

County: **Mendocino**
 USGS Quad: **Mendocino**

Thomas Guide Location
 CA Road Atlas
 NOAA Chart: **18626**

Latitude N
 39 18'
 Longitude W
 123 47' 30"

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the tidal estuary where Big River enters Mendocino Bay. 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.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

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.

Area is visited by foraging shorebirds and seabirds. Osprey (01-12)

Marsh birds and wading birds (herons and egrets)

Double-crested cormorants nest in river corridor

harbor seals, river otters

Coho salmon (FE,SE), Chinook salmon (FT), and Steelhead (FT):

- spawning runs (09-06)

- juveniles/smolts (02-08)

Tidewater goby (FE,SSC)

Groundfish (EFH)

Herring spawn on Eelgrass

River serves as Dungeness crab nursery at times

Eelgrass in estuary

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
O		Northern Communications (24hr)	(916) 358-0333
T	Sector Superintendent	California State Parks Mendocino District	(707) 937-5804
O		Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept.	(707) 463-4086
T		CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Fort Bragg	(707) 964-9078
E/T	David Ledig Manager	BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
T	Joe Pecharich	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 583-3189
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).

1-460 -A Site Strategy - Big River

County and Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas Mendocino

NOAA CHART
18626

1-460 -A
Latitude N Longitude W
39 18' 123 47' 30"

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

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

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

SITE STRATEGIES

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

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

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
1-460.1	1000	0	0	2000	10 22lb+ danforth anchors	0	2	0	0	10	

LOGISTICS

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

From U.S. hwy 101 at Willits, take state HWY 20 to state 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 .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. This site includes the tidal estuary where Big River enters Mendocino Bay. 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.

LAND ACCESS: Large vehicle can access this site. Contact State Parks first.

WATER LOGISTICS: Small boat launch ramp on site.

Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking
and Services Available:

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

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:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

