

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Release of Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan for 1997 Humboldt Bay Oil Spill and associated Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game released the Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (Plan) to compensate for injuries caused by the M/V Kure oil spill in Humboldt Bay. An estimated 4,000 birds died and 6,200 acres of shoreline habitat were oiled in the Nov. 5, 1997 incident at the Louisiana Pacific Export Dock in Samoa, California.

The final Plan includes six restoration projects to benefit some of the affected species and sensitive habitats. The largest project is the preservation of a valuable area of old-growth redwoods, which is essential nesting habitat for the marbled murrelet, listed under both the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The remaining five projects include enhancement of wetlands at McDaniel Slough in Arcata, protection of offshore seabird colonies, protection of brown pelican roost sites, protection of western grebe breeding colonies at inland lakes, and protection of marbled murrelet nests from predation in the Redwood National and State Parks.

The agencies developed the Plan as designated natural resource trustees under the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and state law, for natural resources injured by the Kure oil spill. The Final Plan includes responses to comments on a draft of the Plan received after the public meeting in Arcata on Sept. 19, 2007, and a federal finding of no significant impact (FONSI), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Final Plan, FONSI, and additional case details, are available online at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/spill/nrda/nrda_kure.html and <http://www.fws.gov/arcata>