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## Proceedings of the Vertebrate Pest Conference

### **Title**

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### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2h9390cq>

### **Journal**

Proceedings of the Vertebrate Pest Conference, 15(15)

### **ISSN**

0507-6773

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### **Publication Date**

1992

# THE POCATELLO SUPPLY DEPOT: BRIEF HISTORY, CURRENT FUNCTIONS, SUPPLIES AVAILABLE, AND ANNUAL OUTPUT

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**ABSTRACT:** The Pocatello Supply Depot (Depot or PSD), established in 1933, descended from the U.S. Biological Survey Bait (USBS) Mixing Station which originated in 1930 in McCammon, Idaho. The Depot was approved by a Congressional Resolution signed by the President in 1936. The Depot has functioned since 1937 under a Cooperative Service Agreement with the Greater Pocatello Chamber of Commerce who serves as trustee to the "Depot Revolving Fund." The mission of the PSD is to provide specialized products and services for the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program and others engaged in wildlife damage management programs. The PSD fills a very special niche in providing a stable source for ADC tools that are often not readily or consistently available from private industry. The major products of the Depot include Gas Cartridges for Rodents, M-44 devices and capsules, and strychnine and zinc phosphide grain baits. Minor products include Starlicide Technical, Gas Cartridges for Coyotes, zinc phosphide technical rodenticides, Fatty Acid and Monkey Pheromone scents and scent tabs, ADC signs, Neutroleum Alpha deodorizer, Electronic Guards, trap pan tension devices, and grain bags, dippers and probes for pocket gopher control.

Proc. 15th Vertebrate Pest Conf. (J. E. Borrecco & R. E. Marsh, Editors) Published at University of Calif., Davis. 1992

## BRIEF HISTORY

A short history of the Pocatello Supply Depot (Depot) actually begins with its fore-runner, the U.S. Biological Survey (USBS) Bait Mixing Station at McCammon, Idaho which began operations on November 5, 1930 (Bannock County farm Bureau 1933). This Plant operated under a cooperative agreement with the Bannock County Farm Bureau. In March of 1933, the USBS Bait Mixing Plant began operations in Pocatello, Idaho with the "most modern of equipment" (USDA 1933).

A resolution to establish the Depot was introduced in congress by Representative Clark and Senator Pope, both of Idaho. It passed Congress and was signed by the President on June 4, 1936 (USDA 1936). A cooperative agreement was established with the Pocatello Chamber of Commerce in 1937 identifying them as trustee for the revolving fund (USDA 1937). Construction of the current PSD facility began in March 1938 (USDA 1938) and completed in February 1940 (USDA 1940).

Some 52 years later we are still using the facility and much of the equipment installed at that time. The equipment has been repaired many times over, and the facility is still structurally sound. The USDA is currently in the process of extensive remodeling to modernize the facility and equipment to meet with today's technology and safety standards. The Greater Pocatello Chamber of Commerce still serves as trustee under a cooperative agreement that has been renegotiated several times, most recently in 1990 (USDA 1990).

## CURRENT FUNCTION

The Depot functions today as a non-profit quasi-private/government entity. The basic funds for raw materials, removable equipment, salaries and manufacturing come from the sale of products. These monies are retained in a private revolving fund called the "Depot Fund." The PSD sold approximately \$740,000 worth of products in Fiscal Year 1990. The Greater Pocatello Chamber of Commerce gives oversight to expenditure of all funds and countersigns all checks. The Federal Government through the USDA sets policies, manages daily activities, is responsible for product liability, and owns and maintains the grounds and building. The Man-

ager, Assistant Manager and a Control Methods Specialist are Federal employees, and the other eight individuals are private employees of the Depot Fund. In recent years there have been some Federally appropriated funds allotted to the Depot to establish a higher level of Federal presence. These are used to pay the manager's salary and travel, maintenance fees for pesticide registrations, methods improvement work, and construction and facility improvements.

"The mission of the PSD is to provide specialized products and services for the ADC program and others engaged in wildlife damage management programs" (USDA, PSD Annual Report 1990). The PSD fills a very special niche in the wildlife damage management business. In today's pest control business there are many non-profitable tools known that are not readily or consistently available from private industry. Generally, high registration costs and low or infrequent intervals of demand create this problem. The PSD can make these products available because of its close affiliation with the Denver Wildlife Research Center (DWRC) and non-profit basis.

