

Appendix A

Preparatory Action



APPENDIX A RANGES 43–48 TECHNICAL LETTER FOR PREPARATORY ACTION

A.1 INTRODUCTION

This technical letter describes the procedures that will be performed by Parsons and its subcontractors in and around the Ranges 43–48 Interim Action (IA) site at the former Fort Ord before a prescribed burn (tentatively scheduled for fall 2002) is performed.

The prescribed burn is the preferred vegetation clearance method for this site under the Interim Action (IA) ordnance and explosives (OE) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) [Ref. 1] and has recently been approved by the signing of the IA Record of Decision (ROD).

A.1.1 PURPOSE

This preparatory action is required to (1) reduce smoke emissions during the prescribed burn, (2) ensure that the burn is contained within the site boundaries, and (3) collect digital geophysical data in the burn area in order to plan the geophysical work that will be performed after the burn and identify special-case areas.

A.1.2 SCOPE

This preparatory action entails removing tires; prepping structures; cutting down and prepping utility poles; clearing brush; pruning/removing trees; possibly disking the Watkins Gate defensible polygon fuel break; performing work around the Fitch Park Housing area; and installing irrigation sprinkler systems and spraying retardant/foam. In addition, a Parsons team will perform a meandering path digital geophysical survey over the site's open areas.

A.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Ranges 43–48 IA site comprises 498 acres located in the northern portion of the multi-range area (MRA), which is in the south-central section of the former Fort Ord. The site is bordered by Eucalyptus Road to the north and fuel breaks—Evolution Road, Broadway Avenue, and Orion Road—to the west, south, and east, respectively. The site is in close proximity to residential communities (e.g., city of Seaside, the Ord Military Community, and Fitch and Marshall Park Housing), schools [e.g., Fitch Middle School, Marshall Elementary School, and Cypress Grove Charter High School (at Stillwell Elementary School location)], and recreational facilities [Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands].

A.3 ITEMS SUBJECT TO PREPARATORY ACTION

Section A.3 describes the locations and quantities of the tires, inactive utility poles, structures, brush, and trees in and around the Ranges 43–48 IA site. Figure A-1 displays the identified locations of these items and Photographs 1–8 show examples of them.

A.3.1 TIRES

There are approximately 2,500 tires in and around the Ranges 43–48 IA site that will be removed. The majority of the tires (approximately 1,500) surround the trenches in the southeast corner of Range 43 that were previously used for military training activities—some of these tires were stacked through utility poles, which will be removed, to reinforce the trench walls. In addition to these tires, there are approximately 450 surrounding the trenches that are approximately 500 ft southeast of the Range 43 trenches; 15 to 20 located near the Range 44 gate; approximately 50 that were used to support targets in an area just south of the Range 45 firing line; approximately 100 that were used as firing points in an area west of the Range 45 pad; and approximately 200 in the middle of Range 48 that are spread out in numerous small piles.

A.3.2 STRUCTURES

There are several older, lead-painted structures—range towers, latrines, break areas, and wooden buildings—positioned near Eucalyptus Road that will be relocated outside of the Ranges 43–48 IA site. The breakdown of these structures is approximately six range towers, six latrines, two break area structures, five wooden buildings, and one fiberglass storage area. Except for a wooden building and a steel bunker located near the Evolution Road fuel break in Range 48, these structures are all located in the northern portion of the site.

A.3.3 UTILITY POLES

There are approximately 15 inactive utility poles that branch off from Eucalyptus Road and extend into Ranges 43, 44, 45, and 47 that will be cut down. The extensive series of active and inactive utility poles that run along Eucalyptus Road will be prepped before the burn.

A.3.4 BRUSHCUTTING AND TREE PRUNING/REMOVAL

The brush between Eucalyptus Road and the burn line in the Ranges 43–48 IA site will be mowed/cut. This approximately 53-acre area is comprised mostly of maritime chaparral with a small area of annual grassland habitat along the northern section of Evolution Road.

