



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
**News Release**

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For Immediate Release: March 27, 2014  
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**Sheep Are Back to Work on Fort Ord National Monument  
BLM Encourages Visitors to Leash their Pets in Grasslands**

More than 600 ewes and their lambs are back at work on the Bureau of Land Management's Fort Ord National Monument in Monterey County.

The grazing program is part of a cooperative strategy to improve rangeland conditions in this ecologically unique area.

"The sheep grazing program at Fort Ord National Monument has a proven track record at reducing wildfire hazards, and stimulating native plant regeneration. The sheep have also been effective in controlling invasive thistle populations," said Eric Morgan, BLM's Fort Ord Monument Manager. The sheep will remain on the Fort Ord grasslands for the next three months.

With the return of the sheep herds, the BLM reminds visitors to the area to be careful around the sheep. "Over the last several years, visitors have been very careful around the herds, and very few sheep have been injured from pet interactions" explained Morgan. During the next several months, the BLM strongly encourages visitors to continue leashing their pets when near the sheep herds. Visitors are also encouraged to avoid riding bicycles at high rates of speed on roads and trails when sheep are present.

The sheep have become quite an attraction for many visitors to the Fort Ord National Monument, and the BLM is planning a special event for sheep fans called "Sheep Appreciation Day". The event this year will likely be in late April or early May and will be advertised shortly.

For additional information about the grazing program, contact Morgan at (831) 394-8314, e-mail: [emorgan@blm.gov](mailto:emorgan@blm.gov), or Bruce Delgado, BLM botanist, at [bdelgado@blm.gov](mailto:bdelgado@blm.gov).