

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Planning for M/V Cosco Busan Oil Spill



A field person from the USFWS responds to the M/V Cosco Busan oil spill.

State and federal trustee agencies are continuing to assess the ecological injuries and impacts to human activities caused by the Cosco Busan oil spill in San Francisco Bay. The goal of this process, known as natural resource damage assessment (NRDA), is to quantify the injuries to wildlife, habitat, and lost use of those resources, and to determine the amount of restoration necessary to restore the resource and compensate for the losses. The trustees will ultimately make a claim for funds from the responsible party to implement a variety of restoration projects.

Current Activities

While most of the oil is no longer visible, research teams are continuing to collect samples and analyze the extent

of the injury. The trustees are working cooperatively with many local agencies (such as the East Bay Regional Park District), as well as with the responsible party.

Restoration Planning

While it is too early to estimate the amount of restoration required to address the injuries, the trustees are currently seeking restoration project or concept ideas to compensate for impacts to birds, marine mammals, fish, coastal habitats (including rocky intertidal, saltmarsh, sandy beach, mudflats, and eelgrass beds), and for impacts to human recreational uses. This is not a grant process, but rather an opportunity to suggest

ideas for inclusion into the Restoration Plan. Additional guidelines and a form to submit ideas can be found online at <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/southwest/cosco/public.html>

If you have questions about your project, please contact Natalie Cosentino-Manning (NOAA) at 707-575-6081.

The Process	
1) Oil Spill	November 7, 2007
2) Data Collection	ongoing
3) Public Information Meetings	held on Jan 22 in Oakland and Jan 29 in Mill Valley (120 attendees)
4) Injury and Damage Quantification	pending results of data collection; on-going
5) Public Scoping Meeting	will be announced after damage quantification
6) Draft Restoration Plan	
7) Public Comment Period	
8) Final Restoration Plan	
9) Implement Restoration Projects	our ultimate goal

Trustees

- California Department of Fish and Game
- California State Lands Commission
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Websites

- dfg.ca.gov/ospr/spill/nrda/nrda_cosco-busan.html
- darrp.noaa.gov/southwest/cosco/index.html
- fws.gov/contaminants/Issues/OilSpill.cfm

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