

SUMMER 2008

CAMP

## Bonneville news & information

Cleanup work at Camp Bonneville began in mid October 2006 after the Board of Clark County Commissioners accepted transfer of the Camp Bonneville property ownership from the Army to the county. The county then transferred ownership to the Bonneville Conservation Restoration & Renewal Team LLC (BCRRT), an organization managing a team of contractors expert in the cleanup and removal of hazardous wastes and unexploded ordnance.

A portion of the 3,800 acre site will ultimately be used as a regional public park managed by the Vancouver Clark Parks and Recreation Department.

Before public use can begin, munitions and hazardous wastes accumulated at the site over the past 80 years must be located and removed. The camp was commonly used for military training, including firing of high explosive shells, rockets and grenades.

The cleanup work since the 2006 transfer is being performed to meet requirements set by the Department of Ecology to protect human health and the environment. Both Ecology and staff from Clark County Public Works are tracking the cleanup activity to ensure the work is performed properly. The Army is providing up to \$27 million over the next several years to pay for cleanup and related insurance.

By spring 2008, BCRRT's experts in munitions location and removal have investigated and cleared 10-foot wide areas along 11.5 miles of the camp's exterior fence line and along 45 miles of roads and trails within the camp. This has resulted in about 90 percent of the camp fence line receiving at least a 30 foot wide clearance. Work has advanced to the valley floor where most of the

future park uses will be located.

Through April 2008, the BCRRT team located and disposed of 276 individual Munitions of Explosive Concern (MEC). These range in size from small 37 mm shells and 2.36-inch bazooka rockets from the World War II era to large artillery shells. The cleanup also includes removal of exploded shell debris or shrapnel.



*Sometimes project staff disposes of ordinance by exploding in place.*

Very few of these removed munitions were classified as live Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) containing high explosives. But even the so-called training rounds can contain some explosive residues. All are considered dangerous, and are treated as such for disposal.

Visit the BCRRT Web site at [www.bcrbt.org](http://www.bcrbt.org) for more detailed reports on cleanup activity and photo presentations about the various types of work under way.



## Frequently asked questions

### **Q** What types of contaminants are present at Camp Bonneville?

**A:** There are several different types of contaminants of concern at the facility. They vary by site location and environmental medium (soil or groundwater). In some areas of the site, used or discarded military munitions can be found in soil. These include unexploded ordnance (UXO), munitions, and munitions fragments. Other types of soil contamination include petroleum products, pesticides and lead. Soil and groundwater near an old landfill are contaminated with the solvent 1,1,1-trichloroethane, ammonium perchlorate (a chemical component of rockets), and explosive chemicals RDX and HMX.

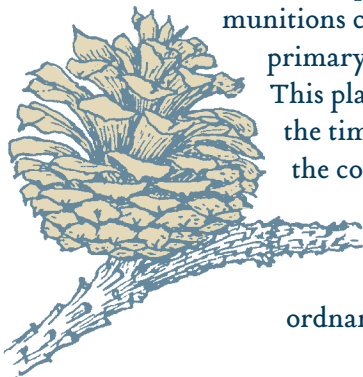
### **Q** What types of ordnance have been found at the camp to date?

**A:** Findings include small and large rockets, rocket motors, artillery projectiles and mortars, trip flares, and smoke, incendiary, and riot control grenades. Field crews collect all ordnance-related material (components and fragments) and most of the scrap material they find. These metals are then recycled after removal of explosive residues that might be present. The field team will detonate in place any suspect ordnance as the safest disposal method. These are relatively small, well-confined explosions.

### **Q** What is the timeline for completing the cleanup and what are the milestones for progress?

**A:** A legal document filed with the court in October 2006 describes the overall schedule for completing site investigation and cleanup activities. Completing cleanup to Department of Ecology standards could take until 2010 or beyond.

The Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) for munitions cleanup site wide is the primary milestone for the work. This plan has been delayed from the timeline originally set in the court decree. The extended timeline reflects ongoing site investigation activities that found ordnance in larger quantities



than originally anticipated and at locations not originally identified as containing these materials. These findings have required additional site investigation, and will likely lead to more extensive cleanup work.

