



**IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE
4715 S. BYRD ST., BLDG. 518
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-8095**



March 9, 2018

In Reply Refer To: Idaho Army National Guard Simco-East Maneuver Training Area and ROW Environmental Assessment (EA)

Dear Public/Agency Participant:

The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) is soliciting comments on its proposal to use lands owned by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) near the Orchard Combat Training Area (OCTC) for heavy maneuver training. The site is located east of Simco Road in Elmore County. The new training area is required by the IDARNG to compensate for limited availability of heavy maneuver training areas within the OCTC, and to meet current Department of Army (DA) standards to prepare for and ensure troop combat readiness. The proposed action would require a right of way (ROW) from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area to access the IDL lands via Simco Road. As such, the BLM will be participating as a Cooperating Agency. A summary of the proposed action is attached.

The public comment period will be open March 9, 2018. Comments made on this proposal would be most helpful if they are received by May 1, 2018, and are directly relevant to the proposal and project area. The preliminary EA is expected to be completed in June of 2018 with a final decision in August 2018.

The IDARNG and BLM will be conducting two public scoping meetings. The first will be held in Ada County on April 4, 2018, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Wyndham Garden Boise Airport (3300 S Vista Ave, Boise, ID 83705). The second will be held in Elmore County on April 5, 2018, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Hampton Inn (3175 Foothills Ave, Mountain Home, ID 83647). Information about the project can also be found at the IDARNG website <http://emomil.state.id.us/> (Documents for Review), or the BLM website (<http://bit.ly/2gpOWdK>).

Any individuals, groups, or organizations wishing to comment on this process should attend the public scoping meetings or submit written comments to:

Idaho Army National Guard
Environmental Management Office
Attention: Charles Baun (Conservation Branch Manager)
4715 South Byrd Street, Bldg. 518
Boise, Idaho 83705-8095

Or

Bureau of Land Management
Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area
Attention: Charlotte Alexander
3948 Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705

Electronic comments should be sent to ng.id.idarng.list.ngid-emo@mail.mil by close of business on May 1, 2018.

Before including address, phone number, email-address, or any other personal identifying information in your comments, be advised that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request that the BLM withhold personal identifying information from public view, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. If you wish us to withhold your personal information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.