

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FOR FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES
INVENTORY PROJECT REPORT
DOLLY SODS WILDERNESS AREA
(WEST VIRGINIA MANEUVER AREA)
DAVIS, WEST VIRGINIA
PROJECT NO. G03WV006500

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PART I - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
DOLLY SODS WILDERNESS AREA
(WEST VIRGINIA MANEUVER AREA)
DAVIS, WEST VIRGINIA
PROJECT NO. G03WV006500

1. INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Huntsville Division, the Huntington District performed a site inspection of the former West Virginia Maneuver Area on 3 December 1984. The purpose of the site inspection was to determine the presence of unsafe debris, hazardous or toxic waste, and unexploded ordnance at the site.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is proposed to determine the types and extent of ordnance contamination at the site and develop alternatives to safeguard the public. The public discovers ordnance at the site on an annual basis, and personal injuries have occurred.

3. DESCRIPTION OF SITE

a. The site is located in Grant, Tucker and Randolph Counties, West Virginia.

b. The former maneuver area is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and Western Maryland Railroad. The Forest Service operates a wilderness and scenic area for the general public. Access is uncontrolled. Overnight camping permits are required and warning signs are posted. The railroad restricts access to its property. Personal injuries related to ordnance have occurred in the wilderness area.

ATTACHMENT 1 - SITE SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET

SITE SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET
FOR
PROJECT NO. G03WV006500

1. SITE NAME: Dolly Sods Wilderness Area (West Virginia Maneuver Area)
2. LOCATION: Davis, West Virginia - Tucker, Grant and Randolph Counties
3. DESCRIPTION OF SITE: Former maneuver area and artillery range
4. SITE HISTORY: The site was acquired by the Army in the early 1940s for military exercises. The site was returned to the Department of Agriculture in 1950.
5. AVAILABLE STUDIES AND REPORTS: None
6. CATEGORY OF HAZARD: Unexploded ordnance
7. BASIS FOR DETERMINATION OF DOD RESPONSIBILITY: The Department of Defense leased the area for a maneuver and artillery range.
8. POC/DISTRICT: Frank Albert, (304) 529-5194, Huntington District
9. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION: A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study are proposed to determine the types and extent of contamination and develop alternatives to safeguard the public.
10. STATUS: The site is operated as a wilderness area by the U.S. Forest Service.
11. ESTIMATED COST: Safety to provide

