

FACTSHEET: Fort Ord Track 3 Impact Area Munitions Response Area

Background:

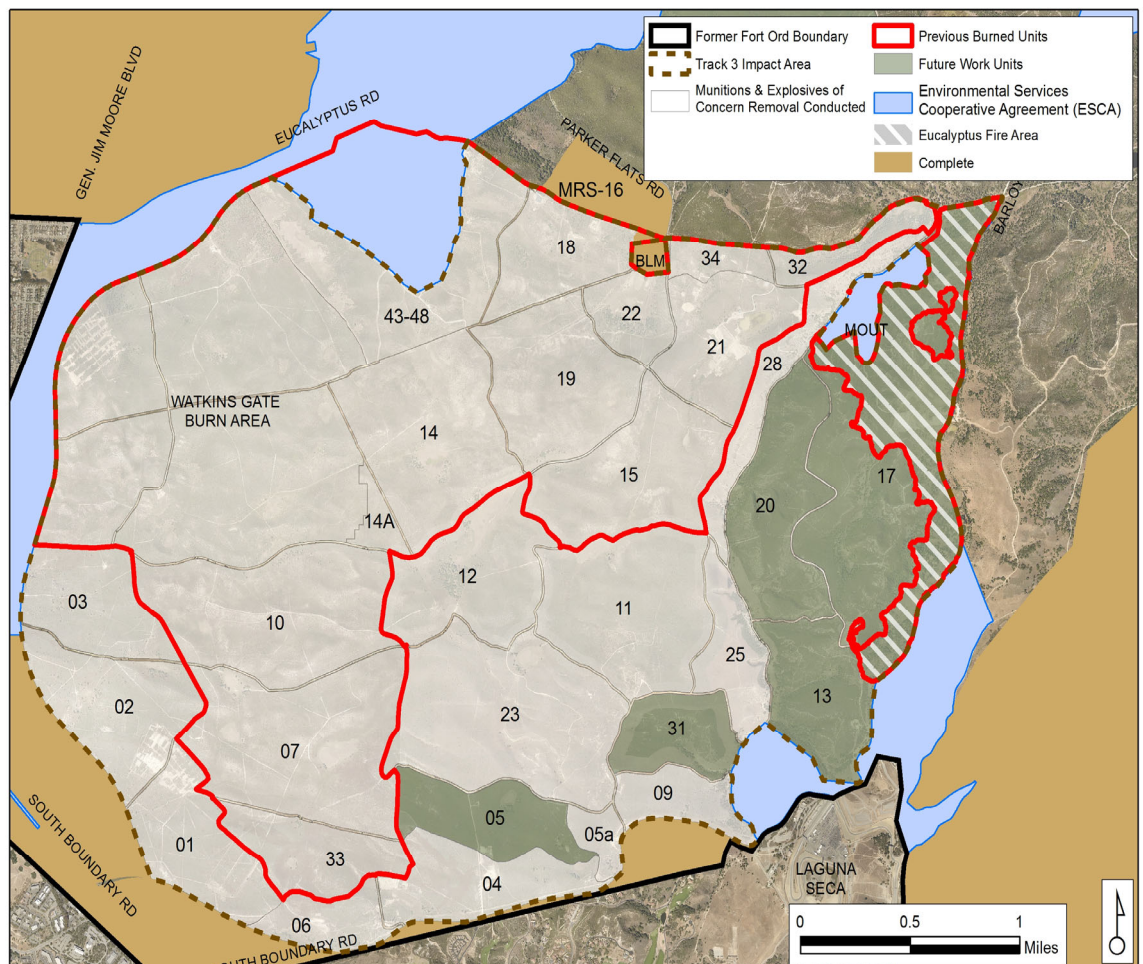
The historical Impact Area is located in the southwestern portion of Fort Ord and was used for military training from 1917 until base closure in 1994. Military munitions found within the Impact Area include rockets, projectiles, rifle and hand grenades, pyrotechnics, and demolition materials. This area is fenced, posted with warning signs, and is off-limits to unauthorized people. The Army has been conducting munitions cleanup within the Impact Area since 2008.

