

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 26 March 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Naval Auxiliary Air Station, North Bend
(North Bend Airport)

SITE NUMBER: F10OR056700

LOCATION:

City: North Bend
County: Coos
State: Oregon

PROJECT NUMBER: F10OR056703

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 5

2. **POC's:**

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ASR TAG REVIEW POC:

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Naval Auxiliary Air Station, North Bend, consisting of 809.4 acres of land, is located within the corporate limits of the City of North Bend, Coos County, Oregon. Most of the acreage lies within the bounds of what is now known as the North Bend Municipal Airport located on the shore of Coos Bay and along State Route 21. A Coast Guard Station and associated industrial area is collocated with the

Airport. A subdivision of residences abuts the former boundary of the base and the densely populated community of North Bend surrounds the Airport, which is owned by the City of North Bend.

The terrain is level in the area where the airfield and administration area are located. Rolling forested hills characterize the southwest area where the magazines and ranges were located. Drainage at the airport is through storm drains. In the undeveloped areas, drainage is through the sandy soil with run-off following the natural slope to the sea.

Summers are fairly warm, but hot days are rare. Winters are cool, although snow and freezing temperatures are a rarity. During summer, rainfall is extremely light but frequent the rest of the year, especially late fall and in winter. Thunderstorms occur about 6 days each year, and most during summer. In most winters, one or two storms over the shore area bring strong and sometimes damaging winds. The mean minimum daily low of 39° Fahrenheit occurs in January. Spring and autumn mean temperatures average in the 50's.

4. SITE HISTORY: On 3 February 1943, The Department of the Navy signed a Letter of Agreement with the City of North Bend for use of 617.9 acres of the municipal airport, improvements thereon, and abutting tidelands as a Naval Auxiliary Air Station. Acquisitions of property in addition to the 617.9 acres increased the total acreage for the site to 810.49 acres. Tracts of 109.4 acres and 17.2 acres were acquired through condemnation proceedings in 1943. A twenty acre tract was acquired through condemnation in June 1943. On 1 July 1944, the Navy signed leases for the use of 4.77 acres and 39.77 acres. On 15 June 1945, the National Housing Agency transferred to the Navy 20 family dwelling units on 1.45 acres of land.

The station was commissioned on 10 May 1943 as the U.S. Naval Auxiliary Air Station, North Bend, Oregon, an activity of the U.S. Naval Air Center, Seattle, Washington. At various times during the history of this facility several squadrons comprised of many different aircraft, to include torpedo bombers, dive bombers, transports, fighters and observation planes were stationed at North Bend. The primary mission of the Station was stated to be the administration, operation, maintenance and training of Fleet Units. Additional missions were: to serve as a base for inshore patrol, to provide aviation facilities for a naval and army squadrons; and provide landing facilities for lighter than air patrol craft (blimps). The installation was utilized primarily as a training base for Navy pilots and aircrews from 1943 to 1945. OE related structures and areas identified were: airfield, machine gun range, skeet range, ready lockers (for storage of small arms ammunition), magazine area

(for storage of torpedoes, pyrotechnics, fuzes, bombs and bomb components, air dropped depth charges, small arms ammunition, rockets and rocket components), bore sighting range and two rocket assembly buildings.

Effective 15 September 1945, Naval Auxiliary Air Station, North Bend (NAASNB) was placed in caretaker status. On 6 June 1946, NAASNB was declared surplus by the Navy and on 19 September 1946 it was turned over to the War Assets Administration for disposal. On 15 September 1947, the War Assets Administration quitclaim deeded to the City of North Bend the total of 146.60 acres acquired by condemnation. The permit interest for the 617.90 acres was surrendered by the same quitclaim deed. The leases for 39.77 owned by Coos County and 4.77 owned by Helen Smith became null and void on 1 July 1946. The 1.45 acre tract was transferred to the Public Housing Administration on 14 June 1948.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A

Size, Acres:	17
Former Use:	Airfield
Present Use:	Municipal Airport
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	N/A

AREA B

Size, Acres:	9
Former Use:	Machine Gun Range
Present Use:	Undeveloped airport property
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	N/A

