

Closing the Loop

This has been prepared to outline and respond to comments and questions made during the Community Involvement Workshop held Saturday, September 21, 2013.

Comments and Questions from a Comment Card Mailed-in After the Community Involvement Workshop

Abandoned Building: How will former buildings barracks, etc be disposed of/saved?

Army response: Before the Army transferred buildings, barracks, and other structures, each of these structures were assessed for asbestos and lead based paint. The structures were transferred "as is" along with disclosures specific to lead based paint and asbestos. The ultimate fate (disposal, preservation, remodeling, etc) of the structures resides with their recipient. We recommend that you contact the Fort Ord Reuse Authority at (831) 883-3672 for additional information.

Invasive Plant Species: I noticed a lot of Pampus Grasses growing along the side of the road. Is there a program to eradicate invasive species to allow native plants to grow?

Yes, the Army does have an on-going weed control program. Under the Habitat Management Plan and the Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army is required to control invasive species to ensure the health of the native Central Maritime Chaparral habitat. The Army provides funding to the Bureau of Land Management to conduct certain land management activities on Army-owned lands including providing invasive weed control and erosion control. The Bureau of Land Management spent over 1,892 person-hours controlling the spread of invasive weeds such as Pampas grass, ice plant, and French broom under the 2012 – 2013 Service Agreement, and covered over 1,649 acres to date.

The Army and Bureau of Land Management try to identify Army-owned areas of high priority to limit the spread of invasive species. The parcels bordering South Boundary Road from York School west have been transferred and weed abatement is now the responsibility of the owners of those areas.

Burn Days: I was impressed with the precautions taken to insure a successful burn. Good Job!

Army response: Thank you for joining us on the bus tour. Fort Ord is indeed a facinating, yet highly complex project. We are honored to be a part of an incredibly talented team of professionals dedicated to the burn program for the sole purpose of completing safe and successful burns to support the continued cleanp of unexploded ordnance. It is important to us that we provide as much information we can regarding the burn program and the overall clean up of Fort Ord. Thank you for your interest at the Open House and your feedback on our Open House activities.

A community member suggested that future topics include: ground water, land use, hiking, biking, history, interpretative centers etc.

Army response: The next Community Involvement Workshop is scheduled for Saturday March 1, 2014. The tour portion of this event will include groundwater cleanup, landfill maintenance, soil cleanup, and activities being conducted by the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement Remediation Program. The open house portion covers additional aspects of the cleanup project including habitat management and restoration, the prescribed burn program, soil cleanup, and other cleanup-related topics. Please note that the Community Involvement Workshops are designed to provide cleanup information about the Fort Ord Superfund project; however, we can include some historical references and land use updates as it relates to the cleanup process.

We recommend that you contact the Fort Ord Reuse Authority for updates regarding land used and interpretative centers. For updates on hiking and other recreational activities, we recommend that you contact the Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Monterey County Parks Department, and the Fort Ord Reuse Authority.

During the Open House, a community member suggested that a brief description of the bus tour highlights and stops be made prior to the tour departure.

Army response: Prior to departing the Open House portion of the Community Involvement Workshop, there will be an announcement about the highlights and length of each tour.