Along the inside and outside of the fuel breaks that border the Ranges 43–48 IA site, there are numerous trees that will be pruned or removed. The majority of these trees are located along the northern section of Evolution Road and the western and center sections of Eucalyptus Road. There are also some trees scattered along the eastern section of Eucalyptus Road, the center section of Orion Road, the western section of Broadway Avenue, and the southern section of Evolution Road.

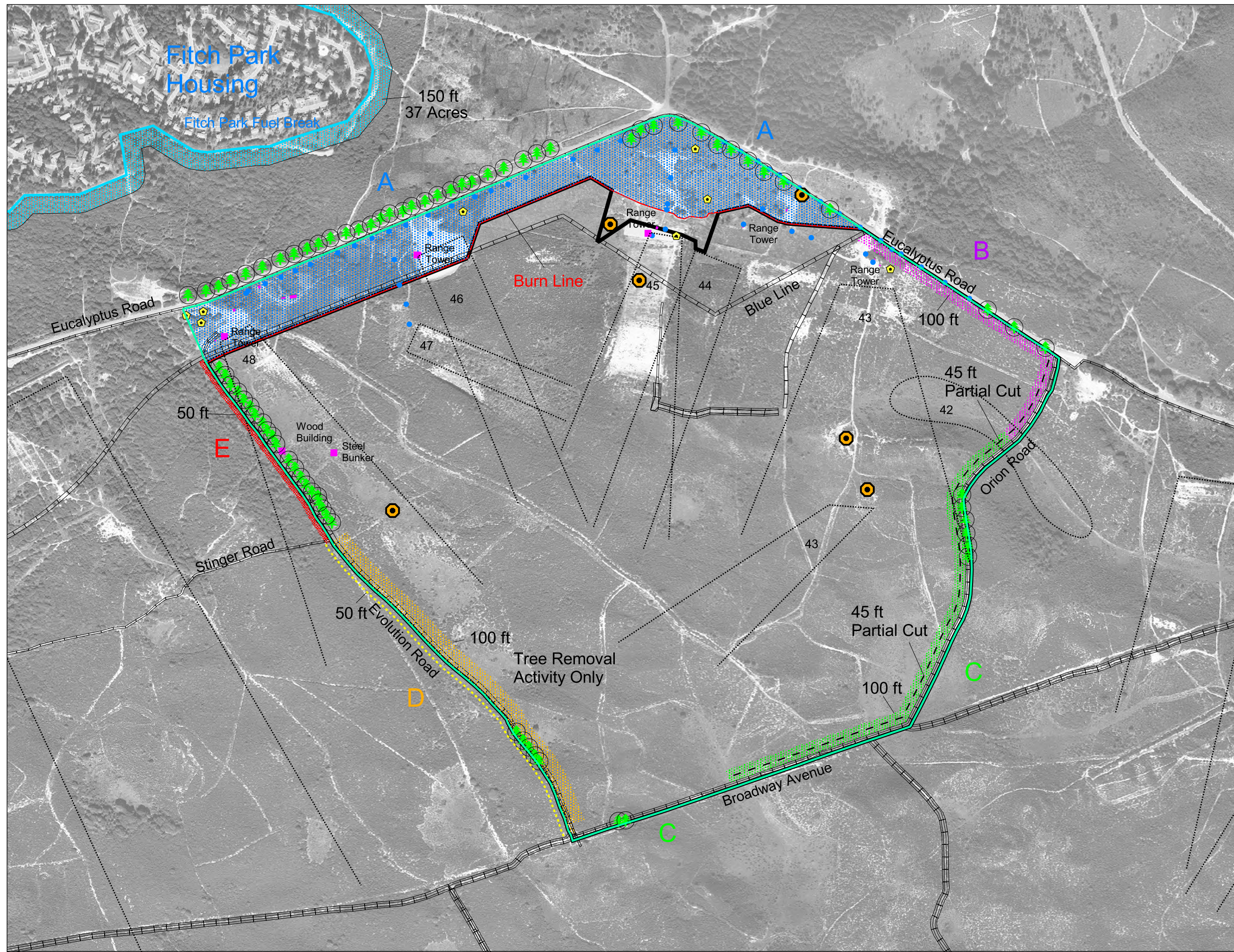
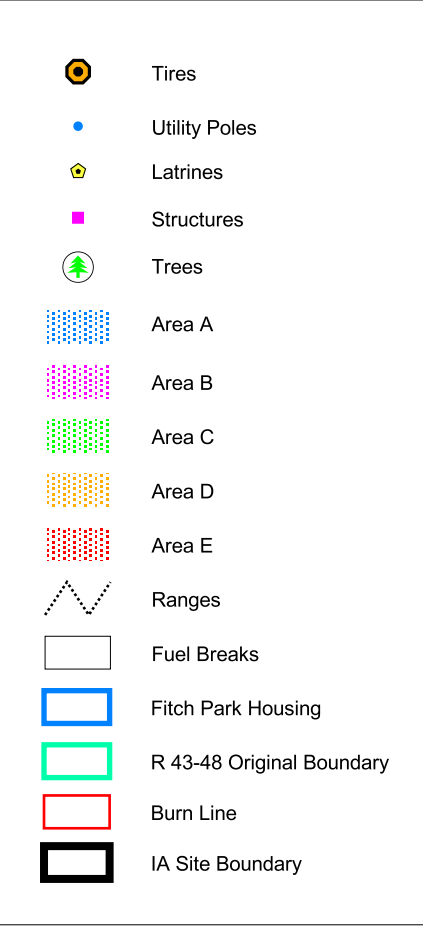
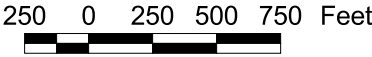


