

1-140-A Site Summary - Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge**1-140-A****County:** Del Norte **ACP Division/Segment:** DN - D - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18603**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 41.76154 -124.24979**Site Description:**

Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge is a half a mile offshore near Crescent City. This coastal rock covers approximately 14 acres, and rises steeply 335 feet above sea level. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Castle Rock Special Closure. Site is associated with BLM's California Coastal National Monument resources. Offshore rock. Habitat damage could result from intrusive response. Trustees recommend against onsite response.

CRNWR is the second largest nesting seabird colony south of Alaska after the Farallon Islands. The estimated number of seabirds using Castle Rock has been as high as 150,000. It also has the largest breeding population of common murres in California; a 2004 estimate for common murres was 82,700. Several protected species use this rock as a protected area for nesting, roosting, pupping, and rearing young.

Aleutian cackling goose (10-11;02-04) use rock as roosting area. California brown pelican (04-11), peregrine falcon (01-12), rhinoceros auklet and tufted puffins (SSC)(01-12). Seabird rookeries (03-09): common murre, pigeon guillemot, Leach's storm petrel, Cassin's auklet (SSC), western gull, Brandt's and pelagic cormorants. Steller's sea lion (FT)(01-12), elephant seals haul out (01-12), pupping (05-07), Pacific harbor seal adults, sub-adults, juveniles haul out (01-12), groundfish (EFH).

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 1A Exposed Rocky Shore**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	tufted puffin	FP, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	fork-tailed storm petrel	FP, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	peregrine falcon	FP, SP	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	May-Aug
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	Northern elephant seal	FP	Year-round	May-Aug
Mammals	Steller sea lion	FP	Year-round	

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

List of Key Contacts:

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
E	/	Del Norte County Sheriff's Department	(707) 464-4191
T	/	Bureau of Land Management	(707) 825-2300
T	/Refuge Manager	Castle Rock Wildlife Refuge	(707) 733-5406
T	/	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata	(707) 822-7201
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arcata Field Office	(707) 822-7201
T	/	Yurok Tribal Office, Klamath	(707) 482-1350

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

Additional Site Summary Comments:

Breeding seabirds will use these rocks for nesting in the spring. Offshore rocks provide roosting and nesting habitat for birds and haulout locations for marine mammals. Care should be taken so that response activities do not flush wildlife from these areas. The rocks are sensitive to human intrusion year round, especially during nesting season (03-09) when the adults are on eggs and until the young have fledged from the nest. The offshore rocks have cultural significance for local tribes.

For further information about coastal access in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Commission's California Coastal Access Guide. For photos of the coastline in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Records Project (www.californiacoastline.org).

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

The rugged coastline will prevent onshore response over most of this area. Off-site measures including dispersants should be considered when a spill threatens to impact this area. Overflights should be careful to maintain flight path and altitude clearance distances that are large enough to prevent the flushing of birds and marine mammals from their nests, roosts, and haulouts on the offshore rocks in this area.

Hazard and Restrictions:

This is a USFWS Refuge. Access and/or response is not allowed without permission from USFWS refuge manager.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: II**

Strategy: 1-140.1 Objective: No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

Strategy: This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off site response options including dispersants should be considered.

Table of Response Resources

Last Page Update**Logistics:**

Directions: CONTACT USFWS REFUGE MANAGER IMMEDIATELY. Boat/avon access is extremely difficult, and not permitted without refuge manager's permission. This rock may be observed from the west end of Washington Blvd and N. Pebble Beach Drive in Crescent City.

Land Access: None

On-Water Limitations: Launch facilities in Crescent City harbor.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: None

Communications Problems:

Additional Operational Comments:

