

Corps Contact

The *Badlands Bombing Range Report* is researched, written, compiled, and distributed by members of the Corps of Engineers, Omaha District BBR Project team. Articles relating to the environmental restoration of the Former BBR may be submitted for publication by members of the RAB; the Oglala Sioux Tribe; federal, state, or local agencies; and the general public. Mr. Thomas O'Hara has been designated as the official point of contact for all public inquiries concerning the Corps of Engineers' efforts at the Former BBR. All calls and letters directed to other Corps representatives will be re-routed through the Public Affairs Office. To avoid delays, please contact Mr. O'Hara directly at the address below.

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RAB NOTES

The BBR Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings are held in a workshop format to better meet the needs of the public. This format allows tribal and public members to freely interact one-on-one with BBR Project personnel, agency members, and others involved with the project.

The next BBR RAB meeting will be held on September 7, 2000, in the Piya Wiconi Auditorium at the Oglala Lakota College near Kyle, South Dakota. An open forum for public browsing will begin at **10:00 a.m.** At **noon**, the meeting will break for lunch and at **1:00 p.m.**, the co-chairs will hold a short, formal discussion. Members of the public are encouraged to stop and visit with the project team and share their experiences at the former bombing range and any information that will assist in the cleanup efforts. The open forum will reconvene at **3:00 p.m.**

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District

August 2000

Volume 4, No. 2

Introduction

The Badlands Bombing Range Report produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District to present current information about the environmental cleanup programs underway at the Former Badlands Bombing Range (BBR). Many state, federal, and tribal agencies are involved in the project including the Oglala Sioux Tribe and its BBR Project Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Air Force, and the National Park Service.

The Corps of Engineers is required by law to conduct an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to evaluate the cost and feasibility of environmental investigations and the resulting cleanup for sites at which contamination has been identified. EE/CA field activities are underway at the Former BBR, which will address sites with contamination from ordnance and explosives (OE). Upon completion of the EE/CA, the sites will be further evaluated for potential hazardous and toxic waste. A look at the recent fieldwork is provided in this issue.

Also included in this issue of the BBR Report are updates on the fiscal year 2000 Cooperative Agreement between the BBR Project Office and the Army Corps of Engineers and its recent successes, the rights-of-entry required before conducting OE investigations on private tribal land, and the OE activities for the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System (OSRWSS) pipeline. In addition, we pay tribute to a revered member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Mr. Gerald Clifford. Mr. Clifford's commitment and dedication to his people was an example to all.

The status of the OE environmental cleanup processes is provided, as well as National Park Service activities, information on the next RAB meeting, acronym definitions, and the project point of contact ■

Oglala Sioux Tribe Successfully Cleaning Up Its Own Lands

Through training received from the BBR Project Office and the Army Corps of Engineers, more and more Native Americans are now actively employed in restoring the Former BBR. Oglala Sioux Tribe members are serving as Field and Explosives and Ordnance Demolition (EOD) Level I Technicians on field crews working throughout the Former BBR. The field crews safely locate, identify, and remove ordnance and explosives (OE) materials under the direction of experienced contractors.

EOD Technicians received ordnance-related training at Texas A&M University. Five tribal members completed extensive fieldwork and training at Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona. Additional funding and authority is being pursued to send more teams to Yuma in the future. Shortly, it is anticipated that two Native Americans will be promoted to field team leadership roles.

Rights-of-Entry Permits Received!

The Army Corps of Engineers is pleased to announce that right-of-entry (ROE) permits for all Allotted Lands within the Former BBR have been received. ROE permits are still needed for many Fee Lands (private ownership). A ROE permit allows the project team to clean up unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other OE scrap on property within the Former BBR.

Removing UXO and related scrap makes the land safer for people and

livestock. ROE permits have also allowed construction of the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System (OSRWSS) pipeline to proceed. The pipeline will bring more water to the Pine Ridge Reservation. The new supply of water and the removal of UXO will increase the usefulness and value of property on the reservation. Also, ROE permits enable tribal members who participate in clean up operations to gain valuable experience and job skills that can be used around the world.

Cooperative Agreement 2000 Completed

The BBR Project Office and the Army Corps of Engineers have completed the fiscal year 2000 Cooperative Agreement. The new Cooperative Agreement will provide funding for the BBR Project Office through May 2001. The goal of the new Cooperative Agreement is for the BBR Project Office to increase the role of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in restoration of the Former BBR and will provide jobs for tribal members. The BBR Project Office has hired 21 additional EOD trainees and one

Geographic Information System technician to assist in cleanup of the Former BBR.

The new Cooperative Agreement also provides transition for increased BBR Project Office participation in resolving technical, financial, legal, and policy issues. It will also enable the BBR Project Office to provide more management, training, public education, and community relations support for the restoration of the Former BBR.

EE/CA Update

Fieldwork for the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to evaluate how best to assess and control OE sites at the Former BBR began again this April. The Former BBR was divided into 29 sectors to help manage and prioritize cleanup operations. Field operations have been conducted in seven sectors to date. OE materials removed include 20mm, 50cal, and M38 shells, 2.75-inch rockets, 5-inch high velocity rockets, bomb and projectile fragments, and fuzes.



