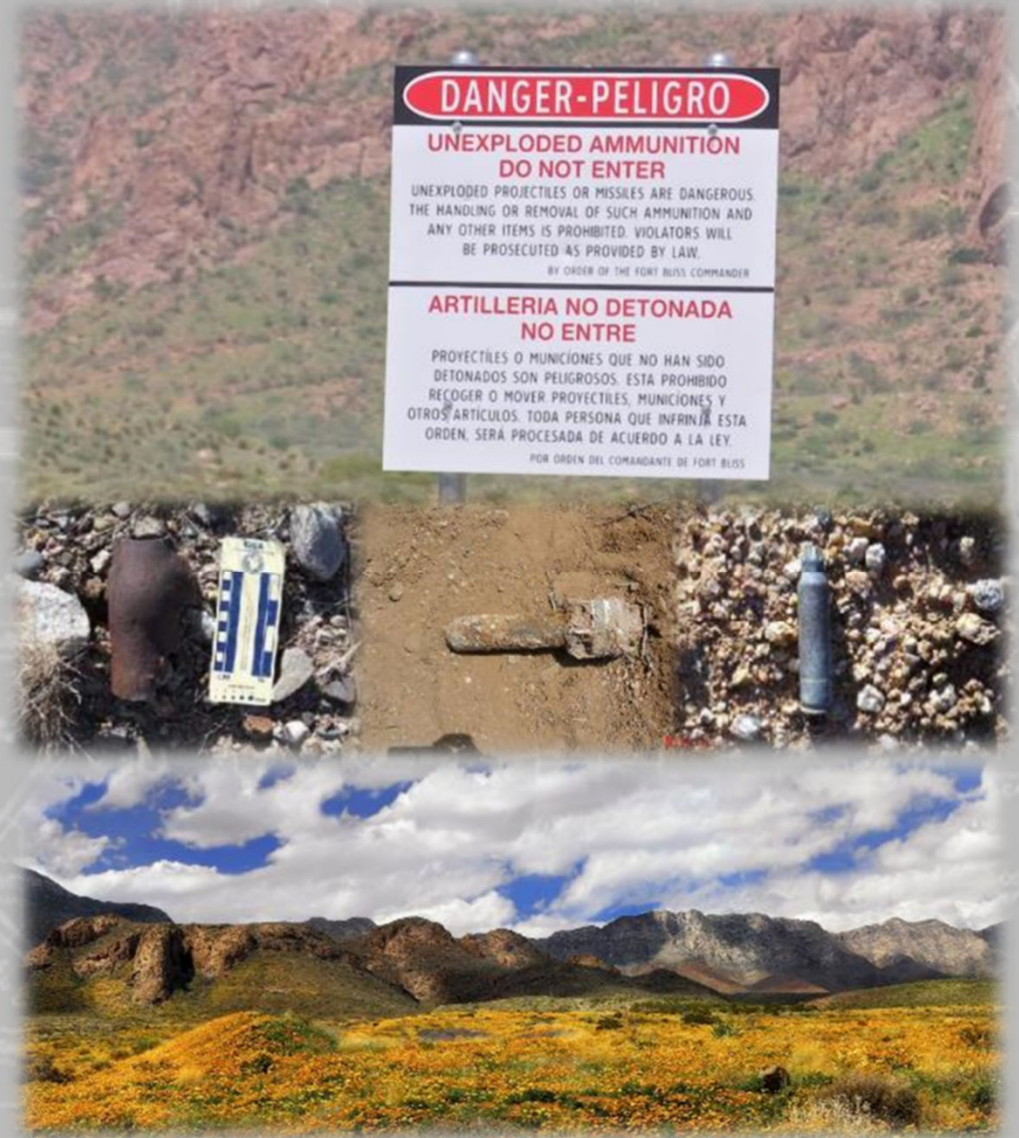


FORMER CASTNER RANGE ARTILLERY AND ANTI-TANK RANGES MUNITIONS RESPONSE SITE 2

EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS INFORMATION

MAY 2022



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



FORMER CASTNER RANGE MUNITIONS RESPONSE SITE 2



Purpose of Public Information Session

- To inform the community and first responders of the Former Castner Range Artillery and Anti-Tank Ranges (Munitions Response Site 2) site boundaries and its military training use from approximately 1926 through 1966.
- To explain the potential risks associated with ordnance items and munitions.
- To promote the use of the 3Rs of Explosives Safety: **Recognize, Retreat, Report.**



