

15 October 2010



PUBLIC NOTICE

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, has completed a Finding of No Significant Impact and an Environmental Assessment for a proposed land purchase and cemetery expansion project in Eagle Point Oregon. The project consists of the proposed land purchase and future development of approximately 15 acres located adjacent to the existing Eagle Point National Cemetery, from a private land owner to the Department of Veterans Affairs. These documents satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

These documents are available to the public at the Eagle Point National Cemetery Administrative Office, located at 2763 Riley Road, Eagle Point, OR 97524 (Phone Number: 541-826-2511), or at the following internet address:

<http://www.cem.va.gov/wn/EA.asp>

For additional information, please contact Mr. Frank Duncan, Environmental Protection Specialist, National Cemetery Administration, Office of Construction Management (41F), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-0567.

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**



**ACQUISITION AND EXPANSION OF LAND OF THE
EAGLE POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AND

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

OCTOBER 2010

ABSTRACT:

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, operates the Eagle Point National Cemetery, located near Eagle Point, Oregon. Eagle Point is currently the 39th busiest cemetery of the 131 cemeteries in the National Cemetery Administration system, and is estimated to close to full casket burials in 2030. The cemetery serves 60,809 veterans in Southern Oregon near Medford, Oregon. The cemetery provides burial services to approximately 600 veterans and eligible family members per year. The nearest national cemeteries open for burial are Roseburg National Cemetery in Roseburg, Oregon and Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. The distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Roseburg National Cemetery is 100 miles; the distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Willamette National Cemetery is 270 miles.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, is responsible for providing burial services to eligible veterans and family members pursuant to the provisions of the National Cemeteries Act of 1973 and other statutory authority and regulations.

Veteran deaths are increasing each year as World War II and Korean War-era veterans continue to advance in age. This progressive increase in veteran deaths results in a corresponding increase in the demand for burial services in national cemeteries. One of the strategic goals of the National Cemetery Administration is to assure that the burial needs of veterans are met. The National Cemetery Administration estimates that the Eagle Point National Cemetery will no longer have space for new in-ground burials by 2030.

An adjacent property owner has offered to sell 15 acres of adjacent land to the cemetery. The parcel of land to be purchased is directly east of Eagle Point National Cemetery. It is open, gently sloping, and currently pastureland (sheep) with no significant biological or botanical issues. It would provide burial space until at least 2090.

Work projected to be performed in the purchased property includes 20,000 full casket (pre-placed crypt) burial sites, 10,000 above ground cremated remain niches (columbarium), and associated roads and infrastructure.

There are no significant environmental impacts expected as a result of expansion of the existing cemetery into the property to be purchased. An extensive cultural resource investigation was made of the parcel and no items or areas of significance were identified. A comprehensive biological/botanical survey was conducted with a negative finding for any sensitive plant or wildlife species. No other environmental concerns were identified with the property.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ACQUISITION OF LAND FROM PRIVATE LANDOWNER TO EXPAND EAGLE POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY

**EAGLE POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY
2763 RILEY ROAD
EAGLE POINT, OREGON
(541) 826-2511**

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, operates the Eagle Point National Cemetery, located near Eagle Point, Oregon.

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, operates the Eagle Point National Cemetery, located near Eagle Point, Oregon. Eagle Point is currently the 39th busiest cemetery of the 131 cemeteries in the National Cemetery Administration system, and is estimated to close to full casket burials in 2030. The cemetery serves 60,809 veterans in Southern Oregon near Medford, Oregon. The cemetery provides burial services to approximately 600 veterans and eligible family members per year. The nearest national cemeteries open for burial are Roseburg National Cemetery in Roseburg, Oregon and Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. The distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Roseburg National Cemetery is 100 miles; the distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Willamette National Cemetery is 270 miles.

Veteran deaths are increasing each year as World War II and Korean War-era veterans continue to advance in age. This progressive increase in veteran deaths results in a corresponding increase in the demand for burial services in national cemeteries. One of the strategic goals of the National Cemetery Administration is to assure that the burial needs of veterans are met. The National Cemetery Administration estimates that the Eagle Point National Cemetery will no longer have space for new in-ground burials by 2030.

An adjacent property owner has offered to sell 15 acres of adjacent land to the cemetery. The parcel of land to be purchased is directly east of Eagle Point National Cemetery. It is open, gently sloping, and currently pastureland (sheep) with no significant biological or botanical issues. It would provide burial space until at least 2090.

