

May 16, 1990

Mr. Chavis  
HQ TAC/DEEV  
Langley AFB, VA 23665-5001 ,

Dear Mr. Chavis,

As a representative of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society I would like to express some of our concerns to you regarding the Saylor Creek Tier One Draft EIS. This document appears inadequate in addressing the effects of the expansion of the Mountain Home Range on wildlife resources. Specific examples include the following:

1. Effects of subsonic and supersonic flights on wildlife:
  - Many species of wildlife are sensitive to increased noise levels and respond with increased expenditures of energy and possible injury resulting from "startling" or "escape" reactions. Disruption or modification of normal behavioral activities can occur, and movement of big game species (deer, sheep, antelope) out of critical areas to habitat of lower quality can also result. It can also affect nesting success of raptors and can cause total nest abandonment.
2. Access Management
  - It appears that access to these lands for conducting wildlife management activities (research, censuses) will be severely curtailed or eliminated. This would essentially deprive wildlife managers of any opportunity to gather the data necessary to manage wildlife species responsibly.
3. Use of Chaff
  - Ingestion of chaff by wildlife, particularly ruminants and waterfowl, can result in accumulation and sickness or death. Inhalation by these species as well as raptors can cause



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respiratory problems resulting in bacterial infections. Also, ground nesting birds and small rodents can develop skin irritations from contact with chaff which can result in lower reproductive success.

4. Frequent Range Fires

- The increased frequency of range fires from use of live ordnance will effect the distribution of sage grouse and antelope by altering habitat structure and increasing levels of disturbance. Also, mitigation measures are lacking.

In general, the EIS leaves many important questions regarding the effects of the expansion on wildlife and wildlife habitat unanswered. Furthermore, mitigation for impacts must be identified in order to evaluate the proposed project. A complete and thorough examination is required, and in this case is lacking sufficiently to merit our concern and opposition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Crenshaw

Jay Crenshaw  
Chairman, Conservation Affairs Committee  
Idaho Chapter, The Wildlife Society