



March 23, 2018

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
Attention: Project Manager, EV21.AW
1101 Tautog Circle
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

Dear Ms. Terilynn Lazo:

Thank you for providing the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on Naval Special Operations Training in Western Washington State. The public comment period extension through March 23rd has provided sufficient time to review the document. The proposed training activities and potential onshore training areas identified in the EA necessitate comment:

1. Simulated building clearing training activities are a critical component to the operational readiness of Naval Special Operations Forces. The draft document clearly states the weapons used in these events are modified to use a water soluble, plastic marking or paint round and that the events would typically be separated from the public. Given the historic nature of many buildings in our state parks, I recommend that any simulated building clearance is done at an alternate location. Errant marks or residue left in or around the buildings, and noise associated with the activities is incompatible with the character of public parks and could adversely impact the visitor experience.
2. The advent and widespread use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) has raised many complex questions in Washington State regarding the issue of privacy and the use or retention of any film or photographs taken by those systems. The EA is indeterminate as to where the Navy intends to fly UAS and most of the state public land allows the use of remote controlled aircraft on a limited basis, therefore, it is necessary to request that unmanned aircraft systems not be used for filming or photography on state public lands in order to preserve the issue of individual privacy rights.
3. The Navy has done an admirable job in working with state agencies to ensure that the training currently done on state public lands does not interfere with other residents' enjoyment of parks. To date, there have been no incidents impacting visitors under the current agreement. The control measures in place that have ensured residents do not encounter navy personnel bearing facsimiles of small arms must be maintained.

The Navy has a proud history, and Naval Special Operations Forces have trained in Washington for more than 30 years. The diverse shoreline and varied coastal conditions of our state provide a realistic and challenging training environment necessary to maintain the operational readiness of



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Navy Special Operations Forces. The state must also preserve visitor safety and enjoyment as well as the natural environment of our public lands.

It is my hope that the Navy will take these concerns into consideration as they develop a training program.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "I".

Jay Inslee
Governor