



Camp Bonneville

Military Reservation Cleanup

April 2004

Spring Cleaning at Camp Bonneville!

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Army have been working hard. This spring and summer, they will be releasing several reports and cleanup plans for different areas at Camp Bonneville.

This will be an important time for YOU to:

- Learn more about the contaminants at the site
- Find out how much is there and what that means to you
- Comment on the Army's cleanup plans starting April 12, 2004 (see page 3)

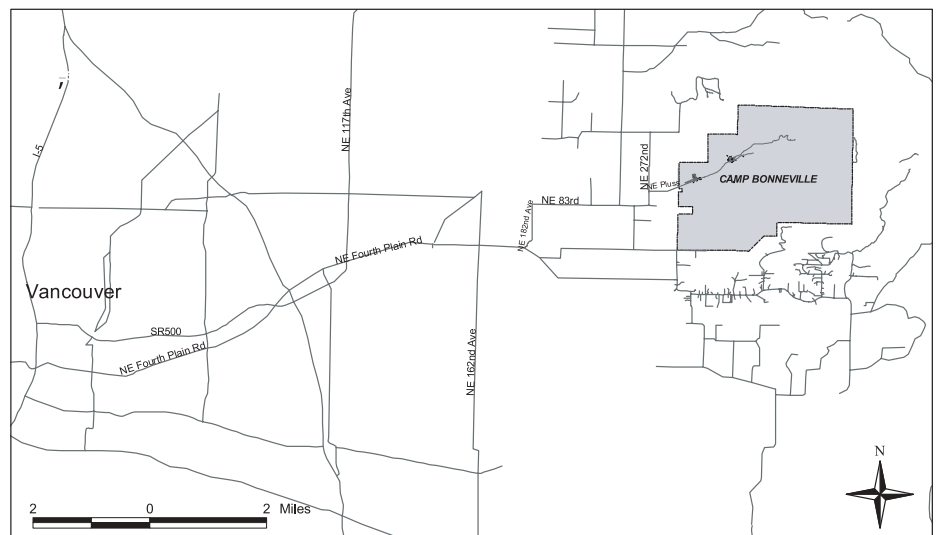
**READ ON FOR MORE
DETAILS!!!**

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If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in an alternative format, please contact Ecology at (306) 407-7170 (voice) or 1-800-833-6388 or 711 (TTY).

What is Camp Bonneville?

Camp Bonneville Military Reservation site is located in Clark County about five miles east of Vancouver City limits. It is almost 4,000 acres of forested land and is owned by the Federal Department of Defense and the State Department of Natural Resources. It was used from 1910 to 1995 for troop training and firing range practice. In 1995, it was selected for transfer and reuse and all active military operations ended at the site. Despite the work of Clark County and the Army, an early transfer of Camp Bonneville to the county did not happen as planned. Currently, the Army, with oversight from Ecology, is focusing their efforts on completing the investigation for environmental contamination and cleaning up the site. Transfer of the property to another owner may still occur in the future.



What Contamination Has Been Found?

Because of its history as a military training facility for eighty years, the munitions used and the materials that were disposed of have produced some soil and groundwater contamination.

Contaminants in the soil include petroleum products, pesticides and volatile organic chemicals. Groundwater contaminants were found in one area and include volatile organic chemicals, perchlorate and explosive chemicals. The details regarding the contamination will be provided in the studies that will be released soon.

There is also unexploded ordnance (UXO) throughout the site. Unexploded ordnance is an explosive munition that was fired but did not detonate. They exist whole, in parts and in fragments, and are not safe. There will be a study released and a cleanup plan specifically for unexploded ordnance.

Where is Contamination Found?

Contamination is found at specific locations throughout Camp Bonneville, which the Army calls “remedial action units.” These units are created as a way to define the locations that need to be investigated and then cleaned-up. Camp Bonneville has five remedial action units as well as a separate site-wide groundwater investigation.