As a general policy, the PSD does not compete with private industry when they consistently provide products of good quality. We have removed products such as grain baits from certain geographical areas. We have, previously, refused to sell our M-44 to any user other than ADC. This policy is changing since the M-44 Company is no longer providing their products to States. Some high-liability PSD products are available for use only by ADC program personnel, and are not available for purchase by any other customer—for example, Starlicide Technical.

To accomplish this mission PSD manufactures products such as gas cartridges, poison grain baits, M-44s, M-44 capsules, scents and scent tabs, and Electronic Guards. Some products are simply repackaged such as Starlicide Technical, cyanide antidote kits, Neutroleum Alpha, and signs. Grain baits are not stock-piled but are mixed on-order to maintain bait freshness.

ADC tool or method improvement is an on-going function at the PSD. We recently hired a new Control Method Specialist to handle this responsibility and establish a more formal quality control program. Since the PSD began manu-

Table 1. Pocatello Supply Depot Product Sales for calendar year 1991 (USDA 1992).

Product	Amount Sold
<b>(Non Restricted Use Materials)</b>	
<b>Scent</b>	
Fatty Acid	100 ounces
Synthetic Monkey Pheromone	56 ounces
<b>Predator Survey Disks</b>	
Unscented	0 each
Scented with FAS	18,040 each
Neutroleum Alpha Deodorizer	15,011 ounces
Gopher Probes	21 each
Bags, Canvas	4 each
Dippers, Metal	61 each
<b>Trap Tension Devices</b>	
#4 Newhouse	36 each
#3 Victor	2,267 each
Modified #3 Victor Pan	620 each
ADC Signs	104,900 each
Electronic Guard	121 each
<b>(Restricted Use Materials)</b>	
Gas Cartridge (for rodents)	961,300 each
Gas Cartridge (for coyotes)	5,225 each
<b>Strychnine Grain Baits</b>	
-56228-11 .35% milo for pocket gophers (burrow builder only)	22,200 pounds
-56228-12 .50% oats for pocket gophers (burrow builder only)	11,150 pounds
-56228-19 .35% milo for pocket gophers (hand placement)	7,345 pounds
-56228-20 .50% oats for pocket gophers (hand placement)	32,815 pounds
<b>Zinc Phosphide</b>	
-56228-03 2-100 wheat for field mice	62,595 pounds
-56228-05 2% oats for field mice	2,540 pounds
-56228-14 2% oats for prairie dogs	24,285 pounds
-56228-06 63% powder rodenticide	36 pounds
-56228-07 63% powder for rats	23 pounds
-56228-09 63% powder for muskrat and nutria	3 pounds
<b>M-44 Components</b>	
56228-15 Cyanide Capsules	98,000 each
Pepper Capsules	800 each
Capsule Holders	22,052 each
Ejectors	22,877 each
Stake Rings	3,600 each
Setting Tools	198 each
Stakes	11,301 each
Antidote Kits	728 each
<b>(Restricted to ADC Personnel Only)</b>	
56228-10 Starlicide Technical	2,816 ounces

facturing the M-44 device and capsules there has been a constant effort in conjunction with DWRC personnel to improve the ejector, tube, holder, seals, marker and labels. This has resulted in a highly improved device in the field today. There are still problems with M-44 capsule markers and the M-44 capsule seal under some field conditions.

#### PRODUCTS AND ANNUAL OUTPUT

The major products of the PSD include Gas Cartridges for Rodents, M-44 devices and capsules, and strychnine and zinc phosphide grain baits. Minor products include Starlicide Technical, Gas Cartridges for Coyotes, zinc phosphide technical rodenticides, Fatty Acid and Monkey Pheromone scents and scent tabs, ADC signs, Neutroleum Alpha deodorizer, Electronic Guards, trap pan tension devices, and grain bags, dippers and probes for pocket gopher control. Table 1 shows the volume of sales of each product for calendar year 1991.

#### FUTURE PRODUCTS

The PSD is considered important to the ADC program's future because of the impacts of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) registrations on pesticides, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) impacts on drug registrations and the natural reaction of private industry to not market limited use products. Some of the products that may be in the PSD future line include alpha-chloralose as a stupification agent for control of geese and pigeons, and tranquilizer tabs for traps. The involvement of the PSD is partially dependent on whether or not private industry makes the tool available.

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