

4-010 -A Site Summary- Arroyo Hondo Creek Beach**4-010 -A**

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **Piedras Blancas**

Thomas Guide Location
 324 E-4

Latitude N 35.7498
 Longitude W 121.3146

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

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division A map. Sandy beach fronting Arroyo Hondo Creek, north of Breaker Point and south of Ragged Point. Hearst San Simeon State Park property, and within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Throughout Division A, black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (critical habitat); sea otters (pup Jan. - March) are common offshore; peak bird nesting is from March-September.

Western snowy plovers (threatened) nest March-September and overwinter rest of year on this beach.

Leatherback sea turtles (endangered, designated critical habitat) 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, black oyster catchers (on rocky intertidal); sea birds include brown pelicans, pelagic cormorants, grebes, loons, scoters, common murre.

Sea otters and kelp beds common offshore.

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
E/T	District Office	State Dept. Parks and Rec. SLO Coast District	(805) 927-2065
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
E	Cliff Garrison Ranch Manager	Hearst Corporation	(805) 927-4610
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	Scott Kathey Regulatory Coordinator	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251
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
T	Carolyn Skinder Biologist	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 927-2145
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

4-010 -A Site Strategy - Arroyo Hondo Creek Beach

County and Thomas Guide Location
324 E-4 San Luis Obispo

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

PRIMARY PLOVER PROTECTION STRATEGY: During nesting season (March - September) consider delineation of nesting areas and designate responder "pathways." 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 should be monitored by an assigned biological monitor. Oil removal should 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: Black abalone (endangered, critical habitat) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat. Designated Critical Habitat extends from shore out to 100 miles offshore; most commonly observed Aug - Nov

Sensitive Biota - Nearshore waters, within a mile of the shoreline include sensitive rafting areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals and sea turtles (designated critical habitat for endangered leatherback sea turtles). 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. To protect seabirds offshore, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds.

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.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Site is within Monterey Bay National Marine sanctuary and the Sea Otter Game Refuge.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-010.1 Objective: Exclude or deflect 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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4-010.1

Offshore containment & recovery

LOGISTICS

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

From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N) Follow Hwy 1 N for approx. 30 miles to Arroyo Hondo Creek. Turn out 4/10 mile south of San Carpoforo Creek Bridge. Park at turnout and follow creek (trail) to beach.
From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N, Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo, continue as above.

LAND ACCESS: Foot access to beach (fairly dangerous)

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Morro Bay boat ramp (approx. 40 miles south).
and Services Available:

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

Staging area: Vista turnouts along Hwy 1.

Command Post: USGS Pierdas Blancas Lighthouse. State Parks office at Hearst Castle, hotels in San Simeon.

Airports: San Luis Obispo County Airport, approx. 1 hour 15 min south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 1 hour inland. There is private landing strip for small planes north of Hearst castle Visitor's center, approx. 20 min. south.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

4-010 -A Strategy Diagram- Arroyo Hondo Creek Beach

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