Work projected to be performed in the purchased property includes 20,000 full casket (pre-placed crypt) burial sites, 10,000 above ground cremated remain niches (columbarium), and associated roads and infrastructure.

There are no significant environmental impacts expected as a result of expansion of the existing cemetery into the property to be purchased. A Site Assessment was

completed for the site with no environmental concerns reported. See Environmental Assessment Appendix 1, Environmental Data Reports. An extensive cultural resource investigation was made of the parcel and no items or areas of significance were identified. See Appendix 2, "Cultural Resource Inventory, 1216 Stevens Road, Eagle Point, Oregon." A Biological and Botanical Survey was accomplished. No federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species were identified. See Appendix 4, "Biological and Botanical Survey, 1216 Stevens Road, Eagle Point, Oregon". No other environmental concerns were identified with the property.

A notice of availability for a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the Medford Mail Tribune in Medford, Oregon on 5 September 2010. Copies of the documents were available at the Eagle Point Library Branch, located at 239 W. Main Street, Eagle Point, Oregon, 97524 and at the Eagle Point National Cemetery, located at 2763 Riley Road, Eagle Point, OR 97524. A copy was also published on the following public web site: <http://www.cem.va.gov/wn/EA.asp>. No comments were received from the public during the comment period.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

After reviewing the Environmental Assessment for the acquisition of land for Eagle Point National Cemetery, the purchase of privately owned land and expansion of the existing cemetery would not constitute a major federal action. It would not have a significant impact upon the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Accordingly, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



Frederick J. Neun
Director, Office of Construction Management
National Cemetery Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

Date: 10-12-10

CONTACT INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LOCATIONS

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2. Department of Veterans Affairs, National
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<http://www.cem.va.gov/wn/EA.asp>

3. Frank Duncan, Environmental Engineer
Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Office of Construction Management

Environmental Assessment

ACQUISITION OF LAND FROM PRIVATE LANDOWNER TO EXPAND EAGLE
POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY



EAGLE POINT CEMETERY
2763 Riley Road
Eagle Point, OR 97524
(541) 826-2511

OCTOBER 2010

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Appendix 4, "*Biological and Botanical Survey, 1216 Stevens Road, Eagle Point, Oregon, 97524*"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, operates the Eagle Point National Cemetery, located near Eagle Point, Oregon. Eagle Point is currently the 39th busiest cemetery of the 131 cemeteries in the National Cemetery Administration system, and is estimated to close to full casket burials in 2015. The cemetery serves 60,809 veterans in Southern Oregon near Medford, Oregon. The cemetery provides burial services to approximately 600 veterans and eligible family members per year. The nearest national cemeteries open for burial are Roseburg National Cemetery in Roseburg, Oregon and Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. The distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Roseburg National Cemetery is 100 miles; the distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Willamette National Cemetery is 270 miles.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, is responsible for providing burial services to eligible veterans and family members pursuant to the provisions of the National Cemeteries Act of 1973 and other statutory authority and regulations.

Veteran deaths are increasing each year as World War II and Korean War-era veterans continue to advance in age. This progressive increase in veteran deaths results in a corresponding increase in the demand for burial services in national cemeteries. One of the strategic goals of the National Cemetery Administration is to assure that the burial needs of veterans are met. The National Cemetery Administration estimates that the Eagle Point National Cemetery will no longer have space for new in-ground burials by 2030.

An adjacent property owner has offered to sell 15 acres of adjacent land to the cemetery. The parcel of land to be purchased is directly east of Eagle Point National Cemetery. It is open, gently sloping, and currently pastureland (sheep) with no significant biological or botanical issues. It would provide burial space until at least 2090.

Work projected to be performed in the purchased property includes 20,000 full casket (pre-placed crypt) burial sites, 10,000 above ground cremated remain niches (columbarium), and associated roads and infrastructure.

There are no significant environmental impacts expected as a result of expansion of the existing cemetery into the property to be purchased. An extensive cultural resource investigation was made of the parcel and no items or areas of significance were identified. A comprehensive biological/botanical survey was conducted with a negative finding for any sensitive plant or wildlife species. No other environmental concerns were identified with the property.