ATTACHMENT 2 - COST ESTIMATE

ATTACHMENT 3 - SITE MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

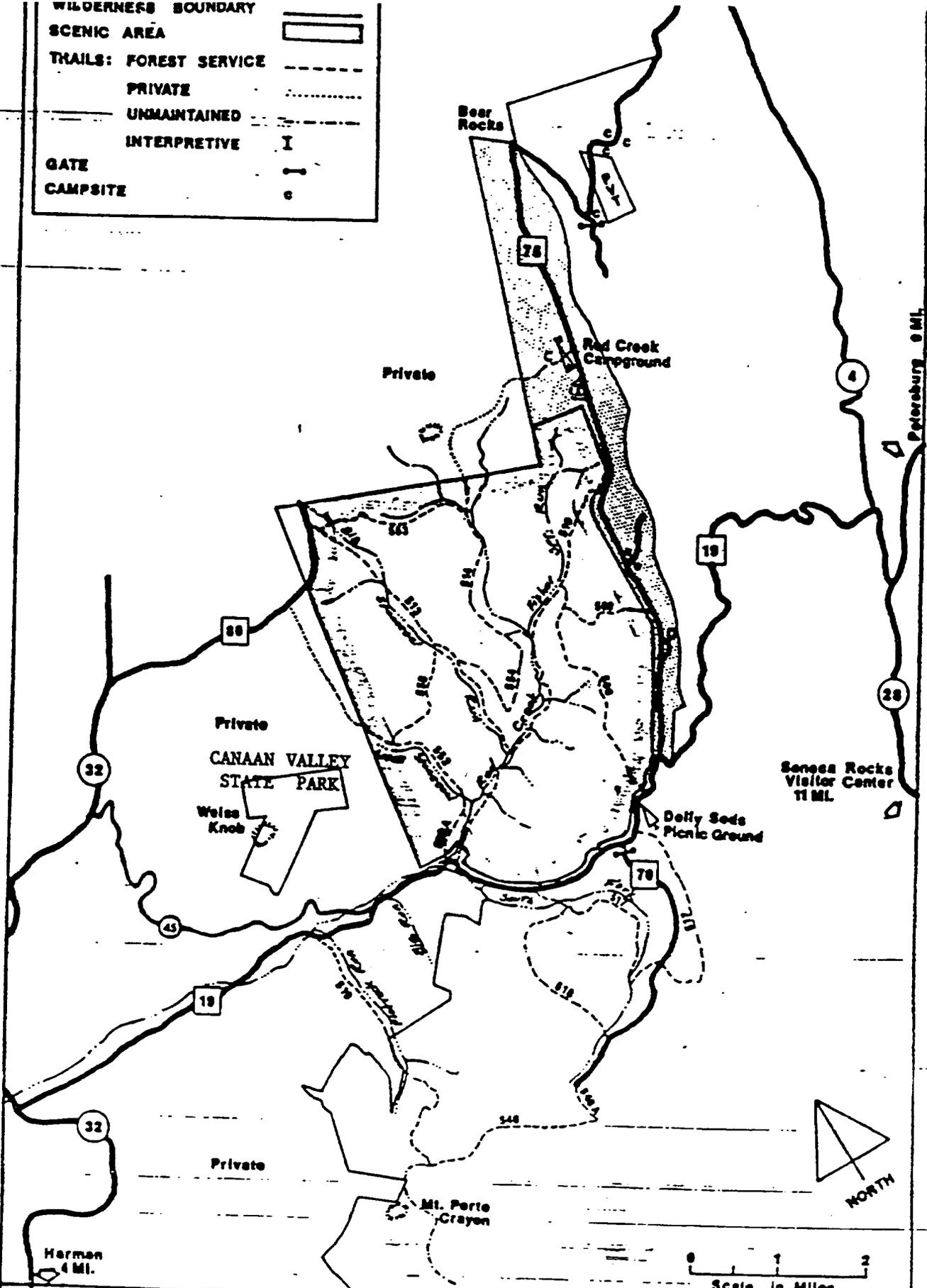


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
JOHN R. MCGUIRE, CHIEF

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

WEST VIRGINIA

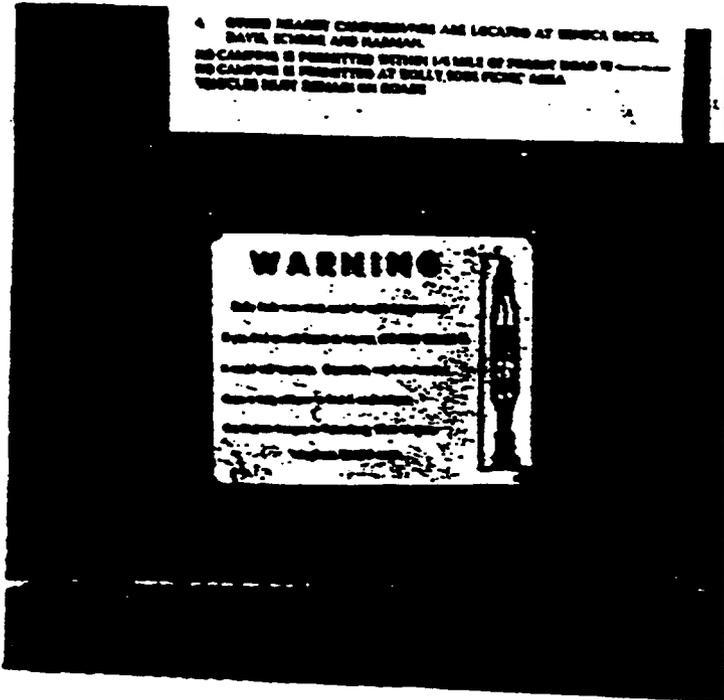
WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
SCENIC AREA	
TRAILS: FOREST SERVICE	
PRIVATE	
UNMAINTAINED	
INTERPRETIVE	
GATE	
CAMPSITE	



DOLLY SODS WILDERNESS AND SCENIC AREA

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

WV MANEUVER AREA
DAVIS, WV
PROJECT NO. G03WV006500



ENTRANCE SIGN



ENTRANCE SIGN



IMPACT AREA



IMPACT AREA

PART II - FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

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FINDINGS OF FACT

1. A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is proposed to determine the types and extent of ordnance contamination and develop alternatives to safeguard the public at this former munitions range. The general public has discovered unexploded ordnance at this site on an annual basis, and personal injuries have occurred.

2. The maneuver area consisted of a total of 2,180,742.37 acres of land. Of this, 350,416.37 acres were public lands; 48,557.00 acres were leased; and 1,781,769 acres were so-called lesser interests. According to a warning order notice dated 26 March 1945, these lesser interests were covered by "trespass agreements." Apparently, the land owners had given use of these lands to the Army verbally. There are no records surviving that describe the trespass agreements or the area they covered.

