

**DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)
UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
MANEUVER TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
CAMP W.G. WILLIAMS, SALT LAKE AND UTAH COUNTIES, UTAH**

Introduction

The Utah Army National Guard (UTARNG) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects of the proposed maneuver trail system improvement project at Camp Williams, Utah. With the implementation of the Proposed Action, the UTARNG will meet assessed objectives for maneuver trail availability and type in order to support current mission training requirements.

The UTARNG prepared this EA under the provisions of, and in accordance with, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S. Code [USC] §4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (32 CFR Part 651), and the Army National Guard (ARNG) NEPA Handbook (2011).

1. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

Proposed Action. The UTARNG proposes to implement specific improvements and new maneuver trail construction across the existing network of heavy and light maneuver trails within the 25,000 acre Camp Williams Training Area. Heavy maneuver trails are those suitable for use by large military wheeled and tracked vehicles, while light maneuver trails are suitable for use by medium and smaller sized wheeled vehicles. This plan includes proposed improvements to 38.32 miles of existing maneuver trails to meet training objectives and the construction of 22.23 miles of new maneuver trails proposed for use by a range of light to heavy military vehicles (including Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTTs) and Ultra-light Tactical Vehicles (UTVs), as well as dismounted infantry maneuvers.

Proposed Maneuver Trail Projects

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Project

Purpose of Proposed Components	Need for Proposed Components
Heavy Maneuver Trails: Trails adequate for use by heavy equipment, large military wheeled vehicles, and tracked vehicles during adverse weather conditions.	Objectives supporting this goal identify a need of a <i>minimum</i> of 10 miles of trail of this type. Current inventory shows 4.22 miles available. Proposals for improvements to existing and construction of new heavy maneuver trails will bring the total to 12.5 miles.
Light Maneuver Trails: Trails adequate for use by light maneuver wheeled vehicles (e.g. HEMTT or smaller) during adverse weather conditions.	Objectives supporting this goal identify a need of a minimum of 50 miles of trail of this type. Current inventory shows 34.1 miles available. Proposals for improvements to existing trails, once completed, will bring the inventory to 48.05 miles.

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Project

Purpose of Proposed Components	Need for Proposed Components
UTV Only Maneuver Trails: Trails that are intentionally not maintained OR kept in disrepair in order to allow for more realistic and more challenging training scenarios for units utilizing UTVs	Objectives supporting this goal identify a need of a minimum of 10 miles of trail of this type. Current inventory shows 5.75 miles available. Mitigation of the target shortfall is being handled in the form of maneuver corridors and off-road driving courses in the 200 Series Training Area and Fourteen Peaks Training Area.

The *purpose* of the Proposed Action as it relates to military training is to create quality training environments for military units, the individual service member, and other organizations by providing facilities, logistical support, and personnel assistance to ensure optimum military training. Camp Williams provides ranges and maneuver training areas, in accordance with AR 350-19, *The Army Sustainable Range Program*, principally designed to support institutional training organizations throughout the State and garrisoned on the installation.

Alternatives Considered. The UTARNG considered the Preferred Action Alternative and No Action Alternative. The UTARNG measured the alternatives against acceptability criteria related to training requirements, impacts to cultural and natural resources, land use and long-range master planning. The Preferred Action Alternative would provide the best combination of land resources to sustain quality military training and to maintain and improve unit readiness.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented and current UTARNG operations at Camp Williams would continue. The lack of sufficient maneuver capacity would adversely impact the capability of units to train at Camp Williams in order to improve and maintain readiness. While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action, analysis of this alternative was carried forward to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, as required in the CEQ Regulations (§1502.14 of 40 CFR §1500). The No Action Alternative reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

2. Environmental Analysis

The potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Proposed Action are described in the EA. The EA identifies the environmental resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action, and determines the significance of the impacts, if any, to each of these resources. Based on analyses presented in the EA, the UTARNG has determined that known and potential adverse impacts from the Proposed Action on land use, noise, air quality, geology, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources socioeconomics, environmental justice and infrastructure would not be significant. Additionally, there would be no cumulatively significant adverse impacts associated with the implementation Proposed Action or related actions at Camp Williams.

3. Mitigation

No mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. The UTARNG would continue to implement appropriate standard Best Management Practices (BMPs), and would obtain all necessary permits and construction site approvals prior to implementation of this action.

4. Regulations

The Proposed Action would not violate procedural provisions of NEPA, CEQ Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, 32 CFR Part 651, or other Federal, State, or local environmental regulations.

5. Commitment to Implementation

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the UTARNG affirm their commitment to implement the Proposed Action described in this EA in accordance with NEPA. Implementation of the Proposed Action is dependent on funding. The UTARNG and the NGB's Environmental Programs, Training, and Installations Divisions will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the objectives set forth in this EA.

6. Public Review and Comment

The EA and draft FNSI were made available for public review and comment from 21 June to 20 July, 2020 following the publication of a public Notice of Availability in the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret News*. The EA and draft FNSI were available for review on the UTARNG website at <https://ut.ng.mil/Resources/Environmental-Resources-Management/>, and UTARNG provided hard copies upon request. Comments regarding these documents were directed to: Mr. Shaun Nelson, NEPA Program Manager, Utah Army National Guard, Environmental Resources Management Office, 12953 S. Minuteman Dr., Draper, Utah 84020; Phone: (801) 432-4097; E-mail: shaun.r.nelson4.mil@mail.mil.

7. Finding of No Significant Impact

After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action will not generate significant controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA, the CEQ implementing regulations, and the Army implementing regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared and the National Guard Bureau is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

Date

ANTHONY HAMMETT
COL, EN
Chief, ARNG G9