<i>Remedial Action Unit 1</i>	Various locations throughout the camp where there were releases of hazardous toxic waste.
<i>Remedial Action Unit 2A</i>	The small arms ranges where military munitions were used.
<i>Remedial Action Unit 2B</i>	Demolition areas 2 & 3 where military munitions were disposed.
<i>Remedial Action Unit 2C</i>	Demolition area 1 and landfill 4 where military munitions and solid waste were disposed.
<i>Remedial Action Unit 3</i>	Addresses all unexploded ordnance issues on the site.

What Has Been Done?

The Army has already been working at the site. Several site studies have been completed and cleanup activities have occurred in some areas. The following is a brief summary of what’s been done:

<i>Remedial Action Unit 1</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed a draft cleanup action plan, that documents the Army’s site investigation and the cleanup that was conducted before Ecology became responsible for overseeing the cleanup.
<i>Remedial Action Unit 2A</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the soil contamination investigation at the small arms range and berms. A remedial investigation report is under development.
<i>Remedial Action Unit 2B</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the soil and groundwater investigation. A remedial investigation report is under development.
<i>Remedial Action Unit 2C</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discovered contamination at the landfill, which is seeping into the groundwater. A draft plan to excavate the landfill is nearly complete.
<i>Remedial Action Unit 3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studied the majority of the site to determine the presence and distribution of unexploded ordnance. A remedial investigation report is being developed.
<i>Groundwater Study</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted a site-wide groundwater study to determine whether the contamination is moving off-site. Residential wells along the site boundary have been tested.

Why Are We Being Sent This Information Now?

We want you to have information about Camp Bonneville and to know that cleanup is happening and that you will have opportunities to influence plans for cleaning up the site. Washington State cleanup law states that the public is to be kept informed of activities and be invited to review and comment on actions being proposed. To help outline the public involvement process, a public participation plan is available. This plan describes the cleanup process and provides a strategy that may be used to keep the community informed. As part of the research for this public participation plan, community members were interviewed and suggested that a current fact sheet, sent to residents, would be helpful. Additional activities can be found in the plan, which is available at site information repositories and Ecology's website.

What is Happening This Year?

This year, several reports and plans will be made available for public review and comment. When documents become available, a notice will be mailed to announce their availability and will provide instructions on how to obtain a copy to review, how to submit your comments to Ecology, and how your comments will be responded to. Your comments are due within 30 days after the start of the public comment period. After the public comment period ends, Ecology will review the comments and will make recommendations for any suggested changes to the documents.

When Can You Comment?

The next public comment period begins April 12th for the first set of documents. An 'open house' meeting will be held in Vancouver on Wednesday April 21st, 2004 to provide a forum where you can learn more about the documents that are available for comment and about other cleanup related activities at the Camp. More information about the public comment period and the open house will be mailed to those on the site mailing list, advertised in local newspapers and posted on Ecology's website:

————— http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/camp_bonneville/camp_bonneville_hp.htm —————

The documents that will be available for public review and comment on April 12, 2004 include:

- ▶ **A Draft Cleanup Action Plan for Remedial Action Unit 1**
Even though the Army has already completed cleanup at 20 former small waste sites, this document describes what was done and allows for the public to comment on the completed work.
- ▶ **A Draft Interim Action Work Plan for Remedial Action Unit 2C**
This plan describes how Landfill 4 (the source of groundwater contamination) will be removed. The Army plans to excavate soil and debris to be disposed off-site. A State Environmental Policy Act checklist has also been prepared for this unit to determine the potential impacts of completing the planned actions.
- ▶ **A State Environmental Policy Act Determination for Remedial Action Unit 2C**



What Will Happen at Camp Bonneville in the Future?

Cleanup activities at Camp Bonneville will continue for a number of years, during which time the Army and Ecology will continue to post notice of meetings and opportunities for comment as described in the public participation plan. Community members are encouraged to be involved by providing comments, attending meetings, or reviewing information about the site on Ecology's website. For more information contact:

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How can you get Involved?

- ▶ View websites that have information.
 - Ecology's Site Information: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/camp_bonneville/camp_bonneville_hp.htm
 - Clark County Site Information: <http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/campbonn/>
 - EPA's Site Information: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/CB>
- ▶ Attend the open house to learn more or to ask questions.
- ▶ Submit comments via mail or email.
- ▶ Attend Restoration Advisory Board meetings.

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