

1-478-A Site Summary - Elk Creek**1-478-A****County:** Mendocino **ACP Division/Segment:** MN - G - S003 MN - H - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18620**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 39.0999 -123.70943**Site Description:**

This site includes the tidal estuary at the mouth of Elk Creek. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument. Inlet to Elk Creek with a marsh system along margins of the channel.

The marsh provides habitat for many kinds 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. Seabird nesting (03-09) nearby include pelagic cormorant, pigeon guillemot, and shorebirds including black oystercatcher. Harbor seal haulout area, river otters; anadromous salmonids include chinook (FT) and coho salmon (FE,SE), steelhead (FT): spawning runs (09-06), juveniles/smolts (02-08); groundfish (EFH); northern red-legged frog (SSC) in marsh; red abalone; kelp.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

4 Coarse-grained sand beaches

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	Northern red-legged frog	SSC	Year-round	
Birds	waterfowl		Year-round	
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Birds	seabirds		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

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
T	/	Bureau of Land Management	(707) 825-2300
T	/	California Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Fort Bragg	(707) 964-9078
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:

The local marsh would be very difficult to clean once it becomes oiled. Excluding oil from reaching this area would minimize damage to the environment.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Private property. Owner extremely private & protective, send law enforcement to make initial contact.

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

Strategy: 1-478.1 Objective: No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

Strategy: On-site response options are limited to collection of oil or oily debris removal only during high creek flows. Protect with off-site response efforts.

Table of Response Resources

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Strategy: 1-478.2 Objective: Shoreline Pre-Clean: Resource Specialist Supervision Required

Strategy: This beach can collect large amounts of large woody debris, which could require heavy equipment to move, preferably before it becomes oiled. A SCAT team should evaluate this response option before oil arrives.

Table of Response Resources

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Strategy: 1-478.3 Objective: Low freshwater flow strategy for Elk Creek protection when the estuary mouth is open.

Strategy: Berm, dam or dike with underflow dam during low flow conditions and when the time is available to mobilize the equipment and personnel needed to construct a protective berm.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Bulldozer or Loader						
Stakes, shovels, haybales						
Staff	Staff to Deploy			8		
Staff	Staff to Tend			2		

Logistics:

Directions: Take Hwy 1 to Hwy 128 just north of Cloverdale, follow Hwy 128 west to Hwy 1, go south on Hwy 1 to M.P. 31.55. Permission for access through locked gate must be obtained from property owner. Owner extremely private & protective, send law enforcement to make initial contact.

Land Access: Private, locked gate access. Contact owner with Mendocino Sheriff assistance.

On-Water Limitations:

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

Communications Problems: Remote, limited communications

