

FY2005 FUDS Success Stories – USACE Huntington District

West Virginia Maneuver Area – Dolly Sods Region Grant, Randolph, and Tucker Counties, West Virginia

1.0 Project Description:

During World War II, the 18,000+ acre Dolly Sods Region (DSR) of West Virginia was used for military maneuver exercises and artillery/mortar practice, which led to unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination. Today, the remoteness and scenic qualities of the DSR (Figure 1) attract up to 76,000 visitors annually. Previous remedial actions were conducted by USACE, and have significantly reduced the amount of UXO posing a hazard in the most widely used areas of the DSR. However, previous removals could not, and were not expected to reduce ordnance-related risk to zero due to environmental damage, cost, and technology limitations. The existing risk in the DSR is illustrated by the sporadic but continuous discovery of UXO.

2.0 FY2005 Successes:

2.1 New Trails Maps Produced and Distributed

One approach of the project's public awareness program is to provide visitors with accurate trails maps for the DSR, for the purpose of facilitating use of trails that have been cleared of ordnance. The 11x17 inch maps contain information on trail locations and distances, landmarks, regional boundaries, roads, and UTM NAD83 coordinate values. Nineteen trails which have been cleared for ordnance, and which total almost 50 miles in length, were plotted using global positioning system (GPS) data. Three different maps are available: a plan view with a topographic base, a plan view with a natural color aerial photography base, and a 3D view with a natural color aerial photography base (Figure 2). USACE has undertaken distribution of 25,000 hard copies of the plan view topographic base version, and copies of all three map versions can be downloaded from the project website: <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/current/derp-fuds/wvma>.

2.2 Project Team Wins International Telly Award

For developing of an innovative animated flash video which educates the public about potential hazards associated with unexploded ordnance in the former West Virginia Maneuver Area (WVMA), S&C Advertising and Public Relations (San Antonio, Texas) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, were honored in the Safety category of the 26th Annual Telly Awards competition (Figure 3). Founded in 1978, the Telly Awards honor outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions. The Telly Awards annually showcase the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world. The Telly Awards is a widely known and highly respected national and international competition and receives over 10,000 entries annually from all 50 states and many foreign countries. The award-winning video can be viewed online at the project website: <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/current/derp-fuds/wvma>.

2.3 Public Awareness Program Being Implemented

To manage remaining OE risk without scaring the public to the point that they are afraid to enjoy the land for its intended uses, USACE continues to implement a broad public awareness program for the DSR of the former WVMA. The program provides the public with informational brochures, presentations, videos, and safety messages delivered by Wally the Woodchuck (Figure 4) – the newly developed project mascot whose objective is to better educate children. The program also educates local officials and volunteers on how to safely respond to an emergency in the DSR. A new project website was developed this year, and is serving as an effective tool for accomplishing project work, and implementing the public awareness program (<http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/current/derp-fuds/wvma>).

2.4 Partnering and Public Involvement

To facilitate multi-agency communications and expedite project-related decisions, a team comprised of USACE Huntington District, USACE OE Center of Expertise, USFS, WVDEP, West Virginia Division of Forestry, and contractor personnel have continued a neutrally facilitated partnering process. These efforts resulted in a signed partnership agreement and a public awareness and organizational plan for the project within only 5 months. Another important result of this interagency cooperation was that found-UXO response time was reduced from as long as 7 days to as short as a few hours. As a result of the team's innovative outreach efforts, public safety information will be readily available to all those seeking the enjoyment that the DSR has to offer. USACE gave a presentation concerning effective partnering and public awareness program development as implemented for the DSR project at the 2005 DoD Sustainable Ranges Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

3.0 USACE Points of Contact:

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Figure 1. Dolly Sods Scenic View.

