



**ecology and environment, inc.**

International Specialists in the Environment

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May 20, 2010

Greg Weigel, On-Scene Coordinator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1435 North Orchard Street  
Boise, Idaho 83736

RE: Contract No. EP-S7-06-02; Technical Direction Document No. 09-10-0006  
Trip Report, Myra Road Site, Walla Walla, Washington

Dear Mr. Weigel:

Enclosed please find the final trip report for the Myra Road site. If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Josh Hancock at (206) 624-9537 or me at (206) 920-1739.

Sincerely,

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, INC.

Steven G. Hall  
START-3 Removal Project Leader

enclosure

cc: Josh Hancock, E & E, START-3 Project Manager, Seattle, WA

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**TRIP REPORT**

**Myra Road Site  
Walla Walla, Washington  
TDD: 09-10-0006**



Prepared for

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

Prepared by

Ecology and Environment, Inc.  
720 Third Avenue, Suite 1700  
Seattle, Washington 98104

May 2010

# Executive Summary

Ecology and Environment, Inc., (E & E) was tasked by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contract to provide technical support for an investigation at the Myra Road site (the site), which is located in Walla Walla, Washington. The site was formerly a part of the Stubblefield Salvage and Recycling, LLC salvage yard, which has since been subdivided and consolidated on two previous occasions. The site was sold during the most recent consolidation of the salvage yard which occurred just prior to the construction of Myra Road, which now separates the still active Stubblefield salvage yard from the site. The site is presently being filled and graded by the new property owners to facilitate future development.

During the course of an EPA removal assessment at the neighboring Stubblefield Salvage Yard site, an informant notified EPA that he had been instructed by his former employer Emory Stubblefield (then owner of Stubblefield Salvage and Recycling, LLC) to bury drums in 2001 at the Myra Road site. On October 20, 2009, START oversaw a geophysical survey of suspected burial locations at the site based on the information provided by the informant. The geophysical investigation included both a ground penetrating radar survey and a magnetic survey. The investigation was not able to positively identify or rule out the presence of buried drums at the site; however, the results indicated that approximately half of the survey area contained some amount of buried ferrous metal, and also identified several anomalous locations that appeared to warrant further investigation. Based on the findings of this investigation, EPA determined that test pits should be excavated at the site at the locations of the magnetic anomalies to investigate the possibility of there being buried drums at these locations.

On March 15, 2010, START and EPA mobilized to the site with one of the property owners, Randy Grudzinski, to excavate five test pits at the locations identified as potential burial locations during the geophysical survey. No drums or evidence of drums were encountered at any of the test pit locations.

Based on the observations made during the excavation of the test pits and the absence of any drums, EPA concluded that no further action by the Emergency Response Unit was required at the site.

## 1. PLACE VISITED

**Site Name:** Myra Road  
**Owner Name:** Randy Grudzinski and Mike Carpenter  
**Location:** Due west of 980 Myra Road, Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, WA, 99362  
(Figure 1)  
**SSID:** 10ZZ **CERCLIS ID:** Not Applicable  
**Latitude:** 46.064586 **Longitude:** -118.371914  
**Dates of Site Visit:** March 15, 2010

## 2. PURPOSE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tasked Ecology and Environment, Inc., (E & E) under Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contract number EP-S7-06-02, Technical Direction Document number 09-10-0006, to conduct an investigation for suspected buried drums at the Myra Road site (the site). START identified test pit locations for the equipment operator and recorded observations through logbook entries and photographic documentation. Attachment A contains photographs of the investigation.

The purpose of the investigation was to evaluate the informant's claim that drums had been buried at the site and to determine if there was an immediate threat to human health or the environment. The test pit excavation discussed in this trip report was performed to confirm the results of the geophysical subsurface survey performed in October 2009 (E & E 2009).

