

Draft

**Programmatic
Environmental
Impact
Statement for
Northern Border
Activities**



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16

ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | 212 | Laurentian Mixed Forest Province (ecoregion) |
| 3 | 221 | Eastern Broadleaf Forest (Oceanic) Province (ecoregion) |
| 4 | 222 | Eastern Broadleaf Forest (Temperate) Province (ecoregion) |
| 5 | 242 | Pacific Lowland Mixed Forest Province (ecoregion) |
| 6 | 251 | Prairie Parkland (Temperate) Province (ecoregion) |
| 7 | 331 | Great Plains Palouse Dry Steppe Province (ecoregion) |
| 8 | 332 | Great Plains Steppe Province (ecoregion) |
| 9 | 342 | Intermountain Semi-Desert Province (ecoregion) |
| 10 | AC | alternating current |
| 11 | ACE | Automated Commercial Environment |
| 12 | ACM | asbestos-containing material |
| 13 | AEW | airborne early warning |
| 14 | AFOSH | Air Force Occupational Safety and Health |
| 15 | AGL | above ground level |
| 16 | AIRFA | American Indian Religious Freedom Act |
| 17 | ALARA | as low as reasonably achievable |
| 18 | ANS | aquatic nuisance species |
| 19 | ANSI | American National Standards Institute |
| 20 | APE | area of potential effect |
| 21 | APHIS | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service |
| 22 | APIS | Advance Passenger Information System |
| 23 | AQCR | Air Quality Control Region |
| 24 | ARPA | Archaeological Resources Protection Act |
| 25 | ARRA | American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 |
| 26 | ASP | advanced spectroscopic portal |
| 27 | ATC | air traffic control |
| 28 | AT/FP | antiterrorism/force protection |
| 29 | ATS | Automated Targeting System |
| 30 | ATV | all-terrain vehicle |
| 31 | A/V | audio visual (equipment or communication) |
| 32 | AVHRR | advanced very high resolution radiometer |
| 33 | BACT | best available control technology |
| 34 | BAR | Bangor & Aroostook Railroad |
| 35 | BHP | Bureau for Historic Preservation |
| 36 | BIA | Bureau of Indian Affairs (DOI) |
| 37 | BLM | Bureau of Land Management (DOI) |
| 38 | BLS | Bureau of Labor Statistics (DOL) |

| | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 1 | BMP | best management practice |
| 2 | BOD | biochemical oxygen demand |
| 3 | BOR | Bureau of Reclamation (DOI) |
| 4 | BORTAC | Border Patrol Tactical Unit |
| 5 | BORSTAR | Border Patrol Search, Trauma and Rescue program |
| 6 | BP | Border Patrol |
| 7 | B.P. | before present |
| 8 | BPA | Border Patrol agents |
| 9 | BPF Guide | U.S. Border Patrol Facilities Design Guide |
| 10 | BPS | Border Patrol station |
| 11 | BSE | bovine spongiform encephalopathy |
| 12 | BSI | Border Safety Initiative |
| 13 | BTS | Bureau of Transportation Statistics (DOT) |
| 14 | C-E-Q | Causes-Effects-Questions |
| 15 | C-TPAT | Customs Trade Partnership against Terrorism |
| 16 | C&D | construction and demolition |
| 17 | ca. | circa |
| 18 | CAA | Clean Air Act |
| 19 | CAD | Civil Air Department |
| 20 | CARMA | Cultural Architectural Resources Management Archive |
| 21 | CASC | Customs Area Security Center, Customs Area Surveillance Center |
| 22 | CATEX | categorical exclusion |
| 23 | CBP | (U.S.) Customs and Border Protection |
| 24 | CBPO | (U.S.) Customs and Border Protection officer |
| 25 | CCC | Civilian Conservation Corps |
| 26 | CCEA | Canadian Council on Ecological Areas |
| 27 | CDL | commercial driver's license |
| 28 | CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| 29 | CERCLA | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act |
| 30 | CFL | computer for learning |
| 31 | CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| 32 | CIPM | Center for Invasive Plant Management |
| 33 | CLG | certified local governments |
| 34 | CMA | census metropolitan area |
| 35 | CMMI | construction, maintenance, and modernization of infrastructure |
| 36 | CO | carbon monoxide |
| 37 | CO ₂ | carbon dioxide |
| 38 | COA | Certificate of Waiver or Authorization process |