Figure A-1
Ranges 43-48
Areas and Items
Subject to Preparatory
Action



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Photograph 1—Tires stacked through utility poles in the Range 43 trenches



Photograph 2—Tires used as firing points just west of Range 45



Photograph 3—A range tower and an inactive utility pole just north of Range 44



Photograph 4—Inactive utility poles extending from Eucalyptus Road into Range 45 and a storage building



Photograph 5—A latrine in Range 45



Photograph 6—A break area structure in Range 47



Photograph 7—Trees along Evolution Road in Range 48 that may be pruned lightly to heavily



Photograph 8—Trees close to Eucalyptus Road between Ranges 47 and 48 that may be pruned heavily or removed

A.4 PROCEDURES

Section A.4 details the procedures that will be performed as part of this preparatory action. .

A.4.1 REMOVING TIRES

Parsons' subcontractors [overseen by unexploded ordnance (UXO) escorts] will remove the tires offsite.

A majority of the tires can be easily accessed from the Blue Line fuel break or dirt roads, and then hauled away. However, some items (e.g., the tire piles in Range 48) may be a short distance from the existing roads. To access these items, the UXO escorts will determine the safest route from the existing road to the to-be-removed item. The removal crews may then drive over this route to reach and remove the item and then use the same route to return to the existing road. This "one-time-in/one-time-out" procedure will be performed in a manner that minimizes impacts to the habitat.

The tires that are suspected to have been utilized as targets for high-explosive (HE) OE items (e.g., tires slightly downrange from the Range 45 firing line) must initially be moved remotely, which entails attaching a 300-ft cable to the tires, hooking the cable to a backhoe, and then driving the backhoe to haul the tires away.

Before the tires are removed from the site, they will be temporarily staged in piles on the asphalt pads in Ranges 45 and 48 for no longer than 2 weeks. Before the prescribed burn, the tires will be transported offsite to a certified tire-recycling facility by a Parsons subcontractor.

A.4.2 PREPPING STRUCTURES

Parsons' subcontractors (overseen by UXO escorts) will prep the approximately 20 structures in and near the Ranges 43–48 IA by cutting the vegetation 100 ft around the structures or lifting and moving the structures onto asphalt range pads, and then spraying the structures with foam. The majority of the vegetation cutting will be accomplished through the vegetation clearance operations around the site perimeter covered by this preparatory action (section A.4.3).

Field latrines that are moved onto the asphalt range pads will have their pits investigated following the standard operating procedure (SOP) for clearing field latrines in Appendix G of the PWP [Ref. 3].

