

1-230-A Site Summary - Big Lagoon**1-230-A****County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - C - S02**NOAA Chart:** 18600**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 41.17485 -124.11788**Site Description:**

This site includes Big Lagoon from the shoreline to Hwy 101. The sand spit and surrounding forest is managed by State Parks as part of Humboldt Lagoons State Park. The lagoon itself is managed by CDFW as Big Lagoon Wildlife Area. The campground and boat launch at the south end is Big Lagoon County Park. The lagoon is separated from the ocean by a two mile sand spit with vegetated dunes. The sand spit opens to the ocean seasonally at the north end following heavy winter rains and becomes more brackish and under tidal influence until the sandbar closes. The spit is fine- to medium-grained sands, lagoon is brackish and freshwater marsh and wetlands with marsh vegetation fringing the interior. The lagoon provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife and fish including salmonids and fish passages are common when the mouth is open.

Shorebirds, seabirds, waterfowl, loons, grebes. Marbled murrelet (FT,SE) forage offshore. Raptors include bald eagle (SE), peregrine falcon, osprey; all (01-12), golden eagle. California brown pelican (04-11). Western snowy plover (FT,SSC)(01-12) - nesting period (04-08): nests directly on sand within dunes and site includes FWS Critical Habitat - sand dunes between the ocean and lagoon. Marine mammals including harbor seals feed in surf and nearshore, river otters in lagoon. Anadromous salmonids include coho (FT,ST) and chinook (FT) salmon, steelhead (FT) and coastal cutthroat (SSC) trout: spawning runs (08-06) when lagoon breaches; juveniles/smolt (01-12). Green sturgeon (FT,SSC), Pacific lamprey (SSC), tidewater goby (FE)(01-12): FWS Critical Habitat. Foothill yellow-legged and northern red-legged frogs (both SSC) near interior marsh. Humboldt Bay owl's clover (CNPS List 1B.2), pink sand-verbena (1B.1) and other sensitive dune vegetation on beach, deceiving sedge (1B.2) and lagoon sedge (2B.2) in lagoon's interior marsh habitat.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

10B Freshwater marshes

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	raptors		Year-round	
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	eulachon	FT	Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	SSC	Year-round	
Plants	sensitive plant community		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	/Office	Big Lagoon Rancheria	(707) 826-2079
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
O	/Supervisor Ranger (24hr)	NORCOM State Parks Dispatch	(916) 358-1300
T	/	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Eureka	(707) 445-6493
T	/	California State Parks North Coast District	(707) 445-6547
T	/	Humboldt County Parks	(707) 445-7651
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:

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:

It is unlikely that oil will ever reach this lagoon when the mouth is closed unless there is extremely high tides and surf. Response at the site under these conditions should probably not be attempted from anywhere near the sand spit where large waves could disrupt response activities. The primary concern is oil entering from the ocean and spreading across the lagoon with the tide which would pose cleanup problems and exposure to wildlife, fish, and vegetation in the lagoon. The intent is to control and collect oil near the berm entry point(s). A secondary concern is disturbance of western snowy plover on the sand spit by responders.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Current through the breach site can be dangerous when the lagoon is open to the ocean and the waves on the beach can be dangerous in high surf events.

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

Strategy: 1-230.1 Objective: No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

Strategy: Conventional on-scene response is not possible at this site. Protect with off-site response measures only.

Table of Response Resources

Last Page Update**Logistics:**

Directions: From Eureka, go north on Hwy 101 30-miles. Turn left onto Big Lagoon Park Road M.P. 108.250. Go 0.3 mile and turn right on Big Lagoon Park Rd. Follow the signs to the county park. Multiple access points are also available by foot from Hwy 101 on the east side of lagoon. Access to the north end of lagoon where breaching occurs is possible only by traversing the beach from south end (about 2 miles) or from Dry Lagoon parking lot at the north end.

Land Access: Locked gates, with ATV access w/o a key.

On-Water Limitations: There is a small boat ramp at Big Lagoon County Park on the south end of the lagoon.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: The parking area next to the boat ramp could be used to stage equipment for a medium sized event in the area. There are public restrooms and a campground in the park, but no fuel or food concessions on site. These supplies can be found south on Hwy 101 in Trinidad.

Communications Problems: Remote, limited communications

Additional Operational Comments: Consider booming Maple Creek at the Highway 101 bridge if oil threatens the upstream marsh.

