

Draft

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



September, 2011

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Customs & Border Protection

Point of Contact: Jennifer Hass
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20229

CONTENTS

1

2

3 Contents TOC-1

4 Abbreviations ABBR-1

5 Executive Summary ES-1

6 Introduction..... ES-1

7 Purpose and Need ES-1

8 Public Involvement ES-2

9 Description of Proposed Action..... ES-2

10 Alternatives ES-2

11 Summary of Environmental Impacts ES-4

TABLES

15 Table ES-1. Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts by Alternative ES-4

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 Services)
20		
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	HEXRIS	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	OHSPO	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 <i>net</i>	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.

1 **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

2 CBP is committed to continued public involvement under NEPA. On July 6, 2010, CBP
3 published in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) (75 FR 38822) to prepare individual
4 PEISs for four regions along the Northern Border. After conducting a public scoping process,
5 CBP determined that it would be preferable to produce one document covering the entire
6 Northern Border to ensure that CBP effectively analyzes and conveys impacts that occur across
7 the region of the Northern Border. Therefore, CBP published a second Notice on November 9,
8 2010, (75 FR 68810) stating that a single PEIS would be prepared for the entire Northern Border.
9 The PEIS analyzes impacts for four regions and also summarizes impacts for the Northern
10 Border as a whole.

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

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

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

24 **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION**

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

30 **ALTERNATIVES**

31 This document considers several alternative ways for CBP to address the purpose and need; that
32 is, to maintain effective control of the Northern Border. These alternatives emphasize emerging
33 technologies and increased use of security measures; at the same time, they continue to deploy
34 existing CBP personnel in the most effective manner and to maintain officer safety. Indeed, one
35 of the principal aims of each alternative is to leverage CBP personnel; that is, to provide CBP
36 personnel with the tools or assets necessary to maximize their effectiveness in securing the
37 Nation's borders. Following are several alternatives under consideration. Implicit in each
38 alternative is the concept that strong partnerships remain a central component of CBP's Northern
39 Border strategy. The use of partnerships is and will continue to be common to all alternatives
40 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

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

7 **SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

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

19 **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

1