

County: **Marin County**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

USGS Quad: **7.5" Quad: Point Bonita, CA**NOAA Chart: **18649 / 18680**

3 7 52

122 35

Last Page Update : 1/15/2007

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Site includes Muir Beach between cliffs north and south, Big Lagoon behind the beach berm and Redwood Creek up to the maximum extent of tidal influence. This site is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Shoreline under jurisdiction Golden Gate National Recreation Area (National Park Service). Muir beach is a medium to coarse grained sand beach with a rocky boulder shore at the northern end. Big Lagoon, at the mouth of Redwood Creek, lies behind the beach and is open to the ocean winter through spring. The lagoon is long, narrow, shallow, and surrounded by marsh vegetation. Redwood Creek is small and has riparian vegetation along its banks.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

This site is an "A" priority all year due to the sensitive lagoon habitat, the presence of peregrine falcons, and anadromous fish runs in Redwood Creek.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Sensitive habitats at this site include the wetland vegetation surrounding the lagoon, riparian vegetation along Redwood Creek, and the salmon that may be present in the lagoon and creek all year.

Many Bird species present but are incidently vulnerable here as anywhere else. The peregrine falcon nests and forages in the vicinity of Muir Beach. Small numbers of pelagic cormorants, pigeon guillemots, black oystercatchers, and western gulls nest on the sea cliffs north and south of Muir Beach. A variety of songbirds also use the riparian zone along the creek.

Threatened California red-legged frogs inhabit the riparian habitat. River otters present in the creek/lagoon.

Most immediate concern is Coho salmon (endangered) and steelhead runs in Redwood Creek in the winter (Nov-Apr), smolt out-migration in the spring-early summer (Feb-June) with Big Lagoon serving as a nursery area. Western pond turtle, a federal category 1 species, in freshwater areas just above tidal influence.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

This is a culturally sensitive area. Contact the Golden Gate National Recreational Area main office, cultural resource specialist, the California Dept of Parks and Recreation - Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison - (916) 653-9125), and the Northwest Information Center, (Bryan Much, Sonoma State College ((707) 332-1117)) for specific information on historic or cultural resources in this area.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E/T	24hr Sanctuary Personnel	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311
O	Jonathan Bishop Oil Spill Prgm Coord.	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5247
O	Alison Detmer	CA Coastal Commission	(415) 904-5205
E/T	GGNRA Dispatch	US National Park Service, Golden Gate (NRA)	(415) 561-5505
E/T	Daphne Hatch	US National Park Service, Golden Gate (NRA)	(415) 289-1840
E/T	Carolyn Shoulders	US National Park Service, Golden Gate (NRA)	(415) 289-1841
E/T	Vika Sirova	US National Park Service, Golden Gate (NRA)	(415) 561-4731

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

Oil from the T/V APEX HOUSTON spill in 1986 was carried into the lagoon.

## 2-225 -A Site Strategy - Redwood Creek/Big Lagoon/Muir Beach

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin County

NOAA CHART

18649 / 18680

## 2-225 -A

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### CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The concerns are oil contamination and response activity impacts to wetlands, rare and endangered species, and other vulnerable plants and wildlife which are present throughout the year. The primary objective is to minimize the exposure of oil to plants. Another concern is the impacts resulting from response activities. Avoid trampling wetlands, sensitive plants and animals, and soft mudflats, causing penetration of oil into the sediments and further injury to the environment.

### HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Large surf and swell possible.

### SITE STRATEGIES

As much oil as possible should be stranded outside Big Lagoon on Muir Beach.

#### Strategy 2-225.1 Objective: Exclude oil by booming.

Deploy sorbent and swamp boom across lagoon/creek to prevent movement of oil upstream. Place several layers 20 feet apart as necessary. Deploy by hand.

#### Strategy 2-225.2 Objective: Exclude oil by Sediment dam.

Block off inlet with sediment dike (fine-grained sand) using a small bulldozer or front-end loader. The zone of high-tide overwash on the spit is approximately 300 feet long. This is the length of the dike required. If large surf conditions exist, construct a dike with a runnel (a shallow ditch behind the dike) to catch any overwash. This can only be done if sand is plentiful and beach is wide enough.

### 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 kinds	comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-225.1	0	200		1000	2	small anchors or stakes	0	0					2	
2-225.2	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1	Bulldozer or front-end loader		3	

### LOGISTICS

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

Hwy 1 to Sausalito, take Hwy 1 north to Muir Beach. Site includes Muir Beach between cliffs north and south, Big Lagoon behind the beach berm and Redwood Creek up to the maximum extent of tidal influence. This site is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Shoreline under jurisdiction Golden Gate National Recreation Area (National Park Service).

**LAND ACCESS:** Large trucks

**WATER LOGISTICS:** Large surf common at this site.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearest launch ramp in San Francisco Bay.

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

Staging area and access at Muir Beach parking lot.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:** none identified

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:** Developed March 1995, strategy has not been deployed or tested.

