

M/V New Carissa Final DARP January, 2006



Figure 1: Workers cleaning up oil spilled from the *M/V New Carissa* aground on the Oregon coast along Coos Bay's North Spit, February 1999

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**Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan
&
Environmental Assessment
For the
M/V New Carissa Oil Spill
Oregon Coast**

Prepared by:

The *M/V New Carissa* Natural Resource Trustees

United States Department of Interior

Bureau of Land Management

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

United States Department of Agriculture

U. S. Forest Service

State of Oregon

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Department of Environmental Quality

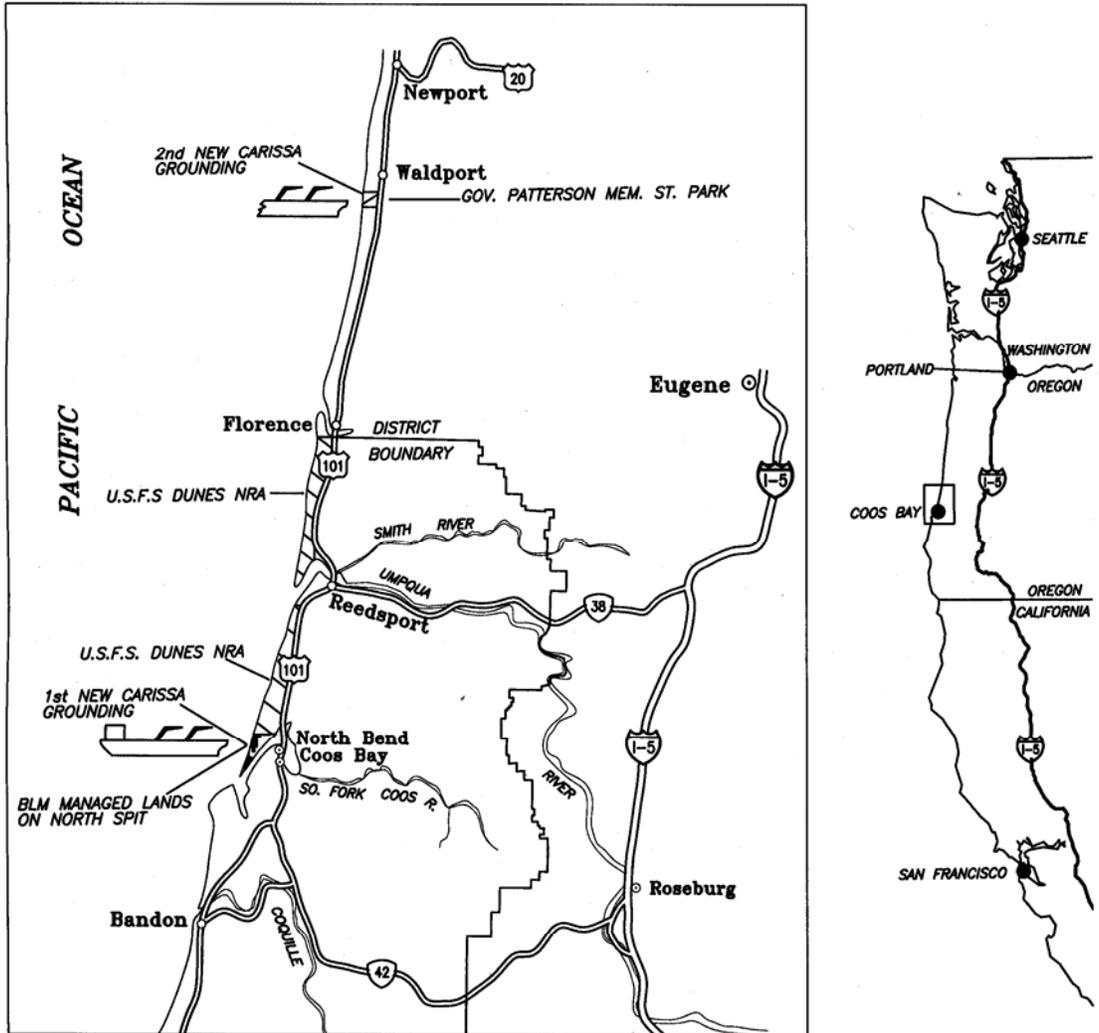
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon

Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

January, 2006

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Figure 2: Map of Grounding Sites of M/V New Carissa (Coos Bay and Waldport) with reference to Oregon and Pacific Northwest



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**FACT SHEET
January 2006
FINAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN
&
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for the Oregon Coast
M/V New Carissa Oil Spill**

