



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## **Public Participation Plan**

**U.S. Army Yakima Training Center  
Denr Bldg 810, Yakima, WA 98901**

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*Facility Site ID: 105*

*Cleanup Site ID: 2301*

July 2020

Publication 20-04-027

# Publication and Contact Information

This plan is available on the Department of Ecology's [Yakima Training Center website](#).<sup>1</sup>

For more information, contact:

Central Regional Office  
1250 West Alder Street  
509-575-2490  
Union Gap, WA 98903-0009

## Additional Ecology Locations:

- Headquarters, Olympia: 360-407-6000
- Southwest Regional Office, Olympia: 360-407-6300
- Northwest Regional Office, Bellevue: 425-649-7000
- Eastern Regional Office, Spokane: 509-329-3400

## Español

El Departamento de Ecología está anunciando el periodo de comentario público relacionado a la limpieza ambiental del sitio U.S. Army Yakima Training Center. Para obtener este documento, o más información sobre este sitio, en español, favor de comunicarse con Gretchen Newman al 360-407-6097 o [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov).

## ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700 or email at [hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov). For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit [Ecology's website](#)<sup>2</sup> for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2301>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Our-website/Accessibility>

**Public Participation Plan**  
**U.S. Army Yakima Training Center**

Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program  
Central Region  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Union Gap, Washington

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## Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this public participation plan (plan) in cooperation with the U.S. Army (Army), the party responsible for cleanup costs. The plan's purpose is to promote meaningful community involvement during cleanup.

This plan describes ways Ecology will inform the public about contamination investigations and cleanup options during the cleanup process. We encourage you to learn about and get involved in decision-making opportunities. This plan identifies how and when you can get involved during different stages of the investigation and cleanup of contamination.

This plan is for cleanup activities at the U.S. Army Yakima Training Center (YTC) in Yakima and Kittitas Counties.

### Public Participation Grants

Neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site can apply for public participation grants. Grant funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help explain technical information.<sup>3</sup>
- Conduct activities that increase your understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process.

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Lynn Gooding at 360-407-6062 or [lynn.gooding@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lynn.gooding@ecy.wa.gov). You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant website](#).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor to provide citizens with technical assistance on issues related to site investigation and cleanup.

<sup>4</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants>

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## Site contacts

Comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods to be included in the site record. Questions, informal comments, or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

### Ecology

Tom Mackie, *Site Manager*  
Washington Department of Ecology  
1250 West Alder Street  
Union Gap, WA 98903-0009  
509-575-2803  
[thomas.mackie@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:thomas.mackie@ecy.wa.gov)

Janelle Anderson, *Community Outreach*  
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### U.S. Army

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Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA 98433  
253-477-3742  
[meseret.c.ghebreslassie.civ@mail.mil](mailto:meseret.c.ghebreslassie.civ@mail.mil)

## State and Federal Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities.

This public participation plan is required under MTCA. It provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State and sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment.

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## **Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)**

MTCA began as a grassroots citizen's initiative in 1988 and became law in 1989, when it started the process of systematically cleaning up contaminated sites in Washington. Under MTCA, a current or past property owner or operator may be held responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property to standards that are safe for human health and the environment.

We enact MTCA to oversee cleanups in the state and issue regulations and guidance governing those cleanups. The regulations are in [Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#).<sup>5</sup> We investigate reports of property contamination, and if the contamination is a threat to human health or the environment, the property is placed on the Hazardous Sites List and the cleanup process begins.

Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA process. Participation needs are assessed for each cleanup site based on the level of public interest and the degree of risk posed by the contamination. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government entities, other organizations, and interested parties have the opportunity to get involved by commenting on the cleanup process.

Under MTCA, the cleanup process generally includes five phases. Each phase includes an opportunity for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents.

## **RCRA and Hazardous Waste Regulations**

There are federal and state regulations governing hazardous waste management. The United States Congress enacted the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), an amendment to the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1976, to ensure safe management and disposal of municipal and industrial waste nationwide. RCRA has been amended several times, including in 1984 with the Hazardous and Solids Waste amendments that expanded the scope and requirements of RCRA.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/9406.pdf>



RCRA's goals are to:

- Protect human health and the environment.
- Reduce waste and conserve energy and natural resources.
- Reduce or eliminate generation of hazardous waste as quickly as possible.

