



OVERVIEW

Castner Range occupies 11 square miles on the eastern slopes of the Franklin Mountains in El Paso, Texas.

Castner Range is in nearly pristine condition today, thanks to the stewardship of the US Army that owns the land, and to the potential for unexploded ordnance. Commercial development of Castner is a constant threat to this natural treasure.

Foto por Scott Cutler

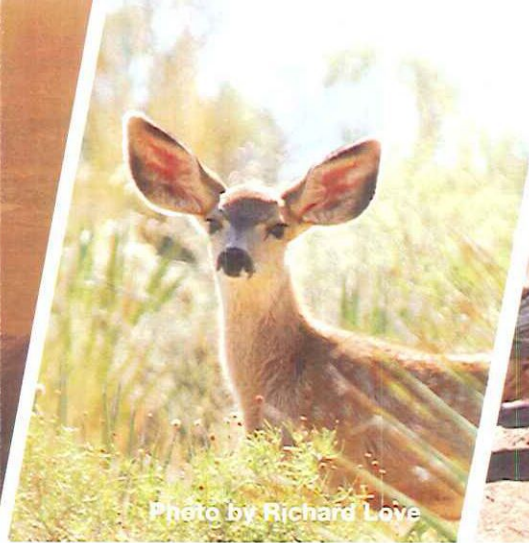


Photo by Richard Love

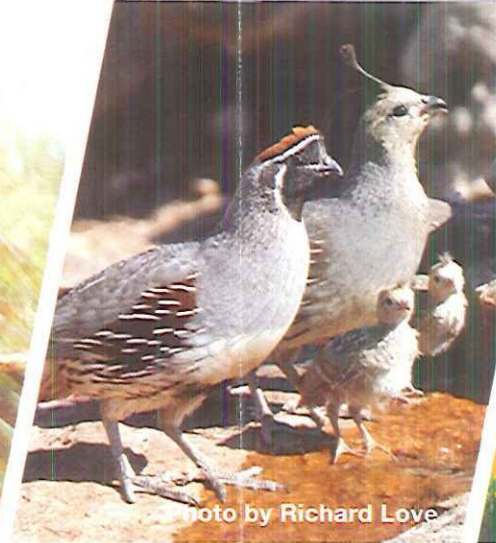


Photo by Richard Love



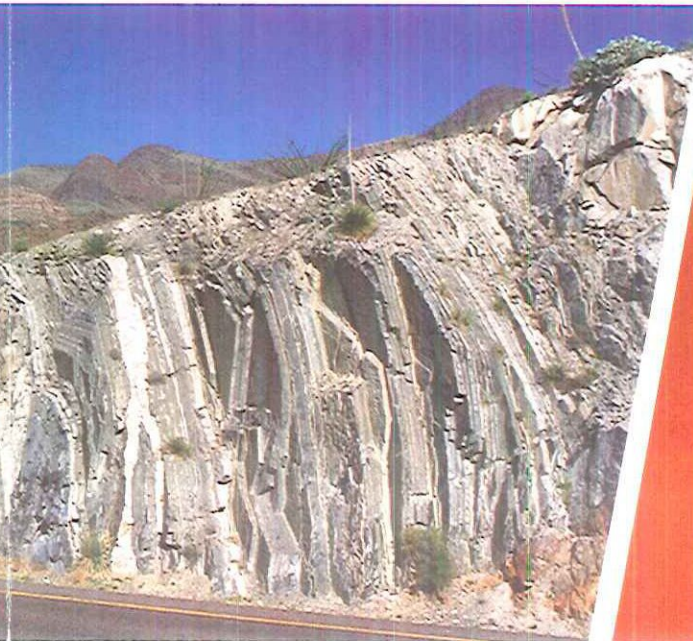
Photo by Rick LaBelle

Crown Jewel of the Franklin Mountains

- ◆ Conserve it for Future Generations ◆

CASTNER RANGE TREASURES

- ◆ In the spring, the range's lower slopes explode with color when wild Mexican Gold Poppies carpet the rugged desert terrain.
- ◆ The greatest concentration of natural springs in the Franklin Mountains
- ◆ Geologically complex and visually striking
- ◆ Unique plant and animal habitats
- ◆ Spectacular scenery



WHY YOU SHOULD INVEST IN CASTNER RANGE?

Investing in the conservation of Castner Range is also an investment in clean water, air and energy, all natural resources we rely on for our quality of life. Conserving Castner Range will preserve the fragile lands at the urban fringe around the Franklin Mountains State Park. A conserved Castner Range will address many needs such as additional park land, recreation opportunities, benefits to public health, education, natural resource management, the El Paso area's economy and the Franklin Mountains' breathtaking view sheds. The preservation of these lands will provide a network of natural areas that will enhance the community's unique character, culture and sense of place.

HISTORY

From 1926 until 1966 this land was used by Fort Bliss for live fire of field and air defense artillery. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) may have accumulated on the surface of the ground or else be buried in the soil, and that is why Castner Range is closed to public entry. The Army is conducting the Military Munitions Response Program to determine the highest and best use for Castner Range.

In 1979 the state of Texas created the Franklin Mountains State Park (FMSP) and stated that the Park could accept any portions of Castner Range that became available and were cleared of UXO. Since at least 1978, community groups have advocated the permanent conservation of Castner Range.

NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC!



CONSERVE CASTNER RANGE FOREVER BY GOING TO CASTNER4EVER.ORG AND SIGN THE LETTER!



Learn More About Castner Range
And How You Can Help

the
**FRONTERA
LAND
ALLIANCE**

CASTNER4EVER.ORG
FRONTERALANDALLIANCE.ORG
FRANKLINMOUNTAINS.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/CASTNERRANGE

**CASTNER RANGE
NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Castner Range National Monument

Overview

Castner Range occupies 11 square miles (7,081 acres) on the eastern slopes of the Franklin Mountains in El Paso, Texas. The Range is in nearly pristine condition today, thanks to the stewardship of the US Army that owns the land, and to the potential for unexploded ordnance on the Range. Commercial development of the flatter parts of Castner has long been a threat to this natural treasure, and remains so to this day.

Castner Range Treasures

In the spring, the range's lower slopes explode with color when wild Mexican Gold Poppies carpet the rugged desert terrain. Castner Range provides the greatest concentration of natural springs and contains the most visually striking and complex geology in the Franklin Mountains. Floods from summer storms are naturally channeled by Castner's canyons and alluvial fans. Unique plant and animal habitats characterize Castner Range along with spectacular scenery and rich cultural features dating back 14,000 years.

History

From 1926 until 1966 this land—named after Brigadier General Joseph Compton Castner—was used by the Fort for live firing of field and air-defense artillery. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) may have accumulated on the surface of the ground or may be buried in the soil, and that is why Castner Range is closed to public entry. The Army is conducting the Military Munitions Response Program to determine the highest and best use for Castner Range.

In 1979 the state of Texas created the Franklin Mountains State Park (FMSP), noting that the Park could accept any portions of Castner Range that became available and were cleared of UXO. At California's Fort Ord National Monument (near Monterey, closed as an Army base in 1993, and dedicated as a NM in 2012), land uncleared or unclearable remains off-limits to the public. Since 1979, El Pasoans and community groups have advocated conserving Castner Range permanently.

Why you should invest in Castner Range

Investing in the conservation of Castner Range is also an investment in clean water, air and energy, all natural resources we rely on for our quality of life. Conserving Castner Range will preserve the fragile lands at the urban fringe around the FMSP. A conserved Castner Range will address many needs such as additional park land and recreation opportunities, will provide benefits to public health, education, natural resource management and the El Paso area's economy, and will preserve the breathtaking view-sheds of and from the Franklin Mountains. Dedicating these lands as a National Monument will safeguard cultural resources and a network of natural areas that enhance our community's unique character, culture and sense of place.

Act now. Make Castner Range a National Monument!

To submit a letter of support and for answers to questions, please contact:
The Frontera Land Alliance, 3800 N. Mesa St., Suite A2-258. El Paso, TX 79902.
E-mail: Janae@Fronteralandalliance.org Phone: 915-351-8352

You can find additional information about Castner Range at: <http://fronteralandalliance.org/>
<http://www.Castner4ever.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/castnerrange/?fref=ts>

[If you mail by USPS, use: Frontera Land Alliance, 3800 N. Mesa A2-258. El Paso, TX 79902]

April 24, 2016

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

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to ask that you use your authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to protect Castner Range (Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas) as a National Monument which honors our region's cultural, historical, scientific and environmental character and which preserves some really beautiful land.

Castner Range is one of the most significant mountain-and-alluvial-fan landscapes in the United States. A National Monument designation would offer protection from development for the more than 30 cultural sites located on the 7,081 acres of exclusively public lands that are currently managed by the Department of Defense/Department of the Army, all of which have been federal property since 1926 and 1939. (They would remain federal property if preserved as a National Monument.) Furthermore, National Monument designation could provide recreation for the community, including benefits to public health, education, natural-resource management (including water), El Paso's economy and the preservation of the breathtaking views that define the Franklin Mountains of El Paso and the U.S.-Mexico border region. By protecting Castner Range, your legislation will help preserve cherished attributes such as the known prehistoric habitation that began 14,000 years ago and the biological and physical landscapes that are unique to the greater El Paso area. Your designation of a Castner Range National Monument would also safeguard a historic American area that served from 1926-1966 as part of a major U.S. military training facility. (It's thanks to the stewardship of El Paso's Fort Bliss Army Base that the Range has been conserved to date.) In addition, preserving Castner Range will conserve land now abutting three El Paso neighborhoods and a popular commercial district. Your action will ensure that this magnificent landscape, which encompasses the smallest land possible for protection, remains of critical importance to our region for generations of Americans to come.

In sum, please use your authority to draft legislation that designates Castner Range as a National Monument and leaves a legacy protecting the past and the future of this national treasure forever.

Sincerely,

[signature:]

[printed name:]

[IF YOU WISH, add your address/other contact info:] _____

<http://castnerrangenationalmonument.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/castnerrange/?fref=ts>