

1-125 -A Site Summary- Lake Tolowa

1-125 -A

County: **Del Norte**
USGS Quad: **Crescent City**

Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas
NOAA Chart: **18603**

Latitude N Longitude W
41 49' 30" 124 13"

Last Page Update :

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Lake Tolowa is part of a 5500 acre coastal lagoon that is generally closed to the marine environment by a sand spit that blocks the mouth most of the year. The mouth will be opened naturally by sufficient rainfall or by manual breach. The inland part of the lagoon is called Lake Earl and is managed as the Lake Earl Wildlife Area by the Department of Fish & Wildlife. The beach and sand dunes between Point St. George and the Smith River are managed by State Parks as Tolowa Dunes State Park. Tidal inlet (seasonal)

Medium to fine grain sand

Dunes

Wetland habitat within lake

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

This inlet is periodically breached during late winter or early spring by Del Norte county or CDFW for flood control and/or wildlife management purposes.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Wetlands

California brown pelican (04-11), Snowy plover (FT)(01-12), FWS Critical Habitat at mouth of lagoon.

Resident raptors incl. Bald eagle (SE); Peregrine falcon; Osprey; all (01-12)

Wintering ground for Pacific Flyway waterfowl and non-waterfowl species

Resident waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds (01-12)

Coots

river otters

Anadromous salmonids

Coho (FT, ST) and Chinook salmon, Steelhead, and Coastal cutthroat trout (SSC):

- spawning runs (08-06)

- juveniles/smolts (02-08)

Tidewater goby (FE,SSC), FWS Critical Habitat

Longfin smelt (ST)

Green sturgeon (FT)

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
T		North Coast Redwoods District	(707) 445-6547
T		CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Area	(707) 445-6493
O		Northern Communications (24hr)	(916) 358-0333
T		Tolowa Dunes State Park	(707) 464-6101
C		Smith River Rancheria	(707) 487-9255
E		Del Norte County Sheriff's Dept	(707) 464-4191
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
T	Bob Pagliuco	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 834-2215
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).

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County and Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas Del Norte

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Oiling of marsh habitats inside lagoons could cause long term habitat damage and would be difficult to clean up.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Sand may be on the paved road through the dunes.

SITE STRATEGIES

No response likely necessary if lagoon is closed, unless significant overwash is occurring. Evaluate if sandbar is open prior to initiating response here.

Strategy 1-125.1 Objective: Arrest oil spreading into Lake Tolowa on an incoming tide when the mouth is open to tidal exchange.

Boom across the entrance so that oil will beach on the southern shore near the entrance of the lake.

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 comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
1-125.1	1000	0	0	0	10	25 lb Danforth with chain.	0	0	0	0			

LOGISTICS

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

Go north on U.S. Hwy 101 through Crescent City to Northcrest Drive (M.P. 27.01). Turn left at the signal light and continue for 6.1 miles. (Note that Northcrest Dr. becomes 'Lake Earl Drive' after ~2 miles). Turn left on Lower Lake Road and go 2.5 miles and then turn left onto Kellogg Road. Continue on Kellogg Road to the Pacific Shores subdivision near the end of Kellogg Road). Turn left on Tell Ave. and continue to the third right turn. Go right until the road paralleling the beach dunes is reached. Turn left and continue until road ends near inlet. Contact CDFW's Wildlife Area Staff (707) 445-6493 for information on the area around the Pacific Shores subdivision. Lake Tolowa is part of a 5500 acre coastal lagoon that is generally closed to the marine environment by a sand spit that blocks the mouth most of the year. The mouth will be opened naturally by sufficient rainfall or by manual breach. The inland part of the lagoon is called Lake Earl and is managed as the Lake Earl Wildlife Area by the Department of Fish & Wildlife. The beach and sand dunes between Point St. George and the Smith River are managed by State Parks as Tolowa Dunes State Park.

LAND ACCESS: Large trucks can turn around at the end of Kellogg Road. 4WD on sand.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking small boat launch off Lakeview Rd.
and Services Available:

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

Staging for a local response is available at the end of Kellogg Rd. No utilities or services are available, just parking space.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

