

New Carissa Oil Spill Natural Resource Trustees



Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service



Forest Service



Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Environmental Quality



Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians of Oregon



Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2005

Contact: Phil Carroll, 503-231-6179

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED ON DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY NEW CARISSA OIL SPILL

The public comment period now will end July 8, 2005.

In response to requests, agencies and tribes are extending the comment period on the draft New Carissa restoration plan for an additional two weeks. This is a multi-million-dollar plan to restore the natural resources damaged by the 1999 wreck of the cargo ship New Carissa. Seabirds, shorebirds and recreational opportunities were lost to the oil spill resulting from the shipwreck.

The features of the draft plan include potential purchases from willing sellers of seabird and shorebird habitat on the Oregon coast so that it can be managed to benefit the species. Also, predator management, habitat restoration, and public education efforts are proposed. Restoration costs are expected to top \$2.4 million, which does not include impossible-to-estimate costs of land acquisitions.

The agencies and tribes acting as natural resource trustees determined that the oil spill killed or injured 2,465 seabirds, including 262 marbled murrelets (a species which is federally and state-listed as threatened). In addition, about 672 shorebirds were oiled and four to eight western snowy plovers (another threatened species) likely perished. Also 29,000 public recreation trips were lost or diminished. The restoration plan details how those resources will be restored and assesses the environmental impacts of the plan.

Copies of a simplified summary of the restoration plan, the plan itself, and the appendixes to the plan are available for download from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office website (<http://OregonFWO.fws.gov>). All documents other than the appendixes also may be obtained, or comments submitted, by contacting case manager Larry Mangan by telephone (541) 751-4231, by mail at Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459 or by email at coos_bay@blm.gov

Comments must be received by close of business Friday, July 8, 2005.

#