4-435 -A Site Summary- Oso Flaco Creek Inlet

4-435 -A

		Thomas Guide Location	Latitude N	Longitude W
County:	San Luis Obispo	754 C-3	35.03104	120.63395
USGS Quad:	Oceano	NOAA Chart: Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700		

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division J map. Oso Flaco Creek Inlet fronted by fine-medium grained sandy beach. Owned and managed by State Department of Parks and Recreation. This beach is the southern end of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area but usually no vehicles are allowed on this portion of the beach; check with State Parks for vehicle access from Offroad Vehicular Recreation Area beach access from Pier Ave. in Grover Beach. From parking area is a boardwalk across Oso Flaco Lake with path out to beach. No vehicle access, from parking area to beach is approximately 1 mile walk along boardwalk that parallels Oso Flaco Creek.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Species of concern are present year round. Red-legged frog breeding season is Nov-April. Southwestern pond turtles. Western snowy plover nesting season is march-Sept. California least tern nesting season April-September. 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.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Oso Flaco Lake is one of the few remaining dune lakes within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dune Complex. Creek flows to beach.

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. Snowy plover adults forage while wadding along the shoreline. Least tern adults dive into the water to forage in shallow, nearshore areas of the open coast, embayments, estuaries, and dune lakes.

Herons, ducks, grebes, raptors, yellow warblers, shore birds, brown pelicans, threatened snowy plovers, endangered California least terns.

Southern sea otters can be observed offshore.

Red-legged frogs (threatened) and pond turtles (species of special concern)

A number of sensitive plant species are in this area including la graciosa thistle, beach spectacle pod, crisp monardella, San Luis Obispo monardella, soft-leaved indian paintbrush and the endangered marsh sandwort. Also Morro Bay blue butterfly, western spade-foot toads, horned lizards, silvery legless lizards in the back dunes

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 & Rec Oceano Dunes District	(805) 773-7170
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
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
T/E	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

County and Thomas Guide Location	NOAA CHART	Latitude N	Longitude W
754 C-3 San Luis Obispo	Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700	35.0310	120.63395

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Red-legged frogs breed November - April.
Wetland/riparian habitat – Mud flats, marshlands, and creeks contain fragile habitat subject to damage from human activities such as walking and vehicle use. Oil can be trampled into sediments by responders where it will not be recoverable. Avoid walking in mudflats, marshy areas, and riparian habitat/waterways whenever possible. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland areas to access cleanup sites, restrict the number and size of pathways. Mark authorized pathways with flagging or tape. Place temporary ramps (e.g. plywood sheets) in sensitive marshy areas where heavy use is expected.

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 STRAGEGY: 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:
Streamside Vegetation - Minimize disturbance to streamside vegetation.
Wave washover - May carry oil over natural berm into the lagoon during extreme onshore and tidal conditions.
Oil Burial - Wind drift and sand may bury beached oil.
Dune Habitats – Minimize mechanical and human activities in vegetated dune habitat.
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:
State Beach managed by State Dept. of Parks and Recreation.
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.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-435.1 Objective: Exclude oil from creek with sediment berm or sand bags.

- When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm (fine to medium grained sand), and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. To create protective berm take sand from active unvegetated beach face to prevent damage to dune habitat. When erosion from waves or overflows could erode berm, armor berm and banks by covering with plastic sheeting anchored by sand bags. When overflow could occur due to accumulation of water behind the containment berm install underflow piping and/or a spillway in the berm. When overwash could bring oil into inlet over berm back exclusion/containment berm with containment and/or sorbent booms and/or snare.

Strategy 4-435.2 Objective: Exclude oil from creek with boom.

When creek mouth is open block entrance with a short skirted containment boom at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences. When suitable berm materials are unavailable and/or when tidal flows, waterflows, or water depths are too great for berming install exclusion booms near mouth of Inlet/lagoon using short skirted boom and snare boom. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. If needed, line river/stream bank, rip-rap, side channels, and sandy beaches within lagoon, seaward of the exclusion/containment booms to restrict oil to open water area of main channel to protect vegetated banks and sensitive areas within the inlet/estuary. Use swamp boom backed by sorbent booms, if waters are shallower, and use harbor boom backed by sorbent booms, when water depths are greater.

Strategy 4-435.3 Objective: Exclude oil from creek with fencing.

When creek mouth is closed consider installing excelsior fencing along top of natural berm to capture oil when there is a potential for high tidal washover.

When creek mouth is open use a filter barrier for exclusion/containment – Use this method when the cross-section of the watercourse does not exceed 20 feet in width, water flow volume is low, the channel bottom is capable of receiving and holding metal stakes, the spill consists of heavy petroleum, and berming or booming methods are not feasible due to lack of materials or accessibility. Construct a filter barrier across the channel using two parallel rows of metal stakes, upon which construction fencing is fastened. Place permeable sorbent materials such as snare or excelsior, between the two lines of fencing to capture oil. Re-adjust sorbent materials as necessary minimize entrainment and/or leakage and to accommodate flow, tidal, oceanic, and meteorological changes.

