

Malmstrom Air Force Base **PUBLIC ADVISORY**

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Malmstrom AFB reaches out to landowners

MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont. – As a precursor to the planned modernization of the nation's Minuteman III Inter Continental Ballistic Missile system, the Air Force is conducting field surveys of the Malmstrom missile field to identify and document potential threatened and endangered species, wetlands, or archaeological areas of concern that may impact project planning and implementation. In March, right-of-entry request letters were sent to landowners who may have a portion of their property that may need to be accessed to conduct these surveys. The request is to allow the Air Force and its contractors to access private property to conduct the surveys. Preliminary analysis indicates more than 90 percent of new utility corridors would be on private land. This is preliminary fact-finding work that will inform the development of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Utility Corridors

Utility corridors would generally be aligned along established roads. These utility corridors would be in addition to the existing utilities connection to the Launch Facilities and Missile Alert Facilities. Activities along the utility corridors would require clearing and grubbing sufficient to

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provide access to the area and enable installation of the utility lines. Upon completion of the new corridors and easements, disturbed areas would be reseeded and restored, as necessary.

Beginning in spring of 2021, the government will begin field surveys at proposed project areas both on base and in the missile fields, as well as on private property and parcels administered by federal and state agencies. In general, all survey work will be done by a field survey team consisting of two to four biologists or archaeologists who will walk through the survey area to identify and document potential threatened and endangered species and habitat suitable to support them, wetlands, or archaeological areas of concern.

Further Information

The Air Force has collaborated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to obtain access to support the described survey work effort. If landowners have questions about the letter requesting right of entry or the right of entry agreement that they received they may visit www.gbsdeis.com, speak with someone at the USACE office by calling 1-800-265-9309 or they can make contact via email at <u>ROEhelpdesk@usace.army.mil</u>.

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