## 3. PERSONS INVOLVED

Agency/Company	Contact Persons/ Position	Phone Number
United States Environmental Protection Agency	Greg Weigel – On-Scene Coordinator	(208) 867-3710
Ecology and Environment, Inc.	Josh Hancock – Project Manager	(206) 624-9537
Randy Grudzinski Excavating	Randy Grudzinski – Property Owner	N/A

## 4. BACKGROUND

In the fall of 2009, an informant contacted EPA and stated that he had been instructed to bury drums at the site by his former employer Emory Stubblefield, who was the owner of Stubblefield Salvage and Recycling, LLC (Stubblefield) at that time. The informant stated that he had placed thirty drums on pallets, excavated a hole to approximately 20 feet below ground surface (bgs), and driven the pallets into the hole using a fork lift. The informant also indicated the approximate location of the supposed burial location.

At the time of the alleged burial (approximately 2001), the site was part of the Stubblefield salvage yard, which has since been subdivided and sold into two parcels that are divided by the newly constructed Myra Road. The Myra Road site is located on the west side of Myra road, and the Stubblefield salvage yard is located on the east side, as shown on Figure 2. The Myra Road site property is now owned by Randy

Grudzinski and Mike Carpenter. The Stubblefield salvage yard remains operational and is the subject of an ongoing EPA removal evaluation and action.

When START visited the Myra Road site in October 2009, the site was heavily overgrown with vegetation. Although much of the salvage debris had been removed from the property, some debris was still present on the ground in some areas. To investigate the alleged burial, START obtained the services of a geophysical subcontractor to survey the suspected burial locations with ground penetrating radar (GPR) and magnetometry. Due to physical obstructions (primarily dense vegetation) it was not possible to survey the entire site. At the request of EPA, the current property owner cleared specific areas based on information provided by the informant so that they could be surveyed.

The geophysical survey did not identify any positive drum burial locations, although several anomalies were observed during the magnetic survey which suggested that buried metal was present at the site. Due to site soil conditions (sandy silt underlain by clay and cobbles), the effective depth of the survey was approximately 5–10 feet. The full results of the geophysical survey are documented in the Technical Memorandum submitted to EPA on December 1, 2009, by START (E & E 2009).

When START returned to the site in March 2010, the property owner was importing fill to the site and grading the soil. The vegetation had been fully cleared and preparations were being made for site development.

## **5. ACTIVITIES**

During the week of March 15, 2010, EPA and START mobilized to the Stubblefield salvage yard site to install several monitoring wells. Due to the proximity of the Stubblefield and Myra Road sites, EPA determined that the test pits at the Myra Road site should be excavated concurrently with the Stubblefield field work.

On March 15, EPA OSC Greg Weigel, two START personnel, and a private utility locator mobilized to the Myra Road site to identify underground utilities and to mark the potential burial locations identified by the geophysical survey using GPS coordinates and marking paint.

On March 16, OSC Weigel and one START personnel met Randy Grudzinski of Randy Grudzinski Excavation at the Myra Road site. Mr. Grudzinski is one of the property owners of the Myra Road site property and was also the owner and operator of the excavator used in the investigation. When EPA had previously indicated its interest in excavating test pits at the site, Mr. Grudzinski volunteered to do the work himself.

Based on the results of the geophysical survey and the information provided by the informant, a total of five test pit locations were identified as shown on Figure 3. To evaluate the informant's claim that drums had been buried approximately 20 feet bgs, it was decided that test pits would be installed to a depth of approximately 20 feet bgs or until excavation could not be continued due to subsurface conditions.

At all five test pit locations, groundwater was encountered at 12 feet bgs or less. Excavation below the water table was not practicable due to infiltrating groundwater and soil sloughing off the sidewalls of the test pits. No drums were encountered at any of the five test pit locations. At test pits 1 and 2, some ferric metal debris was encountered in the shallow subsurface (approximately 3 feet bgs) which explains the magnetic anomalies at these locations (see photograph 6). No other metal debris was encountered in the other test pits. A slight sheen was noticed on the groundwater in test pit 1; however, there was no staining

of the soil and no unusual odors were noted. Test pit 2 was dug perpendicular to test pit 1 and intersected the center of test pit 1. No sheen was observed on the groundwater infiltrating into test pit 2 (see photograph 8). In general, the soil horizons appeared to be undisturbed with mixed fill and debris from 0–3 feet, sandy silt from approximately 3–9 feet, monolithic clay from 9–11 feet, and river cobbles and ground water at 12 feet. If historic excavations had been performed at any of the test pit locations, it is expected that the soil horizons would be mixed and less ordered. The layered soil horizons are evident in photographs 14 and 15.