Lead Trustee: **U.S. Department of Interior**
Bureau of Land Management (Authorized Official, Case Manager)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Cooperating Trustees: **U.S. Department of Agriculture**
Forest Service

State of Oregon
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Environmental Quality

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon

**Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua,
and Siuslaw Indians**

Abstract: The Natural Resource Trustees, after a public review of their draft plan, are presenting a Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (DARP)/Environmental Assessment (EA) which proposes restoration of natural resources and resource services injured or lost as a result of the February 4, 1999 *M/V New Carissa* oil spill on the Oregon coast.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of this Document: *The Natural Resource Trustees are presenting their Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan for restoring the natural resources and services lost as a result of the oil spill from the M/V New Carissa.*

Background

On February 4, 1999, the *M/V New Carissa*, a bulk cargo ship in ballast, went aground on Coos Bay Oregon's North Spit and within a few days began leaking oil. After an attempt to burn off the vessel's fuel oil and after the ship had split in two and spilled more oil, the bow section was eventually refloated and towed offshore, only to break its tow and re-ground farther north on Oregon's coast near Waldport. There, it spilled additional oil. On March 8, 1999, the bow section was again refloated, towed to sea, and sunk on March 10. During this incident, estimates of the total amount of oil released from the *M/V New Carissa* ranged from 25,000 to 140,000 gallons. The stern section of the vessel remains stranded in the surf near the entrance to Coos Bay.

Under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, designated Natural Resource Trustees conduct a Natural Resource Damage Assessment to document and quantify injuries to natural resources and services impacted by the release of oil. Trustees then prepare a plan to restore those injured natural resources and the services they provide to the conditions that would have existed had a release of oil not occurred.

The Trustees for this case are the Department of Interior (lead), the Department of Agriculture, the State of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians of Oregon.

Public Comments on the Draft Plan

On May 24, 2005, Trustees released the Draft *M/V New Carissa* Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for a one-month public comment period, eventually extending the comment deadline another 15 days when so requested. During the comment period, Trustees held two public meetings and eventually received more than 140 comments identifying more than 225 issues to which the Trustees responded in this Final.

Differences between Draft and Final DARP/EA

A number of changes were made to the draft restoration plan before finalizing it for this document. Some of these changes were in response to the many insightful issues raised during the public comment period, and some were the result of refinements made to the supporting data and analyses.

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These changes included:

- A new section in Chapter 6 was added describing the public comment process for the draft plan, and the Trustees' responses to issues raised by the public.
- A list of aspects of the draft plan supported by specific public comments which did not require response or changes to the plan was added.
- The section on acquisition of marbled murrelet habitat was revised to modify, expand and clarify the Trustees' criteria for selecting who would manage the lands. Based on comments received, the Trustees' first choice for managing the marbled murrelet tracts is a private conservation organization or one of the two Tribal Trustees (if a tract is within a Tribe's area of interest) with experience in managing forest lands for conservation and other goods and services. As a second option, the Trustees would consider the USFS and the BLM as recipients and managers of the habitat. One exception is that USFS will receive priority consideration for a Trustee priority parcel under 500 acres that is primarily surrounded by Siuslaw National Forest lands in Lincoln county.
- The receiving conservation organization or Tribe must be willing to pay the applicable property taxes normally due to the county. The potential recipient of any parcel will need to provide legally binding assurances that the parcel will be managed in a manner consistent with the explicit reason for acquisition and any standards determined by the Trustees.
- Additional information on economic consequences, monitoring requirements and the plan budget was included.
- Acres of marbled murrelet habitat to be acquired and managed were revised from 1,294 to 1,269 after correcting data.
- A number of editorial and factual changes were made to the plan based on comments received.

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Trustees' Injury Determination and Proposed Restoration

The Trustees have determined the following injuries/losses and propose the following restoration actions:

Injury/Loss	Restoration
4-8 western snowy plovers	Annual maintenance of habitat in emergency restoration area on Coos Bay's North Spit; implement snowy plover education project.
672 shorebirds	Acquisition and restoration of unprotected shorebird nesting and resting habitat; implement shorebird education project.
262 marbled murrelets	Acquisition and long-term management of 1,269 acres of suitable, unprotected marbled murrelet nesting habitat
2,203 seabirds (other than marbled murrelets)	Acquisition of unprotected habitat adjacent to seabird nesting colony; implement predator management for seabirds; implement seabird education project.
27,974-29,204 lost/diminished recreation trips	Implement recreation projects on Coos Bay's North Spit, the Dunes National Recreation Area, and at Governor Patterson Memorial State Recreation Site.

Trustees' proposed action is expected to have only minor adverse and predominately positive effects on the environment, especially on those natural resources injured by the release of *M/V New Carissa* oil.

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