

WILDLIFE RESPONSE IN CALIFORNIA



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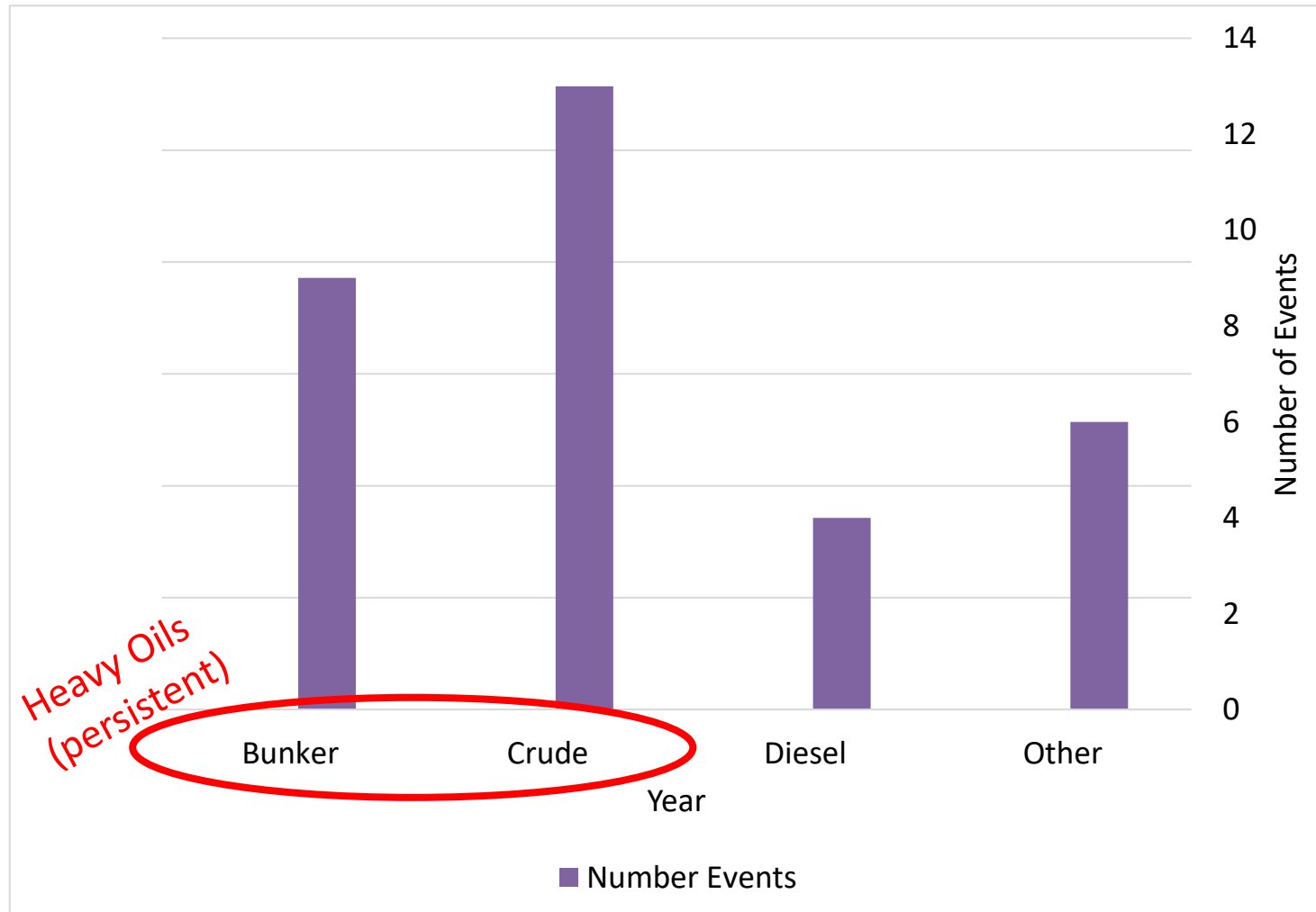
TALK OUTLINE

- Impacts of spills on wildlife
- How we respond to oiled wildlife and wildlife at risk



IMPACTS OF SPILLS ON WILDLIFE

What types of oil spills affect wildlife?



Of 34 spills 1995-2019 with
>10 birds collected



IMPACTS OF SPILLS ON WILDLIFE

Marine (open water) spills

- Most wildlife recovery occurs on shorelines as animals take refuge from cold water
- Open water recovery challenging



Inland spills

- More diverse waterways (dry washes to major rivers)
- Diverse wildlife (aquatic, semi-aquatic, terrestrial, avian species)
- Difficult to find and capture
- Challenging access/terrain



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

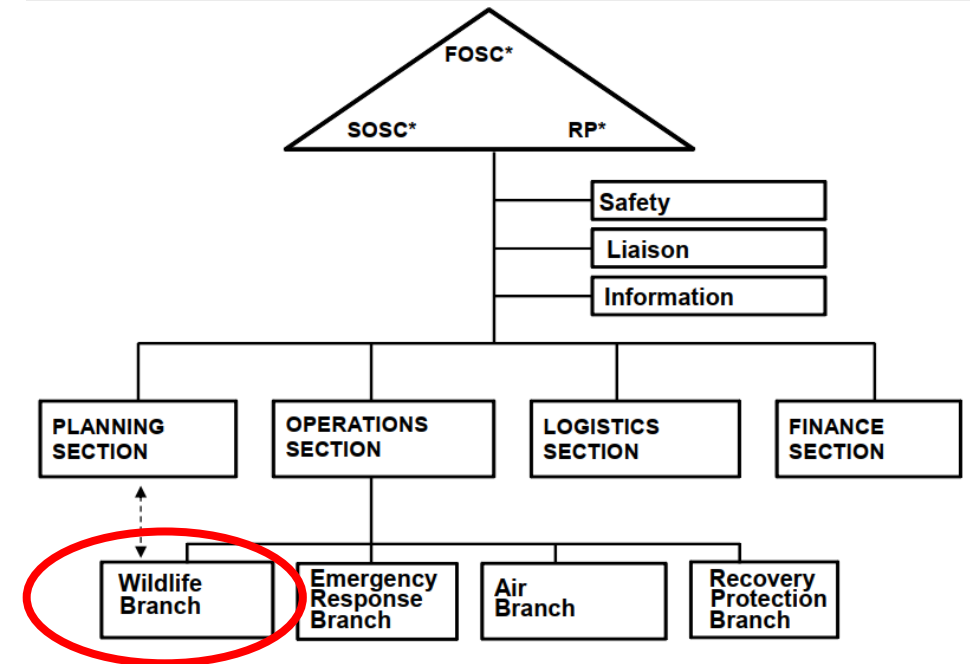
Who?
How?
What?
Where?
Why?



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

Who?

- Wildlife Branch, in the Operations Section of the Incident Command
- OSPR wildlife experts fill the role of Wildlife Branch Director
- Other trustee/agency experts and/or contractors, trained volunteers
- Oiled Wildlife Care Network



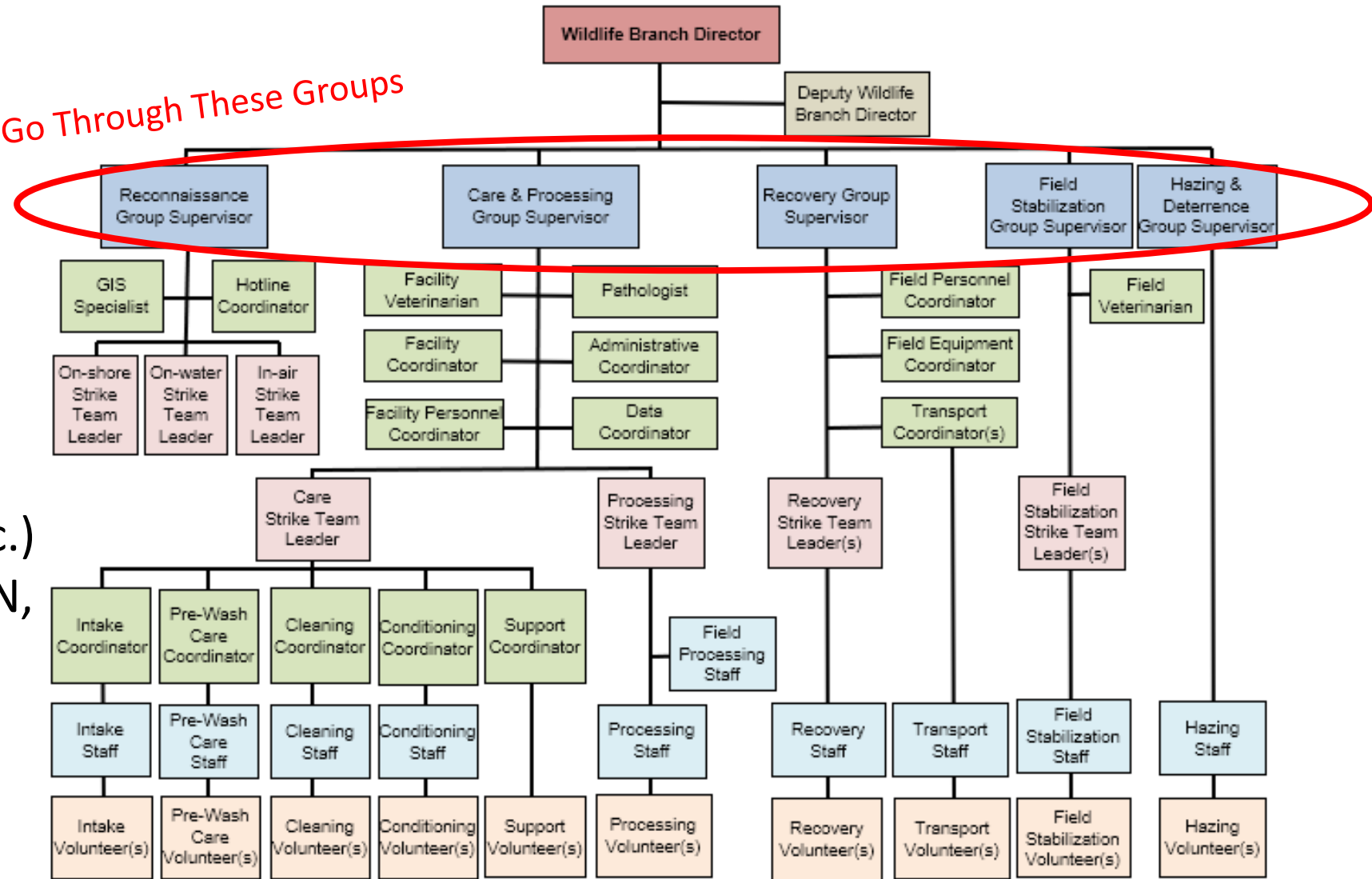
* Acronyms: FOSC = Federal On-Scene Coordinator, SOSC = State On-Scene Coordinator, RP = Responsible Party

RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

How?

- Training
- Drills and Exercises
- Wildlife Response Plan for California
- Job Aids & Protocols (animal care, hazing, etc.)
- Teamwork (OSPR, OWCN, member organizations, Trustee partners)

We'll Go Through These Groups



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN)

- Partner with OSPR, same OSPAF funding
- Network administered by UC Davis Wildlife Health Center (OWCN Management Staff)
- >45 member organizations, >1,200 trained responders
- Responders include some paid staff and volunteers
- Globally recognized excellence



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

How?

Wildlife Branch (Operations Section)	Environmental Unit (Planning Section)	NRDA (Separate from Unified Command)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess wildlife in area• Implement measures to prevent wildlife from becoming oiled• Collect and document oiled wildlife• Rehabilitate live oiled wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compile information on Resources at Risk• Implement measures to minimize collateral impacts to wildlife & habitat• Develop protection strategies to protect habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess impacts to wildlife, habitat, and public uses in detail• Identify and implement restoration projects to account for loss

RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

What?

Primary goals of Wildlife Branch:

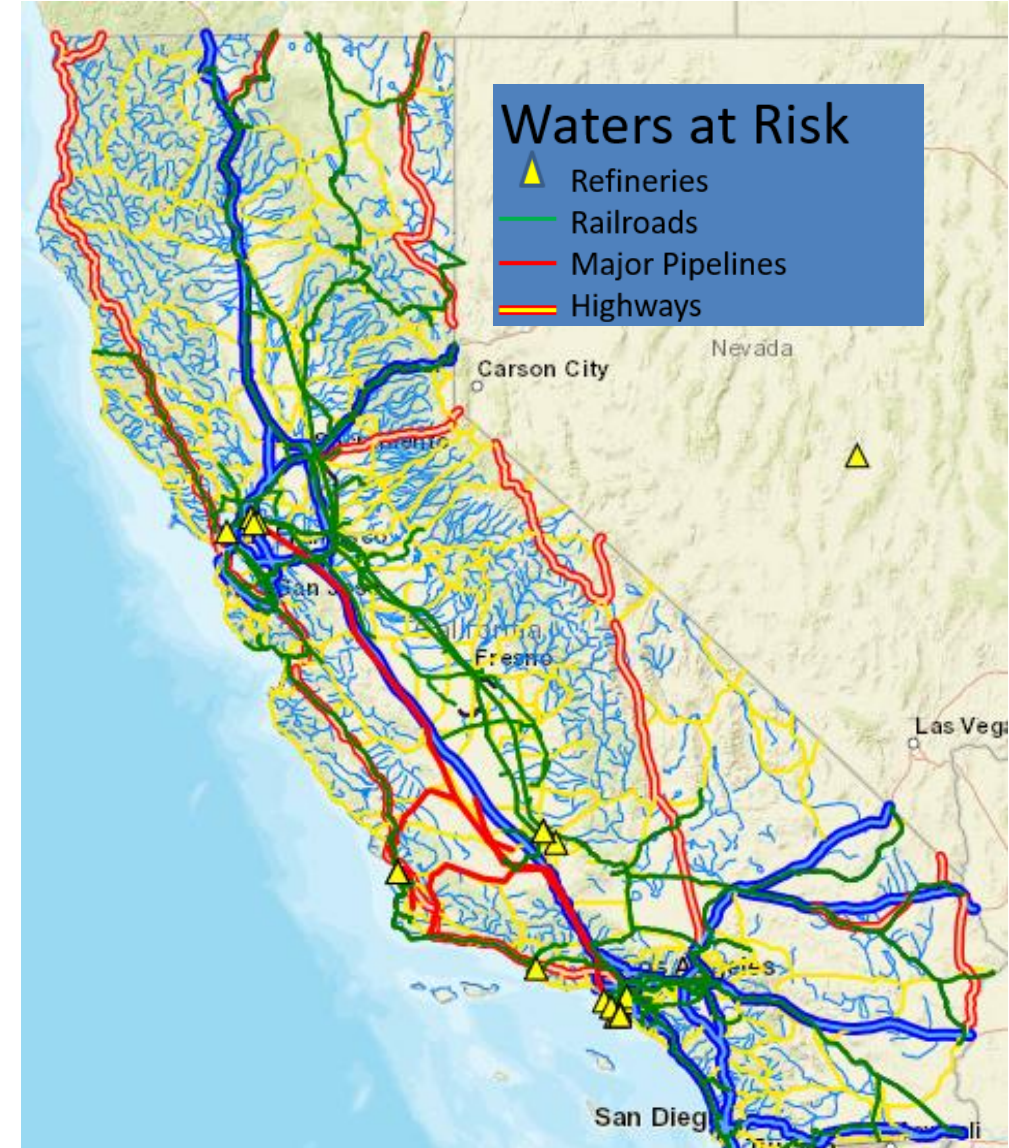
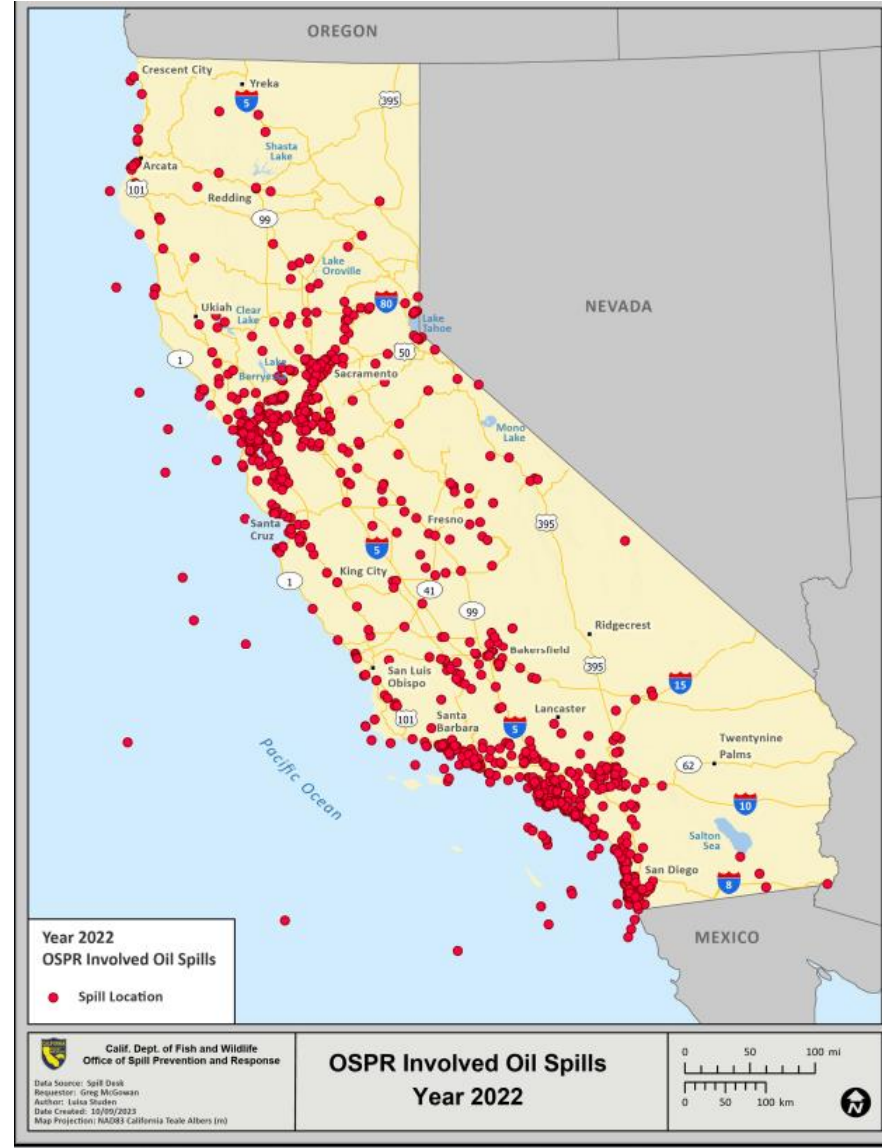
- ✓ Assess potential impacts (Resources at Risk + Reconnaissance)
- ✓ Prevent wildlife from becoming oiled (Hazing and Deterrence)
- ✓ If wildlife do become oiled, recover animals and provide best achievable care (Field Stabilization, Recovery & Care)
- ✓ Rehabilitate and release impacted wildlife
- ✓ Document impacts to wildlife (Trustee responsibility)



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

Where?

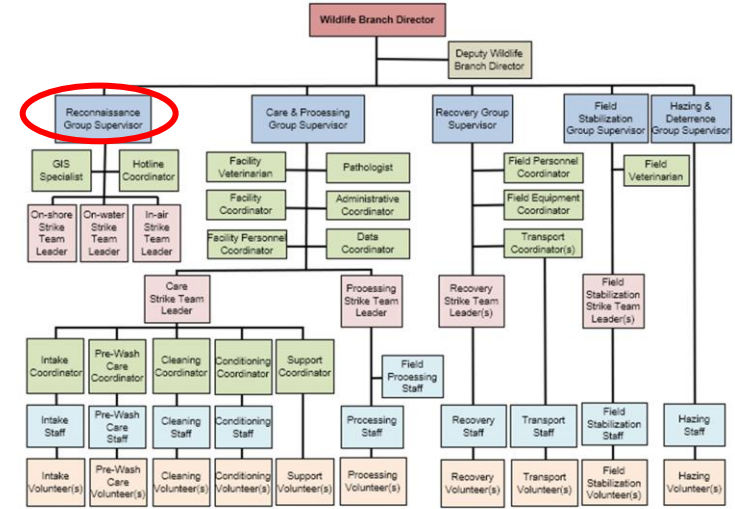
Waters of the State



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

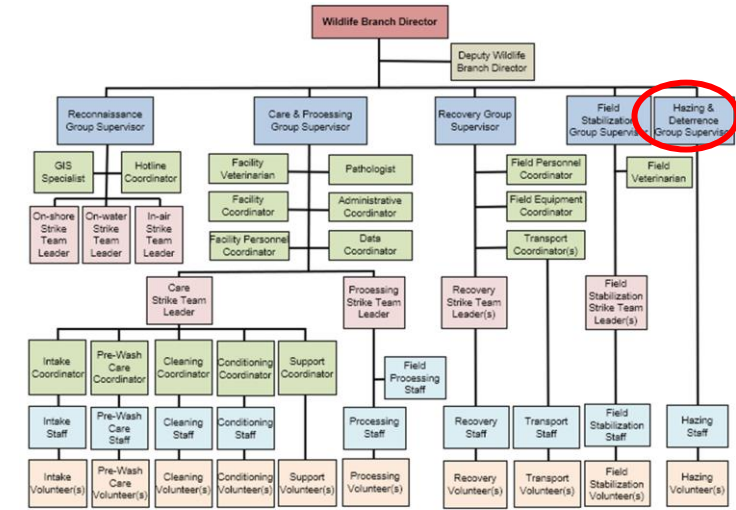
Wildlife Reconnaissance Group

- Ground, aerial, and/or boat-based surveys
- Mapping of wildlife observations and recoveries
- Manage Oiled Wildlife Hotline:
 - 1-877-UCD-OWCN



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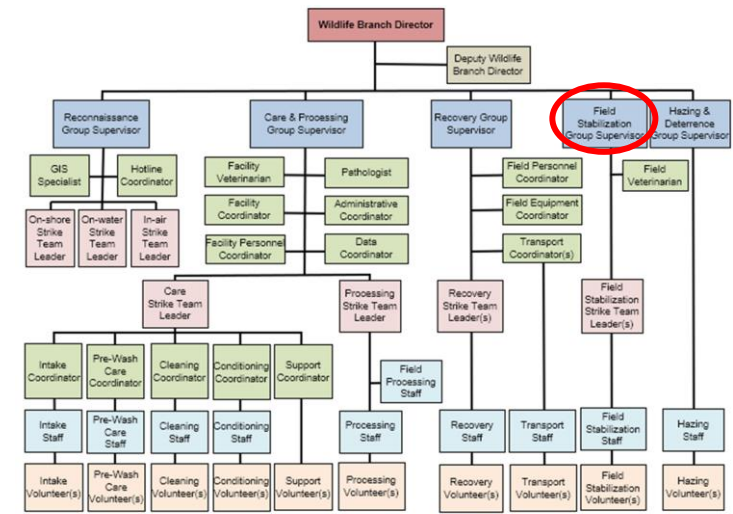
Wildlife Hazing and Deterrence Group



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

Wildlife Field Stabilization Group

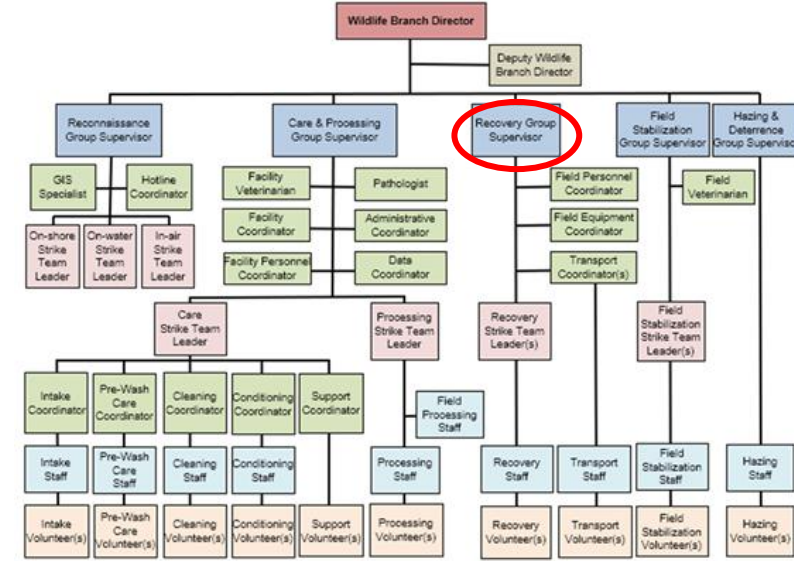
- Conduct initial field exam of animal
- Provide stabilization (first aid) to address hypothermia, dehydration, and other common issues



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

Wildlife Recovery Group

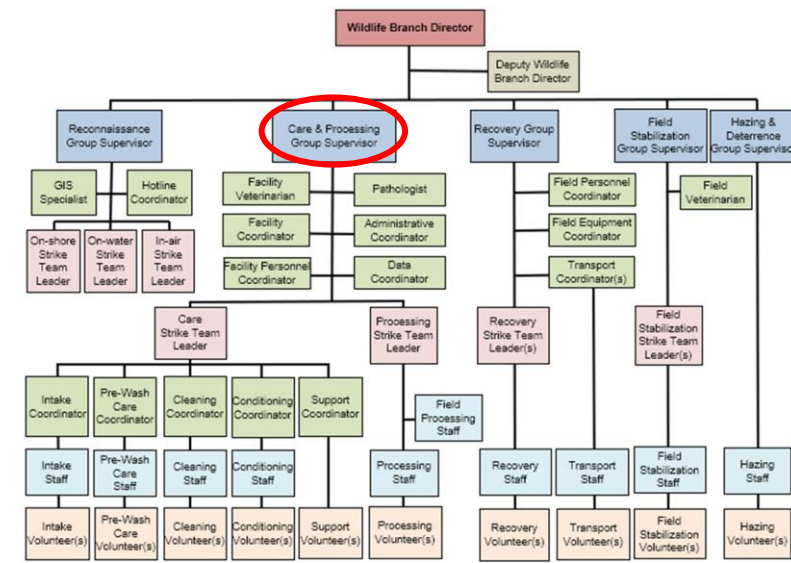
- Recover oiled live animals and deliver to Field Stabilization
- Collect dead oiled animals and record search effort (Wildlife Recovery app)



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

Wildlife Care & Processing Group

- Processing of live and dead animals
- Washing and care of live animals



RESPONSE TO OILED WILDLIFE OR WILDLIFE AT RISK

Why?

- Legal
- Ethical
- Human safety



National Contingency
Plan requirement:

“...provide for coordinated, immediate and effective protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of, and minimization of risk of injury to, fish and wildlife resources and habitat...”

Lempert-Keene-
Seastrand
requirement:

“...provide the best achievable treatment for wildlife, mammals, and birds affected by an oil spill...”



Wildlife Response Coordination with Local Government

During response, San Joaquin County could work with the Wildlife Branch in many functions:

- Provide Situational Awareness
- Provide/coordinate access to impacted and potentially impacted areas (incl. public infrastructure such as ponds, canals, impoundments, dams, gated service roads, etc.)
- Support/coordinate communications with key County personnel (e.g., flood control, public works, GIS, etc.)
- Identify/provide staging areas for stabilization and care facilities



SUMMARY

- The Wildlife Branch of the Operations Section implements response to oiled wildlife
- Primary goals of the Wildlife Branch are:
 - Assessment of wildlife oiling risk
 - Prevention of oiling
 - Recovery and care of oiled or injured wildlife
 - Documentation of impacts
- The Wildlife Branch Director is typically OSPR staff. Staff and volunteers from the OWCN fill the majority of the Group Supervisor and care roles
- Details can be found in the Wildlife Response Plan for Oil Spills in California
(<https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Science/Wildlife-Response>)



QUESTIONS?



Office of Spill Prevention
and Response



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