance and long-term risk of collisions. DAF would include appropriate and feasible conservation measures in the installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).	No

Table 2 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Alternative	Environmental Consequences	Mitigation Proposed
	Livestock. No significant adverse impacts on livestock are expected as measures would be taken to ensure livestock are not present during construction or operations. Managed Wildlife Habitat. No significant impacts on BLM Research Natural Areas, Herd Management Areas, Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitat, Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas, or Oregon Hunting Areas. A relatively small amount of habitat would be temporarily cleared, and that which is not permanently developed would be replanted with native plants. The loss of habitat would not significantly reduce the available resources these areas provide, or fragment or block wildlife corridors. Invasive Plants. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated at the sites from the introduction or spread of invasive plants due to the replanting of native species on land that would be temporarily cleared, and conservation measures and BMPs would be implemented to avoid and limit the spread of invasive plants. Artificial Light at Night. No significant adverse impacts on wildlife and habitat from artificial light at night due to the small amount of lights, limited illuminated area, and use of lighting that is not in the spectrum most attractive to wildlife. Electromagnetic Environment. Based on the available scientific literature and the characteristics of Alternative 1, potential physiological impacts on wildlife from operation of the OTHR Tx system at the Christmas Valley site would not be significant. Since the Whitehorse Ranch site would only receive the diminutive return signals emitted by the Tx site, there would be no electromagnetic impacts on biological resources from operation.	
Alternative 2 – Single System	Potentially significant short- and long-term adverse effects on biological resources at both sites as a result of the loss of protected habitat for GRSG and big game, and habitat for BLM and state sensitive and protected plant species at the Whitehorse Ranch site. Vegetation and Habitat. Due to the reduced facilities footprint under Alternative 2, the potential impacts on vegetation from its implementation would be less than those described for Alternative 1 and would not be significant. However, any loss of Davis' peppergrass or tufted Townsend daisy may be significant, though potential impacts to these species are reduced under Alternative 2. Wildlife. Due to the reduced area that would be cleared, potential impacts on wildlife would be the same or less as those described for Alternative 1. Less habitat would be temporarily and permanently disturbed. Since the barbed wire perimeter fence would not be installed at the Whitehorse Ranch site, there would be no risk of accidental injury or death of wildlife. While the amount of GRSG habitat disturbed and the duration of the disturbance would be less than under Alternative 1, DAF would still include appropriate and feasible conservation measures in the installation INRMP. Livestock. No significant adverse impacts on livestock are expected as measures would be taken to ensure livestock are not present during construction or operations. The risk of injury to livestock would be higher because a barbed wire perimeter fence would not	No

Table 2 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Alternative	Environmental Consequences	Mitigation Proposed
	be installed at the Whitehorse Ranch site, and the three-rail vinyl fence around the antenna arrays may not be adequate to prevent livestock from accessing the antennas. This could increase their risk of injury through entanglement in the equipment. Managed Wildlife Habitat. The types of impacts on BLM Research Natural Areas, Herd Management Areas, Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitat, Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas, or Oregon Hunting Areas would be the same as those described for Alternative 1. Due to the reduced facilities footprint, the amount of habitat affected would be less under Alternative 2. Less Oregon big game winter and essential habitat would be adversely affected compared to Alternative 1. Invasive Plants. No significant adverse impacts from invasive plants. Reduced facilities footprint would pose less risk of introduction or spread of invasive plants compared to Alternative 1. Artificial Light at Night. Less risk of adverse impacts on biological resources due to the reduced footprint and fewer lights. Electromagnetic Environment. Less potential for physiological impacts on wildlife from operation of the Tx system at the Christmas Valley site since only one array would be in operation.	
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on biological/natural resources under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Noise/Acoustic Environment (EIS Section 3.9)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects from noise or changes to the acoustic environment. Impacts at both sites would be temporary, intermittent, and not significant. Noise levels would increase during construction at both sites, but it would be intermittent, temporary, and would rapidly attenuate over distance. Noise levels associated with operation of the proposed facilities would be low.	No
Alternative 2 – Single System	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects from noise or changes to the acoustic environment. Impacts under Alternative 2 would be similar to, but less than those described under Alternative 1 due to the reduced facilities footprint.	No
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects due to noise/acoustic environment under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Land Use (EIS Section 3.10)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant short- or long-term adverse impacts on land use at both sites. Construction and operation of the proposed facilities on the Christmas Valley site would be similar to and consistent with the site's historic use as a former OTH-B facility and its existing condition as a military facility owned by OMD. Withdrawal of the proposed site from BLM management would represent a long-term adverse effect with respect to the management and planning policies expressed in applicable BLM plans, but the withdrawn area would represent 0.1 percent or less of lands in relevant BLM planning areas. The site would be removed from the two existing BLM grazing allotments and livestock would be excluded from the site by a	No

