

2012: Prescribed Burns: What's Been Completed and What's Planned

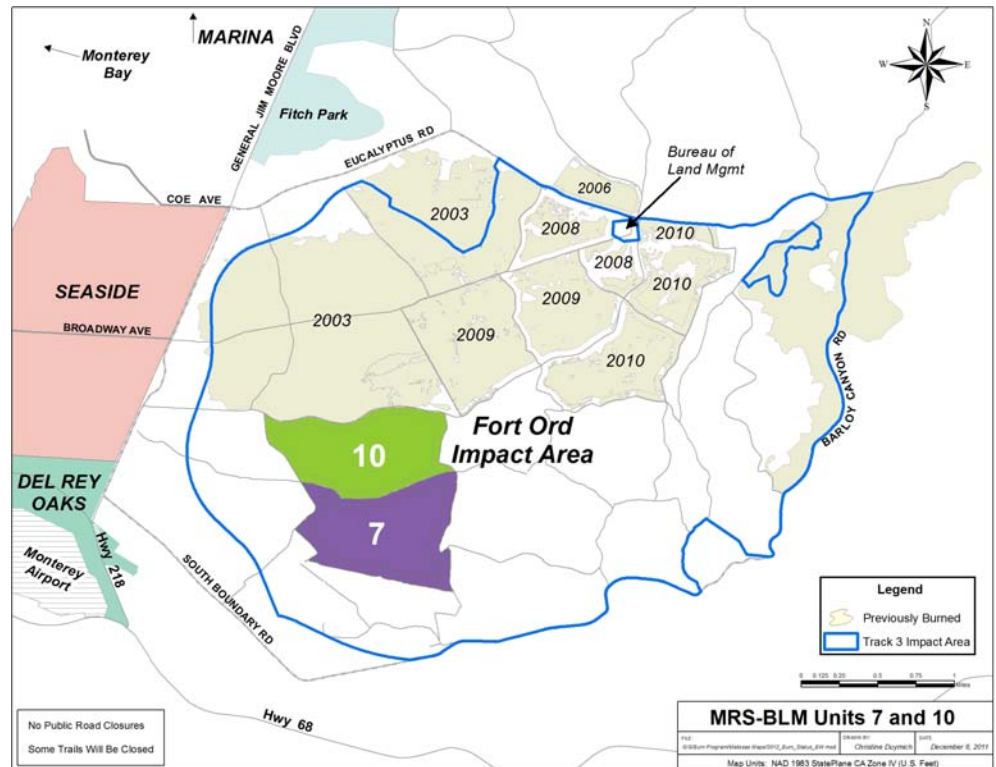
The 2012 Prescribed Burn Plan includes Units 7 and 10 for prescribed burning. Unit 7 is about 341 acres and Unit 10 is about 327 acres. The map at the right shows the location of Units 7 and 10 as well as the areas where prescribed burns have been completed (shown in beige).

The draft 2012 MRS-BLM Units 7 and 10 prescribed burn plan, including the burn prescription, air monitoring plan and community notification plan, is . These documents will be made available in the Administrative Record section of www.fortordcleanup.com. Site

preparation, such as preparing containment lines, removing of combustible surface debris where safe to do so, and preparing staging areas and access routes, will be completed be-

fore the burns occur. The Army has begun the registration for the 2012 Direct Notification Program. After July 1, a burn will be conducted

when conditions meet the burn prescription.



The Army's Direct Notification Program

The Army acknowledges that prescribed burns can affect air quality, create ash, and can affect sensitive individuals. Therefore, the Army has taken numerous steps to design prescribed burns to minimize smoke impacts to the surrounding community, such as conducting the prescribed burns when an appropriate combination of atmospheric conditions and moisture levels in the vegetation occurs.

The Army's prescribed burn announcements will include informa-

tion concerning how to reduce or minimize potential exposure to smoke from prescribed burns. These precautions include staying indoors with doors and windows closed and limiting outdoor activity when smoke is present.