LOCATION

The Eagle Point National Cemetery was opened in 1952 as an adjunct to the Veterans Administration Domiciliary (VA) at White City about four miles away. The VA operated the cemetery until 1973 when it was transferred to the new National Cemetery System and renamed White City National Cemetery. On March 19, 1985, the name was changed again to Eagle Point National Cemetery to convey a more accurate sense of its location. It comprises 42.5 acres. The project area is immediately east of the eastern section of the existing burial areas. The area is currently pastureland.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED

A Draft Environmental Assessment was completed in August 2010 by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It was completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA - 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, and VA Regulations, Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 26.4 (a). The Environmental Assessment indicated minimal impacts on the environment. It included an Environmental Site Assessment completed in accordance with ASTM standards for the site with no environmental concerns reported. See Appendix 1, Environmental Data Reports. This Environmental Assessment reports on the effects of developing additional burial sites and supporting infrastructure on the proposed property to be donated.

An extensive cultural resource investigation was made of the parcel and no items or areas of significance were identified. See Appendix 2, *"Cultural Resource Inventory, 1216 Stevens Road, Eagle Point, Oregon, 97524."*

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: No-Action Alternative:

Eagle Point National Cemetery will close to new burials in 2030 if additional burial sites are not established. Currently there are no open national cemeteries or state veterans cemeteries within a reasonable distance of Eagle Point that could absorb the demand for burial services for veterans and their eligible family members.

Alternative 2: Purchase Land and Expand Existing Cemetery

VA NCA proposes to purchase the 15-acre parcel from a private landowner and construct: 1) 20,000 full casket gravesites, 2) 10,000 above ground cremated remain niches (columbarium) and 3) extend the current roadways and utilities, and additional associated site improvements.

BASIS FOR SELECTION

The expansion area needs to be adjacent to the existing cemetery to allow operation of both the existing cemetery and expansion area. The project site selected is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the existing cemetery.

The purchase of the land and the associated construction project is the preferred alternative, as it enables continuation of full service burials to veterans without disrupting ongoing cemetery operations over an extended period of time. Without this expansion, Eagle Point National Cemetery would close to full casket burials in 2030. The nearest national cemeteries open for burial are Roseburg National Cemetery in Roseburg, Oregon and Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. The distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Roseburg National Cemetery is 100 miles; the distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Willamette National Cemetery is 270 miles.

CEMETERY USE SUITABILITY

Slope

The parcel is gently sloping with 100% of the site having 3% slope or less, similar or less than the existing cemetery.

Soils

100% of the site is classified as Carney clay, similar to the existing cemetery.

Bedrock

No surface rock was identified. The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil Survey reports the paralithic bedrock at 4 feet, similar to the existing cemetery.

Groundwater

No groundwater has been detected at the adjacent existing cemetery during normal gravesite excavation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Alternative 1 - No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action alternative, no impacts to the environment will occur on the 15 acre parcel of land that is being considered for purchase. Eagle Point Cemetery would close to new full casket burials in 2030. Veterans in the area would have the alternative of being buried in the two national cemeteries located within 100 to 436 miles of Eagle Point, or of being buried in private cemeteries.

Alternative 2- Purchase Land and Expand Existing Cemetery

Under Alternative 2, the VA NCA would purchase the 15 acres of land from the private landowner and expand the existing cemetery onto the pasture land. The project would include construction 20,000 full casket gravesites, 10,000 above ground cremated remain niches (columbarium) and associated roads and infrastructure.

SPECIFIC AREAS EVALUATED:

Aesthetics - The property has been impacted by overgrazing by sheep. The oak savanna is characterized by canopy closures less than 20%, and a significant portion of the property has been cleared and developed into a rural residence, two-bay garage/workshop, and non-native ornamental landscaping. Impact would be minimal because the appearance would be an improvement to its existing condition, and be an extension of the existing burial areas.

Air Quality - There may be minor, short-term impacts to air quality during the construction phase. Best management practices will be used to minimize dust creation. All on-site vehicles will comply with state emissions testing requirements, and battery powered carts are used for internal trips whenever possible.

Community Services - The construction project and continued use of the cemetery will cause no change in use of community services.

Cultural Resources – There are no significant historic or archaeological resources on the site, as a result of an extensive archaeological survey. See Appendix 2, “*Cultural Resource Inventory, 1216 Stevens Road, Eagle Point, Oregon, 97524.*” Consultation with the Oregon Historic Preservation Office resulted in a determination that there are no historic properties present within the proposed land for purchase and the property was suitable for transfer. See Appendix 3, SHPO letter dated 17 August 2010 and correspondence from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians dated 10 September 2010.