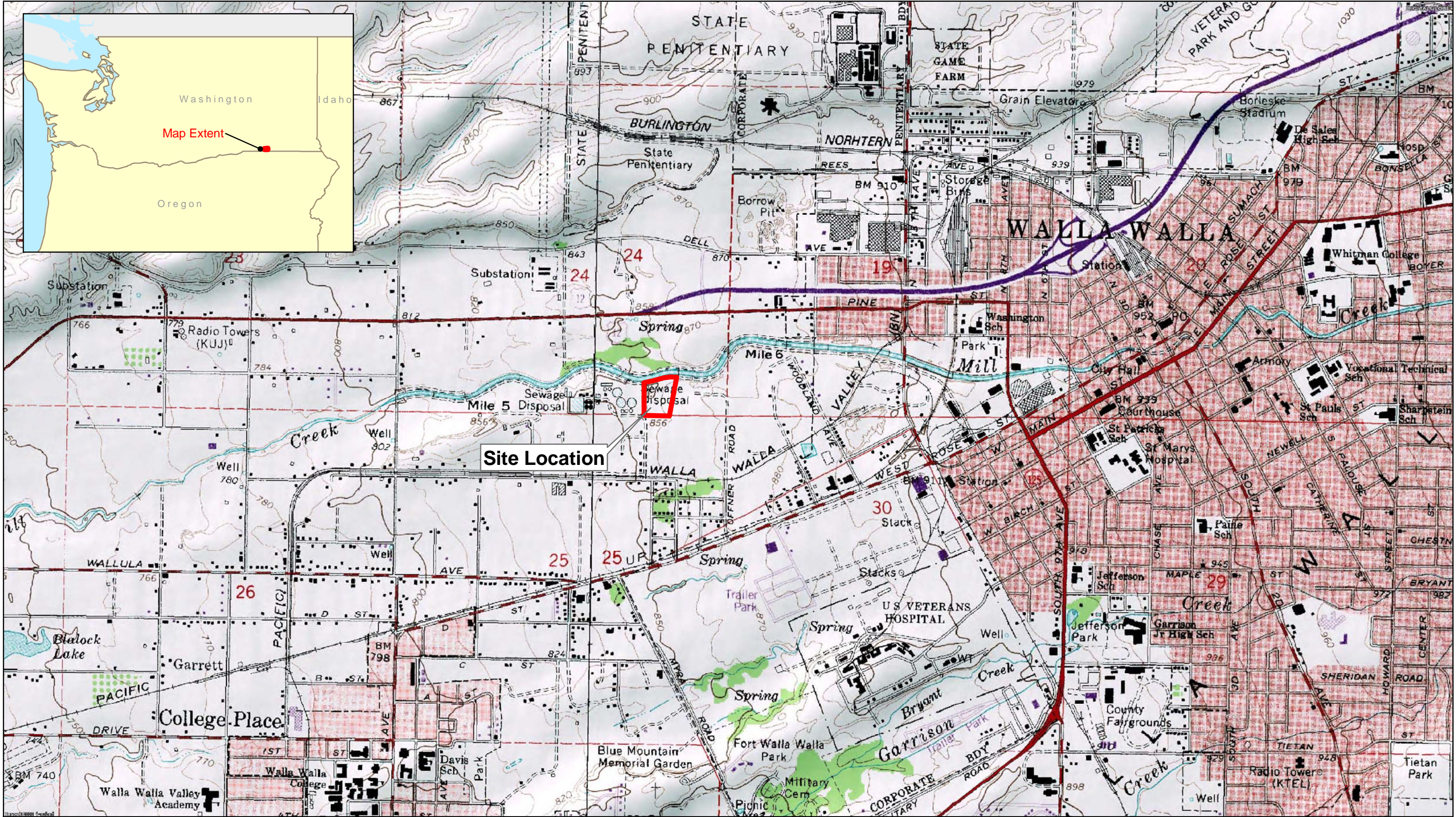
## **6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

EPA investigated an informant's claim that drums had been buried at the Myra Road site by performing a GPR and magnetic survey (October 2009; E & E 2009) and excavating test pits at locations where anomalies had been observed (March 2010). No drums or evidence of drums were encountered during the excavation of test pits, and the soil horizons appeared to be undisturbed at these locations. Based on these results, EPA concluded that no further action by the Emergency Response Unit was required at the site.