Strategy 4-435.4 Objective: Exclude/deflect oil from 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	Anchoring type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Skimmers Type	Special Equipment or comment No	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-435.1									1	SSS		Backhoe or Sand bags, piping, plastic sheeting	6	
4-435.2		200			2				1	SSS			4	
4-435.3			200 FF						1	SSS		Excelsior fencing, metal stakes	4	
4-435.4	0	0		0	0		0	0	0		0			

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 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 101 S) to Halcyon Rd. exit in Arroyo Grande and go straight (south) to Hwy 1 (Cienega St. which turns into Mesa View Dr.), turn left on Hwy 1. Take Hwy 1 (for approx. 5 miles) to Oso Flaco Lake Rd., turn right to kiosk and parking area. Access by foot only through park or 4-wheel drive/ATV access via beach from Pismo Offroad Vehicular Rec. Area Pier Ave. beach entrance in Grover Beach with State Park permission.

From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 166 W exit Main St. in Santa Maria. Take Hwy 166 to Hwy 1 (Cabrillo Hwy), turn right on hwy 1 to Oso Flaco Lake Rd., turn left on Oso Flaco Lake Rd., to kiosk and parking area.

LAND ACCESS: Foot access at Oso Flaco or vehicle from Pier Ave at low tide.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

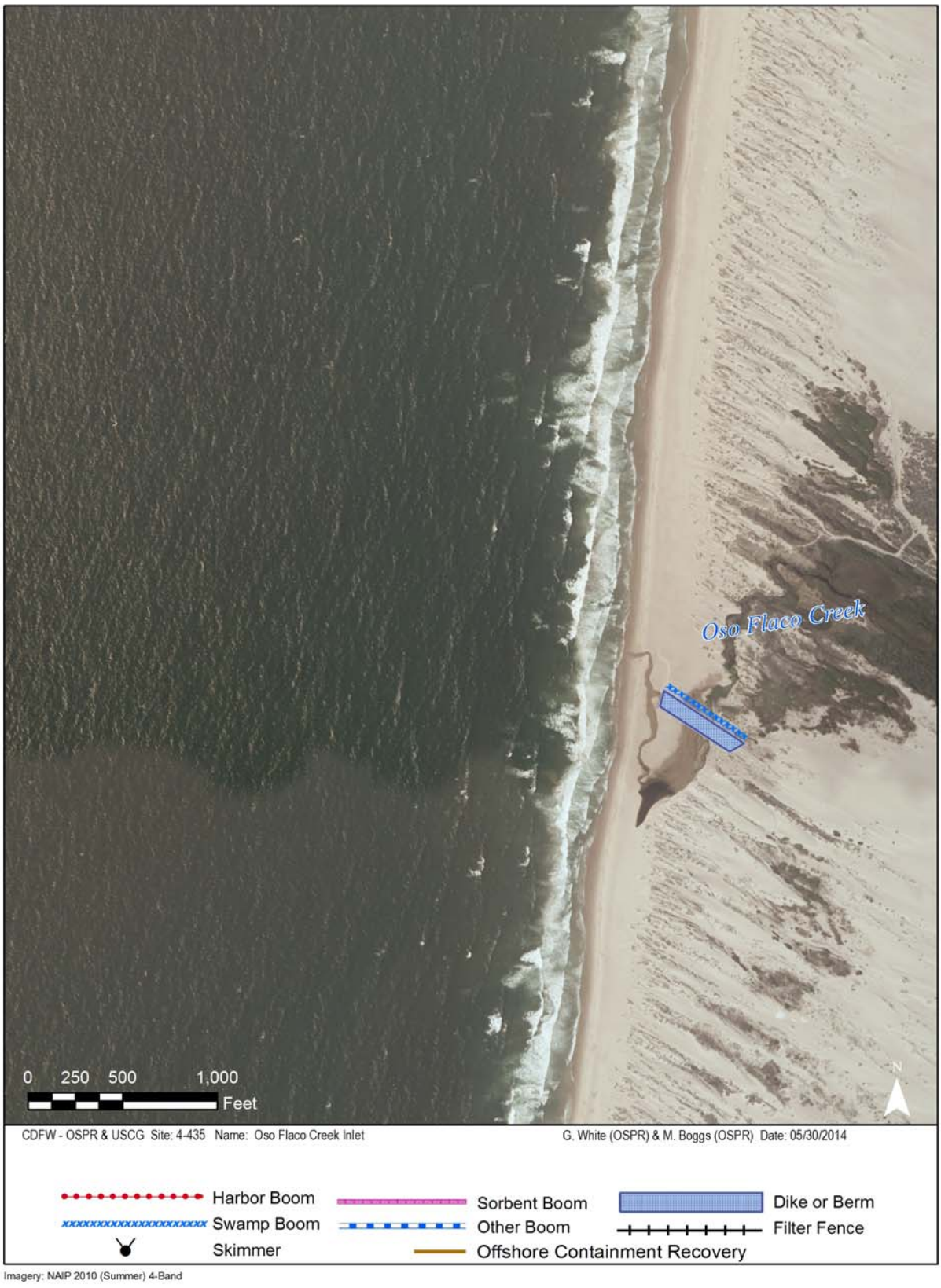
Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Port San Luis is approx. 30 miles north.

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

Staging Area: Parking area at Oso Flaco Lake or Pismo State 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.
Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 30 min. north. Oceano Airport for small planes, approx. 10 miles north, Santa Maria Airport approx. 15 miles south east.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:


Oso Flaco Creek
0 250 500 1,000
Feet
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CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-435 Name: Oso Flaco Creek Inlet
G. White (OSPR) & M. Boggs (OSPR) Date: 05/30/2014
Harbor Boom
Swamp Boom
Skimmer
Sorbent Boom
Other Boom
Offshore Containment Recovery
Dike or Berm
Filter Fence
Imagery: NAIP 2010 (Summer) 4-Band