Economic Activity - Continued operation of the cemetery is associated with continued full-time employment opportunities and economic opportunities for the surrounding community.

Floodplains. Wetlands - There are no impacts on floodplains, wetlands, or tidal areas associated with Eagle Point National Cemetery. No change would result from this construction project.

Geology and soils - The soil on the site exclusively consists of Carney clay, similar to the existing cemetery. This soil type is consistent with requirements for cemetery development. No significant grading is expected. There will be no adverse impact on geologic features.

Property use - The development of the property would have minimal effect on the current property use. The planned use is a continuation of the adjacent existing cemetery operations.

Noise - The development of the property could cause short-term elevated noise levels during the construction phase. Following construction the site will generate the same noise levels associated with the existing cemetery.

Real Property - The development of the property would have no effect on real property concerns. The property is currently private (taxed) property and will convert to federal government (Federal untaxed) property.

Resident Population - The development of the property would have no effect on resident population, as the property is located in a minimally populated rural area.

Solid/Hazardous Waste - The development of the property would result in minimal short term generation of solid waste related to construction and no change in amount and/or type of solid waste generated as a result of everyday operations.

Transportation - The development of the property would not cause a significant increase in traffic beyond existing levels generated by cemetery use. There would be a short term increase related to construction.

Utilities - The development of the property would require extension of the existing water system in the cemetery for the new area. Additional water usage would be minimal.

Vegetation/Wildlife/Biological – A comprehensive biological and botanical survey was accomplished for the site (See Appendix 4, “*Biological and Botanical Survey, 1216 Stevens Road, Eagle Point, Oregon, 97524*”). The development of the property would not result in impacts to state or federally listed (sensitive) plant or wildlife. The property is currently disturbed pasture land that has been highly impacted by overgrazing (sheep)/ No federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species are known to exist in the proposed land to be purchased. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had no comments concerning the survey.

Water Resources - During construction, best management practices would be used to control erosion and sedimentation that could impact local streams.

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 PURPOSE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is responsible for providing cemetery services to veterans and other eligible persons pursuant to the provisions of the National Cemeteries Act of 1973 and other statutory authority and regulations. Under this mandate, the National Cemetery Administration is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 131 existing National Cemeteries, and the construction of new National Cemeteries. The purpose of the proposed action is to fulfill a need for continued availability of a national veteran's cemetery in the Jackson County area of Oregon.

One of the strategic goals of the National Cemetery Administration is to assure that the burial needs of veterans are met. Experience and recent historical data show that over 80 percent of persons interred in national cemeteries resided within 75 miles of the cemetery at time of death. Based upon this experience, the National Cemetery Administration considers the burial needs of veterans to be met for those veterans that have reasonable access to a burial option. Reasonable access to a burial option means that a first interment option (whether for casketed remains or cremated remains, either in-ground or in columbaria) in a national or state veterans cemetery is available within 75 miles of the veteran's place of residence. There are two national cemeteries open for burials located within 100 to 270 miles of Eagle Point National Cemetery: Roseburg National Cemetery in Roseburg, Oregon and Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. The distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Roseburg National Cemetery is 100 miles; the distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Willamette National Cemetery is 270 miles.

1.2 NEED

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, operates the Eagle Point National Cemetery, located in Eagle Point, Oregon. Eagle Point is currently the 39th busiest cemetery of the 131 cemeteries in the National Cemetery Administration system, and may deplete their gravesites as early as 2030. The cemetery serves 60,809 veterans in the Southern Oregon area. The cemetery provides burial services to approximately 600 veterans and eligible family members per year. Gravesites are depleted at a rate of 500 sites per year. The nearest open national cemeteries are in Roseburg National Cemetery in Roseburg, Oregon and Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. The distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Roseburg National Cemetery is 100 miles; the distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Willamette National Cemetery is 270 miles.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 FEDERAL ACTION

The proposed action is to purchase the 15-acre parcel from the private landowner and construct: 1) 20,000 full casket gravesites, 2) 10,000 above ground cremated remain niches (columbarium), and 3) extend the current roadways and utilities, and additional associated site improvements.