Based on the new information, the Department of Ecology expects an expanded Cleanup Action Plan will be available for public review in late 2008. This completed cleanup plan will help refine the ultimate park reuse plan to reflect the findings and conclusions of the CAP.

### **Q** What portion of the camp will be open for public use after cleanup?

**A:** The county's plan contemplates that extensive areas of the western portion of the camp – the valley area near Lacamas Creek – will be used for a variety of park activities including: camping, picnicking, environmental education, cultural learning, outdoor school and shooting ranges. The plan also envisions

*The camp acreage includes Lacamas Creek and sensitive wetlands.*



a trail and road system throughout the park for hiking, horse back riding and mountain biking. The final configuration and extent of park uses will be determined through an extensive public process once clean-up activities are complete.

**Q Will there be additional public discussion of possible park uses?**

**A:** There was an extensive public process in the late 1990s to develop an initial concept plan showing intended park uses. This original reuse plan serves as the guide for cleanup actions at the camp today. Final park design decisions will be based on a combination of cleanup outcome, continuing interest of participating parties, and extensive, additional public participation. Currently, a citizens' advisory group appointed by the Board of Clark County Commissioners is monitoring the cleanup and will move to discussion of specific park design elements within the next couple years. This group will also help guide the county on effectively involving other interested community members in this decision making process.

**Q Will the area still be fenced with limited access when the cleanup is complete?**

**A:** The park will have limited access through one or more entry points, so the perimeter fence will remain in place following cleanup. Interior fences will also be in place to prevent public access to certain areas considered not suitable for public use.

**Q How will people know the park is safe to use?**

**A:** The cleanup supervised by the Washington Department of Ecology is intended to clear areas identified within the reuse plan for safe public use. Areas that cannot be cleaned to a safe level will be permanently fenced and access restricted.

**Q How will the county pay for park improvements?**

**A:** The public discussion about park design will also investigate a variety of funding options for consideration. At this point, there are no specific funding

proposals on the table. Development of a regional park at this site will be expensive, and may need to be completed in phases as funds are available.

**Q Will there also be a Veterans' Cemetery within Camp Bonneville?**

**A:** Clark County has been working with federal and state governments and local veterans to consider location of a cemetery somewhere within the 3,800 acre site. Accommodating both a Veterans' Cemetery and a public park will be challenging. County commissioners are coordinating options with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs and the Washington Department of Ecology. No decisions have been made. At this point, the federal government is also considering at least one other potential site in Oregon.

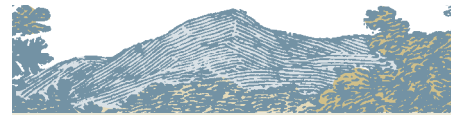
**Q If there is a cemetery, who will pay for it?**

**A:** Clark County will not use funds from county residents or businesses, such as property or sales taxes, to pay for cemetery development and operation. Those funds must be provided through the federal government or other non-county sources. However, the county may share some infrastructure construction and maintenance costs, such as roads and sewers, where these systems are used jointly by park and cemetery visitors.



## *For more information*

Clark County, the Department of Ecology and BCRRT all maintain Web sites containing information about the project. The county site provides a general overview. The Ecology site focuses on the regulatory oversight process for cleanup, and BCRRT provides the most up to date information on cleanup activities at the camp. Ecology and BCRRT also maintain a repository of all project information in the Regional Library at Westfield Shoppingtown.



## *Web sites and contact information*

**Clark County:**  
[www.campbonneville.org](http://www.campbonneville.org)

**Ecology:**  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/camp\\_bonneville/camp\\_bonneville\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/camp_bonneville/camp_bonneville_hp.htm)

**BCRRT:**  
[www.bcrirt.org](http://www.bcrirt.org)

You may also contact Jerry Barnett, Clark County Public Works Project Manager at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4969 or e-mail [jerry.barnett@clark.wa.gov](mailto:jerry.barnett@clark.wa.gov)

For other formats, contact Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2000; **Relay** (800) 833-6384; **E-mail** [ADA@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@clark.wa.gov)