

Overview of the Environmental Impact Statement

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is for EA-18G “Growler” Airfield Operations at the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island complex. It evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with a No Action Alternative and three action alternatives. The three alternatives consider options for increasing the number of additional Growler aircraft at the NAS Whidbey Island complex. Each alternative contains further analysis of five operational scenarios that involve different distributions of annual field carrier landing practice airfield operations between Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field Coupeville.

Chapter 1 provides background information related to the Proposed Action and describes the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. Chapter 2 describes the Proposed Action, the process for selecting the range of alternatives, and the alternatives carried forward or eliminated from further analysis. Chapter 3 provides a description of the existing environmental resource areas and existing conditions that could be affected from implementing any of the alternatives. Chapter 4 presents an analysis of the potential direct and indirect effects of each alternative on the affected environment. This EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with 16 resource areas, as well as the cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and other local projects. Each of the 16 resource areas is discussed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment) and Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences). Below is a list of the key sections in this document (for a full Table of Contents, go to page i).

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