

# **U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION**

**ROSEBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY  
1770 HARVARD BOULEVARD**

**ROSEBURG VA MEDICAL CENTER  
913 NW GARDEN VALLEY BOULEVARD**

**ROSEBURG, OREGON 97470**

**CEMETERY ANNEX AT ROSEBURG VA MEDICAL CENTER**

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, operates the Roseburg National Cemetery, located in Roseburg, Oregon. Roseburg National Cemetery is currently the 61<sup>st</sup> busiest cemetery in the National Cemetery system. It has been closed to casket burials since 1981, and will close to in-ground cremated remain burials in 2011 if the cemetery annex is not constructed. The cemetery annex would be constructed on VA property located on the grounds of the nearby Roseburg VA Medical Center.

The existing cemetery serves approximately 44,000 veterans and eligible spouses and family members in the Roseburg, Oregon area. It conducted over 200 interments in 2007 with only in-ground cremain burial available. No new casketed burial space is available. Currently there are no open national veteran's cemeteries within 100 miles of Roseburg, Oregon that could absorb the demand for burial services for veterans and their eligible family members. Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon is 180 miles to the north and Eagle Point National Cemetery, near Medford, Oregon, is over 100 miles to the south.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the preparation and availability of a summary document titled "Finding of No Significant Impact" and an "Environmental Assessment" for the proposed construction associated with the Roseburg National Cemetery Expansion at the Roseburg VA Medical Center. This summary document has been prepared as a result of an Environmental Assessment (EA) completed in July 2009 in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 1508.13.

This project will expand the Roseburg National Veterans Cemetery on part of the Roseburg VA Medical Center. The initial expansion will take place on approximately 10 acres of the VA Medical Center golf course. Proposed expansion is for casket and cremation remains in-ground burial areas, cremation remains niches in columbaria wall units, a combination restroom and gravesite locator building, two flagpoles, two memorial walls, one committal shelter, and associated site improvements. Once the

entire 44 acre site is completed in 30+ years, it will provide approximately 14,000 casketed gravesites and 10,000 cremations remain burial options. This should provide burial capacity until at least 2039. VA normally constructs cemeteries for a minimum 30 year burial life. Initial development will include 1,000 casket gravesites, 1,000 in-ground cremation remains burial sites, 1,000 cremation remains wall niches, covering approximately 10 acres of the existing golf course. Additional development, normally in 10 year phases, would increase burial areas by 34 acres on the balance of the golf course and the adjacent lightly wooded area. The rest of the golf course is planned for future veteran-related construction.

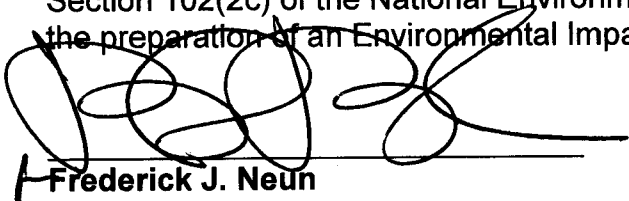
No viable alternative sites were identified. The site needs to be at least 30 acres and be near the existing cemetery. The adjacent Stewart Park-Fir Grove Area, approximately 15 acres, was considered. It was once cemetery property but was given to the City of Roseburg in the 1930s. It is of insufficient size to meet projected needs. No other property of sufficient size was identified in close proximity. The existing nearby VA property was judged to have minimal environmental impact and be in the best interest of the veterans served.

Both an Environmental Site Assessment and an Archaeological Assessment were performed with no significant findings that would effect the environment or construction.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for public review at the Roseburg VA Medical Center, Building 10, Roseburg, Oregon. It may be viewed online at <http://www.com.va.gov/vulfa> under Roseburg National Cemetery.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:**

After reviewing the Environmental Assessment and associated reports for the expansion of the Roseburg National Cemetery, the implementation of the proposed action as described would not constitute a major federal action that would have 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 was not required.



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

Aug 18, 2009  
Date

**CONTACT INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LOCATIONS**

Direct any questions or requests for single copies to:

1. Donald G. Campbell, Environmental Engineer  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration  
Office of Construction Management  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW, LAF 235  
Washington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-8989  
donald.campbell@va.gov

2. Jerry L. Rainey, Cemetery Director  
Roseburg National Cemetery  
C/o Eagle Point National Cemetery  
2763 Riley Road  
Eagle Point, OR 97524  
(541) 826-2511  
jerry.rainey@va.gov

3. (EA Copies only)  
Kermit Reich  
Facility Management Team Leader  
Roseburg VA Medical Center  
Building 10  
913 Garden Valley Boulevard  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
(541) 440-1000x140116  
kermit.reich@va.gov