



Ormond Beach



Tales of Exploration Photography Project
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TŠUMAŠ Creek, (located on J STREET in Oxnard) dumps into Ormond Beach. TŠUMAŠ Creek's purpose is to provide protection to the 100-year old flood level for the area surrounding TŠUMAŠ Creek.



This side view photo shows all the trash that people have left there. In the background shows the Power Plant and the Halaco Engineering Co. Superfund Site. There is a sign that says that Ormond Beach would be closed for park cleanup. This sign was posted in 2018 and the beach still hasn't seen better days.



This shows the remnants of the Halaco Engineering Co. Superfund Site. The sign says that there are unsafe buildings, chemical and radiological hazards and that there is no public entry.



Mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) inhabit the area where there are high concentrations of toxic ammonia in the water. The ammonia is left over from the Halaco site. The ammonia can and has killed fish and wildlife.



This image shows where a wooden bridge crosses over from a dirt lot to grassy wetland. Plant wildlife and weeds line the water, where there are an abundance of different species of bird wildlife.



This sign is partly sponsored by Merito Foundation and shows how we can pick up trash and preserve the wildlife. As you can see, there is graffiti on the sign, which shows how little some people care about saving the wildlife.



Trash lines the water. All the white specks are trash that people have cast away. In the background is the Power Plant and the Halaco remnant site.



Three Western Snowy Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) run away from the water's edge. They are an endangered species along with the California Least Tern. They both nest during the season of March-August. They are endangered because of development and lots of heavy beach use. Fewer than 2,000 individual snowy plovers are left. They are a part of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Summary:

Ormond Beach is located between Port Hueneme and the Naval Base at Point Mugu in California. Ormond Beach is a designated important bird area with global significance. Owned by the state, Ormond Beach is a beautiful beach with many wildlife species, which include two endangered species: the Western Snowy Plover and the California Least Tern. The beach stretches for two miles with Point Mugu right next door. The government built the base on the wetlands and the rest of the wetlands were destroyed when commercial buildings were built. To get to one part of Ormond Beach, you have to drive by the cardboard factory, New Indy. New Indy is independent private-owned manufacturing and supplier of recycled containerboard, virgin linerboard, and corrugated boxes. The Halaco Engineering Co. Superfund Site is a remnant site of toxic waste. In their forty years of operation, they took aluminum and magnesium scrap, melted it down, and recycled it. Millions of pounds of soda and beer cans; as well as Volkswagen engine blocks and parts of Chevrolet Suburban steering wheels were melted down. Waste byproducts are piled in a large heap on the site, which has three large waste-water ponds—the toxic soil leaks into the water with very high concentrations of ammonia. Right now, Nature Conservancy environmentalists and construction workers are in a feud. The environmentalists want to get rid of all the commercial buildings and the Halaco toxic waste soil to restore the wetlands. The construction companies want to build a parking lot by the New Indy Cardboard factory, for the Port of Hueneme, to park the new vehicles coming off the cargo ships. The parking lot will be there for five years and then it will be turned over to the city of Oxnard and turned into a park. By renting out the empty lot, the city of Oxnard will earn tax revenue (rent). The construction workers also want to get rid of the toxic waste soil. The problem is that neither side has the money to complete their goals without the help of the state and federal governments. There is a lot of trash and plastic at Ormond Beach, along with toxic soil and ammonia in the water. The state protects Ormond Beach but we need to eliminate all this toxic waste. If we don't, wildlife will decrease dramatically, which includes the endangered Western Snowy Plover and the California Least Tern. Remember that conservation is for the birds.