

1-474 -A Site Summary- Greenwood Creek to Cuffey's Cove**1-474 -A**County: **Mendocino**
USGS Quad: **EIk**Thomas Guide Location
CA Road Atlas
NOAA Chart: **18626**Latitude N
39 08' 30"
Longitude W
123 44' 30"

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site includes the coastline between Cuffey's Cove and Greenwood Creek near the community of Elk. Greenwood State Beach is managed by State Parks. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument including Casket and Wharf rocks. Rocky headlands, offshore rocks, and seasonal inlet to Greenwood Creek with small pockets of fringing marsh behind the beach.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

The marsh provides habitat for many kinds of waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds that forage there year round. Salmonid migrations through the estuary would occur mostly during high water flow events during winter and spring.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The rocks are sensitive to human intrusion year round. Response efforts that cause any disturbance to marine mammals or nesting seabirds should be avoided whenever possible. This site has a steep beach face with a small tidally influenced estuary inland. Pre-cleaning is probably the only defensive measure that could be deployed here.

Seabird nesting (03-09) include Pelagic cormorant, Pigeon guillemot, Ashy storm-petrel. Coastal shorebirds including black oystercatcher.

Pacific harbor seal haul-out area
river otters

Anadromous salmonids: Coho salmon (FE,SE), Chinook salmon (FT), Steelhead (FT):

- spawning runs (09-06)
- juveniles/smolts (02-08)

Groundfish (EFH)

Red abalone

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
O		Northern Communications (24hr)	(916) 358-0333
T	Sector Superintendent	California State Parks Mendocino District	(707) 937-5804
O		Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept.	(707) 463-4086
T		CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Fort Bragg	(707) 964-9078
T	David Ledig Manager	BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
O	Troy Nicolini	National Weather Service Woodley Island	(707) 442-2171
T	Joe Pecharich	NOAA/Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 583-3189
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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CA Road Atlas Mendocino

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The rugged coastline will prevent on shore response over most of this area. Off site measures including dispersants should be considered when a spill threatens to impact this area. Overflights should be careful to maintain flight path and altitude clearance distances that are large enough to prevent the flushing of birds and marine mammals from their nests, roosts, and haul outs sanctuaries on the offshore rocks in this area.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Extreme currents, offshore rocks, high energy shoreline, short steep beaches in some areas

SITE STRATEGIES

This site is best protected by preventing the oil from arriving here, when possible. Off site response options including dispersants should be considered.

Strategy 1-474.1 Objective: Pre-clean debris before oil arrives.

Pre-clean debris before oil arrives.

This site needs to be assessed for pre-cleaning (equipment) requirements. (See strategy #2)

Strategy 1-474.2 Objective: Assess site conditions for response needs.

Complete an overflight or send personnel to the site to assess the prevailing conditions and appropriate response, if any.

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
1-474.1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0				
1-474.2	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0		Over flight assessment needed.		

LOGISTICS

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

Take U.S. hwy 101 to state route 128 just north of Cloverdale. Follow state route 128 to Hwy 1, turn south on Hwy 1 until town of Elk is reached. Access to Greenwood Beach and the mouth of Greenwood Creek is by trail from the parking lot across from the Elk General Store on hwy 1. The trail has been accessed by heavy machinery and could be quickly improved to allow access by heavy machinery equipment again. Foot access by St Anthony's Beach and Harbor house Beach by private foot trail. This site includes the coastline between Cuffey's Cove and Greenwood Creek near the community of Elk. Greenwood State Beach is managed by State Parks. Offshore rocks in the area are managed by BLM as part of the California Coastal National Monument including Casket and Wharf rocks.

LAND ACCESS: Locked gate access, OK for heavy machinery. Contact State Parks first.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking
and Services Available:

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

The parking lot in Elk has a moderate amount of space, but lacks restrooms (vault toilet in parking lot). Phones, fuel, food, and supplies may be available in the area, lodging is limited to small inns and B&B's.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: Remote, limited communications

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: This park is on the closure list