Table 2 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Alternative	Environmental Consequences	Mitigation Proposed
	barbed wire fence around the perimeter. Specific DAF and rancher agreements would be negotiated. Except for informal dispersed recreation activities such as hiking and camping, construction and operation of the proposed Rx facilities, and construction of the proposed improvements along Whitehorse Ranch Road, would not impede, displace, or prevent the continued operation of existing or planned land uses, as none are present on or adjacent to the site.	
Alternative 2 – Single System	No significant short- or long-term adverse impacts on land use. Short- and long-term impacts on land use on and around the sites would be similar to or less than those described for Alternative 1. While the 4,987-acre Whitehorse Ranch site would be removed from the two existing BLM grazing allotments, livestock would not be prevented from accessing the site outside the vinyl fence around the Rx antenna array. It is expected that unmanaged grazing would occur on the unfenced portion of the site, and DAF would coordinate rancher access to the site as needed. The same amount of land would be acquired at each site under Alternative 2, but short-term impacts from construction of the proposed facilities on each site would be less than those described for Alternative 1 because fewer facilities would be built and construction would be completed in approximately half the time. Long-term effects from purchase of the Christmas Valley site and operation of the proposed Tx facility, and withdrawal of lands from BLM management and operation of the proposed Rx facility at the Whitehorse Ranch site, would be the same as those described for Alternative 1.	No
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on land use under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Socioeconomics (EIS Section 3.11)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant short- or long-term effects on socioeconomics, including livestock grazing. On either site there would be no short- or long-term adverse effects on population, including people 18 years of age or younger or 65 years of age and older. There would be some beneficial effect on local employment during construction but it would not be significant in the context of the local and regional economy. Withdrawal of the Whitehorse Ranch site from public recreational use would generally represent an adverse effect on recreation, but corresponding financial or economic impacts on the recreation industry would not be significant in the context of the region of influence. Withdrawal of lands comprising the Whitehorse Ranch site would not represent a significant impact on livestock grazing. BLM would work with the affected permittees to calculate the final Animal Unit Month reduction (if any) associated with the withdrawal of land from BLM management. Agreements between DAF and the livestock grazing permittees may be made, as necessary.	Yes
Alternative 2 – Single System	Short- and long-term impacts on socioeconomics would be the same or similar to those described for Alternative 1. Generally, the scale of both beneficial and adverse impacts on socioeconomics would be somewhat less than those described for Alternative 1 because of the reduced facilities footprint. There would be some beneficial effect on	Yes