## **7. REFERENCES**

Ecology and Environment, Inc., (E & E), December 2009, Technical Memorandum, Myra Road Site, Walla Walla, Washington, prepared for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Seattle, Washington, under Contract No. EP-S7-06-02, TDD No. 09-10-0006.





Legend

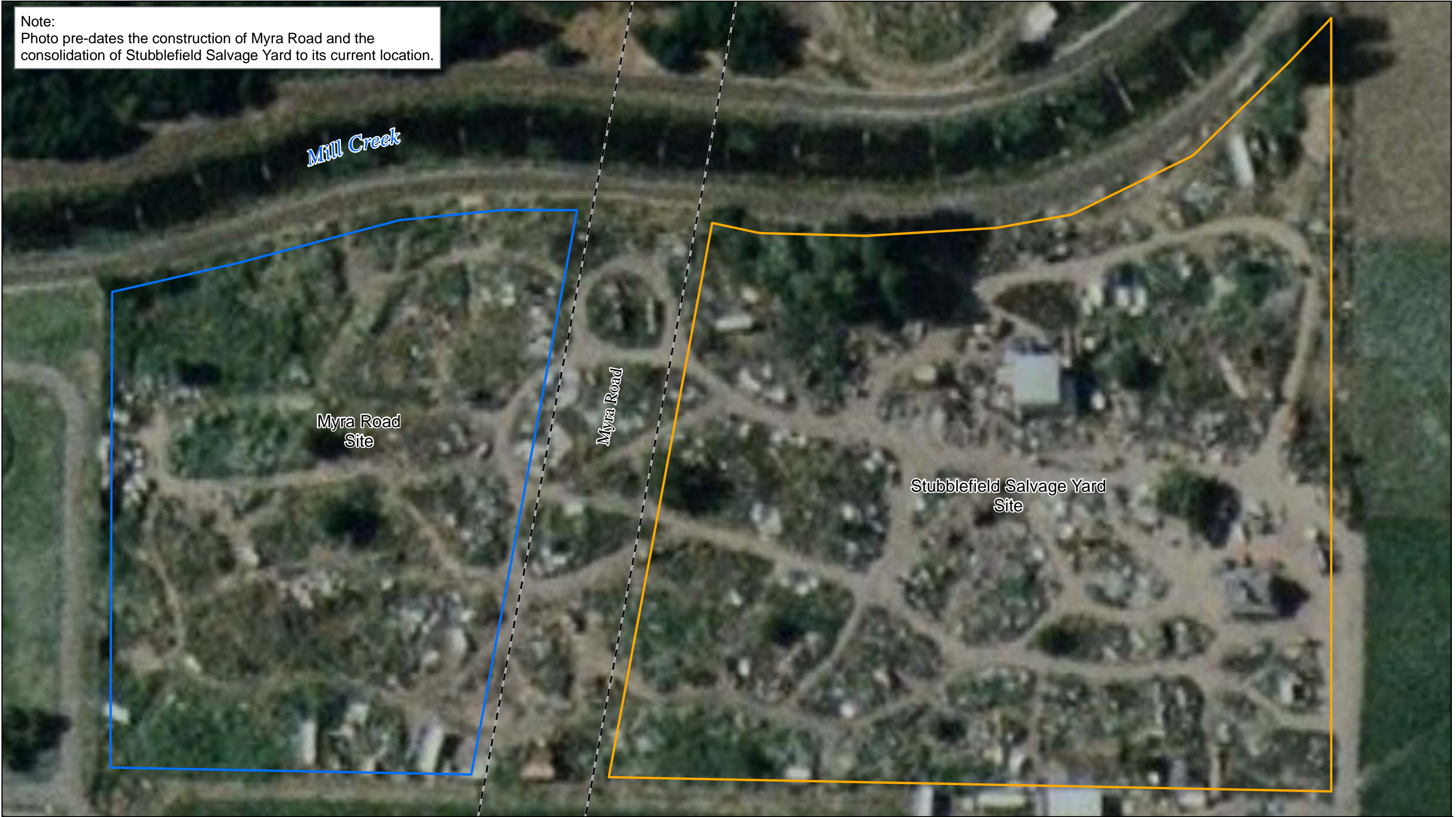
 Site Boundary

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

**Figure 1: Site Location**  
**Myra Road Site**  
Walla Walla, Washington  
Time Critical Removal Assessment




Note:  
Photo pre-dates the construction of Myra Road and the consolidation of Stubblefield Salvage Yard to its current location.





	<b>Legend</b>		<b>Figure 2: Site Layout</b> <b>Myra Road Site</b> Walla Walla, Washington Time Critical Removal Assessment		<b>ecology and environment, inc.</b> International Specialists in the Environment Seattle, Washington
	<b>Site Boundary</b> Myra Road Site Stubblefield Salvage Yard Site				









**Legend**

 Proposed Test Pits  Myra Road

 Test Pits  Stubblefield Salvage Yard

100 50 0 100 200

Feet

**Figure 3: Test Pit Locations w/ Magnetic Survey Results**  
**Myra Road Site**  
Walla Walla, Washington  
Time Critical/Removal Assessment



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International Specialists in the Environment  
Seattle, Washington

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Photographic Documentation**



MYRA ROAD BURIED DRUM SITE  
Walla Walla, Washington



Photo 1 Dump truck bringing fill to the Myra Road site.

*Direction: Northeast Date: 3/15/10 Time: 08:35*



Photo 3 Excavator in foreground, waste water treatment plant in distance.

*Direction: West-Southwest Date: 3/15/10 Time: 08:38*