| | | |
|----|-------------------|--|
| 1 | COP | common operating picture |
| 2 | COTS | commercial off-the-shelf |
| 3 | CP | Ceramic Period |
| 4 | CPR | cardiopulmonary resuscitation |
| 5 | CPSC | Consumer Product Safety Commission |
| 6 | CRGIS | Cultural Resources Geographic Information System |
| 7 | CRM | cultural resource management |
| 8 | CRT | communication relay tower |
| 9 | ¹³⁷ Cs | cesium-137 |
| 10 | CSI | Container Security Initiative |
| 11 | CWA | Clean Water Act |
| 12 | CZM | Coastal Zone Management |
| 13 | CZMA | Coastal Zone Management Act |
| 14 | DAHP | Department of Archaeology & Historical Preservation |
| 15 | dB | decibel |
| 16 | dBA | A-weighted decibel |
| 17 | dBc | C-weighted decibel |
| 18 | DHS | Department of Homeland Security |
| 19 | DMM | discarded military munitions |
| 20 | DNL | day-night sound level |
| 21 | DOC | U.S. Department of Commerce |
| 22 | DOD | U.S. Department of Defense |
| 23 | DOE | U.S. Department of Energy |
| 24 | DOI | U.S. Department of the Interior |
| 25 | DOL | U.S. Department of Labor |
| 26 | DOT | U.S. Department of Transportation |
| 27 | e-CFR | Electronic Code of Federal Regulations |
| 28 | EA | Environmental Assessment |
| 29 | EC | Environment Canada |
| 30 | ECEC | employer costs for employee compensation (BLS) |
| 31 | EED | CBP Environmental and Energy Division |
| 32 | EIFS | Economic Impact Forecast System |
| 33 | EIHWHRMR | Export and Import of Hazardous Wastes and Hazardous Recyclable |
| 34 | | Materials Regulations |
| 35 | EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| 36 | EM | electromagnetic |
| 37 | EMS | environmental management system |
| 38 | ENSO | El Niño/Southern Oscillation |

| | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 1 | EO | Executive Order |
| 2 | EOE | Encyclopedia of Earth |
| 3 | EOR | East of the Rockies |
| 4 | EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| 5 | EPCRA | Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act |
| 6 | EPEAT | Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool |
| 7 | EPP | environmentally preferable purchasing |
| 8 | ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| 9 | ESCO | energy service company |
| 10 | ESCP | energy savings performance contract |
| 11 | ESP | Electronics Stewardship Plan |
| 12 | Esri | GIS mapping software and data company |
| 13 | ESU | evolutionary significant unit |
| 14 | FAA | Federal Aviation Administration (DOT) |
| 15 | FAR | Federal Acquisition Regulation |
| 16 | fc | foot candles |
| 17 | FCA | full compliance audit |
| 18 | FCC | Federal Communications Commission |
| 19 | FDA | Food and Drug Administration (U.S. Department of Health and Human |
| 20 | | Services) |
| 21 | FEC | Federal Electronics Challenge |
| 22 | FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| 23 | FEMP | Federal Energy Management Program |
| 24 | FHWA | Federal Highway Administration (DOT) |
| 25 | FL | flight level |
| 26 | FLETC | Federal Law Enforcement Training Center |
| 27 | FLIR | forward-looking infrared radar |
| 28 | FLPMA | Federal Land Policy and Management Act |
| 29 | FM&E | Facilities Management and Engineering |
| 30 | FMC | Federal Maritime Commission |
| 31 | FOB | forward operating base |
| 32 | FONSI | Finding of No Significant Impact |
| 33 | FP&F | finances, penalties, and forfeitures |
| 34 | FPPA | Farmland Protection Policy Act |
| 35 | ft | foot |
| 36 | FY | Federal fiscal year |
| 37 | GAO | U.S. Government Accountability Office |
| 38 | GCR | general conformity rule |

| | | |
|----|------------|--|
| 1 | GDP | gross domestic product |
| 2 | GHG | greenhouse gas |
| 3 | GIS | geographic information system |
| 4 | GM | General Motors |
| 5 | GFAFB | Grand Forks Air Force Base |
| 6 | GSA | U.S. General Services Administration |
| 7 | HAP | hazardous air pollutant |
| 8 | HBC | Hudson Bay Company |
| 9 | HEXRI | high-energy X-ray imaging scanner |
| 10 | HH&S | human health and safety |
| 11 | HME | hazardous materials endorsement |
| 12 | HPSB | high-performance sustainable building |
| 13 | HRSF | Historic Resource Survey Form |
| 14 | HVAC | heating, ventilation, and air conditioning |
| 15 | IAFIS | Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System |
| 16 | IBET | Integrated Border Enforcement Team |
| 17 | ICE | U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement |
| 18 | ICT | Intelligence Coordination Team |
| 19 | ID | Idaho |
| 20 | IDA | intentional destructive act |
| 21 | IDFG | Idaho Fish and Game |
| 22 | IDSHPO | Idaho State Historic Preservation Office |
| 23 | IEEE | Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers |
| 24 | IL | Illinois |
| 25 | IN | Indiana |
| 26 | IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| 27 | IPT | Integrated Project Team |
| 28 | ISHS | Idaho State Historical Society |
| 29 | ISMA | International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association |
| 30 | ITAM | Integrated Training Area Management |
| 31 | kW | kilowatt |
| 32 | LBP | lead-based paint |
| 33 | LEED | Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design |
| 34 | Leq | equivalent sound level |
| 35 | linac | linear accelerator |
| 36 | LOS | level of service |
| 37 | LPOE | land port of entry |
| 38 | LPOE Guide | U.S. Land Port of Entry Design Guide |

| | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 1 | LRT | long-range tracker |
| 2 | LSU | Louisiana State University |
| 3 | M212 | Adirondack New England Mixed Forest Coniferous Forest Alpine Meadow |
| 4 | | Province (ecoregion) |
| 5 | M242 | Cascade Mixed Forest Coniferous Forest Alpine Meadow Province |
| 6 | | (ecoregion) |
| 7 | M332 | Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe Coniferous Forest Alpine Meadow |
| 8 | | Province |
| 9 | M333 | Northern Rocky Mountain Steppe Coniferous Forest Alpine Meadow |
| 10 | | Province |
| 11 | MBTA | Migratory Bird Treaty Act |
| 12 | MC | munitions constituents |
| 13 | MDA | Maritime Domain Awareness |
| 14 | ME | Maine |
| 15 | ME DIFW | Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife |
| 16 | MEC | munitions and explosives of concern |
| 17 | MET | Maritime Enforcement Team |
| 18 | mgd | million gallons per day |
| 19 | MHPC | Maine Historic Preservation Commission |
| 20 | MI | Michigan |
| 21 | MI DNRE | Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment |
| 22 | MISHPO | Michigan State Historic Preservation Office |
| 23 | MMBtu/hr | million British thermal units per hour |
| 24 | MMPA | Marine Mammal Protection Act |
| 25 | MN | Minnesota |
| 26 | MN DNR | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources |
| 27 | MNDOT | Minnesota Department of Transportation |
| 28 | MNSHPO | Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office |
| 29 | MOU | memorandum of understanding |
| 30 | MPE | maximum permissible exposure |
| 31 | mph | miles per hour |
| 32 | MPS | multiple property submissions |
| 33 | MRLC | Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium |
| 34 | MRZ | machine-readable zone |
| 35 | MSA | metropolitan statistical area |
| 36 | MSS | mobile surveillance system |
| 37 | MT | Montana |
| 38 | MT FWP | Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks |
| 39 | mtCO ₂ e | metric ton carbon dioxide equivalent |