The Army will make the mobilization decision when optimum burn conditions are anticipated and resources (equipment and personnel) are available. At that time, the Army will notify people who registered for the Direct Notification Program that

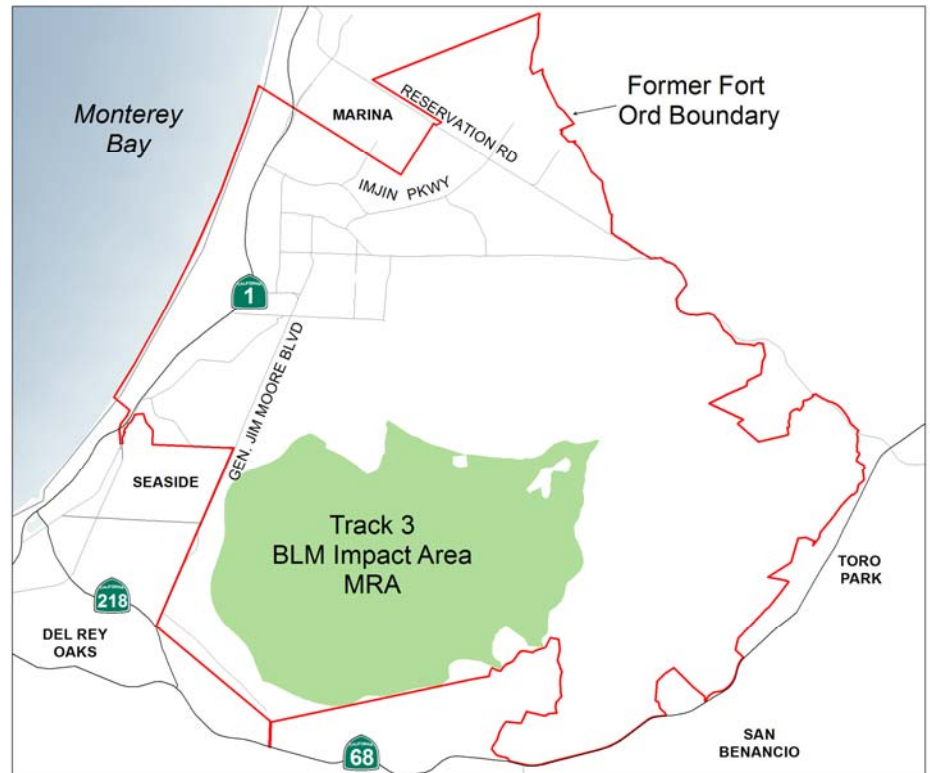
the mobilization has begun. Once mobilized, burn personnel, equipment, and supplies may be in place and standing by for several days. On the day of the planned burn the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department will make a decision to proceed with the prescribed burn when optimum burn conditions are imminent and all other factors are met. At that time, the Army will notify people who are registered for the Direct Notification Program that the prescribed burn has begun.

How to Get More Information

- Register for the Prescribed Burn Direct Notification Program: Call (831) 242-7383 or toll-free 1-800-852-9699, or visit www.fortordcleanup.com. You must register each year.
- Para obtener una copia en Espanol contacte 831-393-1284.

2012 UPDATE: U.S. ARMY FORT ORD – PRESCRIBED BURN PROGRAM

The Army is conducting the cleanup of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), including unexploded ordnance (UXO), in the former Fort Ord impact area. The cleanup of MEC in the impact area began with a 2003 prescribed burn in Ranges 43-48. The prescribed burns remove dense vegetation and expose the ground surface to support the safe remediation of MEC. The impact area, which is designated as habitat reserve, will also benefit from the burns because it contains Central Maritime Chaparral, a plant community that supports several rare, threatened, and endangered plant species which are rejuvenated by periodic burning.



The cleanup of MEC in the impact area is expected to take several more years to complete.

Each year, the Army prepares units to conduct prescribed burns and MEC cleanup. Fort Ord prescribed burns are conducted under appro-

priate weather conditions between July 1 and December 31. The burn season may be extended if approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Army's highest priorities for its prescribed burn program are (a) to

conduct burns without injury to the workers or the public, (b) to contain the burns within their intended boundaries, and (c) to minimize smoke impacts. These priorities are reflected in the work the Army does to plan, prepare and conduct each burn.

2011: Cancellation of Prescribed Burns

In 2011, the Army began preparation of two areas for prescribed burns by cutting containment lines. During site preparation, two types of large artillery projectiles were encountered on the surface, an unexpected event since these types of projectiles are generally found several feet below the ground. The presence of these items on the ground surface made these areas unsafe to burn.

The items encountered required a much greater safety setback distance than had been anticipated. That distance exceeded the Army's capabilities to conduct a safe prescribed burn. Because of this, the vegetation must be cut to allow the safe removal of UXO remaining in these areas.

Once the surface UXO has been removed from the areas and the vegetation grows back sufficiently to carry a fire, these two areas will be burned to encourage successful recovery of the rare, threatened and endangered fire-dependant plant species.

For further information call the Fort Ord BRAC Office at (831) 242-7383 or toll-free 1-800-852-9699, or visit the web site at: www.fortordcleanup.com.