



Historical Timeline of Castner Range

- 1926-1966 Castner Range extensively used for weapons firing. (All firing ceased in 1966.)
- 1967 Construction begins through the Franklin Mountains on what is now Transmountain Road, a part of TX Loop 375 which when complete will encircle the city. (As of May 2015 it encircles ca. 85% of it.)
- 1970 Transmountain Road completed and open for traffic.
- 1971 Fort Bliss reports Castner Range as “excess” to its needs. Castner Range placed with the GSA [the federal ‘General Services Administration’] for disposal. El Paso Congressman Richard White (TX-16) forms an ad hoc committee to study the disposition of Castner Range. The City of El Paso’s Castner Range Master Plan is published.
- April 1972 Ad hoc committee’s Castner Range Development Plan published.
- 1974 1,247 acres of Castner Range east of the US 54 Freeway conveyed to City; most of this acreage is now developed as private residences, commercial zones, government buildings, etc.
- May 1975 The 17-acre “museum lands” (now home to the City of El Paso’s Museum of Archaeology and the private Border Patrol Museum, and future home—construction to start Sept. 1, 2016—of the Franklin Mountains State Park Visitor Center/new Headquarters) conveyed from the U.S. Department of the Interior to the City of El Paso under the Lands-to-Parks program. (Earlier—perhaps 1971 [information is unavailable]—these 17 acres had been transferred from the Department of Defense to the Department of the Interior.)
- July 1978 Gerald Fitzgerald and others espy Dick Knapp (the owner—with brother Bob—of most of the Franklin Mountains) bulldozing the top of North Franklin Mountain to prep the land for another communications tower. Mass meeting quickly organized. Over ten thousand people sign petition asking City Council to obtain state-park status for the Franklins.
- June 1979 State of Texas HB 867 signed, creating the Franklin Mountains State Park (FMSP).
- June 1981 State of Texas SB 1273 signed into law adjusting FMSP boundaries.
- April 1983 LeBron Hardie et al. submit to El Paso Congressman Ron Coleman (TX-16) their recommendation on Castner Range disposition.
- Aug. 1983 GSA returns Castner Range to Fort Bliss as “not disposable” due to UXO, voiding the declaration of excess (*q.v. supra*).
- March 1985 The Wilderness Park Coalition (WPC) adopts position on the disposition of Castner Range (“convey all land north and west of proposed Magnetic-Diana connector to the FMSP”).

Nov. 1985	WPC changes its name to “Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition” (FMWC).
Feb. 1986	FMWC learns that TxDOT proposes a 10-acre maintenance yard be located in the middle of Castner Range (Sec. 36).
March 1986	TxDOT agrees to relocate the proposed maintenance yard to Sec. 3 in the far southeast corner of Castner facing Hondo Pass Drive.
1986	Cohen Stadium proposed for the middle of Castner (Sec. 31, west of the US 54 Freeway).
Jan. 1987	FMWC reaffirms position adopted March 1985 on disposition of Castner Range.
1987	Cohen Stadium site relegated to the eastern side of the US 54 Freeway, its present lieu.
1994	The start of the clean-up studies and the initial clean-up of Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MECs) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) on Castner.
April 1996	El Paso Mayor Larry Francis proposes that a sports-concert arena be located in the middle of Castner (Secs. 31, 36). This proposal is opposed by the FMWC and is abandoned.
1997	Conveyance of [Texas] General Land Office mineral rights in the FMSP to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, ensuring no future mining in the FMSP.
May 1998	Parsons (“Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.” [Pasadena]) submits its <i>Ordnance and Explosive Characterization and Cost Analysis Report</i> . Quote: “It is recommended that the entire [Castner] site be transferred to the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for an annex to the Franklin Mountains State Park.”
2000:	Production of the first Castner Range video.
Nov. 2005	REDCO (‘Regional Economic Development Corporation’, a joint City-private venture) proposes to build a “high-tech” office center on all possible parts of Castner Range—roughly the eastern or “flattest” third of the Range’s 7,081 acres.
Jan.-Feb.	2006 FMWC holds a series of public meetings to discuss REDCO’s plans for Castner.
March 2006:	Unanimous City Council Resolution to preserve all 7,081 acres of Castner Range from development.
2007	The FMWC presented a petition with over 6,000 signatures to El Paso Congressman Silvestre Reyes seeking his support to preserve Castner Range.
January 2007	Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Site Inspection for Fort Bliss, Texas was submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers.
2009-2013	The U.S. Army conducted a demonstration of a Wide Area Assessment (WAA) to investigate methods to characterize the presence of munitions on Castner Range. Frequent WAA meetings open to stakeholders were held.
2011-present	Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) undertaken. Various Technical Project Planning (TPP) activities and meetings held over the same time period. “Pursuant to the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), Castner Range underwent a preliminary assessment in 2003 and a site inspection in 2007, which recommended further

characterization of the site through a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.” (Oct. 7, 2009 letter signed by Keith Landreth, Chief, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas)

- 2014-present As part of the MMRP, the U.S. Army and contractors have been conducting a Remedial Investigation of Castner Range that leads to the undertaking of a Feasibility Study of the Range and of ways to deal with its munitions.*
- Early 2010 Congressman Reyes secured—in the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill—a \$300,000 Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) grant to study ways of implementing a conservation conveyance on Castner Range. (See the next item.)
- Early 2010 The “4C’s” (“Castner Conservation Conveyance Committee”) was formed to undertake the tasks mandated by the \$300,000 grant (*q.v. supra*).
- March 2010 El Paso County Commissioners Court unanimously passed a resolution in favor of permanently preserving Castner Range.
- May 2011 A Sense of the (Texas) Senate Resolution supporting preservation of Castner Range passed unanimously.
- May 2011 A Sense of the (Texas) House Resolution supporting preservation of Castner Range passed unanimously.
- Oct. 5, 2011 The final version of the 4C’s *Conservation Conveyance Report for Castner Range, Fort Bliss, Texas* (iv, 91 pp.) was published.
- March 19, 2012 Congressman Reyes authored “Land Conveyance, Castner Range” legislation. (V. the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA Section II, Log ID 12115.)
- Nov. 21, 2013 Final version, 4C’s *Castner Range Land Use Plan* (v, 94 pp.) published.
- March 2014 FMWC produced a 9:47 minute video “Conserving Castner Range.”
- Jan. 28, 2015 An event hosted by the FMWC and the 4C’s and featuring the 9:47-minute video “Conserving Castner Range” that the 4C’s had sponsored and helped produce.
- May 2015: Texas State Legislature approved appropriation of \$3.5 million for a new Franklin Mountains State Park Headquarters and Visitor Center to be built on the City-owned “museum lands” surrounded by Castner Range. Construction will begin on September 1, 2016.

*”The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) represents the methodology that the Superfund [CERCLA] program has established for characterizing the nature and extent of risks posed by uncontrolled hazardous waste sites and for evaluating potential remedial options. The RI serves as the mechanism for collecting data ... [T]he FS is the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of alternative remedial actions.” (From the website <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/remedy/sfremedy/rifs.htm>)