| | | |
|----|-------------------|---|
| 1 | MTSHPO | Montana State Historic Preservation Office |
| 2 | NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| 3 | NAFTA | North American Free Trade Agreement |
| 4 | NAGPRA | Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act |
| 5 | NAS | National Airspace, National Airspace System |
| 6 | National Register | National Register of Historic Places |
| 7 | NCS | National Compensation Survey |
| 8 | ND | North Dakota |
| 9 | ND GFD | North Dakota Game and Fish Department |
| 10 | NDSHPO | North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office |
| 11 | NE | New England |
| 12 | NESHAPS | National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants |
| 13 | NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| 14 | NESHAPs | National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants |
| 15 | NEXUS | [Not an acronym. A NEXUS card is a kind of travel document.] |
| 16 | NH | New Hampshire |
| 17 | NHC | National Heritage Corridor |
| 18 | NHFGD | New Hampshire Fish and Game Department |
| 19 | NHL | National Historic Landmark |
| 20 | NHP | National Heritage Partnership |
| 21 | NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| 22 | NHSHPO | New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office |
| 23 | NII | nonintrusive inspection |
| 24 | NLCD | National Land Cover Data |
| 25 | NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service (within NOAA) |
| 26 | NNSR | nonattainment new source review (under the Clean Air Program) |
| 27 | NO ₂ | nitrogen dioxide |
| 28 | NOAA | National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration |
| 29 | NOB | Northern Border |
| 30 | NOHVCC | National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council |
| 31 | NOI | Notice of Intent |
| 32 | NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| 33 | NPS | National Park Service (DOI) |
| 34 | NPWRC | Northern Prairie Wildlife Resource Center (USGS) |
| 35 | NRC | Natural Resources Canada, Nuclear Regulatory Commission |
| 36 | NCRP | National Council of Radiation Protection and Measurements |
| 37 | NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA) |
| 38 | NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |

| | | |
|----|----------------|--|
| 1 | NRL | National Register listed |
| 2 | NSPS | New Source Performance Standards |
| 3 | NSR | new source review |
| 4 | NTC | National Targeting Center |
| 5 | NTIA | National Telecommunications and Information Administration (U.S. |
| 6 | | Department of Commerce) |
| 7 | NWR | National Wildlife Refuge |
| 8 | NY | New York |
| 9 | NYOPRHP | New York Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation |
| 10 | NYSDEC | New York State Department of Environmental Conservation |
| 11 | NYSHPO | New York State Historic Preservation Office |
| 12 | NYSOS | New York State Ornithological Society |
| 13 | O ₃ | ozone |
| 14 | OA | Office of Administration (CBP) |
| 15 | OAM | Office of Air and Marine (CBP) |
| 16 | OECD | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| 17 | OES | Occupational Employment Statistics Survey |
| 18 | OFO | Office of Field Operations |
| 19 | OH | Ohio |
| 20 | Ohio DNR | Ohio Department of Natural Resources |
| 21 | OHSHP | Ohio State Historic Preservation Office |
| 22 | OHV | off-highway vehicle |
| 23 | OIC | Operational Integration Centers |
| 24 | OIT | Office of Information Technology |
| 25 | OPSG | Operation Stonegarden |
| 26 | ORV | off-road vehicle |
| 27 | OSHA | Occupational Safety and Health Act, Occupational Safety and Health |
| 28 | | Administration |
| 29 | OSPP | Operational Sustainability Performance Plan |
| 30 | OSTP | Office of Science and Technology Policy |
| 31 | OTIA | Office of Technology, Innovation, and Acquisition |
| 32 | PA | Pennsylvania |
| 33 | PA DCNR | Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources |
| 34 | PASHPO | Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office |
| 35 | Pb | lead |
| 36 | PCBs | polychlorinated biphenyls |
| 37 | PDO | Pacific Decadal Oscillation |
| 38 | PEIS | Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement |
| 39 | PHMC | Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission |

| | | |
|----|--------------------|--|
| 1 | PM | particulate matter |
| 2 | PM _{2.5} | Particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less |
| 3 | PM ₁₀ | Particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less |
| 4 | PMO | Project Management Office |
| 5 | POE | port of entry |
| 6 | POL | petroleum, oil, and lubricants |
| 7 | POV | privately owned vehicle |
| 8 | PRD | personal radiation detector |
| 9 | PRMS | Program Reporting Management System |
| 10 | PRPA | Paleontological Resources Preservation Act |
| 11 | PS | Paleontological Society |
| 12 | PSA | paleontological study area |
| 13 | PSAC | Puget Sound Agricultural Society |
| 14 | PSD | prevention of significant deterioration |
| 15 | PTE | potential to emit |
| 16 | PUD | public utilities district |
| 17 | R&A | repairs and alterations |
| 18 | R2 | Responsible Recyclers |
| 19 | RCMP | Royal Canadian Mounted Police |
| 20 | RCRA | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act |
| 21 | REC | Record of Environmental Consideration |
| 22 | RF | radio frequency |
| 23 | RFID | radio-frequency identification devices |
| 24 | RIID | radiation isotope identification device |
| 25 | ROD | Record of Decision |
| 26 | ROI | return on investment |
| 27 | ROW | right of way |
| 28 | RPR | request for project review |
| 29 | RTLA | Range and Training Land Assessment |
| 30 | RVSS | remote video surveillance system |
| 31 | SARA | Species at Risk Act (Canada) |
| 32 | SAV | submerged aquatic vegetation |
| 33 | SAW | Secure Access Washington |
| 34 | SBI | Secure Border Initiative |
| 35 | SBI ^{net} | Secure Border Initiative Intelligence Network |
| 36 | SCRAP | State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program |
| 37 | SDWA | Safe Drinking Water Act |
| 38 | SEL | sound exposure level |

| | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 1 | SENTRI | Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection |
| 2 | SEQRA | State Environmental Quality Review Act |
| 3 | sf | square feet |
| 4 | SHPO | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| 5 | SIP | State Implementation Plan |
| 6 | SO ₂ | sulfur dioxide |
| 7 | SOW | scope of work |
| 8 | SPCCP | spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan |
| 9 | SPHINX | State Preservation Historical Information Network Exchange |
| 10 | SUV | sport-utility vehicle |
| 11 | SVP | Society of Vertebrate Paleontology |
| 12 | SWPPP | storm water pollution prevention plan |
| 13 | T&D | transmission and distribution |
| 14 | T&E | threatened and endangered (species) |
| 15 | TCP | traditional cultural properties |
| 16 | THPO | Tribal Historic Preservation Officer |
| 17 | TNC | The Nature Conservancy |
| 18 | tpy | tons per year |
| 19 | TR | thematic resource |
| 20 | TRM | Technology Reference Model |
| 21 | TSCA | Toxic Substances Control Act |
| 22 | TSS | total suspended solids |
| 23 | TWS | The Wildlife Society |
| 24 | U.S. | United States |
| 25 | UAS | unmanned aircraft system |
| 26 | UAV | unmanned aerial vehicle |
| 27 | UCMP | University of California Museum of Paleontology |
| 28 | UESC | utility energy service contract |
| 29 | UGS | unattended ground sensor |
| 30 | UIC | Underground Injection Control |
| 31 | UMF ARC | University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center |
| 32 | USACE | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| 33 | USAF | U.S. Air Force |
| 34 | USBP | United States Border Patrol |
| 35 | USC | United States Code |
| 36 | USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| 37 | USFS | United States Forest Service (USDA) |
| 38 | USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |

| | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1 | USGBC | U.S. Green Building Council |
| 2 | USGCRP | United States Global Change Research Program |
| 3 | USGS | U.S. Geological Survey |
| 4 | US-VISIT | United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indication Technology |
| 5 | UXO | unexploded ordnance |
| 6 | VDHP | Vermont Division for Historic Preservation |
| 7 | VHS | viral hemorrhagic septicemia |
| 8 | VOC | volatile organic compound |
| 9 | VRM | visual resource management |
| 10 | VT | Vermont |
| 11 | VT FWD | Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department |
| 12 | VTSHPO | Vermont State Historic Preservation Office |
| 13 | WA | Washington (State) |
| 14 | WA DFW | Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| 15 | WAC | Washington Administrative Code |
| 16 | WHTI | Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative |
| 17 | WI | Wisconsin |
| 18 | WI DNR | Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources |
| 19 | WISAARD | Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological |
| 20 | | Research Data |
| 21 | WISHPO | Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office |
| 22 | WMA | Wildlife Management Area |
| 23 | WOR | West of the Rockies |
| 24 | WPA | Works Progress Administration |
| 25 | WSA | Wilderness Study Area |
| 26 | WWF | World Wildlife Fund |
| 27 | ⁶⁰ Co | cobalt-60 |
| 28 | | |



Executive Summary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a component of the, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), proposes to enhance its program of security along the United States' Northern Border with Canada, from Maine to Washington. CBP has prepared this Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to address the potential impacts of those enhancements.

CBP is charged with the dual mission of securing the Nation's borders while facilitating legitimate trade and travel through the legal ports of entries (POEs). CBP enforces customs, immigration, agriculture, and numerous other laws and regulations at the Nation's borders. Its priority is to prevent terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the United States, but it is responsible for deterring all cross-border violations, including illegal immigration and the trafficking of human beings, narcotics, and other contraband. As the guardian of U.S. borders, CBP protects the border between the United States and Canada, 1,900 miles of international border with Mexico, and the 95,000 miles of shoreline in the contiguous United States. (Note: Although CBP operates POEs along the border between Alaska and Canada, this PEIS looks at just the 4,000-mile contiguous border from Maine to Washington, referred to in this document as the "Northern Border.")

This PEIS was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It focuses on broad actions. It provides a reference document for future site- and project-specific NEPA documentation (tiering) that will analyze effects of CBP proposals along the Northern Border. CBP will continue to comply with NEPA while carrying out its mission, and this document is part of that process.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide CBP with the flexibility to expand or alter its activities as needed to maintain effective control of the Northern Border in response to changes in priorities along that border. The proposed action is needed to better enable CBP agents and officers to operate in support of the CBP mission to safeguard the Nation. Improved border security will exist when CBP is able to stay abreast of current border activities; that is, to maintain situational awareness, determine the level of threat involved in given situations, and work in collaborative partnerships with local, state, and tribal law enforcement partners. To provide the needed flexibility, CBP is evaluating alternative approaches, including making changes to the mixture and amount of operations, facilities, tactical infrastructure, and technology implemented along the Northern Border through the Office of Field Operations (OFO), the United States Border Patrol (USBP), and the Office of Air and Marine (OAM). To provide the needed flexibility, CBP is evaluating alternative approaches, including making changes to the mixture of operations, and the type and amount of technology implemented along the Northern Border, through the Office of Field Operations (OFO), the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), and the Office of Air and Marine (OAM). CBP prepared this PEIS to address the potential impacts of these changes with respect to the evolution of environmental conditions since CBP's inception in March 2003.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

CBP is committed to continued public involvement under NEPA. On July 6, 2010, CBP published in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) (75 FR 38822) to prepare individual PEISs for four regions along the Northern Border. After conducting a public scoping process, CBP determined that it would be preferable to produce one document covering the entire Northern Border to ensure that CBP effectively analyzes and conveys impacts that occur across the region of the Northern Border. Therefore, CBP published a second Notice on November 9, 2010, (75 FR 68810) stating that a single PEIS would be prepared for the entire Northern Border. The PEIS analyzes impacts for four regions and also summarizes impacts for the Northern Border as a whole.

