

**1-482-B Site Summary - Alder Creek****1-482-B****County:** Mendocino **ACP Division/Segment:** MN - H - S03 MN - H - S04**NOAA Chart:** 18640**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 39.00821 -123.70113**Site Description:**

This site includes a small tidal estuary formed at the mouth of Alder Creek south of Irish Beach. This site is at the north end of Manchester State Park. Seasonal inlet to Alder Creek with a small marsh along creek and fine- to medium-grained sands on the beach. San Andreas Fault is on this area and runs into the ocean near this site.

Point Arena mountain beaver live in burrows and are present around this site. Western snowy plover are present on the beach. Do not drive response vehicles off road in the brush or on beach without State Parks authorization.

The small estuary and 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. Shorebirds, seabirds, raptors, waterfowl, wading birds, juvenile gulls, Caspian tern, western snowy plover (FT)(01-12): FWS Critical Habitat, nesting 03-08; Point Arena mountain beaver (FE,SSC) habitat nearby; anadromous salmonids include chinook (FT) and coho salmon (FE,SE), steelhead (FT): spawning runs (09-06), juveniles/smolts (02-08); groundfish (EFH), foothill yellow-legged frogs (FE,SSC) upstream in marsh. Sensitive plant communities including Baker's goldfields, coastal bluff morning-glory, Mendocino Coast paintbrush, perennial goldfields (all CNPS 1B.2). There are wetlands at the bottom of the access road.

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

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	foothill yellow-legged frog	SE, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Aug
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT, SSC	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Oct
Birds	Caspian tern	FP		Mar-Jun
Fish	coho salmon - south of Punta Gorda	FE, SE	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Mammals	Pt. Arena mountain beaver	FE	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
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:**

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:**

Try to minimize oil spread into the back part of the small estuary where clean up would be difficult. Contact State Parks prior to initiating response here due to presence of endangered Point Arena mountain beaver and threatened western snowy plover.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

The county road leading to the site is closed to vehicles due to a major slump and road failure. Road is currently blocked by cement barriers. All-terrain vehicles may be able to gain access. Adjacent private property owner may be able to provide alternate access through pastures west of the county road.

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

**Strategy: 1-482.1 Objective:** Shoreline Pre-Clean: Resource Specialist Supervision Required

*Strategy:* Pre-clean debris before oil arrives.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update**

**Strategy: 1-482.2 Objective:** Boom across the mouth of the Alder Creek to prevent oil from spreading into the small estuary

*Strategy:* On low flows, stretch a boom across the mouth to exclude oil and protect vegetation from oiling.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	300 feet				
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* Take Hwy 101 north to Hwy 128 just north of Cloverdale, follow Hwy 128 west to Hwy 1, go south on Hwy 1 and turn west on first road south of Alder Creek bridge (Between M.P. 22.50 and M.P.22.48). Follow road about 1 mile to creek mouth. Either side of creek easily accessible by heavy machinery. Heavy equipment would need to cross the wetland/drainage area before reaching the creek. Depending on season and flow rates, the north side of creek may not be accessible by equipment or foot.

*Land Access:* ATV access across a washed out dirt road. Contact State Parks first. It may be possible to access from Irish Beach in the north with 4WD or all-terrain vehicles.

*On-Water Limitations:* none

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* none

*Communications Problems:* Remote, limited communications.

*Additional Operational Comments:* The site will only need protection if the surf is high enough to bring oil over the berm and into the estuary.

