



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

February 27, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to ask you to formally recognize the Fort Ord Public Lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

Fort Ord is a unique and cherished place in Monterey County. During its 77 year history as a basic training and advanced infantry training facility, more than 1.5 million soldiers, from World War I through Desert Storm, prepared for combat duty. After the fort was decommissioned by the U.S. Army in 1994, the BLM was selected to manage an open space area of approximately 15,000 acres. Even though only half of the area is open to public access due to ongoing environmental remediation efforts by the Department of Defense, it has quickly become treasured open space for neighboring communities on the Monterey Peninsula.

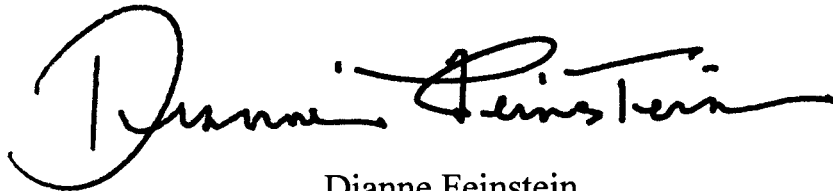
The former Fort Ord is used daily by residents and visitors for a variety of non-motorized recreation, including hiking, trail running, mountain biking, and horseback riding. According to the BLM, an estimated 100,000 visitors utilize the open space each year, contributing an additional \$4 to \$6 million to the local economy. Protecting the Fort Ord Public Lands as a National Monument will ensure that these recreational activities will continue, while also honoring the memory of the courageous soldiers who served there.

Designating these lands as a National Monument will provide ecological benefits as well by protecting habitat for the estimated 35 species of rare plants and animals found there. For many of the rare species, the Fort Ord Public Lands

represent 50-90% of their habitat worldwide. Some of the unique plants found at the Fort Ord Public Lands are the Toro Manzanita, the state-threatened Sand Gilia and the federally threatened Monterey Spineflower. While this land is currently managed for habitat conservation, designation as a National Monument will ensure that conservation continues to be central to the future management of the area.

I believe the Fort Ord Public Lands would make an excellent addition to our national conservation lands. Consequently, I strongly support designating the Fort Ord Public Lands as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act to ensure its protection for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator