

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Formerly Used Defense Sites Program Port Angeles Combat Range

FACT SHEET

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Is dedicated to protecting human health and the environment by addressing areas impacted by historic munitions use
- Seeks input from the community and other interested Stakeholders throughout the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study process
- Will characterize the nature and extent of munitions related contamination to make informed risk management decisions and to select the appropriate remedial options
- Will establish an Administrative Record at the Port Angeles Main Library to make the work planning, report, proposed plan and record of decision documents available to the public

For More Information Please Contact:

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**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Formerly Used Defense Sites

During the past 200 years, some activities supporting military readiness have resulted in the need for environmental cleanup within the United States and its territories. Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) are properties used by the military prior to October 1986 to train and support Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Marines as well as to test new weapons and warfare capabilities. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals or federal, state, tribal or local government entities. Congress created the FUDS program in 1986. The Army oversees the program for the Department of Defense (DoD) utilizing the Corps of Engineers to identify eligible properties, investigate their condition and manage required cleanup. Teams from Corps' districts consult with state environmental and health offices, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, landowners and the public while performing the work.

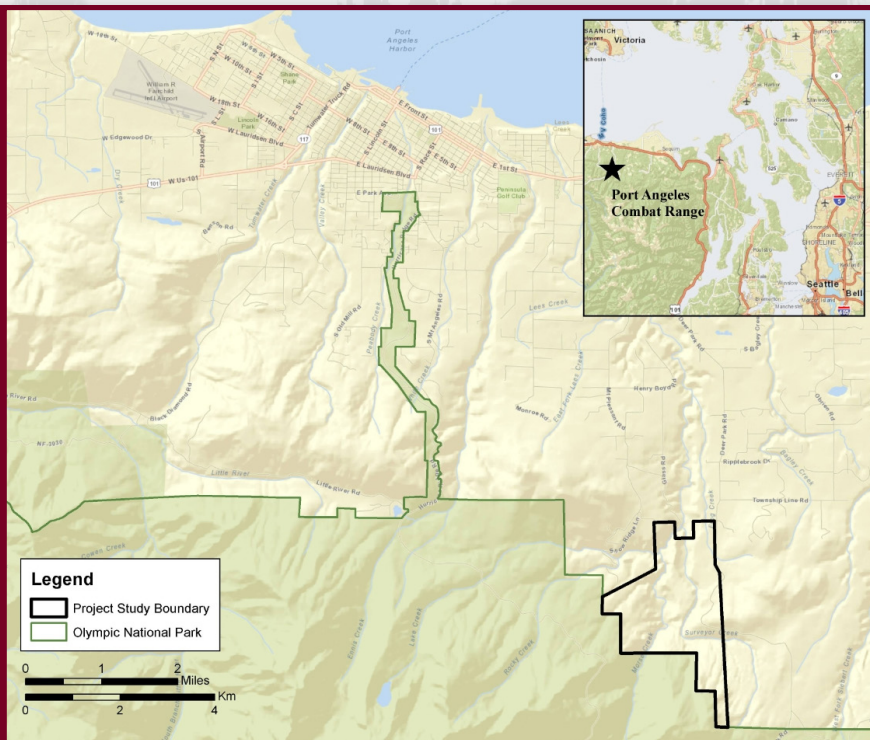
Project Objectives

The project objectives are to determine the nature (types and condition of munitions) and the extent of areas impacted by munitions and related contamination to be used for subsequent remedial actions, and to develop a baseline explosive hazard and MC risk assessment to determine the threat to human health and the environment.

Site Description

The Port Angeles Combat Range (PACR) is located approximately 60 miles northwest of Seattle, Washington and 7 miles southeast of the City of Port Angeles, in Clallam County, Washington. The area being investigated is approximately 1,628 acres north of and adjacent to the Olympic National Park. The terrain is predominantly mountainous with steep slopes and heavy coniferous and deciduous vegetation.

Project Site



Site History

In early 1943, the 115th Cavalry Squadron (mechanized) requested that land be leased in the area of Port Angeles, Wash., for use as a ground-to-ground combat range. The range was intended to be used for tactical firing problems and short-range known distance firing (200 to 300 yards). Through leases and use permits, approximately 1,600 acres were obtained within Sections 5, 8, and 17 within Township 29 North, Range 5 West for use as the PACR. The Inventory Project Record indicated the range was used for weapons practice with 37mm and 75mm projectiles, 60mm and 81mm mortars, and various small arms. The Archives Search Report also indicated that there were reports that mortars and land mines were used at the PACR; however, there is no definitive evidence that land mines with energetics were used at the FUDS. There were no buildings or improvements other than a spotting tower. Troops were encamped at the Port Angeles Fair Grounds/Conservation Corps Camp.

In April and May 1944, the range was declared excess and all leases and permits were canceled. Two young boys were killed in August 1948 when a 37mm shell exploded while they were cutting some downed timber within the former range. The 37mm shell was embedded in a log they were sawing. Immediately after the death of the two boys, the Army initiated the dedudiving of the area expected to be contaminated. On May 7, 1949, a Certificate of Clearance was issued noting that approximately 775 acres had been cleared of dangerous/explosive material. Subsequent clearances of the PACR occurred in 1952, 1955, 1956, and 1957, however they were not completed to the standards implemented today. The exact locations of these investigations are not documented.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Process

The Army follows the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process that is described in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Contingency Plan (NCP). The overall process is summarized below:

- **Scoping:** Review available information from past site use, clearance efforts, and planned future use of the site to develop a comprehensive plan for investigating the nature and extent of munitions and the hazard posed by munitions items that may remain at the site.
- **Community Relations:** Obtain input from stakeholders and document community relations activities in a community relations plan, and establish an administrative record.
- **Remedial Investigation:** Conduct the remedial investigation.
- **Feasibility Study:** Evaluate various clean up options and their based on criteria of protecting human health and the environment, compliance with environmental regulations, long and short term effectiveness, cost and community acceptance. The ultimate goal of the study is to achieve no further action. Land use controls may be implemented if no further action cannot be achieved.
- **Proposed Plan:** Describe the remedial alternatives and discuss the rationale supporting the preferred clean up alternative. There will be a 30 day public comment period and an opportunity for a public meeting.
- **Record of Decision:** Consideration of public comments, provide a summary of comments and responses, and document the selected remedy. The selected remedial design/action will be implemented at a later time.

Proposed Schedule

- **Fall 2013**
Finalization of the Work Planning Documents
- **Fall 2013**
Field Investigation
- **Spring 2014**
RI/FS Reports:
- **Summer 2014**
Proposed Plan and Public Comment Period
- **Winter 2014**
Record of Decision

Field Investigation

The field investigation will be focused on areas believed to be most likely to have munitions items remaining from past uses as a firing range. State of the art metal detection instruments and investigative techniques will be used to locate potential munitions items on the surface of the ground as well as below the ground surface in these areas. Selected areas of the site will also be sampled for chemical contamination associated with past munitions use at the site (e.g., lead and explosive compounds). Any munitions items or associated hazardous materials will be disposed of in compliance with applicable regulations by USACE.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A SUSPECTED MUNITIONS RELATED ITEM

RECOGNIZE

Recognize that you may have encountered a munition. If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, consider it extremely dangerous. Munitions are sometimes hard to identify and come in many shapes and sizes.

RETREAT

Do not touch, move or disturb it. Carefully leave the area the way you entered.

REPORT

Contact one of the following:

- Washington State Police:
(360) 452-3394
- Clallam County Sheriff:
(360) 417-2459
- City of Port Angeles Police:
(360) 452-4545
- Call 911