

Access Corridors Under Review

Since the closure of the former Fort Ord in 1994, thousands of people have been walking, bicycling, hiking, running, and accessing the land on the former military base. Initially, FORA's munitions investigation and remediation activities would have closed access to the ESCA properties. In order not to close off all of these areas to the public, FORA worked with EPA, DTSC, local recreational users, emergency service providers, and CSUMB to establish Access Corridors through the ESCA properties. These Access Corridors provide both recreational trails and a pathway through the ESCA property to the extensive trail system on The Fort Ord National Monument.

Recent activities spearheaded by the group Veterans Wild Fort Ord have put these Access Corridors in jeopardy. In a letter dated July 10, 2012, EPA has stated in no uncertain terms that FORA is obligated to "...enforce the activity restrictions set forth in the federal deed and the State Land Use Covenant." EPA further states "...it may be necessary for FORA to implement additional measures to restrict access, including the enforced closure of all trails in areas where the CERCLA investigation and cleanup process has not been completed."

As a result, FORA is in the process of reviewing its' ability to maintain the Access Corridors and Rights of Entry as they currently exist. The actions of a very few may have a far-reaching effect on the many who helped to establish the Access Corridors and use them daily.