



Quietskies

Over San Juan County

Update: September 26, 2017

The Navy has just announced a 15 day Extension to the SUPPLEMENTAL Northwest Testing and Training Scoping EIS/OEIS. **The new deadline for comments is October 6, 2017. Official announcement is found at <https://homeportnorthwestdoress.com/2017/09/19/7819/>**

CONTEXT: It appears that the Navy seeks to assure the public that this new NWTT Supplement will not bring many changes and "is representative of activities the Navy has been conducting in the Study Area for decades". The "Study Area" happens to be the Salish Sea, the Pacific Coast from Washington to Northern California, Puget Sound, Hood Canal, the Straits of Juan de Fuca, The Olympic Peninsula, and S.E. Alaska. The "Study Area" is really a Navy War Training Zone over some of the most sensitive waters and lands in our area.

HUGE THANKS to all who asked for the extension and submitted comments. As of yesterday (Friday 15 Sept.) the Navy was still telling Senator Murray's office they had only received 6 comments and requests for an extension. We know that in the last 48 hours Quiet Skies received 28 emails from folks on our mailing list saying that they had made comments and requested a 60 day extension. So, this doesn't add up.

If you haven't yet submitted comments please do it as soon as possible. You may find a sample (cut and paste) comment letter at <https://www.quietskies.info/nw-training-testing-navy-supplement> Our comments establish your formal "standing" in the process as well as a record to which they'll need to respond.

Or, you can write your own comments. Here are some of the issues:

1. **EVALUATE OTHER LOCATIONS** for the Northwest Testing and Training (NWTT) activities which are currently taking place and planned in the "Study Area" which is a "War Training Zone" located over some of the most sensitive lands and waters in our region and also include populated areas known for peace and quiet.
2. **EVALUATE THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS** of Activities in the "War Training Zone" on tourism, property values, and the health and well being of citizens in the area who visit and live in this region because of it's beauty, wilderness areas and peace and quiet.
3. **EVALUATE THE IMPACTS OF AIRCRAFT NOISE** and use of live explosives, sono buoys, air-to-surface missile exercises, new weapon systems, and torpedoes on humans, animals and marine life.

Use on-the-ground noise data, not just modeling, to assess impacts; use real measurements, not projections. Harassing, maiming and killing Marine mammals and other marine life in the Salish Sea, and throughout the War Training Zone, needs to be clearly documented.

4. **EVALUATE THE POLLUTION** from the "War Training Zone" activities on the marine waters. As communities all around the Salish Sea work to clean up the waters, what pollutants are being added to the marine waters from Navy activities from live explosives, sono buoys, air-to-surface missile exercises, new weapon systems impacts, torpedoes, chaff dropped from aircraft, expendable devices, and spent ammunition? What clean-up measures are being used?

5. **Clearly state if the Navy is putting more depleted uranium** into our marine waters in addition to the deposit off the Washington State Coast.

COMMENT ONLINE Here: <<https://nwtteis.com/Public-Involvement/Public-Comment>>

OR BY MAIL:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
Attention: NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
3730 North Charles Porter Ave., Building 385
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

Regionally there is a new direction that is being explored to resist the Navy expansion - I hope to have some concrete information to share - soon. It's good to feel that we as a county and as a region are not giving up. This place we call home is worth protecting.

PLEASE KEEP REPORTING GROWLER NOISE ON THE S.J. COUNTY WEBSITE: sjcgis.org/aircraft-noise-reporting/

Over 8,400 noise reports have been entered since May, 2014.

www.quietskies.info