**Cradle-to-grave** is a program established by RCRA Subtitle C that handles wastes from the moment of generation to their final disposal. Owners and operators of waste treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities must submit a permit application covering all aspects of design, operation, maintenance, and closure of the facility. RCRA requires owners and operators of these facilities to clean up contamination resulting from operations, including contamination from previous owners. We call these cleanup activities **corrective action**. RCRA requires permits for all facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous wastes.

In 1980, the Army submitted Part A of the permit application. This part listed what kinds, how much, and where hazardous wastes are generated at YTC.

In 1985, the Army submitted Part B of the RCRA application, requesting a permit for a new hazardous waste treatment unit: Range 14 Unserviceable Munitions Treatment Unit (UMTU). The UMTU was used to dispose of out-of-date ammunition at a firing range.



**Figure 1: Out-of-date ammunition disposal at YTC firing range site**

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In 2003, after a long public process, the Army decided to close the UMTU and not pursue a RCRA permit. Because the Army applied for a RCRA permit and operated the UMTU, it is subject to RCRA corrective action for the entire site. The new Permit for Corrective Action covers how the contamination at the site will be addressed.

Federal RCRA and state dangerous waste regulations require public participation throughout the permitting and cleanup of waste management facilities.

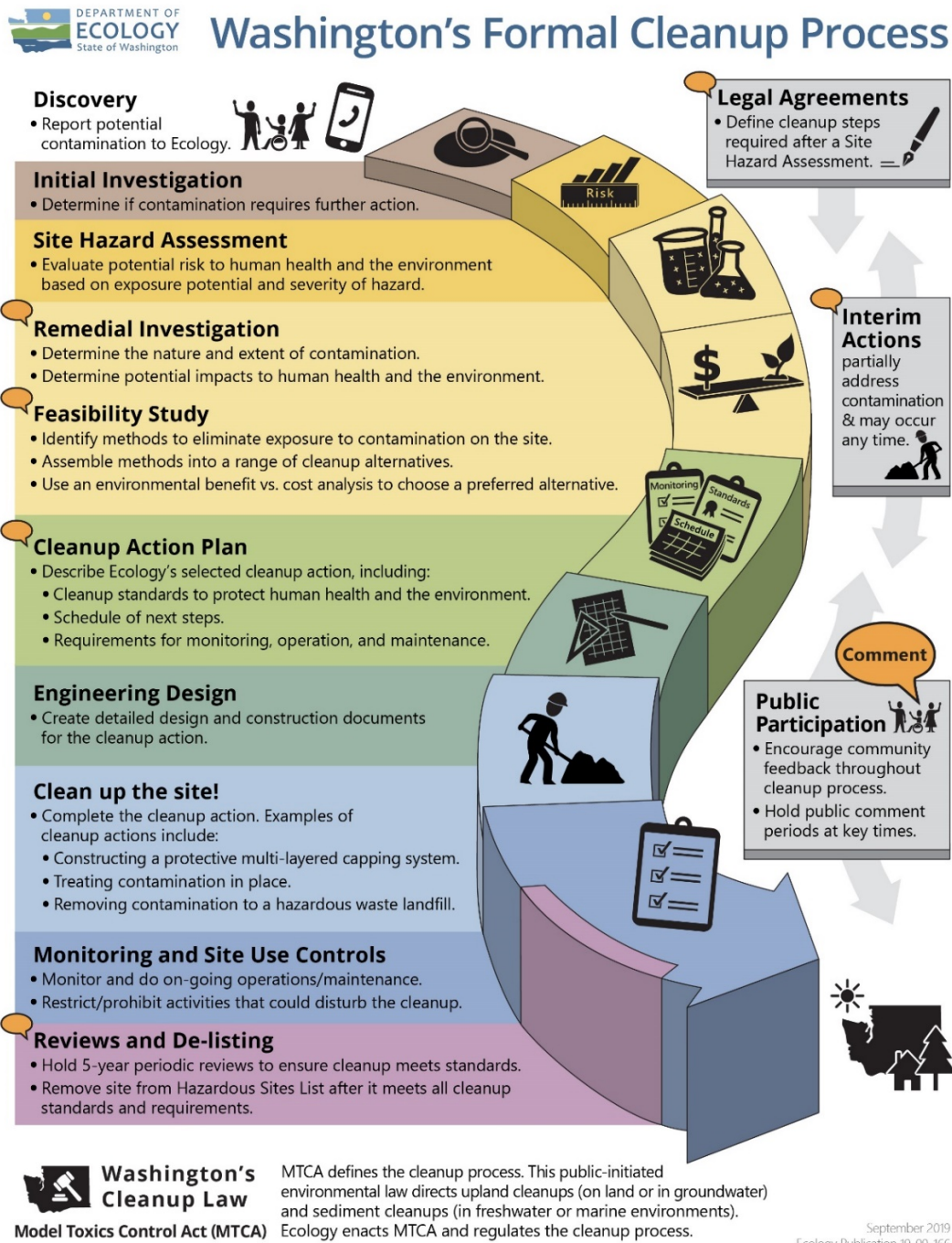


Figure 2: [Washington's Formal Cleanup Process Infographic](#)<sup>6</sup>

[Read a Plain Text version of Figure 2](#)<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1909166.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/parts/1909166part2.pdf>

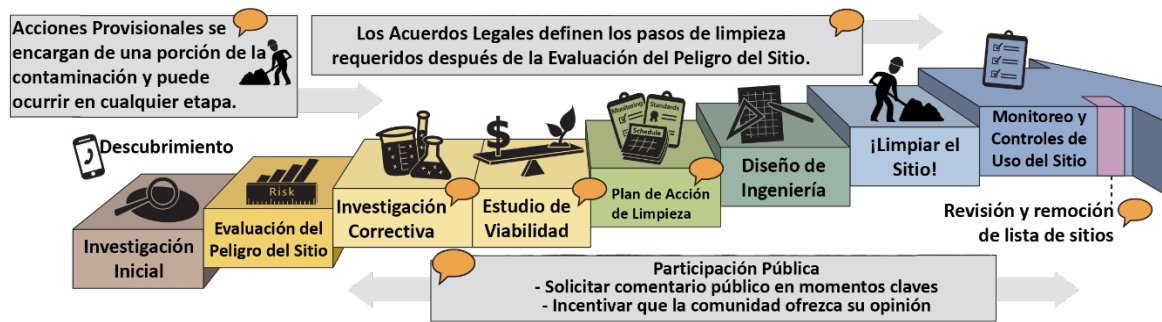


Figure 3: Formal Cleanup Process Infographic in Spanish

## State Environmental Policy Act

Ecology follows the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) during site cleanups. SEPA's purpose is to identify and evaluate large, negative environmental impacts likely to result from a proposed environmental action. For permit renewals, there is no SEPA determination because permit renewals are administrative processes.

## Site History

### Site background

Yakima Training Center provides training lands, range complexes, and facilities that enhance readiness for visiting units and organizations. The installation's customers include:

- Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Army National Guard units
- Special Operations Command
- Marine Corps
- Air Force
- Navy
- Coast Guard
- Local and federal Law Enforcement
- Allied forces from Canada and Japan

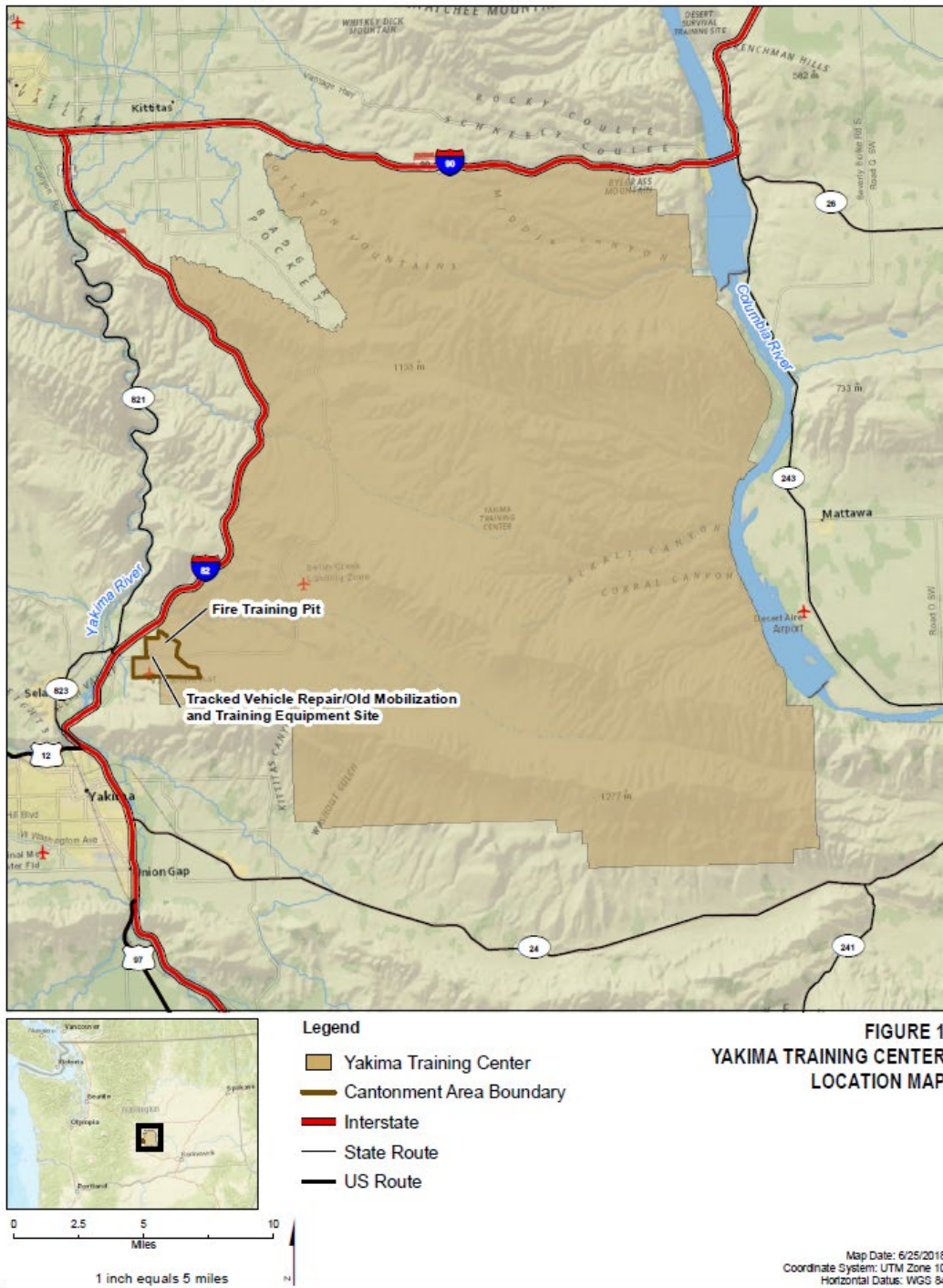


Figure 4: Yakima Training Center Location Map

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## Land use

YTC is a sub-installation of Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). It is located about 100 air miles east of JBLM and about 10 miles north of the city of Yakima. It covers 327,231 acres within Yakima and Kittitas Counties in central Washington State.

YTC's population is mostly visiting soldiers performing maneuvers and weapons training, with a few permanent residents and on-site workers.

U.S. military members have trained at YTC since 1941. The center has military and federal government tenants, including:

- Washington State's Army National Guard Materials and Training Equipment Site
- The Marine and Army Reserve Centers
- The Yakima Research Station

The United States is and has been the YTC owner since 1941, and JBLM is and has been the operator of the site's Dangerous Waste Management Facility since 1980.

## Contamination

Since 1980, the Army has operated YTC as a Dangerous Waste Management Facility. Although it has been in nearly continuous use since the early 1940s, there are few records of waste management practices prior to 1984.

Hazardous wastes were generated at YTC. The environmental problems to be addressed on site include releases (spills and leaks) of chemical products and toxic wastes from past military and maintenance operations, such as the use of:

- Petroleum-based fuels (gasoline, diesel, and Jet-A)
- Solvents (TCE, MEK, or other top contaminants of concern at the site)
- Lead-acid batteries (better known as "car batteries")
- Ordnance, explosives, and other pyrotechnics (unneeded or outdated ammunition and weapons)

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## Cleanup plans

A 1995 Facility Assessment report identified 115 known or potentially contaminated areas within YTC. These contaminated areas are mostly near the residential section (i.e. barracks). The residential section at YTC is near East Selah.

All areas were investigated and 80 percent of them were cleaned up by 2013. These cleanups occurred with Ecology oversight, but not under a legal order or decree. The [Draft RCRA Corrective Action Completion Report](#)<sup>8</sup> summarizes the investigation and cleanup of these areas.

