

The New Carissa – Q & A

1. When will removal of the wreck start?

The removal start date is dependent on three things: 1) Approval of all permits needed from local, state and federal agencies; 2) Final arrangements for the staging area on Bureau of Land Management property, located on Foredune Road; and 3) The arrival and placement of the jack-up barges that will be used to remove the wreckage from the seafloor. The barges are expected to arrive in late March 2008; they must be installed during periods of calm seas, which typically occur no earlier than late May/early June.

See The New Carissa Removal Process fact sheet for information on how the work will be carried out.

2. How much money is involved, and who pays?

All monies for the removal come from the jury award paid by Green Atlas Shipping Co., owners of the *New Carissa*. No state general fund or other taxpayer dollars will be used.

In November 2002, a jury in Coquille, Oregon found the owners of the *New Carissa* guilty of trespass and awarded the State of Oregon \$25 million to pay for removing the wreckage off the beach. In January 2003, Green Atlas Shipping deposited \$25 million into a Department of Justice (DOJ) account after filing an appeal in December 2002.

In May 2006, the two parties reached a settlement whereby the state returned \$5 million to Green Atlas and received the remaining balance in the DOJ account (approximately \$23.35 million). The settlement averted a potentially lengthy and costly appeal process.

In May 2007, the Department of State Lands signed a \$16,428,500 contract with Titan, a worldwide marine salvage and shipwreck company, to remove the *New Carissa* wreck. The balance of the removal money will be used to cover contingency costs and to pay for legal expenses for the 2002 jury trial.

3. Why can't the money be used for something else?

The jury's intent, after carefully considering the evidence in the trial, was to award monies to the State of Oregon for the sole purpose of *removing the wreck*. It is important for the state to honor this verdict, so that a precedent is established for any future shipwrecks that involve an owner unwilling to remove dangerous wreckage from Oregon's or other states' and countries' shores.

By removing the wreck, the state stays true to its word, and uses the award monies for what they were intended.

4. Are there any environmental concerns about the removal?

In February 2000, in a Unified Command Decision Memo, the U.S. Coast Guard, Gallagher Marine Systems and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality wrote, "At present, the Coast Guard has no reason to believe that anything other than small amounts of oil are present on the vessel, with very small discharges posing a negligible risk of adverse impact to the environment, or to the public health or welfare." However, DSL and Titan have completed an Oil Spill Response Plan to address managing any contaminants that may be released upon the wreck's removal, as well as any cleanup that may need to be done when the removal is complete. The plan is available from the Department of State Lands.

In order for the BLM to authorize the temporary right-of-way permit, they must first thoroughly review and sign the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. The EA analyzes potential environmental impacts of conducting staging operations on Foredune Road. It does not include in-water removal operations.

In addition, independent observers from environmental regulatory agencies will be onsite and "on call" during installation of the onshore staging area, building the temporary bypass road and carrying out the wreck removal.

5. Where will the wreckage go?

Wreckage scrap material will be recycled at an appropriate disposal facility to be determined by Titan during the removal process. No scrap material will be transferred to the foredune staging area on shore.

6. Why can't the *New Carissa* simply be left where it is?

- It is a dangerous wreck that poses a safety hazard to the public because of its rusting metal and proximity to the beach.
- It is a liability for the State of Oregon, because it rests on state land (the territorial sea).
- The jury verdict confirmed the wreckage is 1,500 tons of trash that needs to be removed from Oregon's public shore, and awarded the state \$25 million for its removal; Oregonians want their beaches clean and uncluttered.
- Leaving the *New Carissa* on the shoreline would set a bad precedent for removal of any future shipwrecks on Oregon's or other states' and countries' shores.

7. How many people will be involved in the work, and what are the estimated local impacts?

Titan estimates that at least \$4 million will be spent locally or regionally during the set-up and removal process, including: mooring for and repairs to the jack-up barges at Sause Bros. before removal begins (\$500,000); acquiring 30,000 feet of matting, metal supports for the tower/transporter, and miscellaneous equipment rentals (\$1.6 million); hiring security for the onshore staging area and part-time onsite pollution monitors (\$385,000); food and lodging for approximately 25 employees during the course of the removal process (\$660,000); and equipment for the scrap metal transfer (\$425,000).

8. How will public access to the beach and the North Spit be affected during the removal process?

The public will continue to have access to the public lands on the North Spit and beach during the removal operations.

Under the current access proposal, Transpacific Lane, South Dike Road and portions of Foredune Road will remain open. Once traffic reaches the staging area on Foredune Road, traffic will be re-routed on a temporary sand bypass road to the east of the staging area and reconnected to Foredune Road south of the *New Carissa*. Motorized vehicle, pedestrian and equestrian traffic will be allowed on Foredune Road and on the bypass. Travel on Bayside Road will remain the same.

The original proposal to re-route traffic on to the beach was changed due to safety concerns.

All of the access routes on the North Spit are soft-sand surfaces, and the public is advised to proceed on these surfaces only with the appropriate four-wheel-drive vehicle. People are reminded to travel slowly and have the appropriate orange or red ATV flag attached to their vehicle.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) and vehicle regulations for the beach still apply during the removal operations.

Western Snowy Plover nesting season is in effect from March 15 to Sept. 15. During this time, the dry-sand portion of the beach south of the *New Carissa* to the North Jetty is closed to public access and the wet sand area is closed to motor vehicles to protect nesting birds. Pedestrian access is allowed on the wet sand portions of the beach. Signs and ropes clearly delineate the plover nesting area and guide visitors around the sensitive habitat.

The entire onshore staging area will be fenced off by Titan. Informational signage will be installed closer to the staging start date (approximately mid-April) to inform the public about the removal process and safety precautions. State parks and the BLM will work with Titan to install signage at appropriate sites near the wreck removal.

9. Will the public be able to watch the removal taking place, and if so, where?

While the public will be able to watch the removal operations, there may be limited viewing opportunities because of limited pull outs and the high foredune. The best places to view the operations are the wide turnout at the FAA tower on Foredune Road and on the beach.

There likely will be many visitors to the North Spit to watch the removal operations. When traveling on the sand roads, visitors are encouraged to drive slowly, use turnouts when they see oncoming traffic, use four-wheel drive, and be sure to have the appropriate flag for their vehicle.

While summer tides are generally lower, pay attention to the changing tides, watch for sneaker waves and floating debris, and never turn your back to the ocean.

Safety during the removal process is a vital concern to the contractors and land management agencies. The area immediately around the staging area will be closed to public access for safety reasons.

10. How can the public get updated information throughout the spring and summer?

Regularly updated Web information will be posted on the following Web sites:

www.oregonstatelands.us - Oregon Department of State Lands

www.titansalvage.com - Titan

At the removal site, every effort will be made to have updated information available for the public; however, Web sites will be the best source for regular updates.

Other state and federal agencies (BLM, Corps of Engineers, State Parks, DEQ and others) will likely have Web links to additional information and regular updates on the removal process.