A series of 11 public scoping meetings were held along the Northern Border, 6 during the week of July 12, 2010, and 5 during the week of July 19, 2010. Scoping letters were sent to approximately 1,200 agencies, organizations, and individuals. The letters described the proposed project and invited comments in response. Display advertisements were published in local newspapers and public service announcements were sent to radio stations making the public aware of the meetings and the public scoping program. The results of the scoping process, including public input, are provided in Appendix A.

Scoping comments were received at the public meetings, as well as through e-mails, faxes, phone calls, and posted letters. A total of 223 communications were received during the public scoping process.

CBP also invited the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Law Enforcement and Security and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to be cooperating agencies and requesting their participation in the preparation of the PEIS.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

To ensure its continued effectiveness protecting the United States from existing and evolving threats to the Nation's physical and economic security, and to facilitate legitimate trade and travel, CBP is proposing changes to the mixture of facilities, operations, tactical infrastructure, and technology implemented along the Northern Border through its uniformed law enforcement components: OFO, USBP, and OAM.

ALTERNATIVES

This document considers several alternative ways for CBP to address the purpose and need; that is, to maintain effective control of the Northern Border. These alternatives emphasize emerging technologies and increased use of security measures; at the same time, they continue to deploy existing CBP personnel in the most effective manner and to maintain officer safety. Indeed, one of the principal aims of each alternative is to leverage CBP personnel; that is, to provide CBP personnel with the tools or assets necessary to maximize their effectiveness in securing the Nation's borders. Following are several alternatives under consideration. Implicit in each alternative is the concept that strong partnerships remain a central component of CBP's Northern Border strategy. The use of partnerships is and will continue to be common to all alternatives outlined below. It will always be a program direction because it is efficient and effective.

1 The No Action Alternative, or status quo, would be to continue with the same facilities,
2 technology, infrastructure, and approximate level of personnel currently in use, deployed, or
3 currently planned by CBP. Normal maintenance of existing facilities is included in this
4 alternative. This alternative would not fully meet the need for the proposed program because it
5 would not allow CBP to improve its capability to interdict cross-border violators or to identify
6 and resolve threats at the POEs in a manner that avoids adverse effects on legal trade and travel.
7 However, it is evaluated in this PEIS because it provides a baseline against which the impacts of
8 the other reasonable alternatives can be compared.

9 The Facilities Development and Improvement Alternative would focus on replacing or providing
10 new permanent facilities, such as Border Patrol stations, housing, and other facilities, or making
11 major modifications to permanent facilities, such as POEs, to allow agents, officers, and
12 agricultural specialists within CBP to operate more efficiently and respond to situations more
13 quickly. This alternative also includes the construction of temporary or long-term facilities such
14 as forward operating bases (FOBs) and checkpoints, and other facilities necessary to support
15 CBP law enforcement agents and officers as they carry out operational duties. This alternative
16 would help meet the need for the proposed program because the new and improved facilities
17 would make it more difficult for cross-border violators to cross the border. It would also divert
18 traffic from or increase the capacity of the more heavily used POEs; this would decrease waiting
19 times. The applicability of this alternative would be limited, as most roads crossing the Northern
20 Border already have a POE.

21 The Detection, Inspection, Surveillance, and Communications Technology Expansion
22 Alternative would focus on deploying more effective surveillance and communications
23 technologies in support of CBP activities. It would include improvements to the identification
24 and inspection technologies used by OFO and USBP. It would include continuing intelligence
25 network developments and other Office of Technology, Innovation, and Acquisition (OTIA) and
26 Office of Information Technology (OIT) technological developments and plans. These plans
27 involve fielding upgraded surveillance and telecommunications systems (e.g., remote sensors,
28 short-range radar, remote and mobile video surveillance and communications systems, new
29 camera systems, and upgrades to stationary communications systems) that would enable USBP
30 and OAM to focus their efforts on identified threat areas, improve agent and officer
31 communication systems, and deploy personnel to resolve incidents with maximum efficiency.
32 This alternative would help meet the need for the proposed program by improving CBP's
33 situational awareness and allowing it to more efficiently and effectively direct its resources for
34 interdicting cross-border violators.

