

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
AUGUST 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 15 MAY 1997**

1. SITE NAME: Northwest Maneuver Area

SITE NUMBER: F10OR020800

LOCATION:

Counties: Crook, Deschutes,
Grant, Harney, Jefferson,
Klamath, and Lake
State: Oregon

PROJECT NUMBER: F10OR020801

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. POC's:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION:

The former Northwest Maneuver Area encompasses approximately eight million acres in central and south-central Oregon, including portions of Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Grant, Lake, Harney and Klamath Counties. The site contains several small communities and incorporated areas. The vast majority of the site is Federally-owned high desert, open range and forest land and is currently used for cattle grazing, agriculture, and timber production purposes. Extensive areas of this site are uninhabited and others have been only minimally disturbed from the contours that existed when the area was utilized for maneuvers. As such, human exposure is infrequent, limited mostly to off-road enthusiasts.

4. SITE HISTORY:

In September and October 1943, the U.S. Army acquired 6,890,880.08 acres for maneuvers by special use permits from the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI). Other DOD installations within the Northwest Maneuver Area boundary were also utilized during the maneuvers. During the months of September, October and November 1943, the IV Corps of the U.S. Army engaged in a series of war maneuvers on eight million acres (10,000 square miles) of Oregon land. No permanent facilities were constructed.

Between 75,000 and 100,000 troops and 12,000 vehicles participated in the war games. The red and blue armies consisted of the 91st, 96th and 104th Infantry Divisions along with the 644th and 705th Tank Battalions and the 329th Engineers, as well as other units (Hoegh & Doyle 1946).

According to press accounts of the day, live ammunition was on hand. However, it was not to be fired. The ammunition was to be present in containers so that soldiers already proficient in firing would learn how to better handle live rounds.

The three-month exercise was subdivided into eight separate "problems" for the troops to complete.

Problem #1: The first problem was to seize Horse Ridge, 17 miles east of Bend, Oregon (Bend Bulletin 1943).

Problem #2: The fighting took place on the 6,000 foot slopes of Hampton Buttes, 2 miles north of the Central Oregon Highway. The fighting extended 20 miles south to Yreka Butte.

Problem #3: The two armies moved men into an area approximately 30 miles S.W. of Burns in a rough triangle bounded by Glass Buttes, a highway junction and the hamlet of Wagontire (Bend Bulletin 1943). The local news also stated that "ordnance has hauled 2,500 tons of ammunition daily during actual problems to both red and blue armies. This includes live ammunition of the heaviest types" (Bend Bulletin 1943).

Also, in this problem, was the defense of the grocery store/post office village of Wagontire. The fiercest fighting was being waged along a 20-mile front near Wagontire.

Problem #4: Forces attacked astride the new 57-mile military highway west of Wagontire (Larcey Boulevard) connecting Highways 395 and 31.

Problem #5: The 104th's objective was to seize Horse Ridge and Bear Creek Buttes. Successive objectives of Seven Mile Ridge, Cougar Mountain, North Table Mountain, Squaw Butte and Watkins Butte were seized in the 38-mile advance (Hoegh & Doyle 1946). The Fort Rock area was also a battle scene as troops moved northward on either side of China Hat Road (Bend Bulletin 1943).

Problem #6: The 104th defended Horse Ridge and Bear Creek Butte (Hoegh & Doyle 1946).

Problem #7: This problem saw forces crossing the Deschutes River to attack Kline Butte and press on to Bend (Hoegh & Doyle 1946).

Problem #8: The areas included: north of Bend, Sisters, Alfalfa and the Deschutes River.

The special use permits were relinquished in February 1945. The property is currently owned by the DOA; U.S. Forest Service; the DOI, Bureau of Land Management; private owners; state and counties.