The property would extend the useful life of the cemetery for an additional 60 year period. See Figures 1 and 2, Project Map.

2.2 LOCATION

A private landowner has offered to sell 15.0 acres of adjacent land to the cemetery. The parcel of land to be purchased is immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of the cemetery. It is open, gently sloping, and currently overgrazed pasture land with a small amount of medium diameter oak trees and non-native grasslands. It would provide burial space until at least 2090.

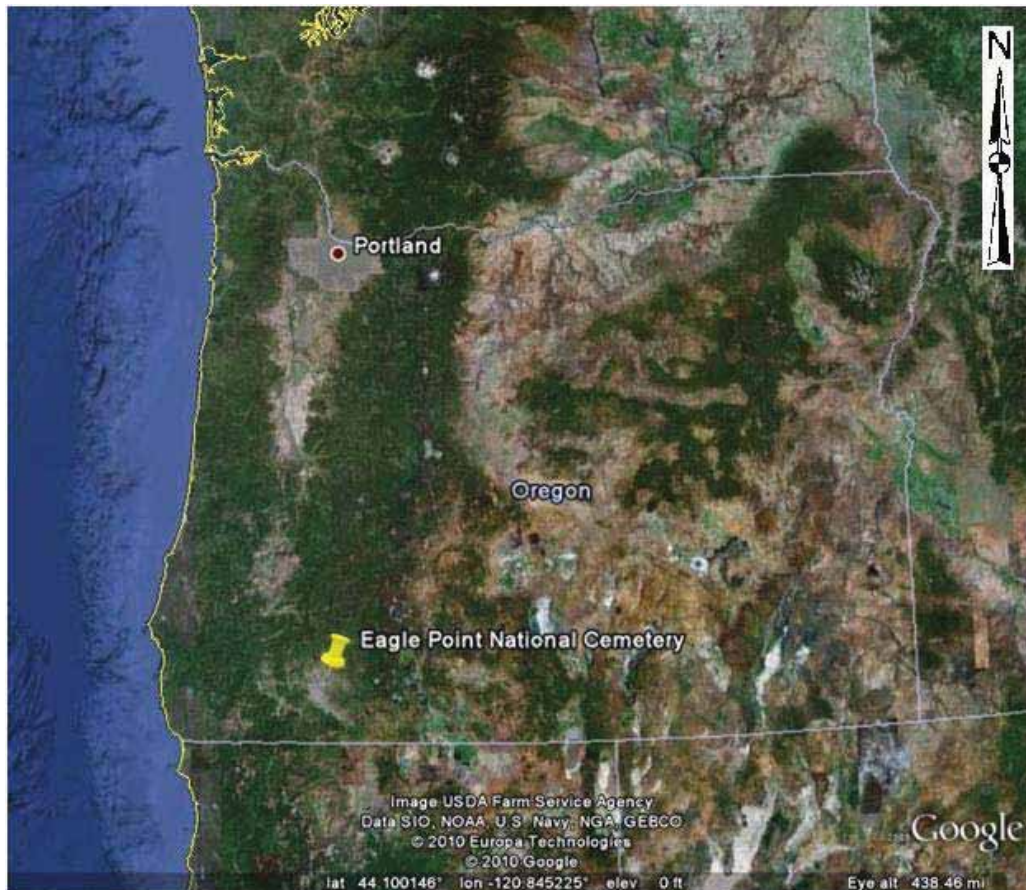


Figure 1 Location of Eagle Point National Cemetery in Oregon



Figure 2 Eagle Point National Cemetery and proposed 15 acre private land to be purchased.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

3.1 ALTERNATIVE 1-NO ACTION

Under this alternative the VA would not expand Eagle Point National Cemetery. If Southern Oregon area veterans wished to be buried in a national cemetery, they would have the option of using the nearest open national cemeteries: Roseburg National Cemetery in Roseburg, Oregon and Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. The distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Roseburg National Cemetery is 100 miles; the distance from Eagle Point National Cemetery to Willamette National Cemetery is 270 miles.

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no environmental impacts to the property, as it would stay in its present rural residential and pasture land condition. This is not the VA's preferred alternative.

3.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: PURCHASE LAND AND EXPAND EXISTING CEMETERY, PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

VA NCA proposes to purchase the 15 acre parcel from a private landowner and construct: 1) 20,000 full casket gravesites, 2) 10,000 above ground cremated remain niches (columbarium), and 3) extensions of the current roadways and utilities, and additional associated site improvements.

