

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **Oceano**

Thomas Guide Location
 734

Latitude N
 35.0429

Longitude W
 120.6316

NOAA Chart: **Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700**

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division J map. Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area is a State Beach. Fine to medium grained sandy beach. At the southern end of this beach is the Pismo Oceano Beach Pismo Clam Preserve. A portion of the beach is owned by San Luis Obispo County but leased to State Parks.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Most the species discussed above are present year round. Western snowy plovers and least terns nest March-Sept. Over-wintering during the non-nesting months of October to March adult snowy plovers may continue to utilize beach habitats. Adult least terns migrate south.

Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov. California grunion spawn April-May.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Western snowy plovers nest on this beach. Snowy plovers may have active nests, or chicks may be actively moving about the area. Care should be given to minimize disturbance and avoid injury to either nests, or chicks. Snowy plovers are small, white and tan colored shore birds. Beach bird-nesting sites are shallow depressions scratched out from the sand surface on sandy beaches above the highest tide line. The nest sites are typically very well disguised and difficult to see, even for trained eyes. Nest sites may contain either eggs, or chicks which are potentially vulnerable to trampling by vehicles or foot traffic. Snowy plover adults and chicks are known to move between the nest sites and the active water line. Over-wintering snowy plover adults may be foraging throughout the response area.

Snowy plover adults forage while wadding along the shoreline. Least tern adults dive into the water to forage in shallow, nearshore areas of the open coast, embayments, estuaries, and dune lakes.

Brown pelicans, snowy plovers, surf scoters, gulls, terns, sandpipers, willets, least terns (endangered) and other sea and shore birds are present. These species are present year round but the snowy plover nesting season occurs from March-Sept. The least terns are present in spring and summer.

Harbor seals and sea otters can often be seen nearby.

Pismo clams are found on this beach and possibly grunion.

Surf thistle, La graciosa thistle, beach spectacle pod, crisp monardella and soft leafed indian paint brush are sensitive coastal dune plants in this area.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

There are archeological sites in the dunes. Contact SHPO and Native American Heritage Commission

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E/T	District Office	State Dept. Parks & Rec Oceano Dunes District	(805) 773-7170
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
T	Nancy Frost Ca Least Tern Breeding	CDFW	(858) 467-4208
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
T	Mike Harris Sea otter expert	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 772-1135
O	Brian Hatfield Marine mammal expert	Bio Res Div. USGS	(805) 927-3893
T	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
C	Larry Meyer	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3712
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
C	SHPO	State Office of Historic Preservation	(916) 445-7000
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

4-430 -A Site Strategy - Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Rec. Area, South

County and Thomas Guide Location

734 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART

Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700

4-430 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

35.0429 120.6316

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

PRIMARY PLOVER PROTECTION STRATEGY: During nesting season, March-September, to aid in avoiding damage to nests, consider delineation of nesting areas and designate responder "pathways" with flagging or tape. Nests and critical habitat protection areas will require oversight by natural resource specialist prior to response effort execution. All responders should be briefed on procedures for avoiding birds and nest sites to aid in minimizing damage to nest sites and associated wildlife. Oil spill response and cleanup activity should be limited to locations below high tide line unless otherwise authorized by trustee agency specialist, or designee (biological monitor). The area to be protected will be monitored by an assigned biological monitor. Oil removal will be conducted by hand crews unless other methods are recommended by the biological monitor. Pre-clean the beach and stockpile kelp and surfgrass rack in designated areas for re-distribution after response efforts are completed. A staging area will be determined as most suitable for response and natural resource protection. Travel on beach should be restricted to the wet sand as much as possible; vehicle traffic should be operated at slow enough speeds to avoid/minimize impacts to wildlife (15 MPH); if possible avoid driving over wrack.

SECONDARY PLOVER PROTECTION STRATEGY: At the discretion of the biological monitor, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snowy plover or least tern eggs may be removed from nest's by authorized and qualified personnel to an approved facility to avoid injury. This determination will be made on-site utilizing oil trajectory and oil impact timing information.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

Dune Habitats – Minimize mechanical and human activities in vegetated dune habitat.

SHORELINE PRE-CLEANING may be warranted before oil reaches the beach when the shoreline is covered with kelp, driftwood, etc which could become oiled and create more oiled waste. Consult with trustees prior to engaging in activities on shoreline. Move un-oiled vegetation, driftwood, etc. above the high tide line. When the shoreline is narrow, un-oiled debris may need to be stockpiled elsewhere. It is suggested that photos be taken to document distribution of beach debris prior to collection so that it can be replaced to its pre-spill distribution when spill cleanup is complete. Pre-cleaning of shorelines should be conducted by hand crews to the greatest practical extent to minimize disturbance to wildlife and their habitats.

To protect seabirds offshore, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds when possible. Try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and sea turtles and if approached closely by a marine mammal or turtle while motoring, reduce speed and shift to neutral; do not engage props until the animals are observed at the surface, clear of the vessel.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

State Beach, Off-road Vehicular Recreational Area. High recreational use area.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-430.1 Objective: Deflect/exclude oil from this beach.

Offshore containment and recovery (OCR) is the preferred option although heavy surf may hinder these operations. No specific response equipment listed due to the many variables associated with each spill regarding OCR. Early consideration should be given to the use of applied response technologies.

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	Boat type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
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4-430.1

Offshore containment & recovery

LOGISTICS

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

From the south: Hwy 101 north to Grand Ave exit, go west approximately 3 miles to Pacific Blvd, go south approximately 1 mile to Pier Ave., turn right to south beach access.

From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Grand Ave. exit in Arroyo Grande, turn right (west) approx. 3 miles to Pacific Blvd. (Hwy 1), turn left (south) approx. 1 mile to Pier Ave., turn right onto Pier Ave. to southern beach access (Grand Ave. is northern beach access). Can drive on the beach in this location. Arroyo Grande Creek is approx. 1/2 mile south on beach.

LAND ACCESS: Vehicle/heavy equipment access from Pier or Grand Ave.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Morro Bay boat ramp, approx. 30 miles north or Port San Luis Harbor is approx. 15 miles north. and Services Available:

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

Staging Area: State Beach parking lot at Grand Ave. or Pier Ave. beach entrance.

Command Post: State Parks Ranger Station, 928 Pacific Blvd (HWY 1; approx. 1/2 mi north of Pier Ave; between Pier Ave and Grand Ave), Oceano, 805-473-7220.

Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 15 min. north.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