The archive search indicated that ordnance has been recovered at several locations throughout the former maneuver area. Eleven intact M1B1 anti-tank training mines were found on the property of Terry Gratrix of Christmas Valley, Oregon (Sneed 1987). The St. Louis District located 4 additional mines on a site visit during the week of 22 May 1995. Also, in 1988 in the sand dunes near Christmas Valley, a teardrop shaped MK43 practice bomb was recovered (EOD Report 1988). Although dedudding certificates have been obtained for separate FUDS sites within the maneuver boundary, research has not yielded any certificates pertaining to the Northwest Maneuver Area as a whole.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres: Boundary encompasses 8 million acres; Actual site as per INPR: 6,890,880.08 acres

Former Use: Maneuver Area

Present Use: Various: undeveloped lands; cattle; agriculture; timber; recreation; towns

Probable End Use: Same as present

Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**

Type: 12 practice anti-tank mines; 4.5lb AN-Mk43 practice bomb

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** A draft ASR was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in August 1995.

7. **STRATEGY:** OE EE/CA

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

The size of the site precludes a thorough examination of the lands. Based on the possibility of ordnance being present and on the remoteness, size, and physical characteristics of the site/terrain, which result in infrequent human exposure, an awareness program, administered by local authorities, may be appropriate. The Project Manager might also consider a tracking mechanism to facilitate the identification of areas of OE concentrations, which would then undergo a removal action.

The INPR lists the following OE FINDS:

- a. BLM, Lakeview District Office. Anti-personnel fragmentation bomb found in 1986 near Silver Lake. There is reason to believe that this reported find should be dismissed. See Appendix E, pages 5 and 6, for further explanation.
- b. BLM, Lakeview District Office. Ordnance (type unknown) found approximately 1973 in the Lake Abert area.
- c. BLM, Prineville District Office. Ordnance (type unknown) found in the Millican area (time frame unknown).
- d. Deschutes County Emergency Services. Ordnance (type unknown) found in the Millican and Alfalfa areas (time frames unknown).
- e. Lake County Sheriff's Department. Practice bomb found in March 1988 in the sand dunes located approximately 14 miles northeast of Christmas Valley.
- f. Lake County Sheriff's Department. Landmines (12 total, 11 intact) found in the summer 1987, approximately 6 miles west and 5 miles north of Christmas Valley.

DESCHUTES RIVER: Ms. Betty Renk of the Deschutes County Historical Society told the INPR researcher that her husband has found several inert practice bombs while SCUBA diving in the Deschutes River at Bend. These were not included on the map of reported OE finds in the INPR nor were they specifically addressed within the ASR.

OTHER FUDS: The INPR reports that the following FUDS lie within the NW Maneuver Area:

Camp Abbot	Site No: F10OR004100*
Central Oregon Air-to-Air Gunnery Range	Site No: F10OR017000*
Redmond AAF	Site No: F10OR002800
Redmond Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range	Site No: F10OR021700
Redmond Precision Bombing Range	Site No: F10OR021900**
Fort Rock Maneuver Area	Site No: F10OR018000**

*Denotes an INPR has been completed and that an OE project was proposed and approved.

**The ASR reports that INPRs prepared for the Fort Rock Maneuver Area and the Redmond Precision Bombing Range resulted in NOFA determinations. As a result of information obtained during the preparation of this ASR, St. Louis District recommends that an ASR be prepared for these two FUDS sites. The HNC FUDS database has no record of a complete INPR for either site.

OTHER POTENTIAL FUDS: There are at least three more potential FUDS within this site. *Madras AAF, Burns AAF and Camp Alkali* were not listed in the INPR. However, the ASR reference material indicates that these sites also participated in the exercises at NW Maneuver Area. The site number for Madras AAF is F10OR019600. Burns Army Air Field does not appear in the FUDS database by that name. However, it is likely to be Site No: F10OR053400, Burns Airport. Camp Alkali also does not appear in the FUDS database under that name. However, it is likely to be Site No: F10OR053900, Alkali Lake Airstrip. The name Alkali Lake Airstrip is mentioned in the ASR in the CENPPEN Memorandum for Record, dated 4 Aug 1988, which is included as part of the INPR in Appendix D-1.

ECOLOGY: There are several known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. See page 3-4 of the Findings for a listing of species that may be found in the vicinity of the Northwest Maneuver Area. 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.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only