

# Pocatello Ground Gunnery Range

## Site History

### Location

- The Pocatello Ground Gunnery Range, (GGR) is located in Power County; 10 miles northwest of Pocatello, Idaho. It consisted of portions of Sections 26, 27 28, 33, 34, and 35 South Range 33 East, and portion of Section 2, Township 6 South Range 33 East, Boise Meridian in Power County, Idaho..
- The 1,928.29 acre range was divided into two ranges, a Turret Skeet, 30 & 1,550 acres and a Range Complex No. 1 that included sub-ranges in which was a Known Distant (Rifle Range 1,111 acres), (Pistol Range 224 acres) and (Tommy Gun Range 422 acres).
- The former Pocatello GGR resides within the northern portion of the Michaud Flats. This area is relatively flat with minor hills and gullies. The ground surface at the former range gently slopes to the northeast and south away from higher ground along the east-west axis of the property. Elevation at the site ranges from 4,440 ft at the top of a hill in the north-central portion of the range to 4,400 ft within an unnamed creek in the eastern portion of the range.

### History

- Prior to construction and operation of the Pocatello GGR, the area consisted of undeveloped U.S. Department of Interior lands. The area also contained a portion of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and prior Native American owners.
- The War Department indicated a necessity for this property on March 3, 1943. Originally, the Army had authorization to acquire 2,599.26 acres. It originally reduced this to 1,925.16 acres in acquisition. In 1952 and 1953, some of the lands were readjusted for the final acreage of 1,928.29 acres.
- Pocatello GGR was declared surplus to the Air Technical Services Command on August 25, 1945; however, the land was not released until 1953. The 121.21 acres of Public Domain Land was relinquished back to the Department of Interior on July 23, 1953. The 160 acres acquired through Condemnation 1257 was terminated on June 30, 1953. 1,100.34 acres of leased land from Lease W04-193-eng-462 and Lease W04-193-eng-5969 was released to the former owners.
- The three access road leases and part of the previous two leases, totaling 546.74 acres were reassigned to the U.S. Army, Site 14 Vestibule on February 18, 1953. These lands were to be used for the Army Reserves or Idaho National Guard. The ASR did not find

any other information about the termination of this usage, nor was any provided in the *INPR Supplement*.

- A majority of the former Pocatello GGR area is currently privately owned or on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and with Native American owners. It is used for residences, agricultural, and industrial purposes. A small portion is owned by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

### **Project History**

- Inventory Project Report (USACE, 1991) A Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) FUDS Draft INPR for the Pocatello GGR was completed in December 1991. The findings determined that the site had been formerly used by the DoD and was therefore eligible under the DERP program. A Risk Assessment Code (RAC) of 5 was assigned to the PBR.
- *Archives Search Report (USACE, 2005)* USACE completed an ASR in September 2003 to assess the presence or absence of contamination from facility activities. An updated final version of the ASR report was issued in October 2005 following Technical Advisory Group review. The ASR included a visit to the site on September 10, 2003. The primary purpose of the site visit was to assess the presence of MEC through non-intrusive means. Interviews, historical research, and site reconnaissance determined:
  - The USACE used conventional ordnance at Pocatello GGR.
  - Ordnance used at the range included:
    - .30-caliber, .45-caliber, .50-caliber munitions, and 12 gauge shotgun shells.
  - No evidence for the use of high explosive and chemical warfare materials storage or use at the range exists.
- INPR Supplement (USACE, 2004) An INPR Supplement was completed in November 2004. No additional new information is provided in that document.
- Other Documents

No other engineering or environmental reports have been found for this range.

There was no Certificate of Clearance issued for this range. However, a letter dated July 23, 1953 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District to the USBR states: “Since use of the Pocatello GGR has been restricted to small arms fire, clearance of excess areas with respect to explosive or other dangerous material is considered unnecessary. The area to be relinquished has been used only as a protective area and is in its original condition” (USACE, 2005).