

Booklet details sensitive species at oil cleanup site

Times Press Recorder: October 29, 2001

TPR Staff

During the Guadalupe Oil Field remediation project, a major challenge is to protect sensitive species and habitats while conducting cleanup and decommissioning activities.

An eight-page booklet is now available titled "Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species at the Guadalupe Restoration Project." The booklet, produced by Unocal, details many of the threatened and endangered plants and animal species found at the site.

The project at the former oil field occupies more than 2,700 acres of the larger Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex.

Extensive surveys have been conducted, and more than 280 plants and 320 wildlife species – excluding fish and invertebrates – have been identified as either being on site or possibly present at the site.

Of the plants and animals confirmed on site, state of federal agencies consider 14 plants, one fish, two amphibians, four reptiles, 23 birds and one mammal to be of special status.

"We want the public to see that this is a very valuable ecological resource, and balancing the remediation work with the ecology is an important job," said Gonzalo Garcia, Guadalupe Oil Field cleanup project manager.

The public can pick up a copy at the Dunes Center, 1055 Guadalupe St. in Guadalupe.