3.3 OTHER ALTERNATIVES

No other alternatives were available. The expansion area needs to be adjacent to the existing cemetery to allow operation of both the existing cemetery and expansion area. The project site selected is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the existing cemetery. No other property has been offered for sale or donation. The area to the south has too steep a slope for burial needs. Steven's Road is north of the cemetery. The land west of the cemetery is privately owned and has not been offered for sale.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

4.1 PROCEDURES

Since Federal funding is involved, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508), and VA Regulations, Title 38 of the CFR, Section 26.4 (a). The VA policy includes provision to:

Act with care in carrying out its mission of providing services for veterans and to ensure it does so consistently with national environmental policies. Specifically, the VA shall ensure that all practical means and measures are used to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of the human environment;

Avoid or minimize adverse environmental consequences, consistent with other national policy considerations;

Prepare concise and clear environmental documents which shall be supported by documented environmental analyses; and

Preserve historical, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage.

4.2 PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

No previous environmental assessments were identified.

4.3 AESTHETICS

Aesthetics refers to the visual resources including natural and man-made features that give a particular piece of property its aesthetic properties. High sensitivity relates to rare or unique natural settings. Medium sensitivity relates to more developed areas with motor vehicles and modern civilization. Low sensitivity areas relate to areas with minimal landscape features and few changes in appearance.

Existing Setting

The proposed property to be purchased consists of 15 acres of grazing land (sheep) of low sensitivity. It is immediately adjacent to the Eagle Point Cemetery on the eastern boundary. The proposed property to be purchased has been heavily impacted by overgrazing sheep and is substantially built out as rural residential property. It is a gently sloped oak savanna and non-native grassland.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the no action alternative there will be no change in the appearance of the proposed development site.

Under Alternative 2, the construction will remove the manufactured home and metal framed garage/workshop as well as the majority of the oak trees and non-native grasslands. The proposed development site will be developed in a manner consistent with the existing burial areas and will have no adverse impact on aesthetics within the cemetery or the existing adjacent privately owned parcels.

4.4 AIR QUALITY

Air quality refers to the concentration of air contaminants in a specific location. Air quality is determined by the type and amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, the size and topography of the air basin, and the prevailing meteorological conditions. Impacts refer to changes in the air quality related to conditions caused by an action.

Existing Conditions

Jackson County is not currently listed as a non-attainment area air quality by US EPA.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the no action alternative there will be no impacts on air quality beyond what is normally occurring. The existing cemetery controls their emissions by annual emissions testing of all NCA vehicles, use of diesel powered grounds keeping

equipment, and the use of battery-powered carts for on-site transportation, where possible.

There will be a temporary increase in generation of dust during construction on the property. All appropriate control methods will be used throughout the construction period to minimize dust generation.

Following construction, the newly developed portion of the cemetery would cause no significant change in air quality from current conditions. No additional equipment or vehicles are planned.

4.5 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community services refer to services provided by surrounding communities such as police, fire, and ambulance services.

No changes in community services would occur as a result of the development of the property. No additional community services would be required.

Existing Conditions

Community services are not regularly used in the existing cemetery.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

No use of community services is expected for the expansion area.

4.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural Resources refers to compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, which addresses the protection of archeological, historic, and cultural resources.

Existing Conditions

An extensive cultural resource investigation was made of the parcel and no items or areas of significance were identified. Consultation with the Oregon Historic Preservation Office resulted in a determination that there are no historic properties present within the proposed purchase area and the property was suitable for transfer. The Tribal archaeologist of Cultural Resources Program of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians also concurred with the determination that the proposed project will cause “No Adverse Effect” to cultural resources. However, if cultural material is encountered during project implementation, work in that area is to cease and the Tribe should be contacted promptly. Comments were not received from other American Indian Tribes consulted with concerning the proposed action.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the no action alternative there will be no adverse impacts on cultural resources.

Under alternative 2, the expansion project will cause no adverse impact on cultural resources.

4.7 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Economic Activity refers to the effect that the proposed action would have on the economic conditions in the surrounding area.

Existing Conditions

Eagle Point National Cemetery currently provides full-time employment opportunities for 9 people. The additional construction project will provide short-term employment for the construction phase.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the no action alternative, Eagle Point National Cemetery will close to new burials in 2030, resulting in a loss of full-time employment opportunities for the community surrounding the cemetery. Without expanding the cemetery, this impact cannot be mitigated.

