

NEWS

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Rehberg Presses Pentagon to Take Immediate Action on Whitmore Ravine

WASHINGTON - Montana's Congressman, Denny Rehberg, today pressed the Department of Defense (DoD) to send a representative to Malmstrom Air Force Base to evaluate the environmental impacts of runoff from the Base down the Whitmore Ravine and into the Missouri River.

"Malmstrom is a critical part of Montana's economy and America's national security," said Rehberg, a member of the House Appropriations Committee. "With any facility of Malmstrom's size, there's going to be an impact on the local environment and I believe it's critical to make sure the decision makers at the Pentagon are aware of the damage that has been done due to runoff. Efforts have been made to fix the problem, but none have been successful and that needs to change immediately. One way to do that is by DoD sending a representative to see first-hand the problems at Whitmore Ravine."

Runoff from Malmstrom is causing severe erosion to neighboring land, as well as sediment build-up in the nearby Missouri River. DoD and the Department of Agriculture recently announced the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), which will enable DoD to work with local officials to promote conservation planning around military bases.

"I'm optimistic we can speed this process up and that DoD will evaluate this problem as soon as possible," added Rehberg. "Being good stewards of the environment while maintaining a strong national defense is an achievable goal and I believe Malmstrom can be a leader in this arena."

Letter to DoD from Congressman Rehberg Below

Mr. Alex Beehler
Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health
3400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3400

As you know, the Department of Defense and Department of Agriculture recently announced a new program designed to address environmental concerns in areas around military bases. This program, known as the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), enables the Department of Defense to work with partners to promote "compatible use buffers" and conservation planning around military bases.

In my home state of Montana, we are proud of Malmstrom Air Force Base, and its contribution to our economy and national security.

As you know, there are environmental impacts associated with a large installation such as