

1-460-A Site Summary - Big River**1-460-A****County:** Mendocino **ACP Division/Segment:** MN - F - S02 MN - F - S03**NOAA Chart:** 18626**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 39.3021 -123.79473**Site Description:**

This site includes the tidal estuary where Big River enters Mendocino Bay and Big River Beach. The north shoreline and beach west of the State Hwy 1 bridge lie within Mendocino Headlands State Park. Most of the estuary and shoreline east of the bridge, as well as the surrounding forestland, are part of the Big River Unit of the park. Caltrans owns a right-of-way near the bridge and Campbell Hawthorn owns a small parcel near the beach parking lot. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: Big River Estuary SMCA. Site is associated with BLM's California Coastal National Monument resources. Wide, sandy tidal inlet with well developed marsh complex upstream along channel margins. Strong tidal currents.

The estuary provides habitat for many species of waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds that forage there year-round. Salmonid migrations through the estuary would occur mostly during high water flow events during winter and spring. Osprey (01-12), marsh birds and wading birds (herons and egrets), double-crested cormorants nest in river corridor, purple martin (SSC). Marine mammals including harbor seals, river otters. Anadromous salmonids include chinook (FT) and coho salmon (FE,SE), and steelhead (FT): spawning runs (09-06), juveniles/smolts (02-08). Tidewater goby (FE), groundfish (EFH), herring spawn on eelgrass, eelgrass present in estuary. River estuary serves as Dungeness crab nursery. Sensitive plants on beach and nearby include pink sand-verbena (CNPS 1B.1), bluff walflower, dark-eyed gilia, Humboldt Bay owl's-clover, and Mendocino Coast paintbrush (all CNPS 1B.2).

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

8A Sheltered scarps in bedrock, mud, or clay

7 Exposed tidal flat

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	osprey	FP	Year-round	
Birds	double-crested cormorant	FP	Year-round	
Fish	coho salmon - south of Punta Gorda	FE, SE	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Fish	chinook salmon - Winter-run	FE, SE	Year-round	Oct-May
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	Mar-Jun

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
O	/24hr	CalFire Howard Forest Emergency Command	(707) 459-5336
O	/	Mendocino County Sheriff's Department	(707) 463-4086
O	/Supervisor Ranger (24hr)	NORCOM State Parks Dispatch	(916) 358-1300
T	/	California Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Fort Bragg	(707) 964-9078
T	/Sector Superintendent	California State Parks, Mendocino District	(707) 937-5804
T	/	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata	(707) 822-7201
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arcata Field Office	(707) 822-7201

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:

Contact State Parks if response is necessary here due to possible presence of endangered tidewater goby and other sensitive resources in area.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Strong tidal currents in river.

Site Strategies:

Site Validation Level: II

Strategy: 1-460.1 Objective: Divert incoming oil to the north shore for collection when oil present

Strategy: Exclusion/diversion booming to land oil on the sand near the parking lot.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	1000 feet				
Boom	Sorbent	2000 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		10		
boat	Skiff			2		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			10		

Logistics:

Directions: From Hwy 101 at Willits, take state Hwy 20 west to Hwy 1 at Fort Bragg and go south through Mendocino. Turn left before crossing the bridge over Big River onto North Big River Road, follow road downhill .2 mile to parking lot. At low tide, vehicles could access mouth of river by proceeding along beach appx. .5 mile. At higher tides, no access to mouth is possible by vehicle.

Land Access: Large vehicle can access this site. Contact State Parks first.

On-Water Limitations: Small boat launch ramp on site.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: The parking lot could be used to stage enough equipment to supply the needs of other response sites in the area. The small boat launch ramp is suitable for small motorized craft only, and probably not good to launch ocean response vessels. The site does not have lodging, fuel, water, or electricity (all available nearby in Mendocino).

Communications Problems:

