

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
Formally Used Defense Sites Program
Pocatello Bombing Range No.3

FACT SHEET

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 Blackfoot Library to make the work planning, report, proposed plan and record of decision documents available to the public

For More Information Please Contact:

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Formerly Used Defense Sites

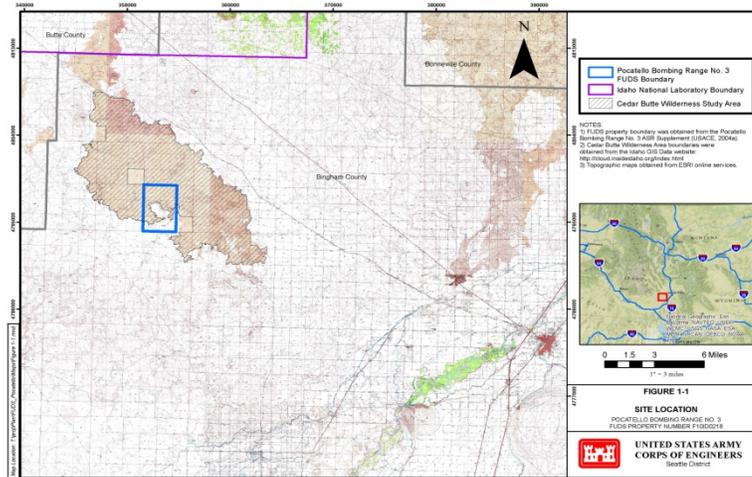
During the past 200 years, some activities supporting military readiness have resulted in the need for environmental cleanup within the United States and its territories. Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) are properties used by the military prior to October 1986 to train and support Soldiers, Airman, 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 Corps of Engineers 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 MC risk assessment to determine the threat to human health and the environment

Project Site and Site Description

Pocatello Bombing Range No. 3 (PBR3) is located approximately 25 miles northwest of City of Blackfoot, in Bingham County, Idaho. The PBR3 is located in Sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 35 Township 1 South Range 31. The entire PBR3 Munitions Response Site (MR) is listed as 649 acres.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A SUSPECTED MUNITIONS RELATED ITEM

RECOGNIZE

Recognize that you may have encountered munitions. If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, consider it extremely dangerous. Munitions are sometimes hard to identify and come in many shapes or sizes.

RETREAT

Do not touch, move, or disturb it. Carefully leave the area the way you entered.

REPORT

- Bingham County Sheriff (208) 785-4440
- Call 911

FACT SHEET

Site History

The Pocatello Bombing Range #3 was built and used as a demolition (high explosive [HE]) and incendiary bombing range by the Pocatello Army Air Base. The site was also known as the Pocatello Precision Bombing Range #3 and the Pocatello Demolition and Incendiary Bombing Range. The Commanding General of the Second Air Force requested the construction of the range on April 21, 1943, and the boundaries were submitted to the Interdepartmental Air Traffic Control Board on April 24, 1943. The range may have been in use as early as October 7, 1943, until as late as May 1, 1947. DoD usage of the site was officially revoked by Public Land Order 969, dated June 4, 1954. Records indicate that the current property owners of the site are the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

During 1943 and 1944, the 19th, 96th, 308th, 382nd, 453rd, and 464th Bombardment Groups were stationed at the Pocatello Army Air Base. The 76th Fighter Group and 362nd Fighter Squadron were also stationed at the Pocatello Army Air Base, and all of these groups and squadrons had potential use of the Pocatello Bombing Range #3.

Improvements at the site included five frame pyramid targets, which suggest that there was one target area at the site with five smaller targets. The targets were left on the site, while other unspecified improvements were removed. There is no indication that the Pocatello Bombing Range #3 was used for night bombing. According to historical documents and findings during the site inspection (SI), the following conventional ordnance was used at the Pocatello Bombing Range #3:

- Bomb, Practice, 100 lb., M38A2
- Spotting Charge, M1A1, M3, and M5
- Bomb, General Purpose (GP), 100 lb., AN-M30
- Bomb, Incendiary, 4 lb., AN-M54 and AN-M50
- Cartridge, .50 caliber

The total number of bombs dropped on the range during its period of usage is not specified in historical documents. According to the ASR, “during September 1943, the 382nd Bombardment Group, stationed at Pocatello Army Air Base dropped 1,706 practice bombs and 95 demolition bombs. The quantity of bomb craters is consistent with high explosive demolition bombs used in training by Bombardment Groups for the Pocatello Bombing Range #3” (USACE, 2003). In addition, the Certificate of Clearance makes reference to “scrap from hundreds of practice bombs” and designates a 183-acre rectangular area as an impact area (USACE, 2003).

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 clean up 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. Th 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. Selected areas of the site will sampled for chemical contamination associated with past munitions use at the site (e.g., lead and explosive compounds). Any munitions items or associated hazardous materials will be disposed of in compliance with applicable regulations by USACE.

Proposed Schedule

Fall 2015
Finalize the Work Plan Documents

Fall 2015
Field Investigation

Spring 2016
RI/FS Reports

Summer 2016
Proposed Plan and Public Comment Period

Fall 2016
Proposed Plan and Public Comment Period