

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
8/9/95**

**REVISION 2: 9 November 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 2 November 1995**

1. SITE NAME: Central Oregon Air-to-Air Gunnery Range (COGR)

SITE NUMBER: F10OR017001

LOCATION:

City: NA
County: Lake
State: Oregon

PROJECT NUMBER: F10OR017001

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. POC'S:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The site is located in Lake County, Oregon, approximately 35 miles north of the City of Lakeview and 48 miles southwest of Burns. The range is bounded by U.S. Highway 395

on the east, State Highway 31 on the south and west, and a Lake County road on the north. The majority of the site is presently open public desert land administered by the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management. There are some individual private holdings within the site boundaries.

4. SITE HISTORY: In 1942, the U.S. Army acquired a total of approximately 797,422.41 acres of land for use as an aerial gunnery range. The range was used by Walla Walla Army Air Field (AAF) and Gowen AAF. The site served as an aerial gunnery range to include air-to-air training, ground-to-air practice, and air-to-ground gunnery training.

A portion of the former COGR occupies the dry bed of Alkali Lake. **The Lake County Examiner** stated in 1943 that "Instructors at the school for machine gunners are at Camp Alkali, and are instructing men in the use of .50 caliber machine guns. Firing rockets from both ends of a field, two rows of anti-aircraft guns are stationed near the highway where they pepper away at the flying targets with tracer bullets." Troops participating in the Northwest Maneuvers of 1943 also conducted training on the COGR.

The Army declared the property surplus in June of 1947. In November of that same year, the Corps of Engineers informed the Department of the Interior that, "The lands have been examined and have been cleared of all explosives or explosive objects reasonably possible to detect by visual inspection."

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A belt of live .50 caliber ammunition was found in the northern part of the range in 1990. During a Corps of Engineers - Portland District site inspection of the range in 1993, expended 20mm and .50 caliber rounds were found adjacent to two berms. Representatives from the St. Louis District also located .50 caliber rounds during the 24 May 1995 site visit.

No information on the specific locations of the former targets was uncovered during the archive search. At each of the two "probable" target sites, .50 cal rounds were found. The center of the aerial target and the location of the .50 caliber rounds is identified as: North 42° 58' 52.1", West 120° 03' 08.0". This was the only ordnance observed which confirms the areas as the former target locations.

The southern mound is generally triangular in shape, measuring ten to fifteen feet high, covering an area of approximately 433,000 square feet. This mound was obviously constructed. The remnants of seven wood structures, presumably targets, are located on the mound, in a east-west line. The layout seems to represent that of

a convoy.

The northern location does not appear to be a mound. It is situated on a considerably smaller, natural appearing rise. Some wood, possibly used for the target, was observed at this site.

Located adjacent to, and south of, the southern berm is a fenced area identified by signs as a hazardous waste disposal site. Through research, it has been determined that the disposal of hazardous materials at this location by a private party occurred subsequent to DOD's use of the site. The State of Oregon has assumed responsibility for the monitoring and eventual remediation of this HTW disposal area. It is managed through the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The site inspection confirmed the contamination of the site with nonexplosive military munitions from past DOD activities.

There is a definite potential for additional small arms ordnance being discovered at the former ranges. Extensive areas of this site have been only minimally disturbed from the contours that existed when it was an active site. Coupled with previous recoveries of ordnance of unknown origins, there exists a high probability of further contamination.

Although two suspected target areas were identified, based on the vastness of this site, there is a good potential of other target areas existing. Since the site was used for various types of aerial gunnery training, the possibility of other uses of the site must be considered. Therefore, all areas of this site are potentially contaminated with small arms.

6.0 CURRENT STATUS: The ASR was completed by the St. Louis District in July 1995. The Risk Assessment Procedures Form prepared for the Central Oregon Air to Air Gunnery Range results in a RAC score of 4, based on the type of ordnance encountered and the remoteness of the site. As there exists the possibility of live ordnance being present, it is recommended that an awareness program, administered by local authorities, be enacted.

7. STRATEGY: Perform an EE/CA in the areas of the two probable targets at a low priority. The MCX will develop or will task the development of a strategy for examining the remainder of the site.

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: None

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only