Under Alternative 2, the additional construction will allow the cemetery to maintain current employment levels for an additional 60 year period and will also contribute several short-term employment opportunities.

4.8 FLOODPLAINS, WETLANDS

Floodplains are those areas delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in their Flood Plain Maps indicating both 100-year and 500-year floodplains. Wetlands are areas that (1) are subject to inundation or saturation near the surface for a period during the growing season, (2) have a vegetation cover dominated by plants adapted to wet conditions (i.e., hydrophilic plants), and (3) have soils with characteristics that developed due to waterlogging (i.e., hydric soil).

Existing Conditions

There are no floodplains or wetlands in the proposed expansion area. A review of the current National Wetlands Inventory confirmed these findings.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

There are no floodplains or wetlands on the property.

4.9 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Geology and soils refers to the potential for loss of soils and changes in geological conditions due to rock excavation, soil erosion, soil compaction, soil horizon removal, grading, and cutting and filling operations.

Existing Conditions

The proposed development site is adjacent to the eastern section of the existing Eagle Point National Cemetery. The soil on the site primarily consists of Carney clay, similar to the existing cemetery.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no adverse impacts to geology and soils.

Under Alternative 2, the topography of the proposed development site will be minimally altered by grading for roads and burial sites. Because the area is essentially a gently sloping plain, no major earth-moving operations will be required. During construction Best Management Practices will be used to control soil erosion. Following construction, turf will be established to minimize soil erosion.

4.10 NOISE

Noise refers to the generation of noise by construction or normal operations on the property.

Existing Conditions

The proposed development site consists of 15 acres of disturbed pasture land and rural residence adjacent to the eastern boundary of Eagle Point National Cemetery. The existing cemetery currently generates some noise as a result of normal cemetery operations. Sources of noise include preparations for burials, performance of military honors during funeral services, automobile traffic associated with funeral services, and landscape maintenance. Most of these activities occur during regular business hours and cause only a minimal adverse impact on the surrounding area.

The area surrounding Eagle Point National Cemetery contains no sensitive receptors.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the no action alternative noise levels at the proposed development site would not change and there would be no adverse impacts.

Under Alternative 2, the area around the proposed development site would experience a slight increase in noise levels during construction. Adverse impacts will be mitigated by limiting construction to time periods allowable under local noise ordinances.

Following construction, noise levels at the proposed development site will continue at pre-construction levels.

4.11 PROPERTY USE

Property Use represents the current and planned use of the property in a jurisdiction by the governing authorities.

Existing Setting

The proposed development site consists of 15 acres of privately owned pasture land and a rural residence. It is adjacent to the eastern boundary of Eagle Point National Cemetery.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Development of the property would *have* minimal impact on the property's use as it would remain as green space, similar to the existing conditions. No mitigation would be required.

4.12 REAL PROPERTY

Real Property refers to the reduction of land on the tax rolls or reduction in land Value.

Existing Conditions

The proposed development site consists of 15 acres of privately owned pasture land adjacent to the eastern boundary of Eagle Point National Cemetery.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

The 15 acres of private land would no longer be on the tax rolls. This small decrease to the public tax roll is not considered a significant impact to Jackson County, Oregon. The property will revert to government owned.

4.13 RESIDENT POPULATION

Resident Population refers to the addition of cemetery staff, change in the neighborhood makeup, or alteration of demographic characteristics.

Existing Conditions

The proposed development site consists of 15 acres of privately owned pasture land and a rural residence. It is adjacent to the eastern boundary of Eagle Point National Cemetery and is not immediately adjacent to any residential areas. The development of the property would have no effect on resident population, as the property is located in a minimally populated rural area.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

No significant changes in the resident population would occur as a result of this construction project or the hiring of additional staff. Existing operations would continue unchanged.

4.14 SOLID/HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Solid and Hazardous Waste category refers to changes in the proper management of solid waste and hazardous waste in compliance with local, state, and Federal regulations.

Existing Conditions

No significant amount of solid waste is generated at the property to be purchased. Any residential solid waste is disposed of through a commercial disposal firm.

