

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Formally Used Defense Sites Program Boardman Air Force Range MRS Sites

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Is dedicated to protecting human health and the environment by addressing areas impacted by historical munitions use

Seeks input from the community and other interested Stakeholders throughout the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study process

Will characterize the nature and extent of munitions related contamination to make informed risk management decisions and to select the appropriate remedial options

Will establish an Administration Record at the Boardman Public Library to make the work planning, report, proposed plan and record of decision documents available to the public

For More Information Please Contact:

U.S Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District
Public Affairs Office
PO Box 3755
Seattle WA 3755
Seattle WA 98124-3755
Phone (206) 764-3750
Email:
paoteam@nws02.usace.army.mil

Formerly Used Defense Sites

During the past 200 years, some activities supporting military readiness have resulted in the need for environmental cleanup within the United States and its territories. Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) are properties used by the military prior to October 1986 to train and support Soldiers, Airman, Sailors and Marines as well as to test new weapons and warfare capabilities. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals, or federal, state, tribal, or local government entities. Congress created the FUDS program in 1986. The Army oversees the program for the Department of Defense (DoD) utilizing the US Corps of Engineers (USACE) to identify eligible properties, investigate their condition and management required cleanup. Teams from Corps' districts consult with state environmental and health offices, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, landowners and the public while performing the work.

Project Objectives

The project objectives are to determine the nature (types and condition of munitions) and the extent of areas impacted by munitions and related contamination to be used for subsequent remedial actions, and to develop a baseline explosive hazard and risk assessment to determine the threat to human health and the environment

Project Site and Site Description

The Boardman Air Force Range (AFR) property is located in Morrow County, Oregon approximately 5.5 miles southwest of the City of Boardman. The FUDS program has established seven Military Response Program (MMRP) Munitions Response Sites (MRS). At this time, the FUDS Program is only addressing MRSs; (F10OR016003) INPR Site No. 1, (F10OR016004) Demolition Area No. 1 and (F10OR016006) Demolition Area No. 2. The three MRS have been identified with a munition and explosive concern (MEC), but not a munitions constituent (MC) concern.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A SUSPECTED MUNITIONS RELATED ITEM		
RECOGNIZE	RETREAT	REPORT
Recognize that you may have encountered munitions. If you encountered or suspect you may have encountered a mention, consider it extremely dangerous. Munitions are sometimes hard to identify and come in shapes or sizes	Do not touch, move or disturb it. Carefully leave the area the way you entered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morrow County Sheriff (419) 947-4845 Call 911

Site History

The former Boardman AFR was used primarily as a practice bombing and gunnery range. According to the Archives Search Report (ASR) (USACE, 1997) beginning in 1941 and continuing through 1943, the U.S. Army Air Corps acquired 95,985.51 acres through purchase of private land transfer of Department of the Interior (DOI) land for a practice bombing and gunnery range. Throughout the World War II years, it was used for bombing practice by the Walla Walla Army Air Base. After World War II, the Army Corps categorized the bombing range as surplus land and by 1946 discussion was held concerning authorizing livestock grazing on the inactive range. However in 1948, the lands were withdrawn from surplus and the Air Force used the range until 1960. Renamed the Boardman Precision Bombing Range, the range was configured with five targets and exclusion areas. The 57th Air Division, Fairchild Air Force Base, assumed responsibility, control and utilization of the Former Boardman, AFR between 1952 and 1957. Records indicate that a “20-millimeter (mm) target gunnery range,” with three mounted B-36 turrets, was added in 1952. The gunners fired at remote controlled aerial target drones under daylight and night conditions. Practice bombing was also occurring during this time. In 1958, the Air Force granted the Department of the Navy permission to use the bombing range site as a high altitude bombing range. Also, in 1960, the Umatilla Army Ordnance Depot was granted a permit to use two small areas for the destruction of unusable munitions and small arms ammunition tracer testing.

In 1960, the Air Force placed the former Boardman AFR in an “excess” category and transferred 37,320.31 acres to the DOI, 58,372.9 acres to the Navy, and 290 acres to the USACE. In 1963, following discussions between the Navy, the DOI, and the State of Oregon; an agreement was reached where the Navy would consolidate its needs to the eastern half of the original range and release the western half. This allowed for single contiguous land use by the Navy and Department of Interior (DOI). The Air Force then passed ownership on to the State of Oregon and other entities.

The types of munitions used at the former Boardman AFR included 100-pound (lb) practice bombs, 2- and 4-lb incendiary bombs, 2.25-inch practice rockets, fragmentation bombs, and conventional small arms (.50-caliber or less) and 20-mm ball ammunition. Metals and explosives comprise the principal MC that may be present based on the types of munitions used at the former Boardman AFR.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Process

The Army follows the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process that is

Described in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Contingency Plan (NCP). The overall process is summarized below:

- **Scoping:** Review available information from past site use, clearance efforts, and planned future use of the site develop a comprehensive plan for investigating the nature and extent of munitions and hazard posed by munitions items that may remain at the site.
- **Community Relation:** Obtain input from stakeholders and document community relations activities in a community relations plan, and establish administration record
- **Remedial Investigation:** Conduct remedial investigation.
- **Feasibility Study:** Evaluate various remediation options and their based on criteria of protecting human health and the environment, compliance with environmental regulations, long and short term effectiveness, cost and community acceptance. The ultimate goal of the study is to achieve no further action. Land use controls may be implemented if no further action can be achieved.
- **Proposed Plan:** Describe the remedial alternatives and discuss the rationale supporting the preferred clean up alternative. There will be a 30 day public comment period and an opportunity for a public meeting.
- **Record of Decision:** Consideration of public comments, provide a summary of comments and responses and document the selected remedy. The selected remedial design/action will be implemented at a later time.

Field Investigation

- The field investigation will be focused on areas believed to be most likely to have munitions items remaining from past uses as a bombing range. State of the art metal detection instruments and investigation techniques will be used to locate potential munitions items on the surface of the ground as well as below the ground surface in these areas.. Any munitions items or associated hazardous materials will be disposed of in compliance with applicable regulations by USACE.

Proposed Schedule

Winter 2016
Finalize the Work Plan Documents

Fall 2016 to Winter 2017
Field Investigation

Summer 2017
Remedial Investigation Regulatory Approval

Winter 2018
Feasibility Study Regulatory Approval

Summer 2018
Proposed Plan and Public Comment Period8

Spring 2019
Decision Documents