35 The Tactical Security Infrastructure Deployment Alternative would focus on constructing
36 additional barriers, access roads, and related facilities. The barriers would include selective
37 fencing and vehicle barriers at selected points along the border and would deter and delay cross-
38 border violators. The access roads and related facilities would increase the mobility of USBP
39 agents, enhancing their capabilities for surveillance and response to international border
40 violations. This alternative would help meet the need for the proposed program to discourage
41 cross-border violators and improve CBP's capability to respond.

42 The Flexible Direction Alternative would allow CBP to follow any of the above directions either
43 across the entire border or in a particular region based on what would be most effective in

responding to a changing threat environment along the Northern Border. It is impossible to predict what measures will be needed at any point in time, and the needed mix is likely to change constantly because the threat environment changes constantly. Accordingly, the Flexible Direction Alternative would allow CBP to pursue the optimal mix of facilities, technology, and tactical infrastructure in order to respond to the changing environment and allow CBP personnel to be deployed in the most effective manner possible.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

In compliance with NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and the DHS Directive (D) 023-01 *Environmental Planning Program*, this PEIS describes the existing environmental conditions potentially affected by the proposed action, as well as the potential environmental impacts of implementing the alternatives. Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the PEIS explain the analytical methodology. Analyzing program directions as proposed action alternatives allows for comparison of the impacts of each measure in different geographic settings. Analyses will show that some measures are better suited than others to each geographic area. This will assist CBP in developing planning guidelines for its operations and facilities. Table ES-1 summarizes the potential impacts anticipated under each alternative considered, broken down by resource area or impact topic for the entire Northern Border. Chapters 4 through 7 of this PEIS evaluate these impacts for each of the four regions.

Table ES-1. Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts by Alternative

| Resource Area | Alternatives | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------|
| | No Action | Facilities Development and Improvement | Detection, Inspection, Surveillance, and Communications Technology Expansion | Tactical Security Infrastructure Deployment | Flexible Direction |
| Air quality | Minor | minor | minor | minor | minor |
| Biological resources | minor, moderate | minor, moderate | minor, | minor, moderate | minor, moderate |
| Geology and soils | negligible, minor, moderate | minor, moderate | minor, moderate | minor, moderate | minor, moderate |
| Water resources | Minor | minor | minor | minor | minor |
| Noise | Minor | minor, moderate | minor | minor | minor, moderate |
| Climate change | beneficial, negligible, minor | beneficial, minor, | beneficial, minor, | beneficial, minor, | beneficial, minor, |
| Land use | Moderate | moderate | minor | moderate | moderate |
| Aesthetic and visual resources | Minor | minor | negligible | minor | minor |
| Socioeconomic resources | Moderate | moderate | moderate | moderate | moderate |

| Resource Area | Alternatives | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| | No Action | Facilities Development and Improvement | Detection, Inspection, Surveillance, and Communications Technology Expansion | Tactical Security Infrastructure Deployment | Flexible Direction |
| Cultural and paleontological resources | beneficial, minor, moderate, major | beneficial, minor, moderate, major | beneficial, minor, moderate, major | beneficial, minor, moderate, major | beneficial, minor, moderate, major |
| Environmental justice and protection of children | negligible, minor | negligible, minor | minor | negligible, minor | minor |
| Human health and safety | beneficial, minor, moderate | beneficial, minor, moderate | beneficial, minor, moderate | beneficial, minor, moderate | beneficial, minor, moderate |
| Hazardous materials | beneficial, minor | negligible, minor | negligible, minor | negligible | negligible, minor |
| Utilities and infrastructure | Negligible | negligible | negligible | negligible | negligible |
| Roadways and traffic | minor, major | minor, major | minor | minor, major | minor, major |
| Recreation | negligible, minor | minor, moderate | moderate | minor | moderate |