

## **Upcoming Investigations BLM-North:**

Fort Ord Munitions Response Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study - Remaining Areas

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Fort Ord Public Lands have been managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) since the lands were transferred from the Army in 1994. The property, which includes 86 miles of trails, is extensively used for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding by local residents and tourists. The Army continues to complete various investigations required under the Superfund program, including investigation of these lands, which, during Army ownership, were variously used for training soldiers. Much of this property remains to be evaluated through the Munitions Response Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) program, initiated in 1998, to complete the Superfund process. Site Assessment field investigation has been ongoing in the BLM Public Lands since 2010 (see Map 2). These field investigations have involved site walk by unexploded ordnance (UXO) technicians with no vegetation cutting. The investigation results so far confirm that the BLM Public Lands are safe for public uses.

### **PROJECT STATUS:**

Based on the investigation results and knowledge of the areas, field investigation in one area, near Hennekens Ranch Road and Watkins Gate Road (see Map 1), will be more focused on obtaining subsurface information, i.e. detecting and mapping subsurface anomalies that might be munitions-related.

Vegetation in the area includes old-growth stand of blue-blossom ceanothus, dense stand of oak woodlands, and maritime chaparral. Working with BLM, the transect paths have been modified to minimize the need for vegetation cutting, utilizing existing trails and relatively accessible areas. A combination of digital and analog geophysical instruments will be utilized to record subsurface conditions. Minor trimming of vegetation will occur to allow the field team to pass through. This phase is currently ongoing.

After this phase of data collection is completed, the Army will evaluate the site coverage. If additional paths are required, the Army will work with BLM to identify new transects that would then need to be cleared of vegetation to expose the ground surface for investigation. These transects will be 3- to 6-ft wide and spaced approximately 300ft apart. This level of site coverage is considered sufficient to detect a target/impact area if present. This phase is expected to occur in June 2011.

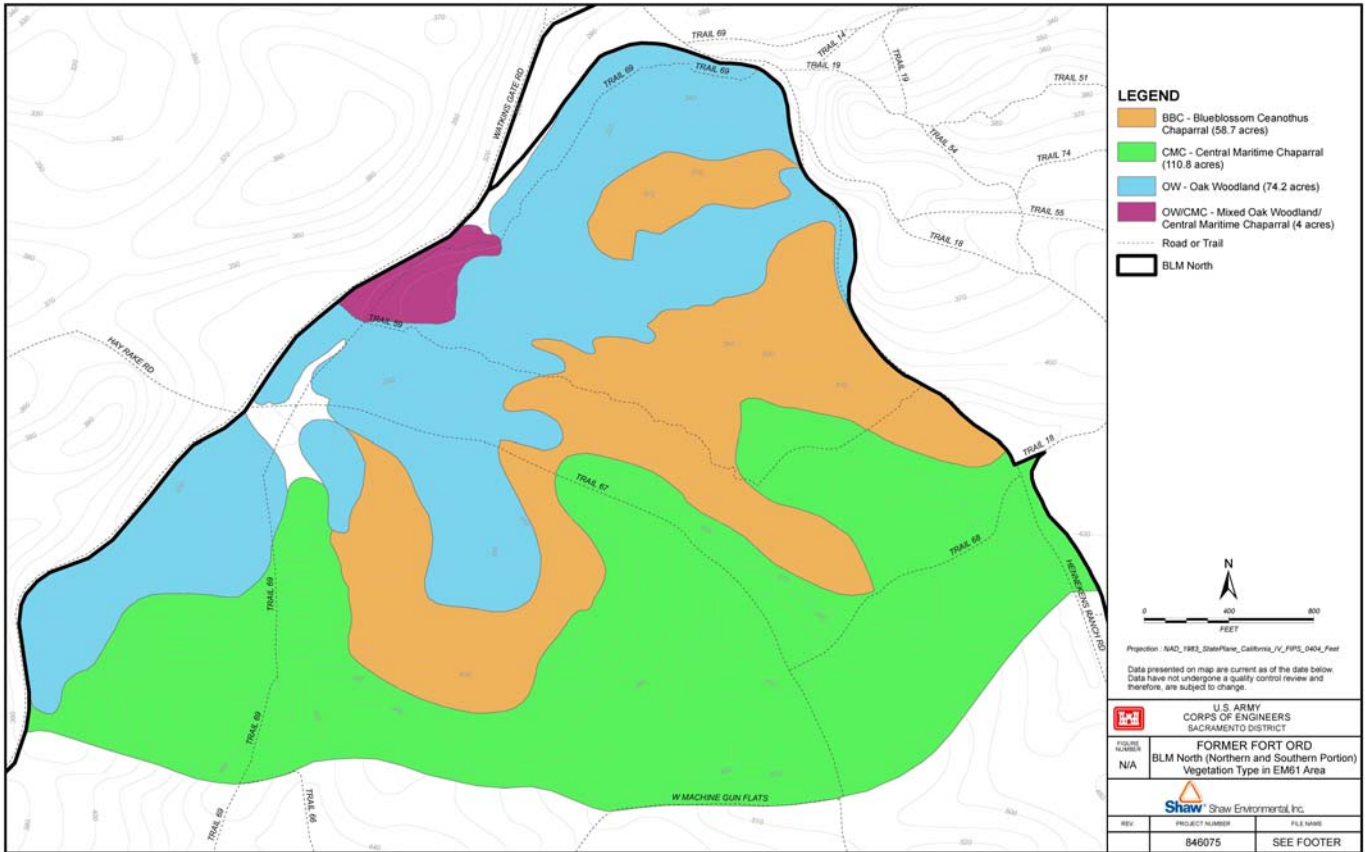
### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Site Assessment investigation plan for the focused area is described in Draft Technical Memorandum, Site Assessment Approach, BLM North (North/South Portion), Remaining RI/FS Areas, Former Fort Ord, California, dated February 15, 2011 (Administrative Record number OE-0733). This and previous site assessment work plans are available in the online Administrative Record at [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).

### **USE CAUTION:**

The field investigation team will be operating in narrow paths and may not be easily visible. Please observe caution and "trail closed" signs so your recreational activities do not need to be interrupted. If you have any questions please call the Army's BRAC office at 831-393-1284 or 1-800-852-9699.

Map 1 BLM North focused investigation area



Map 2 BLM investigation areas