All solid waste at the cemetery is disposed of through a commercial disposal firm. Flowers and evergreen materials left as grave decorations and tree trimmings are mulched.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

The development of the property would result in minimal short term generation of solid waste related to construction and no change in amount and/or type of solid waste generated as a result of everyday operations. There will be no change in production or disposal of solid or hazardous waste the cemetery as a result of this expansion project.

4.14 TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation category refers to changes in the vehicular traffic related to the operations on the property and how it might impact surrounding traffic patterns.

Existing Conditions

Currently visitors and funeral corteges enter the cemetery by the main entrance on the west side of property from the Riley Road. This entrance leads to the administration building and committal shelters.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the no action alternative there will be no change and no adverse impacts. Under Alternative 2, the existing main entrance, information kiosk, and committal shelters would continue to be used for interment activities as well as construction access. A short term increase in traffic is expected from the construction activities. After construction, traffic would return to the current volume.

4.15 UTILITIES

The Utilities category refers to changes in the use of public utilities at the property.

Existing Conditions

The cemetery currently uses public water. The cemetery has its own approved septic system that has been inspected and in good condition.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the no action alternative there will be no change in use of public utilities. Under Alternative 2, the existing water lines in the cemetery would be extended to serve the new areas. Additional water use would be minimal and follow all appropriate water conservation measures.

4.16 VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

The Vegetation and Wildlife category refers to the presence of threatened or endangered species and the removal of trees and vegetation.

Existing Conditions

The proposed development site contains pasture land and a rural residence with a detached garage/workshop. Within the pasture land is an oak savanna with a small amount of medium diameter black and Oregon oak trees. A comprehensive biological

and botanical survey was conducted during the spring blooming cycle of all sensitive plants that have a potential to occur within the Eagle Point area. No federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species were revealed onsite during these surveys.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Under the no action alternative there will be no change to vegetation or wildlife habitat.

Under Alternative 2, there will be minimal grading of the area for drainage and the new road. The cleared areas will be covered in turf grass that will be maintained in a healthy and visually pleasing manner.

4.17 WATER RESOURCES

The Water Resources category includes those portions of the natural environment related to surface water and groundwater.

Existing Conditions

Currently, the Eagle Point National Cemetery is designed to handle all surface storm water runoff onsite. The cemetery uses water wise irrigation practices.

Potential Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures
Under the no action alternative there would be no adverse impacts to water resources.

Under Alternative 2, all storm water runoff from the expansion site will be contained on the cemetery property, in accordance with state regulations.

5.0 SOURCES CONTACTED

Eagle Point National Cemetery
Jerry Rainey, Cemetery Director
2763 Riley Road
Eagle Point, OR 97524
541-826-2511

Oregon SHPO Compliance
Susan Haylock
725 Summer St NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept
Dennis Griffin, State Archaeologist
725 Summer Street, NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Commission on Indian Services
Karen Quigley
167 Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-1347

EDRnet Searchable Environmental Database

Key Contacts and Government Records Searched

FCC & FAA Map

Airports, Topographic gradient
Markings and Obstructions, AM Radio Interference Zones,
FCC antenna/tower sites, AM Radio Towers, FAA 47 CFR 1.1307(8)

Wetlands Map

National Wetlands Inventory Data (where available) 47 CFR 1.1307(7); 40 CFR 6.302
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory

Flood Plain Map

National Flood Plain Data (where available) 47 CFR 1.1307(6); 40 CFR 6.302
Source: FEMA Q3 Flood Data
County FEMA flood data electronic coverage

Historic Sites Map

Indian Reservations
State Historic Places (where available)
National Register of Historic Places 47 CFR 1.1307(4); 40 CFR 6.302
National Register of Historic Places:
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 208-6843

Wildlife, Critical Habitat Data (where available), officially designated wildlife preserves, sanctuaries and refuges

Threatened or Endangered Species, Fish 47 CFR 1.1307(3); 40 CFR 6.302
Fish and Wildlife 40 CFR 6.302
Wild and scenic rivers 40 CFR 6.302(e) and refuges
Officially designated wildlife preserves, sanctuaries 47 CFR 1.1307(2)
Officially designated wilderness areas 47 CFR 1.1307(1)

National Park Service, Pacific West Region
600 Harrison Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94107

415-427-1300

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Pacific Northwest
333 SW First Street, P. O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208
503-326-3865

BLM – Oregon State Office
1515 SW 5th Avenue
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503-231-6188

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