There are still 21 areas at YTC pending investigation that either do not meet soil or groundwater cleanup standards. The current public comment period covers cleanup documents related to these areas including:

- The [U.S. Army Yakima Training Center Permit Lite 2020 DRAFT](#)<sup>9</sup>
- The [U.S. Army Yakima Training Center RCRA Agreed Order DRAFT](#)<sup>10</sup>
- This draft Public Participation Plan

## Area community

### Geography

YTC is located in the south central portion of the Washington state, bounded on the west by Interstate 82, on the south by the city of Yakima, on the north by the city of Ellensburg and Interstate 90, and on the east by the Columbia River.

The terrain is mostly rolling hills and mountains that consist of three east-west parallel ridges: Manastash Ridge, Umtanum Ridge, and Yakima Ridge. These ridges are all part of the Yakima Fold Belt near the western edge of the Columbia River Plateau.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/DocViewer.ashx?did=79741>

<sup>9</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/DocViewer.ashx?did=92508>

<sup>10</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/DocViewer.ashx?did=92509>



**Figure 5: Photograph of the Yakima Training Center as seen from the John Wayne Pioneer Trail**



**Figure 6: Google Map showing the U.S. Army Yakima Training Center location**

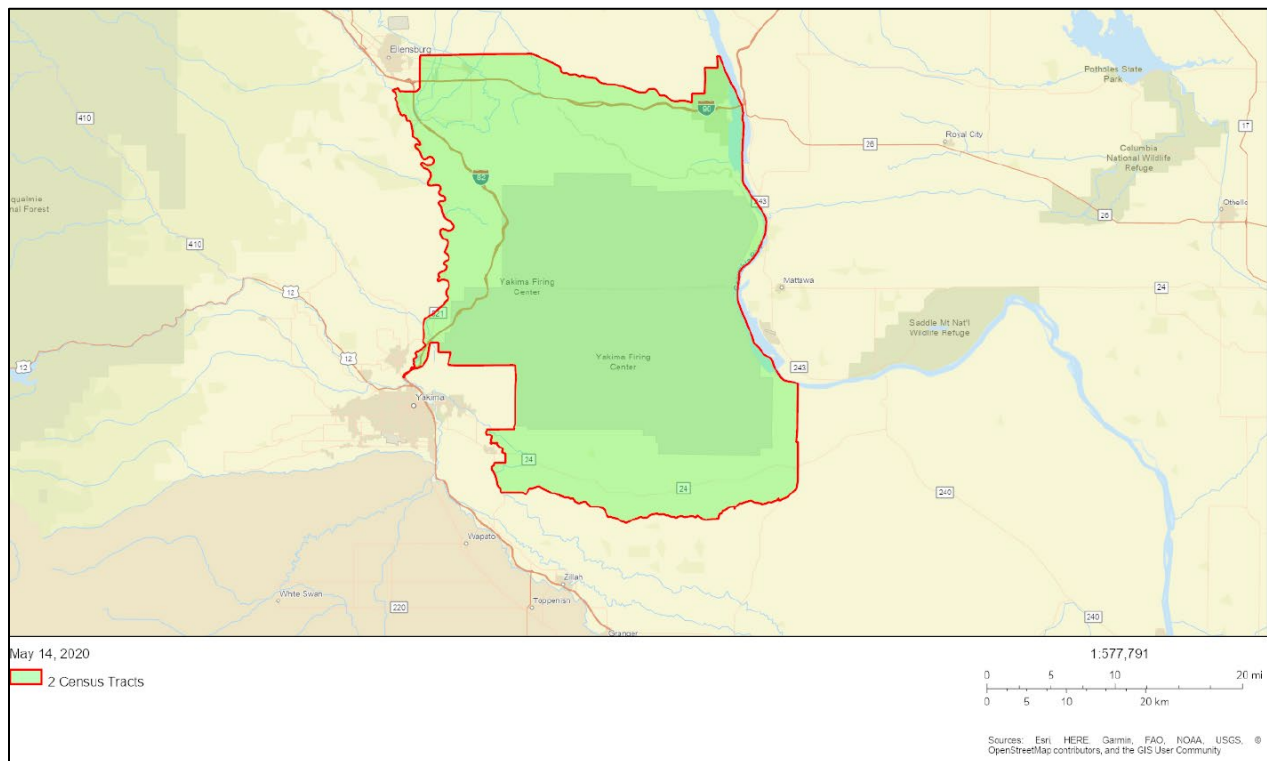


## Demographics

Below are the demographic indicators for the area around YTC, including the minority, low income, and linguistically isolated populations.

