



**The U.S. Air Force Invites You to Attend Public Hearings for the Air Force's Airspace Optimization Proposal to Enhance Readiness at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho**

**Proposed Action and Alternatives**

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is requesting interested individuals attend public hearings to learn about, and comment on, the DAF's Airspace Optimization Proposal for Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB), Idaho to enhance readiness.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Air Force has prepared for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action of optimizing airspace available to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, for aircrew training to achieve and maintain proficiency at low altitudes in mountainous terrain with consistent low-altitude floors. Additionally, the Proposed Action evaluates lowering altitude floors across multiple Military Operations Areas (MOAs) for supersonic training.

A Notice of Availability (NOA), published in the Federal Register on July 9, 2021, announced that the EIS was available for public review, and began a 45-day public comment period, which ends on August 23, 2021.

The Proposed Action includes altitude adjustments of the existing Special Use Airspace to allow for subsonic low-altitude aircraft training operations, with alternatives that range from 100 feet above ground level (AGL) to 500 feet AGL, and supersonic flight as low as 5,000 feet AGL or 10,000 feet AGL. The use of chaff and flares throughout the airspace will continue. The proposed airspace modifications would permit aircrew to build proficiency in low-altitude tactics and terrain masking, for survival in a highly contested environment.

There are a total of five alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS: three (Alternatives 1 through 3) evaluate different operational floors for low-altitude training, and two (Alternatives A and B) evaluate different supersonic floor altitudes. Alternative 1, 2, or 3 could be combined with Alternative A or B.

As required by NEPA, the Draft EIS also addresses a No Action Alternative where no changes to airspace would occur and current airspace constraints would continue.

**Public Hearings – Please Attend**

The Air Force will host one virtual public hearing and three in-person hearings. The locations were chosen based on the area of potential effects, community connectivity, and public and stakeholder feedback. At each of the hearings, the Air Force will offer a presentation about the Draft EIS and its proposed action and alternatives, followed by a formal public comment session. The proceedings of the virtual and in-person hearings will be transcribed by a court reporter. Dates, times, and locations of the hearings are listed below.

In-person hearings will be conducted in a manner consistent with Federal, state, county, tribal, and any other applicable guidelines for social distancing and best practices to ensure the safety of those in attendance.

To accommodate those who cannot or wish not to attend in-person hearings due to COVID-19 concerns, the Air Force will host a virtual public hearing. The following Internet address will allow members of the public to see and hear the presentation and listen to public comments: <https://edge.media-server.com/mmc/p/wzodjiro>. For

optimal viewing, please connect directly to the Internet (without VPN). Please also disable your pop-up blockers to view the content in its entirety. The virtual public hearing can also be accessed by calling the following toll-free number: **(888) 869-1189** and entering the conference ID: **5765023**. Telephone access will also allow participants to hear the Air Force presentation and listen to public comments.

Those interested in offering verbal comments about the Draft EIS analysis at the virtual hearing must call the toll-free number. Instructions on how to register to make a public comment will be given during the hearing. You can preregister for telephone access any time before the hearing through Direct Event online registration:

**<http://www.directeventreg.com/registration/event/5765023>**. Otherwise, telephone access will be available 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of the virtual hearing. Participants may register to make a public comment during the virtual hearing up until the formal comment session concludes and the hearing is officially adjourned.

To request a hardcopy of the virtual hearing presentation, or if you need to request accommodation to access the audio portion of the presentation, or need additional accommodation to make a telephone comment (per the Americans with Disabilities Act), please submit your request at the project website:

**<https://www.mountainhomeafbairspaceeis.com>**, or contact Mountain Home AFB Public Affairs at: **[366fw.mountainhomeafbeis@us.af.mil](mailto:366fw.mountainhomeafbeis@us.af.mil)** no later than one week prior to the hearing date.

Additional information about the public hearings, how to participate, and an electronic copy of the Draft EIS can be found on the project website.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday, July 26</b> <b>Grand View, Idaho</b> <b>Grand View Elementary School, 205 1st Street</b> <b>5 – 8 p.m. Mountain Time</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, July 27</b> <b>Virtual Hearing</b> Preregister for telephone access any time before the virtual hearing: <b><a href="http://www.directeventreg.com/registration/event/5765023">http://www.directeventreg.com/registration/event/5765023</a></b> To access the virtual hearing: <b>Telephone: (888) 869-1189, Conference ID: 5765023</b> <b>Online: <a href="https://edge.media-server.com/mmc/p/wzodjiro">https://edge.media-server.com/mmc/p/wzodjiro</a></b> <b>5 – 8 p.m. Pacific Time (6 – 9 p.m. Mountain Time)</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday, July 28</b> <b>Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley Indian Reservation Tribal HQ</b> <b>1036 Idaho State Highway 51 (on the Idaho-Nevada border)</b> <b>5 – 8 p.m. Pacific Time (6 – 9 p.m. Mountain Time)</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday, July 29</b> <b>Boise, Idaho</b> <b>The Riverside Hotel, 2900 West Chinden Boulevard</b> <b>5 – 8 p.m. Mountain Time</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Your input is valuable and assists the Air Force in making better-informed decisions.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Where to Obtain the Draft EIS</b></p>

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS can be obtained through the project website: <https://www.mountainhomeafbairspaceeis.com>. Copies of the Draft EIS will be available for review at the following public libraries after July 9, 2021:

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation Tribal HQ 1036 Idaho State Highway 51 Owyhee, NV 89832	Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes Tribal Headquarters 111 North Reservation Road McDermitt, NV 89421
Boise Main Library 715 South Capitol Boulevard Boise, ID 83702	Mountain Home Public Library 790 North 10th East Street Mountain Home, ID 83647
Eastern Owyhee County Library 520 Boise Avenue Grand View, ID 83624	McDermitt Branch Library 175 South U.S. Highway 95 McDermitt, NV 89421

### Public Comments and Questions

Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted verbally at the virtual public hearing, verbally or in writing at the in-person hearings, electronically at:

<https://www.mountainhomeafbairspaceeis.com>, or by mailing written comments via U.S. Postal Service, UPS, or FedEx to: Mountain Home AFB Airspace Optimization EIS, c/o Leidos, 2109 Air Park Road SE, Ste 200, Albuquerque, NM 87106.

Inquiries or requests for additional information should be directed to Mountain Home Airspace Optimization EIS Project Manager, Robin Divine: (210) 925-2730.

*The Air Force will accept comments at any time during the environmental analysis process. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight. To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Final EIS, please submit comments by August 23, 2021.*