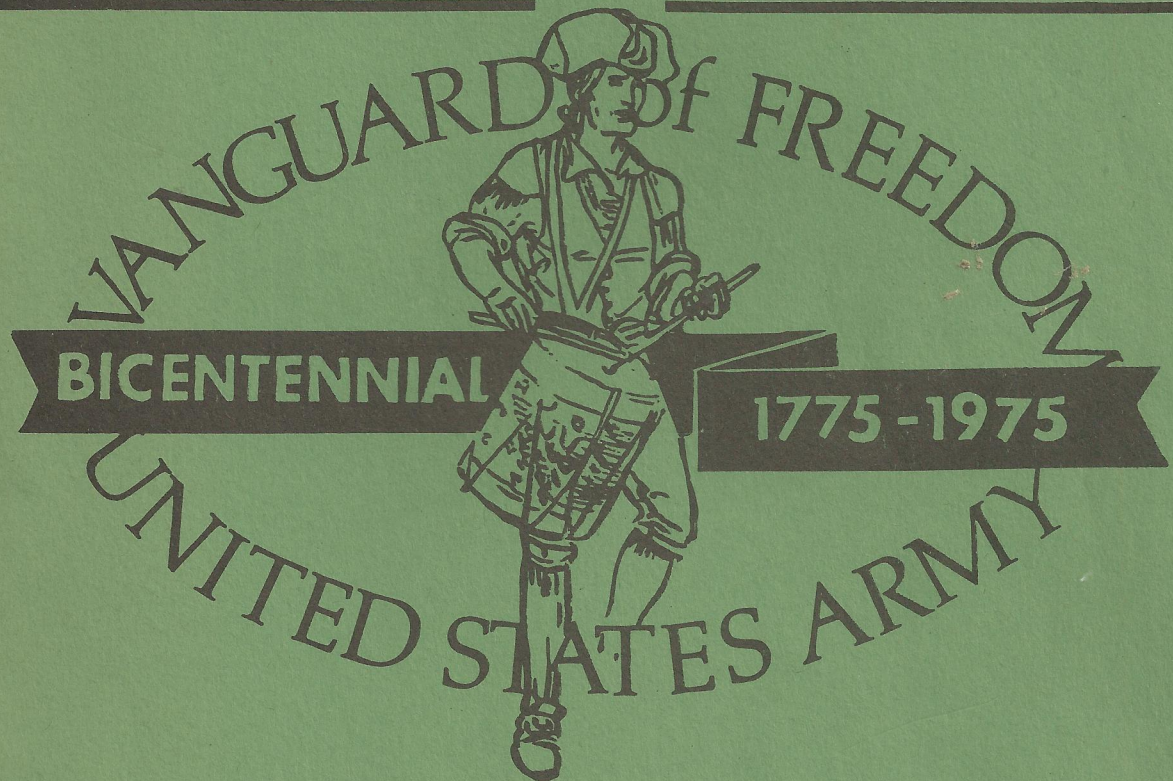


FORT ORD NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM



1975 REPORT





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS
The Adjutant General's Office
1000 Army Avenue
Fort Ord, California 93941

FORT ORD
NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM

1975 REPORT

PREPARED BY
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FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA
93941



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS
7th Infantry Division and Fort Ord
Office of the Commanding General
Fort Ord, California 93941

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FOREWORD

This report embodies highlights of Fort Ord's Natural Resources Program for Calendar Year 1975 in conformance with AR 420-74 and is submitted for consideration in the competition for the Secretary of Defense Conservation Award.

Although implementation of Fort Ord's Natural Resources Program and the preparation of this report were the responsibility of the Directorate of Facilities Engineering, grateful recognition is due for the important contributions that were made by federal, state and local agencies, as well as by other installation activities and individuals.