Table 2 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Alternative	Environmental Consequences	Mitigation Proposed
	local employment during construction but it would not be significant in the context of the local and regional economy. Adverse impacts on recreation would be the same as those described for Alternative 1 because 4,987 acres of public land would be withdrawn from BLM management and associated recreational use. Similarly, Alternative 2 would have the same impacts on livestock grazing as Alternative 1 because the same amount of land would be formally withdrawn. However, livestock continue to have access to approximately 3,973 acres outside fenced areas on the site for unpermitted grazing. Agreements between DAF and the livestock grazing permittees may be made, as necessary.	
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on socioeconomics under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Hazardous Materials and Wastes (EIS Section 3.12)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects from hazardous materials and wastes as hazardous materials would remain within regulatory limits and disposed of properly. Any lead-based paint (LBP) could be disposed of as non-hazardous waste during demolition at the Christmas Valley site. Asbestos-containing material (ACM) would require abatement by a licensed contractor.	No
Alternative 2 – Single System	No significant short- or long-term adverse effects from hazardous materials and wastes. ACM and LBP at the Christmas Valley site would not be disturbed because Buildings T5 and T6 would not be demolished.	No
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects due to hazardous materials/waste under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Visual Resources (EIS Section 3.13)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	No significant short- or long-term impacts on visual resources. Temporary effects during construction, including ground disturbance, equipment presence, and dust generation, would be short-term and would diminish following completion of construction and site stabilization. Operation of the proposed facilities would introduce new antenna arrays, buildings, and associated infrastructure that would create moderate or less visual contrast in form, line, color, and texture relative to the surrounding landscape. Implementation of project design standards, as well as DAF and BLM BMPs, including low-profile structures, environmental color treatments, lighting controls, compact facility layouts, and reclamation of disturbed areas, would minimize visual contrast and maintain consistency with applicable visual resource management (VRM) objectives.	No
Alternative 2 – Single System	Alternative 2 would have no significant short- or long-term impacts on visual resources. Construction-related visual effects would be similar to those described for Alternative 1 but would be reduced in intensity and duration due to the reduced facilities footprint. Long-term visual changes would also be less extensive because fewer facilities would be constructed. The same visual design standards and BMPs would be implemented to minimize visual contrast and	No

Table 2 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Alternative	Environmental Consequences	Mitigation Proposed
	maintain consistency with applicable VRM objectives. Visual effects would be localized and would not result in significant impacts.	
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on visual resources under the No Action Alternative.	No
 Cultural Resources (EIS Section 3.14)		
Alternative 1 – Multiple Systems	Potentially significant short- and long-term adverse effects on up to 142 archaeological historic properties identified at the Christmas Valley site, 38 archaeological historic properties and 1 architectural historic property identified at the Whitehorse Ranch site, and traditional cultural places identified by the Burns Paiute Tribe. Development of a Programmatic Agreement is ongoing	Yes
Alternative 2 – Single System	Potentially significant short- and long-term adverse effects on cultural resources. However, fewer resources would be adversely affected compared to Alternative 1 because of the reduced facilities footprint. Development of a Programmatic Agreement is ongoing.	Yes
No Action Alternative	There would be no effects on cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.	No

1.5 MITIGATION MEASURES

Resource-specific mitigation measures are described in **Chapter 3** of the EIS and in the *Mitigation and Monitoring Plan*. The proposed mitigations avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, eliminate, or compensate for impacts associated with the Proposed Action. The effects of the proposed mitigations are considered in the assessment of potential environmental impacts. The *Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* would be implemented in conjunction with the final decisions as outlined in the DAF Record of Decision and the Secretary of the Interior Record of Decision.

- **Air Quality** – DAF would implement a combination of dust control measures to reduce the temporary adverse impacts on air quality during construction. At both sites, particulate emissions from dust generated during short-term construction activities would exceed insignificance indicators.
- **Socioeconomics** – DAF would develop agreements with the affected local livestock grazing permittees to ensure they are not adversely impacted.
- **Cultural Resources** – DAF would develop a National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 agreement with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Tribes to minimize or mitigate unavoidable adverse impacts

1.6 REFERENCES

Government of Canada. 2021. Joint Statement on NORAD Modernization. From: National Defence. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2021/08/joint-statement-on-norad-modernization.html>

N&NC. 2024. North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command. Statement of General Gregory M. Guillot, United States Air Force Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, Before the House Armed Services Committee. March.