

Protecting Kingsley Field

By HOLLY DILLEMUTH H&N Staff Reporter 17 hrs ago



H&N file photo by Holly Dillemoth

Celeste Boccieri-Werner, a vice president for Matrix Design Group, takes a photograph at an October meeting attendees

Synergy.

That's the goal of a joint land use study (JLUS) conducted in cooperation between the city of Klamath Falls, Klamath County and Kingsley Field.

Consultants and cooperating agencies want to hear from the public about anything that could, presently or in the future, impede or jeopardize the mission of the 173rd Fighter wing or its growth.

“It is important for the community to be aware of the many different things that could impact our local Air National Guard,” said Linda Tepper, business manager for the Crater Lake-Klamath Regional Airport.

“The airport under the FAA’s rules and regulations have existing safety zones. This is a much more proactive approach. Here’s a greater area of impact that we want to be aware of as a community ... as we develop, we avoid putting high-density items into our most dangerous zones.”

Comment deadline

Matrix Design Group — a Phoenix, Ariz., consulting firm contracted by the city — held the third of a series of meetings gathering public feedback on Monday, after announcing that a draft of a background report is ready for the public to review and provide additional input. Those interested in providing comments can do so through midnight on April 10.

“The JLUS is an important part of keeping Kingsley able to operate in the future,” said Col. Wes French, vice commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field on Tuesday.

“We desire to have a good interaction with the town and the county on how the land is used. To allow military operations to continue is very important to us,” French added. “It’s really critical.”

Kingsley Field generates about \$114 million to the local Klamath Basin economy, according to a 2014 economic impact study.

“That alone is one of the most important reasons to collaborate with the military, and to be proactive in preventing encroachment and really supporting compatibility,” said Celeste Boccieri-Werner, vice president of Matrix Design Group, and project manager for the study.

Far-reaching benefits

More than 120 cities nationwide have collaborated on similar JLUS studies, consultants said, and also emphasized benefits are far-reaching. The JLUS study provides strategies that allow cities and counties to better plan for development in the areas near and around military establishments such as Kingsley Field, one of the largest drivers of the Klamath Basin economy.

“You want to really protect that economic catalyst within your community,” Bocchieri-Werner said.

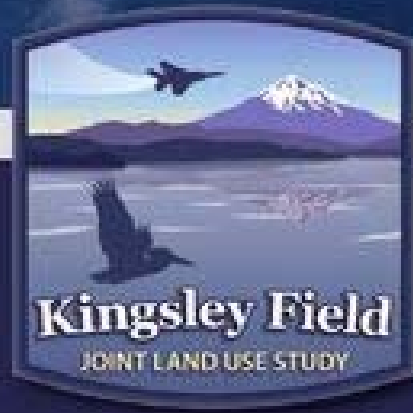
“Kingsley Field is the third largest employer within your region within your community. So that means there are a lot of people who are dependent on jobs and employment, either direct as well as indirect jobs associated with Kingsley Field.”

To learn more about the JLUS study, go online at www.kingsleyjlus.com or contact Joe Wall, management assistant to the city manager, at 541-883-5272. To provide a comment on the study, click on the “send comments” tab at www.kingsleyjlus.com, email a comment to Joe at jwall@klamathfalls.city or write to: Kingsley Field JLUS Comments, c/o Joe Wall, 500 Klamath Ave., Klamath Falls, OR 97601.

A copy of the public draft of the Joint Land Use Study can be read with this story at heraldandnews.com.

Related Document

Kingsley Field Joint Land Use Study Public Draft



Joint Land Use Study

PUBLIC DRAFT
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