

Welcome to the Cold Springs Precision Bombing Range Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) website we have established to keep you informed about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers efforts to conduct the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Site Investigation (SI).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating FUDS that had historically been used for military training located within Cold Springs Precision Bombing Range, located approximately 9 miles east of the city of Hermiston in Umatilla County, Ore.

The former Cold Springs Precision Bombing Range is 2,622.08 acres and the area of the range cell is 649 acres. Cold Springs Precision Bombing Range land was acquired via purchase and lease in December 1941 and January 1942, by the Army (a total of 2,622.08 acres) for use as a precision bombing range for target practice. The site was used by several assigned military units for day and night training missions, including a squadron (the B-24 Bomber and the C-45 Cargo Aircraft) stationed at the Walla Walla Army Air Field.

Three plotting and spotting towers, a pump house, and well were the only improvements to the site. The site was used from 1942 to 1946 as a practice bombing range using only M38A2 100-pound practice bombs filled with sand or flour. The site was declared surplus in October 1946 by the Army.

The Archives Search Report dated November 19, 1947, indicated "The lands have been examined and have been cleared of all explosives or explosive objects reasonably possible to detect by visual inspection." Historical records indicate that the site was only used for M38A2 100-lb practice bombs with spotting charges. One landowner dug up a 37-millimeter (mm) point detonating artillery round.

Private parties owned the land prior to the Army. The land was used for grazing of livestock. Army acquired the site in 1942, 310.36 acres was obtained from the Department of Interior and 2311.72 acres were leased from private parties. In August 1947, the Army declared the property surplus.

The property is currently used for irrigated farming. Current owners are: Stahl Hutterian Brethren, 1485 North Hoffman Road, Ritzville, Wash. and Royale Columbia Farms, P.O. Box 93, Hermiston, Ore. The Corps will do this evaluation by conducting a MMRP SI. The SI will be conducted by a Corps contractor, Shaw Environmental. The work to be performed will include access to and a visual inspection of property that was part of the former site. The inspection may also include soil and or water sampling.

The SI will be used to determine future work the Corps may do the clean-up of possible Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste. The Corps of Engineers cleans up sites contaminated with hazardous waste, radioactive waste, or ordnance and complies with federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.

In order to begin the SI the Corps will be contacting property owners of the Cold Springs Precision Bombing Range site and request the owner to provide a signed Department of the Army Right of Entry Environmental Assessment and Response (ROE).

If you have ideas that would make this website more useful to you, please let us know