



Idaho Department of Commerce • Economic Development Division

Idaho Joint Land Use Study

Technical Working Group Summary Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area

May 20, 2009 • 10 a.m.

Introduction and Background

The Idaho Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) is a joint venture planning effort between the military, the Idaho Department of Commerce and area stakeholders. It involves identifying strategies and developing recommendations to encourage compatible land use planning around military installations, airfields, ranges and military-controlled airspace in southwestern Idaho. It is an 18-month study that will be complete in Fall 2009.

Two study areas are included: Idaho National Guard at Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area (OTA) and the Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) and Range Complex. Each area is guided by two committees of city, county, Air Force, Idaho National Guard and other stakeholders.

- The JLUS Technical Working Group identifies technical issues to assist in development and evaluation of JLUS strategies and tools.
- The JLUS Policy Committee guides development of the study, approves policy recommendations, approves draft and final reports, and monitors implementation of policies.

This document summarizes the fourth workshop of the JLUS Technical Working Group for Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area. The workshop was held at the Idaho Department of Commerce in Boise on May 20, 2009. Summaries of previous workshops, including the Fall 2008 and January 2009 committee workshops, the May 2009 workshop for the Gowen Field/OTA Policy Committee, and both Mountain Home Air Force Base committees, are available separately.

Prepared by: RBCI
For: Idaho Department of Commerce

Workshop Objectives & Format

The purpose of the workshops was to:

- Provide a study update
- Provide an overview of sections 1-4 of the study
- Discuss a timetable for reviewing the study
- Discuss results of land owner and public workshops

Committee members received an agenda and were seated at tables. Maps displayed in the conference room showed the study area, including land ownership, military training areas, land use and groundwater areas of concern. A PowerPoint presentation was provided.

Attendance

- Chris Rood, MSG/CC Air Guard
- Gary Moore, Idaho Department of Commerce
- Jay Gibbons, Ada County
- Tom Rasmussen, Idaho Army National Guard
- Charlie Chambers, Idaho Army National Guard
- Kate Langford, Idaho Dept. of Lands
- Bill Moore, USDA/NRLS SW Idaho RC&D
- Michael Truden, Bureau of Land Management
- Josh Johnson, City of Boise
- Bob Taunton, Elmore-Ada Water Project
- Bill Moore, Southwest Idaho RC & D/USDA-NRCS
- Gary Kuwabara, Office of Economic Adjustment
- Greg Seibert, Idaho Department of Commerce
- Gloria Mabbutt, Idaho Department of Commerce
- Rick Solander, Office of Economic Adjustment
- Rick Rust, Matrix Design Group
- Jon Vlaming, Matrix Design Group
- Chereen Langrill, RBCI

Workshop Highlights

Welcome and introductions

- Rick Rust, Matrix Design Group, introduced Gloria Mabbutt, Idaho Department of Commerce, Jon Vlaming from Matrix, and Gary Kuwabara from the Office of Economic Adjustment.
- Rick explained the meeting agenda and summarized Tuesday's public workshop.

Review of JLUS document

Rick explained that the meeting goal was to review sections 1-4 and discuss the type of input needed from the technical committee. In general:

- The group should consider the level of detail provided in the study.
- No additional studies were conducted as a part of the JLUS. All data came from existing documents.
- Yellow text boxes in the draft document will indicate questions for the committee.
- The goal is consensus.

- JLUS will result in a “to-do” list for every jurisdiction. Additional public hearings will be needed before JLUS can be implemented.
- Landowners are represented on technical committee.

Rick then reviewed each section of the JLUS document and highlighted items for discussion or input:

Section One: Introduction/Broad Picture

Section one covers the study boundaries and basic information about the JLUS process.

Section Two: Study Area Profile

Section two defines the areas included in the study and highlights profiles and trends from the areas.

Section Three: Compatibility Issues

Section three lists compatibility issues identified by the committees.

- Need committee’s feedback on missing issues. If problem isn’t identified, JLUS document won’t have a solution.

Section Four: Existing Plans and Programs

This section identifies tools already in place through agencies on the local and statewide level that address compatibility issues.

- This section will suggest modifications if needed.
- “Deficiencies” is a term in this section; just means areas that could be modified. Sometimes timeline isn’t effective or geographic boundaries need to be modified.

Section Five: Strategy

This section will discuss recommendations and a strategy. Section Five should be ready for review in July.

- JLUS document will only include strategies that are locally supported. Document is a recommendation only.

Committee Discussion

Rick reviewed the 25 strategies that will be included in Section 5 of the draft JLUS document. Committee members were encouraged to ask questions and give comments. Notable comments and follow-up discussion are summarized here.

OEA is considering a future plan that would allow implementation assistance. A coordinating committee, to help implement the JLUS, could be funded by an OEA grant.

Regarding the area planning approach for development areas: A Pleasant Valley Road Development is going to include a town square. Is there a way to go around the town square so the tank trail doesn’t go right through that center of development?

The tank trail can't be re-routed. That tank trail is part of the training. It is also important because the tank repair facility is located at Gowen, and that is the route tanks are transported on to reach the facility. It isn't feasible to move the tanks and the training school to the Orchard Training Area.

Questions and concerns about the tank trail are one of the most common issues from land owners.

Action items and next steps

- There will be a 30-day review for the JLUS document with a public workshop for comment. Committees will review the Q&As from the public.
- Committee members are available for another meeting in August. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are best.
- The first four sections will be circulated in late June or early July.
- Section 5 will be circulated the first week of July.
- Contact Gloria or Greg with questions.
- Summaries are public record, but will not include names.

Administrative Information

- The workshop PowerPoint will be placed on the study Web site: www.landusecompatibility.com. The site will be a major communication tool as the study progresses.
- Contact Gloria Mabbutt, Idaho Department of Commerce, with any questions or concerns. Call (208) 334-2650 ext. 2139 or e-mail gloria.mabbutt@community.idaho.gov.