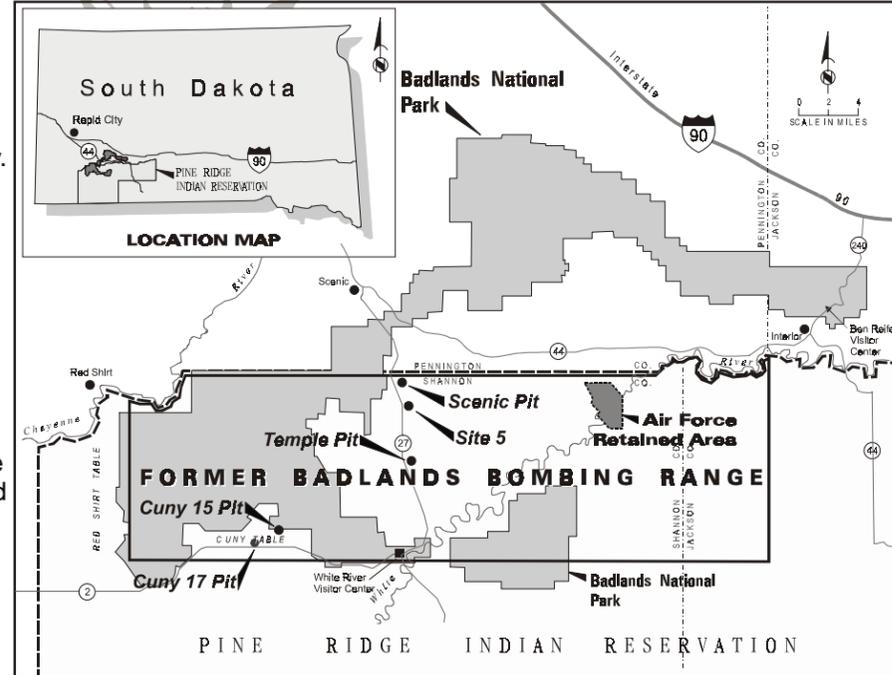
The Corps of Engineers must have ROE permits from landowners before field activities can proceed on each piece of property. ROE permits are still needed for many Fee Lands in the Former BBR before the EE/CA activities can be completed.



The sectors were ranked based on tribal priorities, the degree of known usage of ordnance, present land use, and topography.



The most critical sectors are being evaluated first. Geophysical surveys are conducted in each sector after it has been determined that there are no cultural features, archaeological, and paleontological artifacts present that could be endangered during EOD activities. The geophysical surveys detect and locate buried and surface OE using hand-held or helicopter-mounted magnetometers. The items detected in randomly selected grids are excavated and safely removed and detonated as required. Before- and after-detonation sampling is being coordinated to determine whether residual ordnance-related chemicals are present in the soil.



Scenic Byway Proposal Draws Federal Support

The Oglala Sioux Tribe, working through the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority (OSPRA), has submitted a proposal to the South Dakota State Department of Transportation for the Chief Crazy Horse Scenic Byway designation. This would include portions of the following.

- ❑ Highway 240 between I-90 at Cactus Flat and Interior,
- ❑ Highway 44 between Interior and Scenic,

- ❑ BIA 27 between Scenic and the White River Visitor Center,
- ❑ BIA 2 across Cuny Table to BIA 41, north to Red Shirt, and
- ❑ Highway 40 to Hermosa and then continuing west to connect with the Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway.

This ambitious project, supported by many levels of government, hinges on the paving of BIA 2 and the reconstruction of part of BIA 41. The BBR Project Office will provide OE clearance support to the project. On

June 2, 2000, the BBR team members met with Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Defense, Navy and Air Force officials to plan the construction phase of these road-building initiatives on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Heritage Center Planning Moving Forward

Badlands National Park Superintendent Bill Supernauth, members of his staff, and National Park Service planner Bill Walker met with the OSPRA Board on July 28, 2000 to present conceptual designs for the Lakota Heritage and Education Center. The Center's tentative location, two miles north and west of the Highway 27 White River crossing on Stirk Table, is undergoing OE investigation under the EE/CA and environmental review. This complex will serve as the Park's Visitor Center for the South Unit. It will house a

major collection of repatriated Lakota cultural material. The building will serve as an orientation and education facility for the Oglala Lakota people and provide for visitors seeking to learn about the natural and cultural history of the region.

The current round of public involvement will help determine the function and architectural theme of the proposed development. The Heritage and Education Center, to be built by the National Park Service in close harmony with the Oglala Sioux Tribe,

is anticipated to undergo final design in 2001, with construction to take place in 2002.

The museum and visitor center will anchor a larger development that will be constructed by other investors. Services to be provided may include an auto service station, campground, camp store, cafe, overnight lodging, and a Lakota craft demonstration and sales outlet facility. Progress will be reported in future issues of this newsletter.

Progress on the Waterline

OE geophysics and clearance activities were conducted on 56 miles along BIA 2 from the White River Visitor Center near Rockyford across Cuny Table and up BIA 41 to Red Shirt for the OSRWSS pipeline. So far, over 61 pounds of OE materials have been removed from other portions of the OSRWSS pipeline right-of-way. Paleontology and archaeology surveys are also conducted to protect fossils and items of cultural and historical importance along this route. OE clearance activities have been completed and the OSRWSS is in the process of issuing a notice-to-proceed with the waterline installation.

ACRONYMS

BBR	- Badlands Bombing Range
BIA	- Bureau of Indian Affairs
EE/CA	- Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis
EOD	- Explosives and Ordnance Demolition
OE	- Ordnance and Explosives
OSPRA	- Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority
OSRWSS	- Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System
ROE	- Right-of-Entry
UXO	- Unexploded Ordnance

BBR Faces

With sadness, we note the passing of Mr. Gerald Clifford, a member and leader of the Restoration Advisory Board for the Former BBR. His tireless dedication to his people and to the restoration of the Former BBR has inspired us all. His most recent work to bring a new and abundant supply of water to the Pine Ridge Reservation through the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System pipeline was only the latest of his many efforts to improve the quality of life for the people of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He will truly be missed.

Remember, signing ROE permits is good for the land and everyone who lives on the Pine Ridge Reservation!