

Idaho Army National Guard - Environmental Assessment (EA)

The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) is proposing to use lands owned by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) outside, but near to, the Orchard Combat Training Area (OCTC) for heavy maneuver training. The site is located east of Simco Road in Elmore County. The new training lands are required by the IDARNG to compensate for limited availability of heavy maneuver training areas and to meet current Department of Army (DA) standards to prepare for and ensure troop combat readiness. The proposed action would also require a right of way (ROW) from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area to access the IDL lands via routes east of Simco Road. 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). A scoping letter was sent out to interested parties on March 9, 2018. An electronic copy will also be available for download on the IDARNG's website <http://emomil.state.id.us/> (Documents for Review), and the BLM's website (<https://go.usa.gov/xnhYw>). The public will have until May 1, 2018 to review the project and submit comments. Public scoping comments and inquiries should be sent to ng.id.idarng.list.ngid-emo@mail.mil with the title of this project in the subject line. It is anticipated that the preliminary EA will be made available for public comment in June 2018, with a final decision expected to be made in August of 2018.