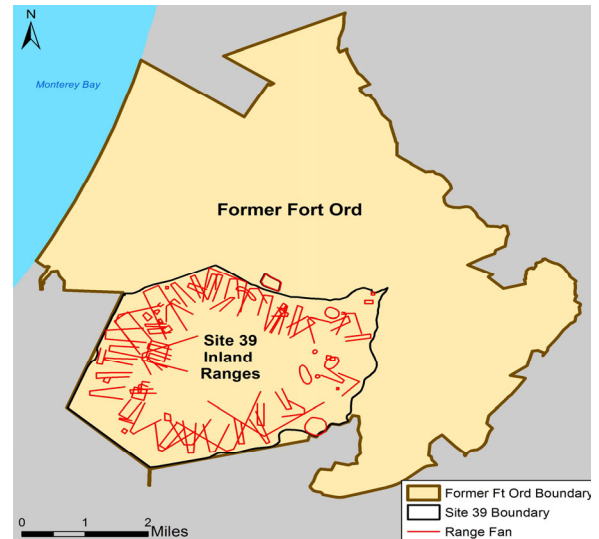


Fort Ord Cleanup Fact Sheet: Cleanup of Soil at Site 39, Inland Ranges

History

Fort Ord was a major training and staging facility for infantry troops from its opening in 1917 until closure in 1994. Portions of Fort Ord were used by infantry units for maneuvers, target ranges, and other training purposes. The Site 39 Inland Ranges are a former historical Impact Area used for live fire training exercises with a variety of military munitions and small arms. Soil contamination may have occurred in the areas where military munitions were fired into, fired upon, or used on the facility in the form of artillery and mortar projectiles, rockets, guided missiles, rifle and hand grenades, demolition materials, and small arms.



Assessment and Cleanup of Site 39 Soil Contamination

The Site 39 historical range assessment is designed to investigate ranges and training areas for possible soil contamination related to various types of military munitions and small arms. The overall range investigation process developed for Fort Ord consists of three phases -- site assessment, remedial investigation, and remediation. In 1996, the Army and regulatory agencies signed a Record of Decision that specified cleanup levels for primary contaminants of concern, or COCs, in soil. Lead, antimony, and copper are primary COCs related to small arms ranges based on possible risk to human health. Explosive compounds, metals, and hydrocarbons could also be present in areas where munitions-related training occurred. Several ranges have been remediated under the 1996 Record of Decision and the excavated soil was deposited in the Operable Unit 2 Landfills. In 2009, the Army further refined the cleanup effort by establishing ecological cleanup levels. The Final Record of Decision Amendment (2009) documented the amended remedy based on ecological screening levels and recognized the need to manage a greater volume of soil than was anticipated and documented in the 1996 Record of Decision.

The 2009 Record of Decision Amendment identified several soil cleanup areas in habitat areas of Site 39, and remediation of those areas was completed in 2013. The excavated soil has been transported to and deposited in the Operable Unit 2 Landfills. As the munitions cleanup progressed in the former Impact Area, the Army continued to evaluate those areas for potential soil contamination. Two additional soil cleanup areas have been identified in the habitat area. Two other areas in designated future development areas are under further review based on recent changes in federal and state screening levels for lead.

- Identified for future remediation: HA-31/31A and downrange portion of Range 27.
- Under further review: HA-18D and HA-23D

What Happens Next

Future activities linked to the Site 39 soil cleanup are:

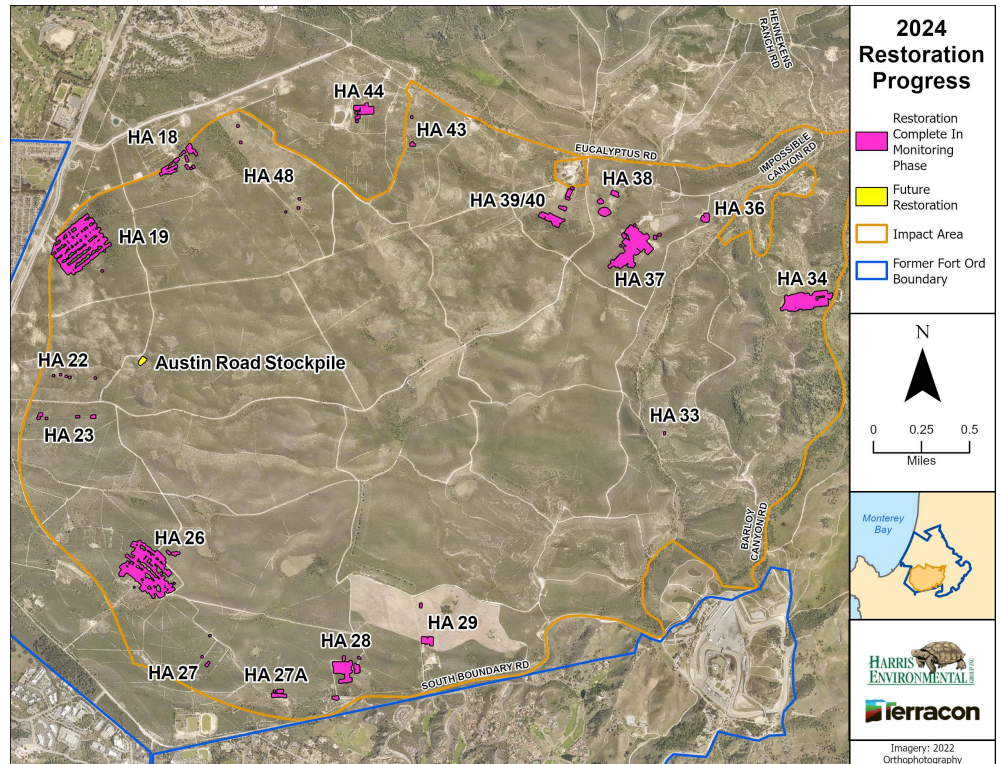
- (1) Evaluating the remaining areas in the former Impact Area after munitions cleanup is completed, and identifying areas requiring soil remediation;
- (2) Conducting soil remediation in identified areas;
- (3) Completing habitat restoration and monitoring in soil remediation areas within habitat reserve.

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Habitat Restoration and Monitoring

The majority of Site 39 is designated as a habitat reserve and is part of the Fort Ord National Monument. This area primarily features a central maritime chaparral community, home to many rare and protected species.

Following the completion of soil cleanup in the habitat area, the Army conducts habitat restoration and monitoring in accordance with the Habitat Restoration Plan (Administrative Record number: BW-2450G). Since 2011, the Army has planted 68,732 native plants and broadcast hundreds of native seeds over 61 acres. The Army funds the Bureau of Land Management weed crew to remove invasive plants from these sites on an ongoing basis.



The Army actively monitors all restoration sites, labeled as "HA" (Historic Areas) on the map above, to assess habitat recovery. The Army works closely with regulatory agencies to ensure successful restoration efforts.

To Learn More About the Site 39 Soil Cleanup

The document search tool at www.FortOrdCleanup.com provides access to important cleanup documents:

- For areas where excavated Site 39 soils have been placed, download the Final Construction Quality Control and Quality Assurance Report, Area E, Phase I Operable Unit 2 Landfills (OU2-687B).
- For investigation and cleanup of Site 39, download
 - Record of Decision, Basewide Remedial Investigation Sites (RI-025),
 - Final Record of Decision Amendment, Site 39 Inland Ranges (RI-041E), and
 - Final Remedial Action Completion Report, Site 39 Inland Ranges Habitat Reserve (RI-047C)
- Annual reports for restoration and monitoring are also available at www.FortOrdCleanup.com.

For more information contact:

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