AREA C

Size, Acres:	4.77
Former Use:	Skeet Range
Present Use:	Undeveloped private property
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	N/A

AREA D

Size, Acres: 4
Former Use: Seaplane Ramp and Dock
Present Use: Recreational boating ramp
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: N/A

AREA E

Size, Acres: 17
Former Use: Magazine Area
Present Use: Undeveloped property
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: N/A

AREA F

Size, Acres: 1
Former Use: Ready lockers for small
arms ammunition
Present Use: Storage for airport property
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: N/A

AREA G

Size, Acres: 3
Former Use: Bore sighting range for aircraft
mounted guns
Present Use: Airfield
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: N/A

AREA H

Size, Acres: 1
Former Use: Site of Rocket Assembly Building
Present Use: Airfield
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: N/A

AREA I

Size, Acres: 1
Former Use: Site of Rocket Assembly Building
Present Use: Airfield
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: None

Type: N/A

AREA J

Size, Acres: 39.77
Former Use: Transmitter Site
Present Use: Undeveloped property
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: N/A

AREA K

Size, Acres: 711.50
Former Use: Airfield, Undeveloped property
Present Use: Airfield, undeveloped property,
industrial park, Coast Guard
Station
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: N/A

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Naval Auxiliary Air Station, North Bend (North Bend Airport) was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in September 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

AREAS A-K: NOFA; (RAC 5)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Strategy is NOFA, RAC 5 for this site. The strategy in the ASR for Areas A and D is EE/CA with a RAC of 4. An HNC Safety RAC Form with a RAC 5, which supersedes ASR RAC Forms, is attached.

Reports of .50 caliber cartridges being found in runway cracks during one maintenance operation and in a catch basin should be considered isolated instances in Area A. The small arms ammunition reportedly found in the bay adjacent to the site in Area D should also be considered an isolated incident. HNC Safety recommended NOFA and RAC 5 for these two areas, stating that in the one case, the hazard was removed and that in the other case, any hazard is not accessible by the public. No further finds were noted, no hazards were found at the site by the site survey team and there is no reason to believe that any high explosive OE hazard is in these areas.

Areas B, C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K: The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) concurs with ASR and HNC Safety on a strategy of NOFA and RAC 5 for these areas. The site survey team found no OE or OE residue in these areas. The researchers found no report that any

OE has been found in these areas since the time of government ownership. Lead bullets only were found in Area B (Machine Gun Range). No hazard exists in Area C (Skeet Range), where only shotguns were fired. In Area D (Magazine Area), the three of eight magazines were inspected with no finds. Ammunition stored here would have been shipped to another installation. The Ready Lockers in Area F formerly used for storage of small arms ammunition, is now used to store airport property. The firing abutment used as a backup for machine gun firing in Area G (Bore Sighting Range) is no longer present. Expended small arms ammunition would be the OE residue which would remain in this area. In Areas H and I, the rocket assembly buildings, are no longer standing and there is no indication of previous existence or burial locations. Areas J (Transmitter Site) and K (All Remaining Land) were administrative areas where no OE activities were conducted or located.

20mm anti-aircraft emplacement: This area was not found during the ASR process. Interviews with personnel who worked at the site during the period of Navy use indicated that no burials of ammunition occurred.

Other Comments Regarding the ASR: (1)Change "northwest" to "southwest" at Findings, pg 5, para 3c, (2)Change Emergency Ordnance Disposal Units (EOD) to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) at Findings, pg 16, para 4b(15)(e), (3)Change "Areas A and D" to "Areas A through J" at Findings, pg 23, para 6k, (4)Change "Explosive Ordnance Demolition" to "Explosive Ordnance Disposal" at Findings, pg 23, para 7a(1).

HTRW: The site survey team observed that the firing abutment in Area B (Machine Gun Range) is heavily contaminated with lead small arms projectiles. This may present a toxic metal contamination threat to the subsurface aquifer.

Natural Resources: The Office of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program has identified rare, threatened or endangered species of plant life at this site, but prefers that specific information be kept confidential. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: The State Historical Preservation Office of the Oregon State Park and Recreation Department has indicated that this site has not been evaluated for the presence of historical and archeological sites. Therefore, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: NOFA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: NA NOFA