

County: **Humboldt**
 USGS Quad: **Fern Canyon**

Thomas Guide Location
 CA Road Atlas
 NOAA Chart: **18600**

Latitude N Longitude W
 41 24' 124 04'

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Gold Bluffs Beach is within Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. This park, along with Del Norte Coast, Jedediah Smith, and the National Park Service's Redwood National Park, are managed cooperatively by the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Offshore rocks within 0.25 miles of shoreline are managed by National Park Service (Redwood National Park). Gold Bluffs Beach is a pristine public beach that stretches from Carruthers Cove at the north end to Mussel Point in the south. The area is mostly comprized of wide sandy beaches where oil clean up would be fairly straight forward. Espa Lagoon is located here, but far enough from the beach that impacts are unlikely. There is a beach road and considerable large woody debris between the beach and lagoon.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This is a popular camping destination with lots of public use in the dry months. Commercial fishermen fish the beach for night and surf smelt and redbait surfperch.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Sensitive dunes and pocket dune wetlands.

Snowy plover (FT)(01-12), nesting (03-09)

Marbled murrelet (FT, SE)(01-12) forage in nearshore waters.

Brown pelicans, Caspian terns, and various gulls loaf on the beach.

Peregrine falcons nest on bluffs

Canada geese (01-12), nest in ponds and lagoons along the beach, especially near Ossagon Rock

Haul out area for harbor seals, particularly pups (05-07).

The back dunes provide grazing opportunities (01-12) and primary calving area for Roosevelt Elk.

Coastal cutthroat trout (SSC) in tributaries and lagoons along the beach

Surfperch spawn (4-6)

Surf smelt spawn (5-7)

Plants of concern if heavy equipment is used include pink sand verbena (CNPS List 1B.1) and Wolf's evening primrose (CNPS List 1B.1)

Native dune vegetation including restoration areas.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

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 Mr. Bryan Much, Coordinator of the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
T		North Coast Redwoods District	(707) 445-6547
O		Northern Communications (24hr)	(916) 358-0333
T		Redwood National & State Parks	(707) 464-6101
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
T	Bob Pagliuco	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 834-2215
T	Bill Pinnix	USFWS Arcata Field Office	(707) 845-6858

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).

1-205 -A Site Strategy - Gold Bluffs Beach

County and Thomas Guide Location

CA Road Atlas Humboldt

NOAA CHART

18600

1-205 -A

Latitude N

41 24'

Longitude W

124 04'

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

This is an important public recreational area that can be difficult to access in winter when the single lane dirt road becomes tricky to drive on. Oil clean up from the sandy beaches would require either heavy earth moving equipment or lots of laborers to pick up stranded oil. Any activity would need to be coordinated with the Redwood National & State Parks to avoid conflicts with wildlife or park users. Large woody debris accumulated at the mouth of Espa Lagoon may need to be addressed. Several small streams including Ossagon, Home, Squashan, Espa, and Major Creeks may require some boom seasonally to prevent oil from coming inland.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

The road from Hwy 101 to the beach is narrow, winding, and mostly unpaved. This road may have closures due to wash outs, flooding, and/or slides. Redwood National & State Parks should be able to advise. Beach access in winter is limited south of Major Creek. Cow elk can be aggressive during calving season (05-07) along the coastal trail.

SITE STRATEGIES

This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off site response options including dispersants should be considered.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
--------------------	----------------	---------------	--------------------	--------------	-------------------------------	--------------	-----------------	---------------------	--	-----------------	---------------

LOGISTICS

DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)

From Eureka, go north on U.S. Hwy 101 to Davidson Road M.P. 123.82. Go west to Gold Bluffs Beach. The road to the beach is unpaved for 3.2 miles. Gold Bluffs Beach is within Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. This park, along with Del Norte Coast, Jedediah Smith, and the National Park Service's Redwood National Park, are managed cooperatively by the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Offshore rocks within 0.25 miles of shoreline are managed by National Park Service (Redwood National Park).

LAND ACCESS: Davidson Rd may require 4-wheel drive in wet season. Foot trails also.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

There are camping areas inside of the park which could serve as staging areas for local beach response purposes.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: Remote, limited communications

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Locked gates to beach.

