

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in California

Issues

- California's coast extends 1,100 miles across ten degrees of latitude, from the misty redwood forests of the north to the white sand beaches of the south. The kelp and eelgrass beds, salt marshes and bays along the coast support many important fisheries and marine mammals.
- Current and historic mining, oil refineries, chemical plants, military facilities, and other municipal and industrial activities release into the environment contaminants that can harm natural resources, degrade habitat quality, and contaminate fish and shellfish.
- More than 40% of all retail goods imported to the U.S. arrive on ships that dock at the Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports in southern California.

What we do

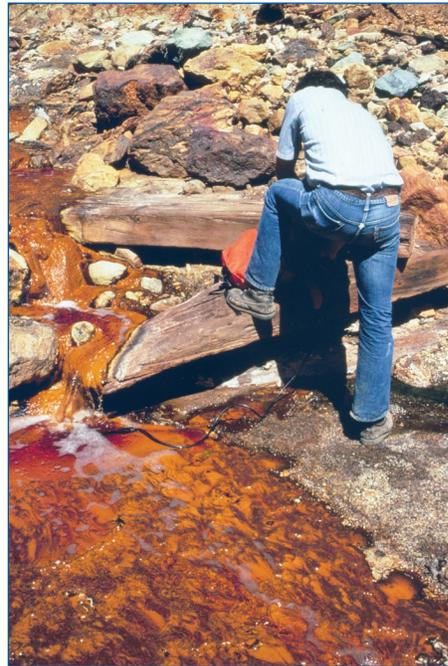
NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.



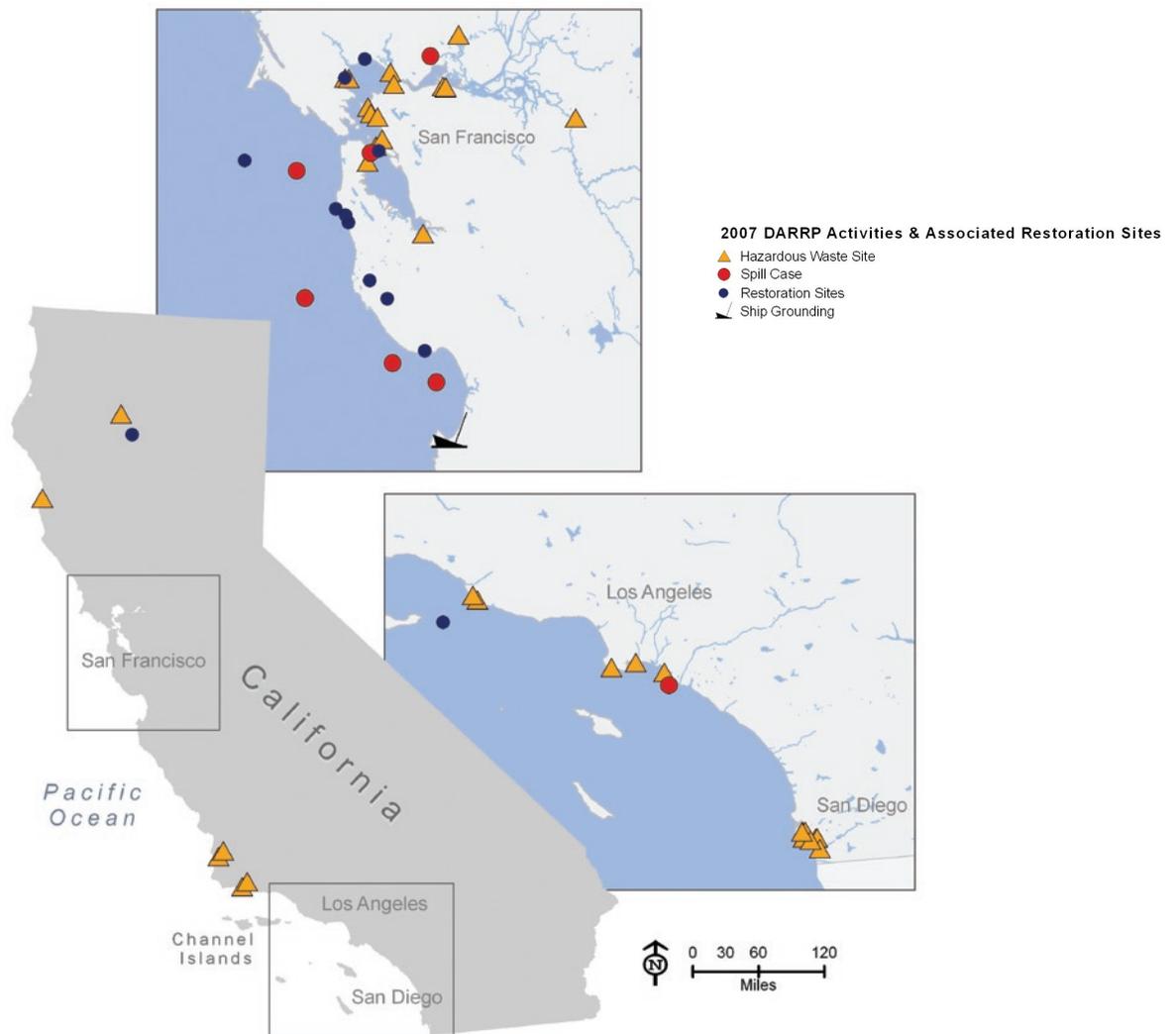
Iron Mountain Mine, Redding - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 1,652 acres of marine habitats, 6,868 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats, and 48 stream miles in California (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 48 protection and restoration projects in California.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 22 hazardous waste sites.



Montrose Settlement Restoration Program, Palos Verdes - see case highlights.



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- United Heckathorn, Richmond – Developed protective cleanup levels working with EPA, and restored tidal connection to 80 acres of previously diked bay lands.
- Halaco Engineering, Oxnard – Worked with response agencies so that EPA could begin stabilizing waste piles and isolating smelter waste to reduce pollution to the adjacent ocean and wetlands.
- Iron Mountain Mine, Tehama and Shasta Counties – Currently planning to reestablish approximately 42 miles of prime salmon and steelhead habitat on Battle Creek, plus an additional 6 miles of its tributaries.
- Montrose Settlement Restoration Program, Palos Verdes Peninsula – Currently planning to restore 180 acres of tidal wetlands for fish nursery habitat; additional planned restoration projects will benefit eagles (*bottom photo on page 1*), peregrine falcons, seabirds, and fishing and fish habitat (*photo on page 1*).

For further information about DARRP, please visit
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