That we have a successful, continuing program is substantiated by numerous elements in this report. During 1975, for example, all previous records for the number of man-days that both military and civilians spent hunting and fishing were exceeded, and future prospects are even more promising. Furthermore, the increased awareness by both the military and civilian communities of the inherent aesthetic values of our native plants and none-game species is exemplified in this year's report.

It is noteworthy that the accomplishments enumerated in this report were made during the Bicentennial Anniversary Year of the United States Army.

I extend my thanks and congratulations to each of you who have given your time and expertise to the development and improvement of our natural resources.

M. C. ROSS
Major General, USA
Commanding

CALIFORNIA POPPIES

WILDFLOWERS

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FIRE ECOLOGY

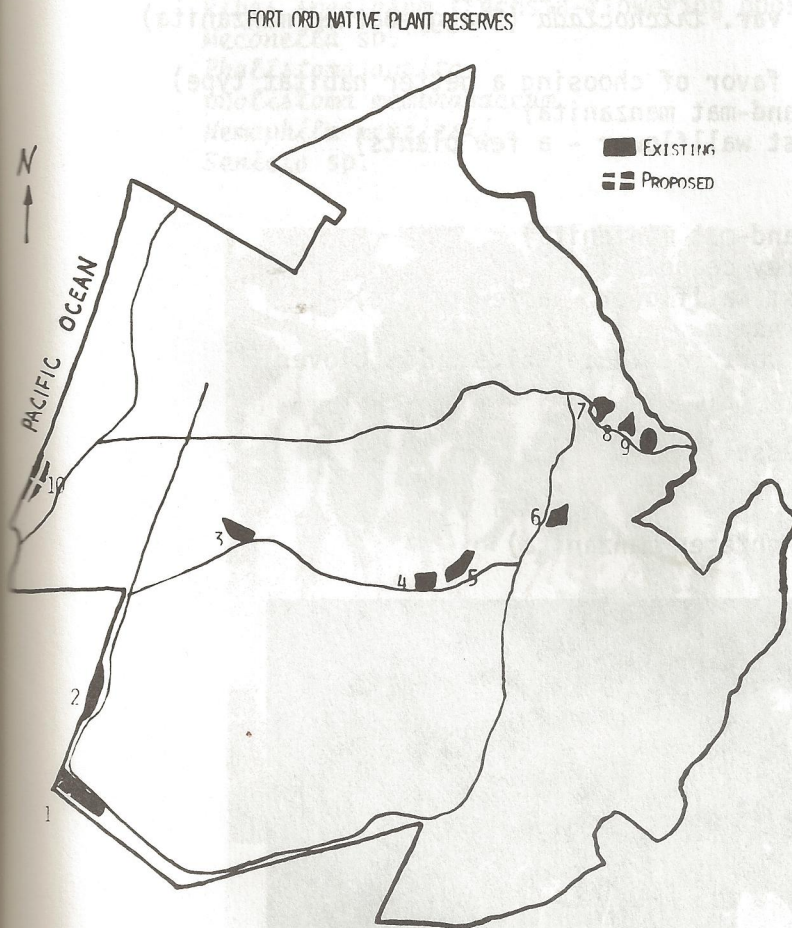
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NATIVE PLANT RESERVES



One large continuous stand of dwarfed coast live oak woodland and chaparral brushlands used to extend from the Monterey Peninsula to the Salinas River mouth. The Monterey Airport and adjacent industrial park replaced one of the most botanically significant sections, and the urbanized portions of the cities of Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, and Marina have removed much more. Fortunately sizeable portions of the original plant communities still survive in Fort Ord land. As we have seen, these areas are the home of a number of rare and endangered plant species.

To recognize and preserve these rare native plants, Fort Ord, in conjunction with the California Native Plant Society, selected nine small reserves where typical and rare species exist in an undisturbed environment. These areas are firmly established in the master plans and are currently designed as areas "1" to "9" on official maps. Most of these reserves represent the brushland communities, but plans

are currently underway to include protected status for other life zones as well.