FORMER CASTNER RANGE MUNITIONS RESPONSE SITE 2



Agenda

- Background Information
 - Formerly Used Defense Sites Program
 - History of Former Castner Range
 - Summary of Remedial Activities
- Ordnance Safety and Awareness
- USACE Contact Information
- Questions/Comments



FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES PROGRAM (FUDS)

- A FUDS is defined as a facility or site (property) that was under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense and owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States at the time of actions leading to hazardous substances contamination.
- The FUDS Program is limited to those real properties located within the 50 States, District of Columbia, Territories, Commonwealths, and possessions of the United States, and that were transferred from U.S. Department of Defense control prior to 17 October 1986.
- Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, to analyze, restore, and report on FUDS properties each year.
- Public involvement and community participation are important components of the process. USACE partners with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local governments, regulatory and environmental agencies, and affected property owners.



HISTORY OF FORMER CASTNER RANGE

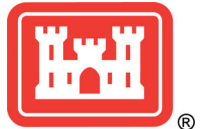
- Castner Range is in northeast El Paso, Texas. Fort Bliss acquired it in 1926 as a 3,500-acre area for ordnance and munitions training. Another 4,800 acres were acquired for Castner Range in 1939.
- The artillery and anti-tank ranges were used from 1926 through 1966. Several training ranges were located within the area, including small arms ranges and a rifle grenade and rocket range.
- The northern portion of the artillery range was reportedly used as an artillery firing position.
- During and after World War II, most ranges used within Castner Range were small arms ranges, though one range was used for 3.5-inch rockets.



HISTORY OF FORMER CASTNER RANGE

- By the late 1960s, the city of El Paso had expanded and grown too close for safety. The U.S. Army ceased all operations at Castner Range in the early 1970s.
- In 1971, the U.S. Army designated a large portion of Castner Range, including the artillery and anti-tank ranges, as excess and transferred the land to the city of El Paso.
- Today, the area is highly developed and includes residential, commercial, educational, recreational, state and local government, and open-space land uses.





FORMER CASTNER RANGE MUNITIONS RESPONSE SITE 2

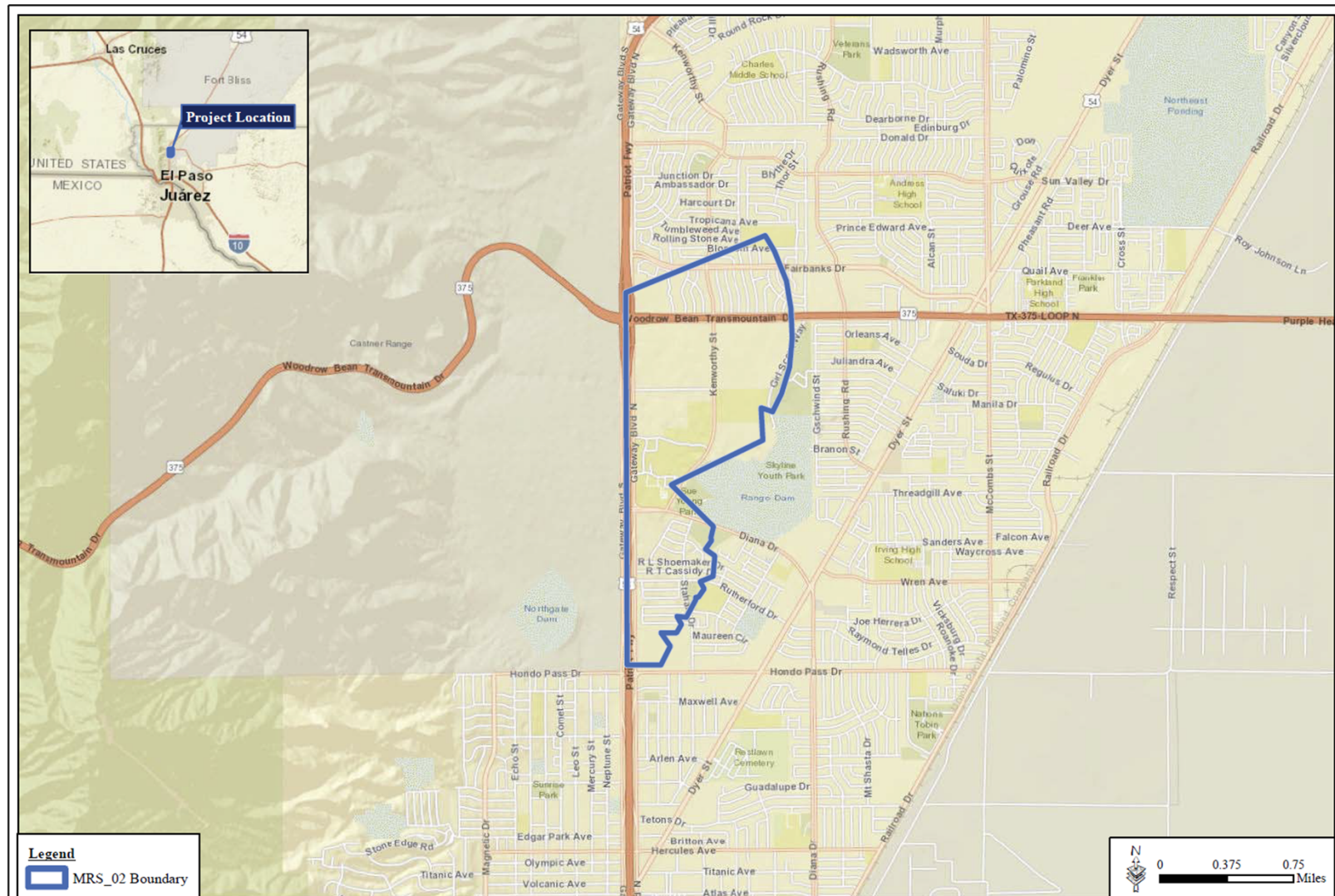


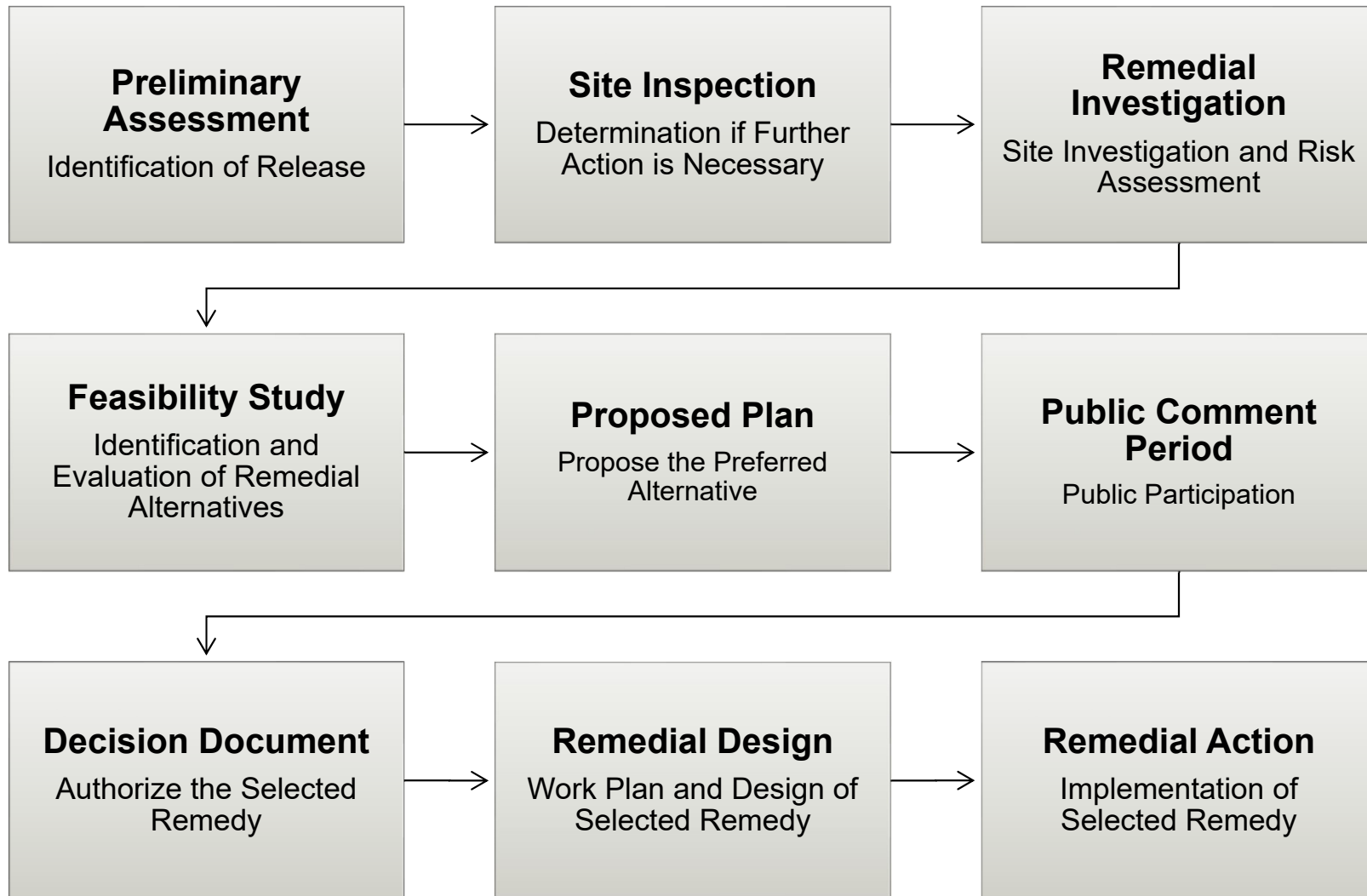
Figure 2-1. Location Map
Castner Range FUDS, MRS_02