The public lands were all permitted to the Secretary of War by the Department of Agriculture, all being a part of the Monongahela National Forest. By letter dated 4 August 1943, 341,266 acres were permitted to the Army. By letter dated 10 November 1943, an additional 9,150.37 acres were permitted to the Army. Leases over 48,557 acres and one license from Western Maryland Railroad Company for a stream line were acquired by purchase and condemnation. All lands where work is recommended are those covered by the permits from the Department of Agriculture.

3. The West Virginia Maneuver Area was used by the Army for military exercises, including mountain training and maneuvering, during World War II. The exercises included firing of artillery into a designated area. No permanent facilities were constructed in the former maneuver area. There is no evidence that the area was under other than DOD control during the period of DOD interest.

4. A warning order issued for the entire facility, dated 26 March 1945, stated that on 19 March 1945 the entire 2,180,742.37 acre facility was declared surplus. A subsequent warning order dated 10 August 1945 withdrew the entire facility from surplus. A 21 April 1945 letter from the Office for Emergency Management, Office of Scientific Research and Development, Washington, DC (OEM-SRD) requested OCE issue a permit for OEM-SRD or its agencies or contractors to test fire rockets and projectiles.

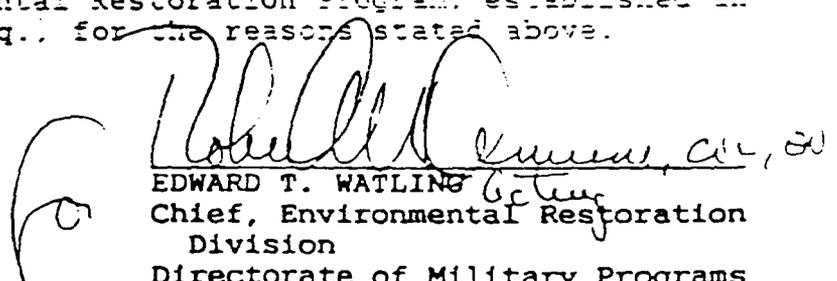
The permit was issued and would expire upon the Army's relinquishing the lands back to the Department of Agriculture. On 10 August 1950, OCE relinquished the land by letter back to the Department of Agriculture. A 27 June 1945 letter from OCE to ORD advised that these lands must be decontaminated before disposal and that such must be done even if decontamination costs exceeded costs of acquiring the land in fee. All work proposed to be done is located on the lands formerly permitted to the Secretary of War by the Department of Agriculture. These lands remain under the ownership of the Department of Agriculture. There were no intervening owners who could have contributed to the ordnance contamination at the site.

5. This site is owned by the Western Maryland Railroad and the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service operates a wilderness and scenic area for the general public, while the railroad restricts access to its property. The wilderness area is open to the public at all times. There are signs at access points leading into the area indicating that it was used for military exercises during World War II and that old ordnance still remain in the area, and should not be handled. The public discovers abandoned shells on an annual basis and personal injuries have occurred. There is no other evidence of unsafe debris, hazardous or toxic waste, or unexploded ordnance resulting from DOD use of the site.

DETERMINATION

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, the site has been determined to have been formerly used by DOD. Moreover, it is determined that an environmental restoration project, to the extent set out herein, is an appropriate undertaking within the purview of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, established under 10 U.S.C. 2701 et seq., for the reasons stated above.

21 May 50
Date


EDWARD T. WATLING
Chief, Environmental Restoration
Division
Directorate of Military Programs

PART III - POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS
DOLLY SODS WILDERNESS AREA
(WEST VIRGINIA MANEUVER AREA)
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1. Current DOD policy permits remediation of DOD-generated ordnance contamination provided both the policy criteria and technical criteria are met. With regard to the policy criteria; the title transfer documents do not absolve the Government from site restoration responsibility. DOD correspondence indicates responsibility to decontaminate the site before disposal, even if the cost exceeds the cost of acquiring lands in fee. The owner did not receive compensation in lieu of restoration; the property has not been altered or beneficially used for ordnance related purposes by subsequent owners; and there were no deed restrictions violated.
2. With regard to the technical criteria, the site has been evaluated as having a Risk assessment Code (RAC) of 2. A RAC score of 2 indicates a need for action to mitigate hazards or protect personnel. A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study are appropriate.

PART IV - PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS
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1. It is recommended that the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study be approved as proposed.