

**1-464-A Site Summary - Van Damme State Park and Little River****1-464-A****County:** Mendocino **ACP Division/Segment:** MN - F - S03 MN - F - S04**NOAA Chart:** 18626**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 39.27307 -123.79143**Site Description:**

This site includes the mouth of Little River and nearby shoreline of Van Damme State Beach. This site is within Van Damme State Park but headlands are mostly privately owned. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Site is within the following State Marine Protected Area: Van Damme SMCA. Little River crosses a medium- to coarse- grained sandy beach (Van Damme State Beach) to reach a small crescent shaped bay. Gradient is steep. No wetlands or marsh areas likely to be impacted under most conditions but outlet is open during wet seasons. Offshore rocks, mixed sand and gravel beaches.

Shorebirds forage along Van Damme State Park beach. Seabird rookeries (03-09) nearby include ashy storm-petrel (SSC), pelagic cormorant, pigeon guillemot, western gull, tufted puffin (SSC), roosts (01-12); black oystercatchers nest on offshore rocks and cliffs, osprey (01-12) forage and nest nearby. Harbor seal haulouts. Anadromous salmonids include coho salmon (FE,SE) and steelhead (FT): spawning runs (09-06), juveniles/smolts (02-08), groundfish (EFH), red abalone, kelp beds offshore of beach, algal communities on offshore rocks. Sensitive plant communities nearby include Baker's goldfields, Mendocino Coast paintbrush, supple daisy (all CNPS 1B.2). Western bumblebee.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

1A Exposed Rocky Shore

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	foothill yellow-legged frog	SE, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Aug
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Birds	tufted puffin	FP, SSC		Mar-Aug
Birds	Ashy storm petrel	SSC	Year-round	Mar-Oct
Fish	coho salmon - south of Punta Gorda	FE, SE	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	Nov-Apr
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	/	Bureau of Land Management	(707) 825-2300
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](http://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:**

Extreme currents, offshore rocks, high energy shoreline, short steep beaches in some areas.

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

**Strategy: 1-464.1 Objective:** Minimize impacts to shoreline in impractical response locations.

*Strategy:* No strategy will be successful under prevailing conditions. Offshore dispersants and/or off-site skimming should be considered. Off-site dispersion may be the only option.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update**

**Strategy: 1-464.2 Objective:** Low freshwater flow exclusion strategy.

*Strategy:* Divert or exclude oil from Little River's tidal area and sensitive habitat during low flows. Hard boom lined with sorbents or pom-poms could be used.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	100 feet				
Other Boom	Oil Snare (pom-pom)	100 feet				
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		4		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			3		

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* From Hwy 101 at Willits, take Hwy 20 west to Hwy 1 at Fort Bragg, go south for 11 miles on Hwy 1 to M.P. 48.03. Van Damme State Park and Little River are directly accessible from Hwy 1. Little River crosses the beach at this point.

*Land Access:* Shoreline is accessible at beach parking lot, most of surrounding shoreline is inaccessible due to steep bluffs.

*On-Water Limitations:* Hand launch possible at Van Damme State Beach. Abalone divers frequently launch zodiac-type boats here.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* The parking lot at Little River Beach is adequate for staging local response equipment. The beach has restrooms, but lacks other utilities. Fuel, lodging, supplies are available north on Hwy 1 in Fort Bragg, Mendocino, and Little River.

*Communications Problems:*

*Additional Operational Comments:* The cove at Van Damme beach provides some protection for small watercraft.

