

Oiled Bird Recovery And Rehabilitation Study

October 2007



Prepared for



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y

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Introduction

The management of an oiled wildlife response should, no matter the size of an incident follow closely Incident Command System (ICS) protocols and structure. Depending on the species and number affected, the actual rescue and rehabilitation efforts of affected animals can be a very dynamic and fluid situation, often encountering situations that are hard to predict and plan for. While the collective experience of the wildlife responders are paramount for a successful response, the level of expertise and knowledge required in the planning and operations section regarding wildlife response cannot be underestimated. Wildlife responses without the appropriate support from Incident Command (IC) are usually very limited in scope and lacks success. Obviously, proper communications between trustee agencies, planning and operations need to be regularly exercised in drill situations. Furthermore, wildlife response experts should be included in the various stages of operations. Experience during actual responses has shown that wildlife response liaisons should not only be assigned to planning, operations, but logistic and finance as well.

As previously pointed out, incidents that impact wildlife are very dynamic and seldom follow a scripted path. Nevertheless, despite the difficulties in predicting the potential need for equipment and personnel, one would be ill advised to abandon all planning and wait until the actual incident occurs. The window of opportunity to treat contaminated birds is very small. Depending on the species affected, the quicker the response the greater the chance for survival of the affected animal. Thus, IC needs to be able to anticipate the needs of the wildlife response section no matter what level (size) of the spill. By establishing baseline data listed in the State of Washington Oiled Bird Recovery and Rehabilitation Study and including such critical information in the North West Area Contingency Plan (NWACP), crucial equipment and personnel can be assigned and activated without delays.

Organizational Charts

Three organizational charts have been included for use in referencing the checklists.

- The first flow chart shows the overall management structure of the Bird Recovery and Rehabilitation Group based on the NWACP.
- The second flow chart shows the operational structure for the Recovery and Transport Unit in accordance with the NWACP.
- The third flow chart shows the operational structure of the Bird Rehabilitation Unit in accordance with the NWACP.

Checklists

The following document contains a checklist for the most common resources needed for birds during an oil spill response. The quantities outlined are based on two types of event scenarios. The first type of event is one in which a group of oiled birds arrive at a rehabilitation facility at one time (scenarios 1-3). The second type of event is on in which groups of birds arriving at a rehabilitation facility at a rate of 10% per day (scenarios 4-7). These scenarios are ONLY examples of possible oiled bird circumstances. Some adjustments will need to be made to meet real life needs during an

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actual wildlife spill response. The following checklists have been developed for each scenario to include the following information:

- A) Facility Requirement
 - ◆ Item Categories: Group or Unit
 - ◆ Items: Specific resource
 - ◆ Purpose/Requirements Description: The reason for the resource or specific requirement
 - ◆ Requirement Document: These two documents are referenced throughout the NWACP as protocol standards to be meant, therefore referenced here.
 - WAC 232-12-275 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits
 - USFWS Best Practices
 - ◆ Minimum Quantity: the minimum resources that would be needed based on the scenario outlines. This is a starting place that would need to increase or decrease based on the specific needs of an individual response.
- B) Personnel Requirements
 - ◆ Units/Task Forces: Where this department is located
 - ◆ Position: Job duty
 - ◆ Requirement Document: These two documents are referenced throughout the NWACP as protocol standards to be meant, therefore referenced here.
 - WAC 232-12-275 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits
 - USFWS Best Practices
 - ◆ Minimum Quantity: the minimum resources that would be needed based on the scenario outlines. This is a starting place that would need to increase or decrease based on the specific needs of an individual response.
Personnel may be assigned more than one job duty depending on the size of the wildlife response.
 - ◆ Supporting Resources: Resources needs and costs associated personnel requirements.
- C) Medical and Pharmaceutical Equipment and Supplies
 - ◆ Items: Specific resource
 - ◆ Purpose/Requirements Description: The reason for the resource or specific requirement
 - ◆ Size: Known details to support procurement
 - ◆ Type: Known details to support procurement
 - ◆ Requirement Document: These two documents are referenced throughout the NWACP as protocol standards to be meant, therefore referenced here.
 - WAC 232-12-275 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits
 - USFWS Best Practices
 - ◆ Minimum Quantity: the minimum resources that would be needed based on the scenario outlines. This is a starting place that would need to increase or decrease based on the specific needs of an individual response.
 - ◆ Task Force Usage: Task forces that would be expected to utilize this resource.
- D) General Equipment
 - ◆ Items: Specific resource
 - ◆ Purpose/Requirements Description: The reason for the resource or specific requirement

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- ◆ Size: Known details to support procurement
 - ◆ Type: Known details to support procurement
 - ◆ Requirement Document: These two documents are referenced throughout the NWACP as protocol standards to be meant, therefore referenced here.
 - WAC 232-12-275 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits
 - USFWS Best Practices
 - ◆ Minimum Quantity: the minimum resources that would be needed based on the scenario outlines. This is a starting place that would need to increase or decrease based on the specific needs of an individual response.
 - ◆ Task Force Usage: Task forces that would be expected to utilize this resource.
- E) General Supplies
- ◆ Items: Specific resource
 - ◆ Purpose/Requirements Description: The reason for the resource or specific requirement
 - ◆ Size: Known details to support procurement
 - ◆ Type: Known details to support procurement
 - ◆ Requirement Document: These two documents are referenced throughout the NWACP as protocol standards to be meant, therefore referenced here.
 - WAC 232-12-275 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits
 - USFWS Best Practices
 - ◆ Minimum Quantity: the minimum resources that would be needed based on the scenario outlines. This is a starting place that would need to increase or decrease based on the specific needs of an individual response.
 - ◆ Task Force Usage: Task forces that would be expected to utilize this resource.

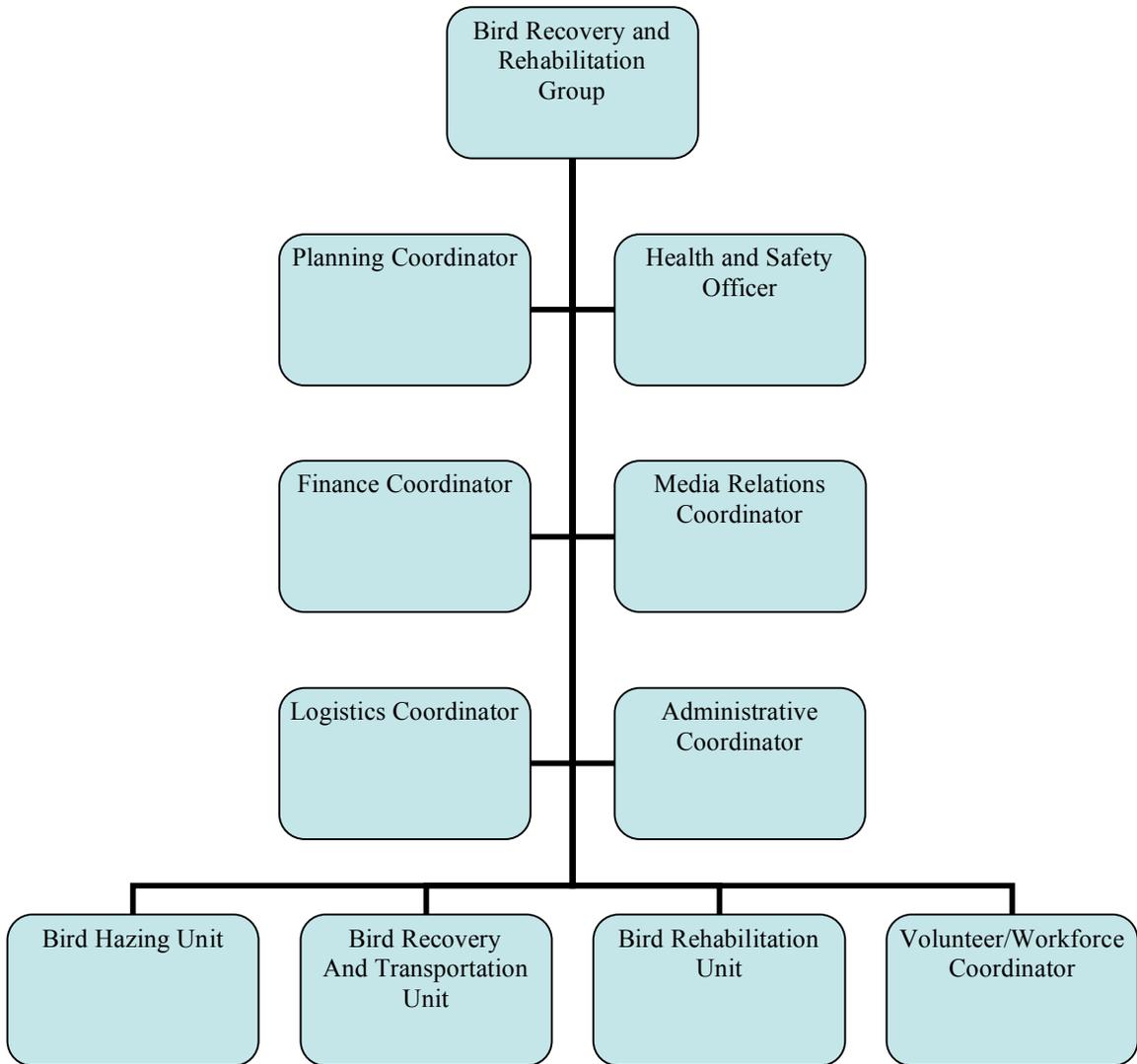
Discussions

In order to provide consistency amongst each checklist, they have been developed with the assumption that the caseload would consist of an “average” bird with rehabilitation needs similar to that of a Common murre. For this reason a discussion section has been included to assist with preparedness for circumstances that could arise outside of the scope of the assumptions. These are general discussions and are not meant to be all inclusive of every circumstance that might arise during a wildlife spill response. The discussions are as follows:

- A general discussion developed to explain how a spill impacting larger or smaller birds would change the facility and equipment needs for intakes arriving all at one time.
- A general discussion has been developed to explain how a spill impacting larger or smaller birds species would change the facility and equipment needs for intakes arriving at a rate of 10% per day.
- A general discussion has been developed to consider, in general terms the issues associated with spills involving more than 1,000 oiled birds.
- A general discussion has been developed to describe what changes may be needed to respond to spills with lighter oil products.

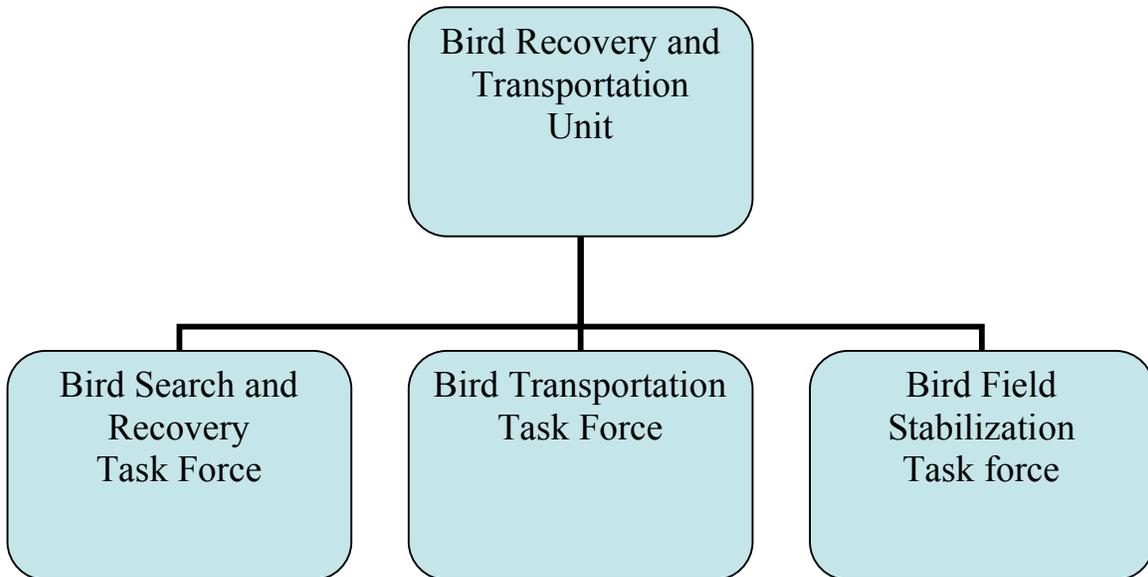
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Bird Recovery and Rehabilitation Organizational Structure



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Bird Recovery and Transportation Organizational Structure



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