

**Trip Report
For
West Virginia Maneuver Area
Davis, Tucker/Randolph/Pendleton/Grant Counties, West Virginia
21 August 2007**

PARTICIPANTS FROM CELRH-EC-CE: Nick McHenry

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES: Several activities took place for the Dolly Sods/West Virginia Maneuver Area (DS/WVMA) FUDS Project from 20-24 August 2007. These activities included a site visit to fulfill the yearly CELRH Long Term Monitoring requirements established by the DS/WVMA Five-Year Recurring Review, conducting interviews with local residents for inclusion in the WVMA Preliminary Assessment Report, and escorting West Virginia University to conduct research sampling within the impact area.

On 20 August 2007, Nick McHenry, CELRH-EC-CE, met with Rob Whetsell in order to copy historical archives that Mr. Whetsell has amassed over the past 10 years. Mr. Whetsell has an extensive collection of historical documents and photos of the WVMA due to his extensive research of the property in preparation for a movie that he produced. Following the meeting with Mr. Whetsell, Mr. McHenry drove to Canaan Valley where he conducted an interview with Mr. Dick Harr and Mr. Dave Leshner. Mr. Leshner is the president of the Canaan Valley Historical Society and Mr. Harr is an elderly gentleman, who has lived in Canaan Valley his entire life. Although Mr. Harr was not in Canaan Valley at the time of the training (he himself was in the Army fighting overseas) he did have some knowledge of items concerning the maneuvers. Mr. Harr produced contact information for friends that were in the area during the training, as well as provided knowledge of the location of bivouac sites. Following the interview with Mr. Harr and Mr. Leshner, Mr. McHenry attended a safety meeting conducted by Walt Zange, HNC, concerning WVU's sampling efforts over the next couple of days. Mr. Zange commented on general safety concerns, as well as specific UXO related safety issues. In attendance at the meeting were 4 WVU graduate students, two WVU professors (John Quaranta and Louis McDonald), and Mr. Zange and Mr. McHenry, USACE.

On 21 August 2007, Nick McHenry, CELRH-EC-CE, again met with Rob Whetsell at Davis and Elkins College (Elkins, WV) in order to copy historical archives that Mr. Whetsell has. Following the meeting with Mr. Whetsell, Mr. McHenry drove to Canaan Valley where he conducted an interview with Mrs. Dorothy Thompson and Mr. Dave Leshner. Mrs. Thompson is an elderly lady, who has lived in Canaan Valley since she was a teenager. Mrs. Thompson did live in the valley during the war with her husband, who took a keen interest in the Army activities that were taking place in Canaan Valley. Mrs. Thompson commented on the rifle range that was located on what is now Timberline Road. She also stated that soldiers would often parachute into the valley. Mrs. Thompson was unsure where the airplane departed from that dropped the men in the valley but it may be likely that it originated in either Elkins or the small air strip in Davis/Thomas. While Mr. McHenry was doing these items, WVU and Mr. Zange were conducting soil sampling activities in the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area. The intent of the day's sampling activities was to revisit the location of the most recent 60-mm mortar

find/detonation. Due to high anomaly concentrations in the vicinity of the detonation crater this plan was abandoned and more extensive sampling was conducted at other points along the Fischer Spring Run Trail. Mr. Zange stated that the high concentrations of anomalies could be related to the fragmentation left over from the detonation or it could be more UXO present in the area.

On 22 August 2007, Nick McHenry, CELRH-EC-CE, took part in WVU's research sampling event. This event concentrated on the location of the 105-mm howitzer round that was found, and detonated, on the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge located on Cabin Mountain. The team hiked to the location of the find/detonation and conducted grid sampling on the soil located in this area. Due to inclement weather the team did not proceed to their second proposed sampling location, the rifle range located on Timberline Road. Following the sampling event Mr. McHenry proceeded to examine trailhead markers in the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area to ensure that the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) warning signs placed in 2004 were still located at the trailheads and were still in good condition. Mr. McHenry inspected the trailhead markers at locations located along Forest Service Roads 19 and 75. All but one of the UXO signs were present at trailheads that were posted in 2004. The one exception was the sign posted at the trailhead for Beaver Dam Trail. Jim Markley, USFS, was contacted in regards to this missing sign. Mr. Markley followed up the call by saying that John Wagey, Potomac Ranger District, is responsible for placing signs at the trailheads at Dolly Sods and that it would get replaced as soon as possible. This Long Term Monitoring was conducted to fulfill CELRH's yearly requirements established by the DS/WVMA Five-Year Recurring Review.