### Study area around YTC: 818.71 square miles (population 126,071)

Demographic Indicators	Value	State Average	Percentile in State
<b>Demographic Index</b>	27%	29%	54
<b>Minority Population</b>	24%	30%	47
<b>Low Income Population</b>	30%	28%	60
<b>Linguistically Isolated Population</b>	2%	4%	57
<b>Population with Less Than High School Education</b>	17%	9%	84
<b>Population Under 5 Years of Age</b>	6%	6%	50
<b>Population Over 64 Years of Age</b>	19%	14%	74



**Figure 7: Map showing the Yakima Training Center’s Environmental Justice (EJ) demographic screening boundaries.<sup>11</sup>**

<sup>11</sup> <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

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## **People of color and minority population**

Ecology ran a demographic analysis using EPA's Environmental Justice Screen (EJSCREEN) tool for YTC. The standard report suggests these indicators for environmental justice considerations:

- Linguistically isolated populations
- Populations with less than high school education

Census data from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) indicate the largest racial and ethnic population near YTC is Hispanic (1,391 people), making up 19% of the total population.

## **English language proficiency**

According to census data from 2013-2017, the population surrounding YTC includes non-English language groups who speak English less than "very well" and make up more than 6% of the population (or total more than 1,000 people). The top "non-English at home" spoken language is Spanish (1,335 people; about 19%).

## **Outreach activities and language access**

Our outreach will include contacting cultural community organizations and providing information in other languages following federal guidance.<sup>12</sup> Based on the demographic analysis, we will include the following outreach activities for this site:

- Contact cultural organizations and leaders in these communities.
- Provide information to request language services for all public materials.
- Provide basic information about this site in Spanish in all outreach materials.

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<sup>12</sup> Guidance to Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 69 Fed. Reg. § 35602 (June 15, 2004).

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- Translate all documents that are vital or critical to well-being for language groups that are either 5% of the population or more than 1,000 people.

To request translation services, please contact:

Janelle Anderson, *Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist*

Washington Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office

3190 160th Ave. SE

Bellevue, WA 98008

425-301-6454

[janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov)

## Public Participation Activities

You may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. You do not need to wait for a public comment period to contact us.

However, to be included in the official site record, you must submit your comments about the investigation or cleanup during formal comment periods. In addition, you can review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct way to learn more about the site and influence decision-making about the cleanup.

### How we share information with the community

At specific stages of the cleanup, we will mail notices about public comment periods to addresses surrounding the site. The mailing list area varies depending on the type of contamination and where it is located, but the list will at least include those addresses within a 1/4-mile of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices provide general information about the site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings (or how to request one if not yet scheduled).

We may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site. These informational documents will be available online and at

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document repositories. If we believe the message warrants the increased cost and resources, we will mail print copies to the nearby community.

Comment period notices and other site announcements may also be posted in various places in the community (for example local businesses, schools, and libraries).

## **Tribal communication**

The Yakama Nation Tribe is a federally recognized tribe in Yakima County. We will work with Yakama Nation on all decision-making processes for this site on a government-to-government basis.

## **Postal mailing list**

We maintain a mailing list that includes addresses near the site and relevant local, state, tribal, and federal government contacts. These addresses will receive public notices when draft documents are available for comment.

We will add individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list when asked. To be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or [janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov).

## **Site Register**

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in our [Site Register](#).<sup>13</sup> To receive the Site Register by email, please contact Sarah Kellington at 360-407-7466 or [sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov), or [subscribe online](#).<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data](http://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data)

<sup>14</sup> <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=siteregister&A=1>

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## Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and public events in newspaper display ads or legal notices. For this comment period, we will post an ad in the [Yakima Herald](https://www.yakimaherald.com/),<sup>15</sup> the [Ellensburg Daily Record](https://www.dailyrecordnews.com/),<sup>16</sup> [El Sol de Yakima](https://www.elsoldeyakima.com/),<sup>17</sup> and in the weekly newspapers put out by [NW Military News](https://www.northwestmilitary.com/news/).<sup>18</sup> We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing).<sup>19</sup>

## Email list for TSD facility updates

We have an email list to update interested people about TSD facilities in the state, including this site. If you would like to be added to that email list, please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or [janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov).

## Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the [U.S. Army Yakima Training Center site](https://www.usarmy-yakima.com/).<sup>20</sup> It provides site information and cleanup documents you can download.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our ECOconnect blog, and social media](#).<sup>21</sup>

## Document repositories

**In-person document review is not currently available due to Washington State's coronavirus response and Governor Inslee's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order.** You

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.yakimaherald.com/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.dailyrecordnews.com/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.elsoldeyakima.com/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.northwestmilitary.com/news/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

<sup>20</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/YTC>

<sup>21</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News>

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may review all documents regarding this site online at the [U.S. Army Yakima Training Center Ecology website](#).<sup>22</sup>

You can review documents at these locations when they re-open to the public:

Washington State Department of Ecology

Central Regional Office

1250 W. Alder St

Union Gap, WA

509-575-2490

To schedule an appointment, please contact Jackie Cameron at 509-575-2027 or [jackie.cameron@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jackie.cameron@ecy.wa.gov).

Yakima Valley Regional Library

102 N 3rd St

Yakima, 98901

509-452-8541

## **Signs around the cleanup site**

We may install signs with information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

## **How to share information with Ecology**

At minimum, MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for draft cleanup documents and 14-day comment periods for SEPA documents. SEPA documents are often available for public review with other cleanup documents. In that case, we combine the comment periods, and they last at least 30 days. We may hold comment periods longer than 30 days.

We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To talk with us

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<sup>22</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/YTC>

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about this site, please contact please contact Tom Mackie, Site Manager, at 509-575-2803 or [thomas.mackie@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:thomas.mackie@ecy.wa.gov).

**While the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is in effect, Ecology will not be hosting in-person public meetings or supporting physical document repositories. Documents for review will be available online only. If you need access to a hard copy document or have any other questions, please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or [janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov).**

## **Public comment periods**

Formal comment periods allow interested members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is enough interest, we may extend the public comment period. When we oversee SEPA determinations, we hold comment periods for at least two weeks and may extend them to 45 days or more when other cleanup documents are also available for review.

We publish all input received and respond to comments and questions at the end of all comment periods. If comments received during a comment period significantly change the cleanup documents, the documents are revised and re-issued for public review.

If the comments do not result in significant changes, they become final.

## **Public events**

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a meeting and 10 or more people request one, a meeting will take place. This may cause us to extend a public comment period so the meeting occurs during it.

Events happen at locations that are close to the site and meet ADA standards. Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings will be announced in advance using a variety of methods.

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At this time there are no public meetings scheduled for this comment period. To request a virtual public meeting, please call 425-301-6454 or email [janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov).

## **Americans with Disabilities Act**

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700 or email at [hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

**While the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is in effect, Ecology will not be hosting in-person public meetings.** Any online public meetings that are scheduled will meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. We will announce any public meetings, workshops, open houses, or hearings in advance.

## **Plan Amendments**

We developed this public participation plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or [janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov).

This plan includes information for the public about opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed in this section reflect Ecology's current plans for keeping the public informed and providing ways for those interested in the site to share their concerns and questions with us.

If you believe the planned outreach activities described in this plan are insufficient and would like them modified, we will work to find solutions. We are open to implementing new outreach activities or outreach tools, with or without amending this plan.



## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

**Table 1: List of abbreviations and acronyms**

Abbreviation or Acronym	Definition
<b>ACS</b>	American Community Survey
<b>ADA</b>	Americans with disabilities act
<b>AO</b>	Agreed Order
<b>Ecology</b>	Washington State Department of Ecology
<b>EJSCREEN</b>	Environmental Justice Screen
<b>EPA</b>	US Environmental Protection Agency
<b>FFS</b>	Focused feasibility study
<b>JBLM</b>	Joint Base Lewis-McChord
<b>MTCA</b>	Model Toxics Control Act
<b>Plan</b>	Public Participation Plan
<b>RCRA</b>	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
<b>SEPA</b>	State Environmental Policy Act
<b>Site</b>	Area where hazardous substances at the Facility are currently located
<b>TSD</b>	Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility
<b>UMTU</b>	Unserviceable Munitions Treatment Unit
<b>WAC</b>	Washington Administrative Code
<b>YTC</b>	U.S. Army Yakima Training Center