As part of the comprehensive evaluation of munitions response sites, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was developed in 2007 for a 6,560-acre portion of the historical Impact Area, called the Impact Area Munitions Response Area (MRA). The RI/FS evaluated remedial alternatives to address munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) to support the future use of the area as a habitat reserve managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Prescribed burning and alternative methods to clear vegetation, needed to gain access to the ground surface to conduct MEC removals, were also evaluated in the RI/FS.

The Army's selected remedy for cleaning up the Impact Area MRA is Technology-Aided Surface MEC Remediation, With Subsurface MEC Remediation in Selected Areas and Land Use Controls. The remedy was presented in a Proposed Plan with a public comment period. The Army and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with California Department of Toxic Substances Control, considered the public comments and confirmed the remedy for the site. The selected remedy is described in the *Record of Decision Impact Area Munitions Response Area Track 3 Munitions Response Site* signed in May 2008. This document also includes the Army's responses to public comments.

Cleanup Progress:

The map (right) shows the units where prescribed burns have occurred and cleanup has been conducted, as well as areas that still require response actions. Prescribed burning was selected as the primary method of vegetation clearance to expose the ground surface for MEC removal. The Impact Area MRA, which is a designated habitat reserve area, will also benefit from the burns because it contains Central Maritime Chaparral, a plant community that supports several rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that are rejuvenated by periodic burning.



Cleanup Progress Continued

After vegetation is cleared, specially trained unexploded ordnance workers remove MEC from the ground surface. Digital geophysical mapping is conducted to record densities of subsurface anomalies. Subsurface MEC removal is conducted in selected areas such as the network of fuel break roads and buffer areas. All recovered MEC items are detonated to remove the explosive hazard.

While burning the vegetation is the preferred process, in some units, vegetation must be cut. For example, the types of munitions found in Units 11 and 12 made it unsafe to use prescribed burns. Vegetation was cut and MEC removal was conducted in Units 11 and 12. These areas will be burned at a later date to stimulate regrowth of the chaparral habitat.

Cleanup of the Impact Area is expected to continue for several more years. The site will then be transferred to the BLM to be managed as a habitat reserve as part of the Fort Ord National Monument. Because subsurface removal will not be conducted in all areas, some MEC may remain on the site. To address the residual risks, land use controls were included in the selected remedy and will be applied to support future reuse by BLM.

Trespassing is Dangerous. Don't Go in There!!!

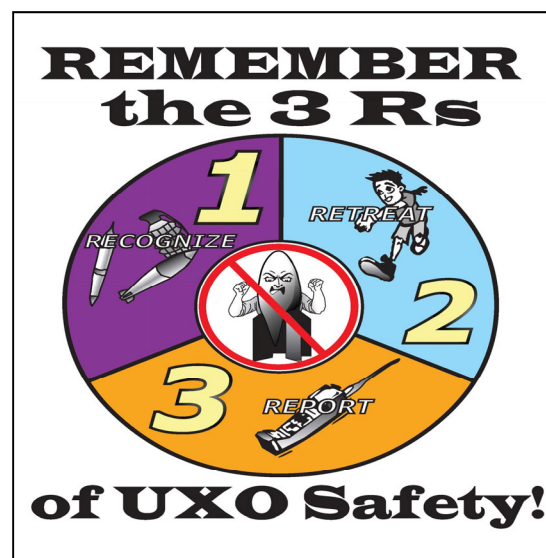
The Impact Area MRA is fenced, posted with warning signs, and is off-limits to unauthorized people. Explosives safety exclusion zones are established for public safety during Army cleanup activities, including prescribed burns. For your safety, please stay out of the posted restricted areas.

You can help the Army protect the people in your community from the risks of MEC by observing the access restrictions on former Fort Ord property and knowing the 3Rs of explosives safety:

Recognize – when you may have encountered a munitions item.

Retreat – do not touch, move or disturb it; note the location, and carefully leave the area.

Report – call 911.



To Learn More About the Impact Area MRA Remedial Action:

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Para información en español llame al 831-393-1284.