A.4.3 CUTTING DOWN AND PREPPING UTILITY POLES

Parsons' subcontractors (overseen by UXO escorts) will use chainsaws to cut down the inactive utility poles, which will then be hauled away. The extensive series of active and inactive utility poles that run along Eucalyptus Road will not be cut; instead, the vegetation around the poles will be cut (section A.4.4) and foam will be sprayed around the poles to prevent them from burning (section A.4.7).

A.4.4 BRUSH CUTTING AND PRUNING/REMOVING TREES

For vegetation clearance operations, the site boundaries will be divided into five areas (Figure A-1) that each require a specific set of activities. Table A-1 lists the locations of these five areas and the extent of the brushcutting and tree pruning/removal operations that will be performed on them. In some areas, the Ord Military Community (OMC) Fire Chief will determine whether trees are pruned or removed.

A Parsons subcontractor will use mechanical or manual methods to cut the brush in the approximately 53-acre area between Eucalyptus Road and the burn line (Area 'A') to a 4-in height. The trees inside/outside the perimeter of the Ranges 43–48 area will be pruned up to 8 ft with chainsaws or removed entirely, and the resulting debris will be removed from the site and chipped in another location.

A.4.5 DISKING WATKINS GATE ROAD

As an additional fire protection measure, the Watkins Gate Road defensible polygon fuel break may be disked, if such action is desired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

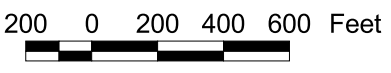
A.4.6 PREPARING FITCH PARK HOUSING

Because the Fitch Park Housing area is only approximately 1,200 ft from the Ranges 43–48 IA site (Figures A-1 and A-2), the area around it will require fire prevention work to avoid the prescribed burn from spreading into this residential community. The vegetation (approximately 37 acres) 150 ft around the outside of the fuel break that surrounds the housing area (referred to as the Fitch Park fuel break) will be cleared (Figure A-2). In the area between the Fitch Park fuel break and the backyards of the houses behind it, the trees will be limbed up to 8 ft and the resulting debris will then be removed and chipped in another location. In those backyards, all the unmaintained vegetation will be cut and any debris will be cleaned off the roofs. In addition, water tanks will be prepositioned near the Fitch Park Housing area and foam will be sprayed between the Fitch Park fuel break and the backyards behind it.

Table A-2—Vegetation Clearance Operations Around Ranges 43–48 Perimeter


Area	Location	Brushcutting	Pruning/ Removing Trees
A	From northern section of Evolution Road at burn line junction to Eucalyptus Road at burn line junction; area between Eucalyptus Road and burn line	Clear brush to 4-in. height between Eucalyptus Road and burn line	Remove trees, or prune trees to 8 ft and prune treetops (to be determined by OMC Fire Chief)
B	From southeastern section of Eucalyptus Road to northern section of Orion Road	Clear brush 100 ft inside Eucalyptus Road; clear brush 45 ft inside Orion Road to 2½–3-ft height ^a	Prune trees 100 ft inside of Eucalyptus Road/Orion Road to 8 ft
C	From northern section of Orion Road to Broadway Avenue junction and along Broadway Avenue from Orion Road junction to Evolution Road junction ^b	Clear brush 45 ft inside Orion Road and Broadway Avenue to 2½–3-ft height ^a	Remove trees 100 ft inside Orion Road and Broadway Avenue
D	Along Evolution Road from Broadway Avenue junction to Stinger Road junction	N/A ^a	Remove trees 100 ft inside Evolution Road; prune trees 50 ft outside Evolution Road to 8 ft
E	Along Evolution Road from Stinger Road junction to Blue Line fuel break	Clear brush underneath trees 50 ft outside Evolution Road	Prune trees 50 ft outside Evolution Road to 8 ft
^a changed from original plan due to field conditions			
^b Because of changing field conditions, brushcutting will stop 1,500 ft west of Broadway Avenue/Orion Road junction			

Figure A-2
Ranges 43-48
Fitch Park
Housing Area




	Ranges
	Fuel Breaks
	Fitch Park Housing
	150-ft Veg Clearance Buffer
	R 43-48 Original Boundary
	Burn Line
	IA Site Boundary