TDD Number: 09-10-0006  
Photographed by: Josh Hancock



Photo 2 Mill Creek as seen from the northern edge of the site.

*Direction: West Date: 3/15/10 Time: 08:38*



Photo 4 Stakes showing approximate test pit locations.

*Direction: South Date: 3/15/10 Time: 08:38*



MYRA ROAD BURIED DRUM SITE  
Walla Walla, Washington

TDD Number: 09-10-0006  
Photographed by: Josh Hancock



Photo 5 Excavating Test Pit 1.

Direction: South Date: 3/15/10 Time: 08:41



Photo 6 Metal debris in the sidewall of Test Pit 1.

Direction: Down Date: 3/15/10 Time: 08:46



Photo 7 Sheen visible on groundwater in Test Pit 1.

Direction: Down Date: 3/15/10 Time: 08:56



Photo 8 Striking groundwater in Test Pit 2.  
Note: No sheen visible.

Direction: Down Date: 3/15/10 Time: 09:14





Photo 9 Striking groundwater in Test Pit 3.

Direction: Down Date: 3/15/10 Time: 09:32



Photo 10 Close up of soil excavated from Test Pit 2.  
Note: No sheen or staining visible.

Direction: Down Date: 3/15/10 Time: 09:34



Photo 11 Starting to dig Test Pit 4. Encountering thick clay.

Direction: Down Date: 3/15/10 Time: 09:35



Photo 12 Large blocks of clay from Test Pit 4.

Direction: Southwest Date: 3/15/10 Time: 09:37





Photo 13 Preparing to excavate Test Pit 5.

*Direction: West*

*Date: 3/15/10*

*Time: 09:43*



Photo 14 Sidewall of Test Pit 4. Soil horizons appear undisturbed.

*Direction: Down*

*Date: 3/15/10*

*Time: 09:44*



Photo 15 Sidewall of Test Pit 4. Soil horizons appear undisturbed.

*Direction: Down*

*Date: 3/15/10*

*Time: 09:44*



Photo 16 Soil and groundwater excavated from Test Pit 5.  
Note: No sheen visible.

*Direction: Down*

*Date: 3/15/10*

*Time: 09:45*