With the passing of the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1973 nature reserves have even more significant value. At least six species on the California Native Plant Society's and Smithsonian Institution's rare plant lists occur at Fort Ord. Four of these are well represented in the present reserves, and additional reserves will be able to cover the other two. The four species now in existing reserves include

Arctostaphylos montereyensis, *A. pumila*, *Ceanothus rigidus*, and *Haplopappus eastwoodae*. Discussions of each of these are included in the section on brushlands in this report.

Some of the typical and rare plants represented in each of the nine existing reserve areas are listed as follows:

Area 1

Arctostaphylos tomentosa var. *hebeclada* (Shaggy-barked manzanita)
Arctostaphylos tomentosa var. *trichoclada* (Shaggy-barked manzanita)

Area 2 (To be discontinued in favor of choosing a better habitat type)

Arctostaphylos pumila (Sand-mat manzanita)
Erysimum ammophilum (Coast wallflower - a few plants)

Area 3

Arctostaphylos pumila (Sand-mat manzanita)
Ceanothus rigidus (Monterey ceanothus)
Erysimum ammophilum (Coast wallflower - a few plants)
Gilia tenuiflora ssp. *arenaria*
Orthocarpus purpureus var. *pallidus* (White owl's clover)

Area 4

Garrya elliptica (Silk tassel)

Area 5

Arctostaphylos hookeri (Monterey manzanita)



CLOSEUP OF *A. hookeri*

Area 6

Ceanothus incanus (Wild lilac)
Gilia tenuiflora var. *arenaria* (endemic wildflower)
Castilleja sp. (Indian paint brush - rare yellow variety)

Area 7

Ribes speciosum (Fuchsia-flowering gooseberry)
Meconella sp.
Pholistoma aurita
pholistoma membranaceum
Nemophila menziesii
Senecio sp.



FUCHSIA-FLOWERED GOOSEBERRY

Area 8

Arctostaphylos montereyensis (Endemic manzanita)

Area 9

Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon)
Papaver californica (Rare western poppy)

Plans are now underway to establish a trail system in reserve "1", increase the boundaries on reserves "1", "3", "5", and "8", and establish another reserve within the coastal strand. A section near the southwest boundary of Fort Ord's dunes, beyond the last firing range, has excellent examples of undisturbed secondary and back dune communities, including good stands of mock heather (*Haplopappus ericoides*) and coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*). A few plants of the rare coast wallflower

(*Erysimum amophilum*) occur here. The foredune is in a less natural condition, being covered mainly with non-native ice plants; nevertheless a few patches of native habitat still remain intact, and the view from this exceptionally high foredune looking out over the bay is spectacular.

One more rare and endangered species, seaside bird's beak (*Cordylanthus littoralis*) grows in the eastern portion of Fort Ord. The California Native Plant Society is currently working with Fort Ord staff to get examples of this species and perhaps other unique plant associations into future reserves.

WILDFLOWERS

Each spring when the winter rains have subsided California becomes a garden of wildflowers, and Fort Ord is no exception. Wave after wave of rainbow-colored annuals and perennials add life to grasslands and open areas, some of which may be rather drab through much of the year. Other wildflowers crop up among rocks, on dunes, even along shaded paths and streambanks. Some are familiar, such as the little sky lupine (*Lupinus nanus*), which forms solid blue sheets and seemingly reflects the sky itself. Others including the true western poppy (*Papaver californica*), which is not to be confused with the common golden California poppy (*Eschscholtzia californica*), is quite rare and usually appears only after a fire. The more abundant California poppy is, of course, one of the most beautiful of all wildflowers. Fields and hillsides radiating with its brilliance truly make California the "Golden State".

The following pages tell a story in pictures of the drama in color that unfolds every year within Fort Ord's boundaries . . .



SKY LUPINE, THE MOST ABUNDANT WILDFLOWER AT FORT ORD