Date: March 19, 2003
Author: David R. Johnston
NAD 1983 StatePlane California Zone IV (US Feet)
Source of Data: Fort Ord OE Database,
1999 Aerial Photography



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A.4.7 PLACING SPRINKLER SYSTEMS AND SPRAYING FOAM

A Parsons subcontractor will place irrigation sprinkler systems along a section of Orion Road, Evolution Road, and Broadway Avenue [areas C, D, and E (Figure A-1)]. The sprinkler system will be used starting the day before the prescribed burn, and it will be used throughout the duration of the prescribed burn. Just prior to the burn, foam will be sprayed over these fuel breaks and around the all the utility poles that are not cut down.

A.4.8 PERFORMING MEANDERING PATH DIGITAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

A Parsons team (a UXO escort and two instrument operators) will collect digital geophysical data over the open areas in the Ranges 43–48 IA site to help determine the appropriate geophysical instruments to be used over specific areas for the geophysical surveys that will be performed after the prescribed burn and to help identify areas that will likely require sifting. *The results of this survey are included in this SSWP as Appendix I.*

A.4.8.1 Survey Procedures

One instrument operator will carry and operate the G-858 and the other will wear and operate the GPS. Because the data collected will only be used for the general characterization of the site, the positioning will not be required to match the data collection location exactly (it may be off by several feet). By using two instrument operators, one person will not need to carry all of the equipment, which can be heavy and bulky, and the amount of coverage will be increased. The survey will be performed only where the surface TCRA was performed—vegetation will not be cleared for this survey. The UXO escort will walk at least 10 ft in front of the instrument operators to ensure there are no potentially dangerous items on the surface. This survey will be performed over a 4-day span and cover as many open areas in the site as possible.

A.4.8.2 Data Collection and Processing

Data will be downloaded into a field laptop computer and then transferred to the Parsons network. The data will then be preprocessed using MagMap2000, exported into Geosoft format, and viewed in profile form in Geosoft. Because identifying individual anomalies is not a goal of this survey, anomalies will not be selected from this data for the subsequent geophysical surveys.

After the data is processed, two maps will be produced: one showing the vertical gradient along the paths traveled and a refined figure 2.2 for this SSWP displaying the planned geophysical instrument surveys and the areas likely requiring sifting.

A.4.8.3 Quality Control

The G-858 will be tested with a QC spike platform at the beginning and at the end of day to ensure that it is functioning properly, and it will be inspected daily to ensure that all parts are operable and so that any broken or damaged parts can be replaced immediately. The GPS will be checked by placing the system's antenna over a known point and comparing the calculated location to the coordinates of a known location.

Survey personnel will not wear or carry any metallic items that might impact data quality. Audio instrument responses will be observed and visual data reviews will be performed on the data recorders. Data will be downloaded and reviewed frequently to ensure that it is being recorded and stored properly.

A.4.8.4 Reporting

Letter reports will be attached to the maps described in section A.4.7.2, and they will include the raw and processed data.

A.5 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Disturbances to the vegetation and the soil will be minimized, without unreasonably disrupting the operations of this preparatory action. This requirement entails restricting vehicle access to existing roads as much as possible while the removed items are being hauled away.

A.6 REPORTING

The results of this preparatory action will be included in the Ranges 43–48 after-action report (AAR) that will be prepared after the subsurface OE removal operations are complete.

A.7 REFERENCES

- [1] Final Interim Action Ordnance and Explosives, Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study For Ranges 43–48, Range 30A, Site OE-16, Former Fort Ord, California, Harding ESE, March 2002.
- [2] Superfund Proposed Plan, Interim Action is Proposed for Vegetation Clearance, Ordnance and Explosives Remedial Action, and Ordnance and Explosives Detonation, Ranges 43–48, Range 30A, and Site OE-16, Former Fort Ord, California, United States Army, March 2002.
- [3] Final Programmatic Work Plan, Former Fort Ord, Monterey, California, Ordnance and Explosives Cleanup, prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Parsons, May 2001.