

4-440 -A Site Summary- USFWS Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Natl. Wildlife Refuge 4-440 -A

County: **San Luis Obispo** Thomas Guide Location **754** Latitude N **35.0020** Longitude W **120.6392**
USGS Quad: **Point Sal** NOAA Chart: **Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700**

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division J map. Fine to medium grained sandy beach. This is part of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Species of concern are present year round. Western snowy plover nesting season is March-Sept. California least terns nest April-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.

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.

Shorebirds include western gulls, willets, sandpipers, sea birds include brown pelicans, pelagic cormorants, grebes, loons, scoters, common murre.

Sea otters and kelp beds common.

California least terns (endangered), and western snowy plovers (threatened) nest on this beach. Other seabirds and shorebirds include brown pelicans, surf scoters, loons, grebes, willets, sanderlings, etc.

Southern sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions can be observed offshore.

Pismo clams

Surf thistle (threatened) and crisp monardella (candidate species), and la graciosa thistle are protected dune plants in this area.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

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
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
E/T	Glenn Greenwald Refuge Manager	Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.	(805) 343-9151
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

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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County and Thomas Guide Location

NOAA CHART

Latitude N

Longitude W

754 San Luis Obispo

Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700

35.0020

120.6392

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.

Sensitive Biota - Nearshore waters include sensitive rafting areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals.

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 unoiled 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:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Guadalupe-Nipomo Wildlife Refuge area; contact Refuge Manager for access issues.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-440.1 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 type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
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4-440.1

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. Drive south on beach, cross Arroyo Grande Creek. Continue to State Beach fence. Fence can be passed at low tide and the National Wildlife Refuge and Pismo-Oceano Beach Clam Preserve is in between Oso Flaco Creek and the Guadalupe oil field, approx. 3.5 miles further down beach.

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. Drive south on beach, cross Arroyo Grande Creek. Continue to State Beach fence. Fence can be passed at low tide and the National Wildlife Refuge and Pismo-Oceano Beach Clam Preserve is in between Oso Flaco Creek and the Guadalupe oil field, approx. 3.5 miles further down beach.

Can also access this beach off of Oso Flaco Lake Road with ATV's and permission/access assistance by USFWS Refuge staff.

LAND ACCESS: 4WD, thru Pismo Beach ORVRA then drive south approx. 4 miles on beach.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Port San Luis Harbor is Approx. 30 miles north.
and Services Available:

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

Staging Area: Guadalupe Oil Field. Parking area at Oso Flaco Lake. Pismo Beach parking lot at Pier Ave.

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 State Parks office in Pismo.

Airports: San Luis Obispo County Airport is approx. 30 min. north. Oceano Airport for small planes is approx. 10 miles north. Santa Maria Airport approx. 15 miles southeast.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