On 23 August 2007, Nick McHenry, CELRH-EC-CE, took part in WVU's research sampling event. This event concentrated on the location of the 3.5" rocket finds located on the Canaan Valley Institute property located approximately 3 miles east of Davis, WV. The team hiked to various rocket find locations and conducted grid sampling on the soil located in these areas. The team was able to sample grids around two of the rockets that were detonated in place. During the site visit Mr. Zange encountered several underground anomalies that could be more rockets based on size and approximate shape. There were several instances where Mr. Zange flagged off-limit areas within sampling areas due to anomaly detection. Due to safety concerns Mr. Zange was not able to remove vegetation and/or soil to positively identify the anomaly. Following the sampling event Mr. McHenry returned home.

AREAS WORTH NOTING FROM SITE VISIT: Areas worth noting on 20-23 August included the following:

- WVU research sampling within the Impact Area. Several anomalies were detected around rocket find locations. No significant anomalies were detected around the 105-mm howitzer location.
- Interviews were conducted with local residents for involvement in the WVMA Preliminary Assessment.

- Two information exchange meetings took place between Mr. McHenry and Mr. Rob Whetsell.
- Five-Year Review LTM Activities were conducted. UXO Warning Signs were located at all of the trailheads except for the Beaver Dam Trailhead, which appeared to have been vandalized. This instance was reported to the USFS and they verified that they would handle the replacement of the sign.

POINTS OF CONTACT: Mr. Nick McHenry, CELRH-EC-CE, (304) 399-5909.

Enclosures
Photographs of Field Activities

Nickolas McHenry, EI
Environmental and Remediation Section

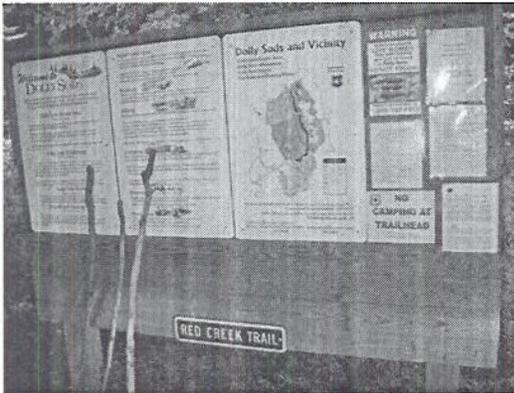


Photo 1. Trailhead sign at Red Creek Trail.



Photo 2. Trailhead sign at Rohrbaugh Plains Trail

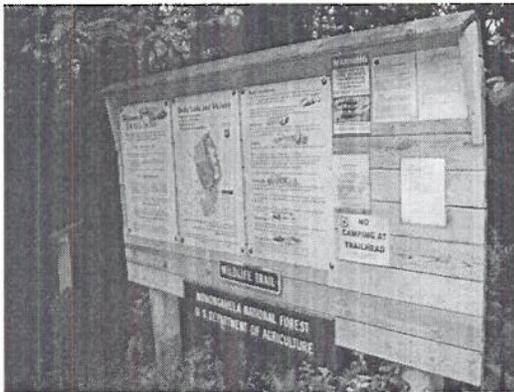


Photo 3. Trailhead sign at Wildlife Trail.



Photo 4. Trailhead sign at Fisher Spring Run



Photo 5. UXO Warning sign located at Northland/Loop.



Photo 6. Signage at Red Creek Campground.



Photo 7. Trailhead marker at Blackbird Knob Trail.



Photo 8. Trailhead marker at Beaver Dam Trail (note missing sign)



Photo 9. Trailhead marker at Bear Rocks Trail.



Photo 10. WVU students sampling 105-mm howitzer location.



Photo 11. Possible rocket anomaly found at CVI. Note that the top of object is found just to the left of the knife.

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