SUMMARY OF REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES



CERCLA Process





SUMMARY OF REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES

- Investigation, cleanup, and removal activities have occurred at the site, including:
 - 1973-1974 Contaminated Area Clearance
 - 1994 UXO Site Characterization
 - 1994 Archives Search Report (ASR)
 - 1995 Removal Actions
 - 2010 Site Inspection
 - 2014 Remedial Investigation
- In 1973 and 1974, one 4.2-inch mortar round and four 40mm high explosive projectiles were recovered and destroyed east of U.S. Highway 54, between the north side of Hondo Pass and the south side of Woodrow Bean Transmountain Drive.
- A field team in 1994 recovered a 2.36-inch rocket, grenade canisters, and a 4.2-inch mortar round.
- The 1994 ASR documents multiple historical incidents and recoveries of munitions and explosives of concern.
- Surface and subsurface removal actions in 1995 covered a 58-acre area of Munitions Response Site 2. No munitions findings were reported during these actions.





SUMMARY OF REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES



- No munitions and explosives of concern were located during the 2010 Site Inspection, though multiple munitions debris items were found, mostly north of Munitions Response Site 2.
- During the 2014 Remedial Investigation, 30 munitions debris items and 12 small-arms ammunition-related items were recovered from Munitions Response Site 2.
- Since then, the El Paso Police Department has no records of munitions being found within the area.
- Although the area is safe, there is still a risk of potential munitions debris that may become exposed through erosion or encountered in the ground during construction activities.
- The selected remedy is to inform the public of these risks and educate them on procedures to avoid and report munitions and munitions debris if they are discovered.
- USACE will review these response actions every 5 years to ensure safety and public health.





ORDNANCE SAFETY AND AWARENESS



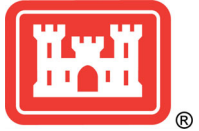
Munitions are Dangerous

- Munitions include artillery and mortar rounds, rockets, grenades, bombs, and small arms ammunition.
- Munitions are dangerous regardless of appearance, type, shape, size, or age.
- Munitions vary in appearance and can be hard to identify. Regardless of whether a munition is shiny or rusty, clean or dirty, it is dangerous and may still explode.
- Never touch, move, or disturb a munition. Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety: **Recognize**, **Retreat**, **Report**






ORDNANCE SAFETY AND AWARENESS



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Be safe, and help keep your family, friends,
and community safe by following the
3Rs of Explosives Safety

- 
- R**ecognize - when you see a munition and that it is dangerous
 - R**etreat - do not touch it, but carefully leave the area
 - R**eport - call local authorities to report what you saw

If you did not drop it, do not pick it up!



ORDNANCE SAFETY AND AWARENESS



Do Not Trespass

- Pay attention to posted warning signs at the Former Castner Range.
- Trespassing in areas with warning signs that say “Do Not Enter” or “Keep Out:”
 - is hazardous and prohibited by law.
 - may result in substantial fines.
 - may result in injury or death.





USACE – FORT WORTH DISTRICT



- FUDS Program Manager – Dennis Myers, 817-609-5014
- Public Affairs – Clay Church, 817-886-1314
- FUDS Website:
<https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Formerly-Used-Defense-Sites/>
- 3Rs of Explosives Safety Education Program
Website: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxo/home/>





QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

