

1-205-A Site Summary - Gold Bluffs Beach**1-205-A****County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - A - S02 HM - A - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18600**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 41.38904 -124.07058**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.

This is a popular camping and hiking destination with lots of public use in the dry months. Commercial fishermen fish the beach for night and surf smelt and redbtail surfperch. Sensitive dunes and pocket dune wetlands.

Western snowy plover (FT, SSC)(01-12), nesting (03-09), marbled murrelet (FT, SE)(01-12) forage in nearshore waters, California 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. Haulout 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). Although usually not in large numbers, salmonids including coho (FT,ST) and chinook (FT) salmon, steelhead (FT), and coastal cutthroat trout (SSC) often forage in the nearshore environment and can be impacted by oiling. Plants of concern if heavy equipment is used include pink sand verbena, Wolf's evening primrose (both CNPS List 1B.1) and other sensitive native dune vegetation in restoration areas. Western bumble bee.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Birds	marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Year-round	
Birds	common loon	FP, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	bald eagle	FP, SE	Year-round	
Birds	peregrine falcon	FP, SP	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Mammals	pinnipeds	FP	Year-round	May-Jul
Plants	pink sand verbena		Year-round	

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

List of Key Contacts:

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
E	/	Redwood National and State Parks	(707) 464-6101
O	/Supervisor Ranger (24hr)	NORCOM State Parks Dispatch	(916) 358-1300
T	/	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata	(707) 822-7201
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arcata Field Office	(707) 822-7201
T	/	Yurok Tribal Office, Klamath	(707) 482-1350

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

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).

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 the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

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 cleanup 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.

Hazard 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:**Site Validation Level: II**

Strategy: 1-205.1 Objective: No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

Strategy: 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

Last Page Update**Logistics:**

Directions: From Eureka, go north on Hwy 101 for 46-miles and turn left on Davidson Road at M.P. 123.82. Go west to Gold Bluffs Beach. The road to the beach is unpaved for 3.2 miles.

Land Access: Davidson Rd may require 4WD or may be closed in wet season. Foot trails also.

On-Water Limitations:

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: 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.

