

## **PCEOC Newsletter**

**February 2009**

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While the U.S. Army has been actively planning for a Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site expansion for many years, the plans for this expansion were made public only three or four years ago. During this time, a rather disturbing pattern has emerged; it seems the Army expects, and is given, second chance after second chance to justify their plans. While faced with overwhelming opposition to the proposed expansion, they, and their supporters, stick to the ‘we need more studies’ mantra. Over and over they attempt to sugar-coat the displacement of people’s homes, businesses, and entire communities; while at the same time denying the size and scope of the long term plan to acquire up to 7 million acres of Southeastern Colorado. The cruel irony is that they are using hard earned tax dollars of the very people they are intent on displacing. How many opportunities will the Department of Defense receive? At some point elected officials have to put the breaks on this ill conceived idea.

### **In This Issue**

- GAO Reports Released
- *Answers?* – A Pueblo Chieftain Editorial
- GAO study slams Army on Pinon Canyon expansion
- Army’s Pinon plan still under fire
- New-look PCEOC web site slated to come on-line in early March
- Not 1 More Acre! Files Final Brief in Lawsuit against the Army
- Army document outlines plans to acquire 7 million acres and displace 17,000 people
- Purchase a piece of Southeastern Colorado and help support the PCEOC!
- Current Events and Volunteer Opportunities – What You Can Do to Help

**View past issues here:**

<http://www.pinoncanyon.com/newsletter.html>

## **GAO Reports Released**

The recently completed Government Accountability Office, or GAO, reports state the Army has again failed to explain why even the one hundred thousand acres is needed to expand Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS). And even more importantly those reports also re-state the GAO position that the Department of Defense (DOD) has no up to date training lands inventory and strategy. A comprehensive, top down DOD inventory of all training range capacities and capabilities has never been completed by the DOD even though it has been required since 2003 (Section 366 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act of 2003).  
<http://www.pinoncanyon.com/documents/GAOREportPressRel.doc>

## **Answers?**

SEN. MARK Udall, D-Colo., pressed Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Tuesday to fully answer all his questions about the Army's proposal to expand the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site and to promise not to condemn any rancher's land if there is an expansion.

*Pueblo Chieftain Editorial*  
January 29, 2009

<http://www.pinoncanyon.com/documents/PChftnAnswers.doc>

## **GAO study slams Army on Pinon Canyon expansion**

WASHINGTON - A new Government Accountability Office study criticizes the U.S. Army's approach to the proposed expansion of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site in Colorado, saying a lack of early communication with nearby residents allowed rumors to run rampant.

*Rocky Mountain News*  
Published January 13, 2009 at 12:09 p.m.

<http://www.pinoncanyon.com/documents/RMtNewsGAOslamsArmy.doc>

## **Army's Pinon plan still under fire**

**Las Animas County renews its hard line against the proposed expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.**

There is a new president in the White House and a new Congress in office, but the Las Animas County commissioners want them to know that some things don't change - especially the county's opposition to the Army expanding the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site northeast of Trinidad.

*By Peter Roper*  
*The Pueblo Chieftain*  
January 26, 2009

<http://www.pinoncanyon.com/documents/PChftnplanunderfire.doc>

### **New-look PCEOC web site slated to come on-line in early March**

The PCEOC has been developing a new-look for our web site and expect it to be functional by early March. The site will feature improved graphics and organization, enabling the public to learn more about the expansion issue, as well as look up specific information. And for Firefox and other than IE users you should notice marked improvements in the new design! Thank you all for being so patient!

### **Not 1 More Acre! Files Final Brief in Lawsuit against the Army**

Not 1 More Acre! today filed its final brief in a federal lawsuit charging the Pentagon with violating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by its failure to publicly disclose its knowledge of potential socio-economic, environmental and cultural impacts of expansion at the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) in southeastern Colorado. The group also charged the Army with covering up extensive planning since at least 2003 to expand the site by up to 7 million acres.

<http://www.pinoncanyon.com/documents/NIMAFinalBrief.doc>

### **Document outlines plans to acquire 7 million acres and displace 17,000 people**

The following link will take you to the Army document outlining plans to acquire 7 million acres and displace 17,000 people. It should be noted that 17,000 is the number of people the Army estimates will have to be displaced in the land acquisition itself, primarily through the loss of their own land. This number could rise drastically as these people leave the area, causing a ripple effect in the surrounding communities through local governments, schools, and businesses.

#### *Analysis of Alternatives Study*

*Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado*

*7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and Fort Carson*

*Fort Carson, Colorado*

*May 6, 2004*

*Prepared by: Fort Carson ITAM Coordinator, Range Division*

*For G-3, 7<sup>th</sup> ID, Fort Carson, Colorado*

<http://www.pinoncanyon.com/documents/7million.pdf>

### **Purchase a piece of Southeastern Colorado and help support the PCEOC!**

For \$10.00 you can become a Southeastern Colorado landowner and support the PCEOC! An acre of land has been donated and is being sold by the square inch. Purchasers will receive a legal deed to the property. The property is located on the historic Circle Diamond Ranch once occupied by 19<sup>th</sup> century cattle baron Frank Bloom and is located near Thatcher, Colorado along the historic Santa Fe Trail. The actual acre is across Highway 350 from the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

Buy your very own square inch:

<http://www.pinoncanyon.com/onesquareinch.html>

### **Current Events and Volunteer Opportunities – What You Can Do To Help**

The PCEOC can always use volunteers to help fight off this unneeded expansion. Any help would be greatly appreciated, so please contact the PCEOC to offer your services. Among the most important things you can do is to attend public meetings, routinely write or call your elected representatives, and pass PCEOC information on to your email contact list. These things really make a difference.