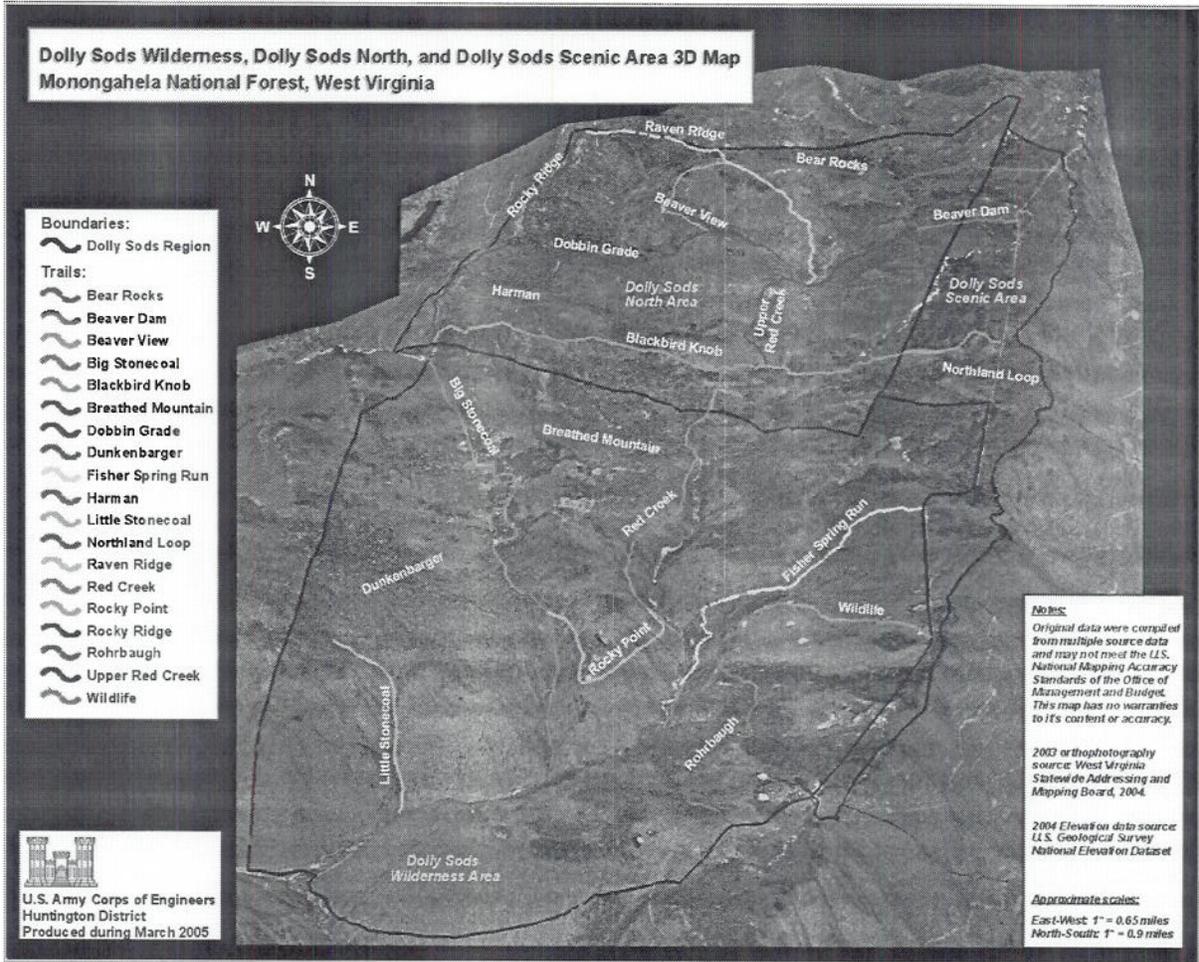


Figure 2. Dolly Sods 3D Trails Map.



Figure 3. 2005 Telly Award Presented to the WVMA Team.

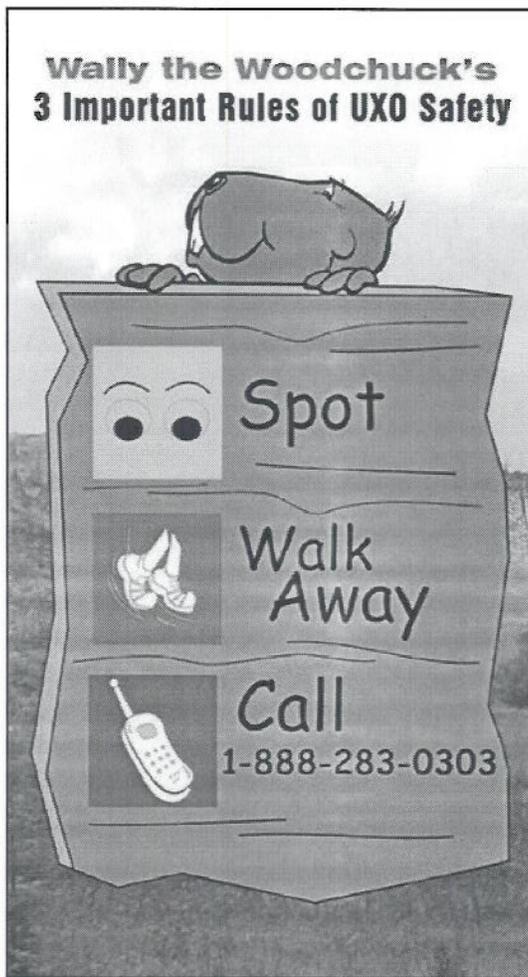


Figure 4. UXO Safety Rules Provided by Wally the Woodchuck