

WILDLIFE BRANCH OPERATIONS:

Response to Oiled Wildlife in California



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Overview

- Development of wildlife response capacity in California
- Wildlife species susceptible to oiling
- Organization and responsibilities of the Wildlife Branch



PRBO

OPA 90: Wildlife Provision

- NCP 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...”





California Legislation

▶ Lempert-Keene- Seastrand Act (1990)

- Developed CDFW-OSPR
- Required development of rehab stations

▶ Follow-up bills (1993, 1995, 1997)

- Funds to build and maintain six regional facilities
- Established research program

CA Wildlife Response Plan Development

- ▶ Originally developed by OSPR in early 90's
-later, Agencies, NGOs, ACPs, Industry
- ▶ Previously in ACPs (now in RCP)
- ▶ Updated in 2011, available on OSPR website
- ▶ Details WLB purpose, structure, roles,
responsibilities

Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN)

► Administration

- 1994–1997: OSPR
- 1997– : Wildlife Health Center, UC Davis

► Mission

- Best achievable capture & care to oiled wildlife



Oiled Wildlife Care Network

UC Davis Wildlife Health Center

Species susceptible to oiling

- Spend a lot of time on the surface of the water
- Occur fairly near shore
- Have feathers or fur



Species typically affected

GREBES



COMMON
MURRES



SCOTERS

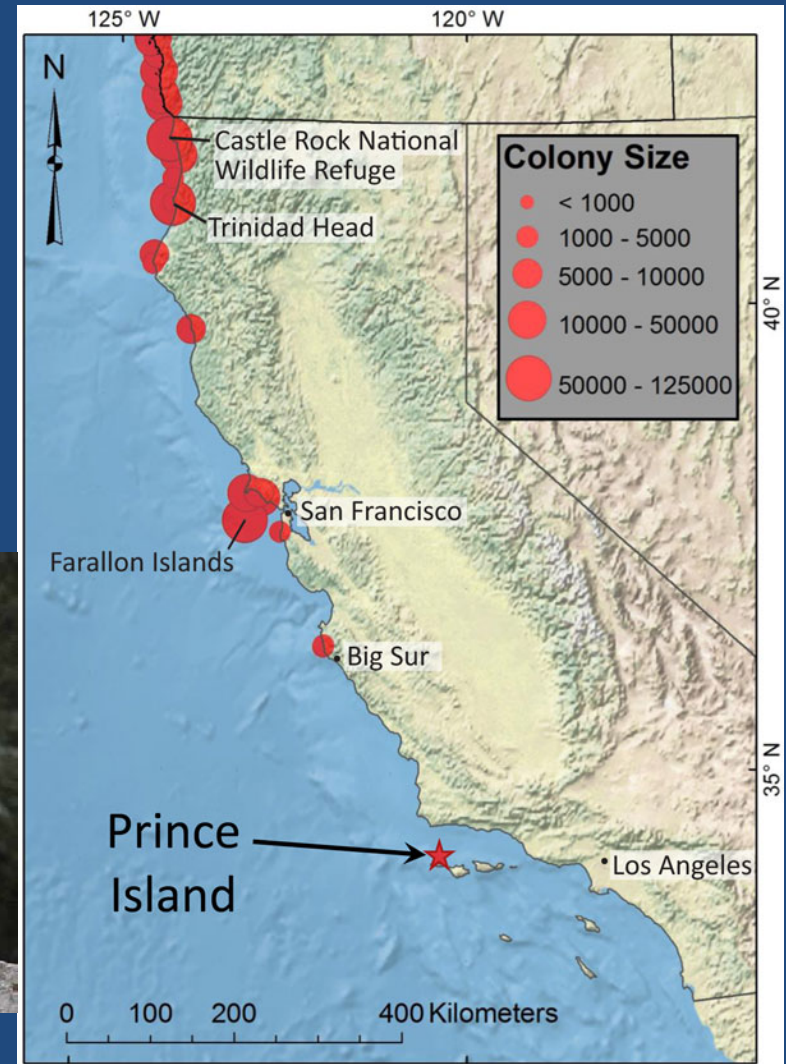


LOONS



Common Murre

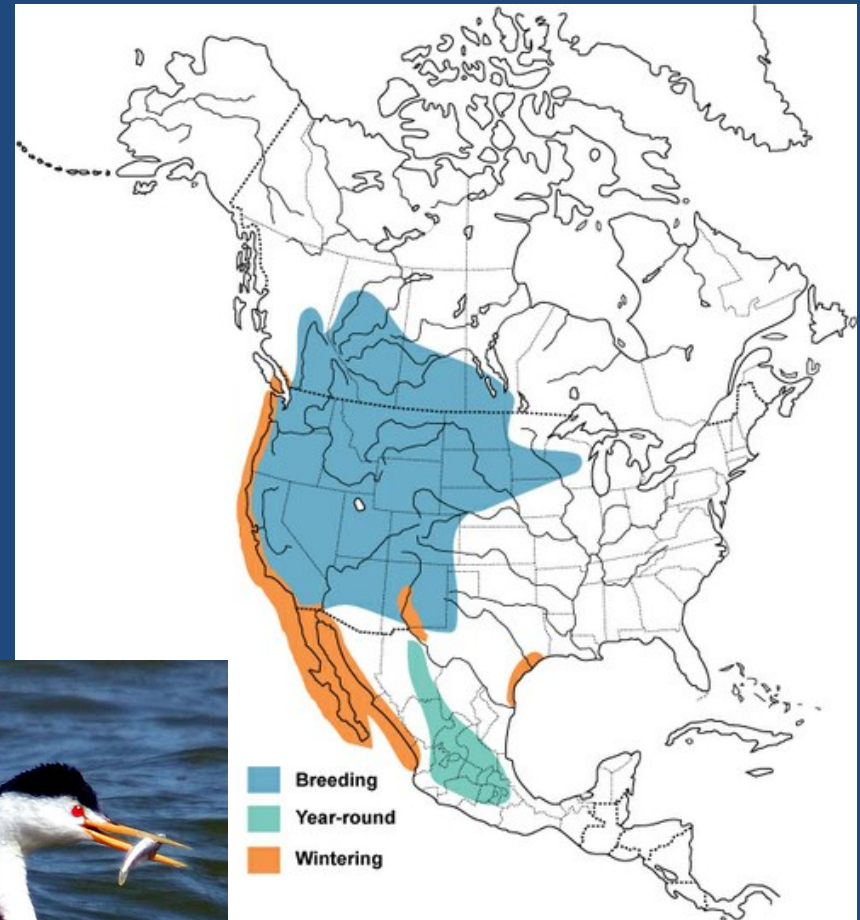
- Nest in large colonies on islands & cliffs
- >1 million in N.A.; ~350,000 in CA
- Dive deep for fish and squid
- Move closer to shore and further south in winter



Adams and Felis, USGS

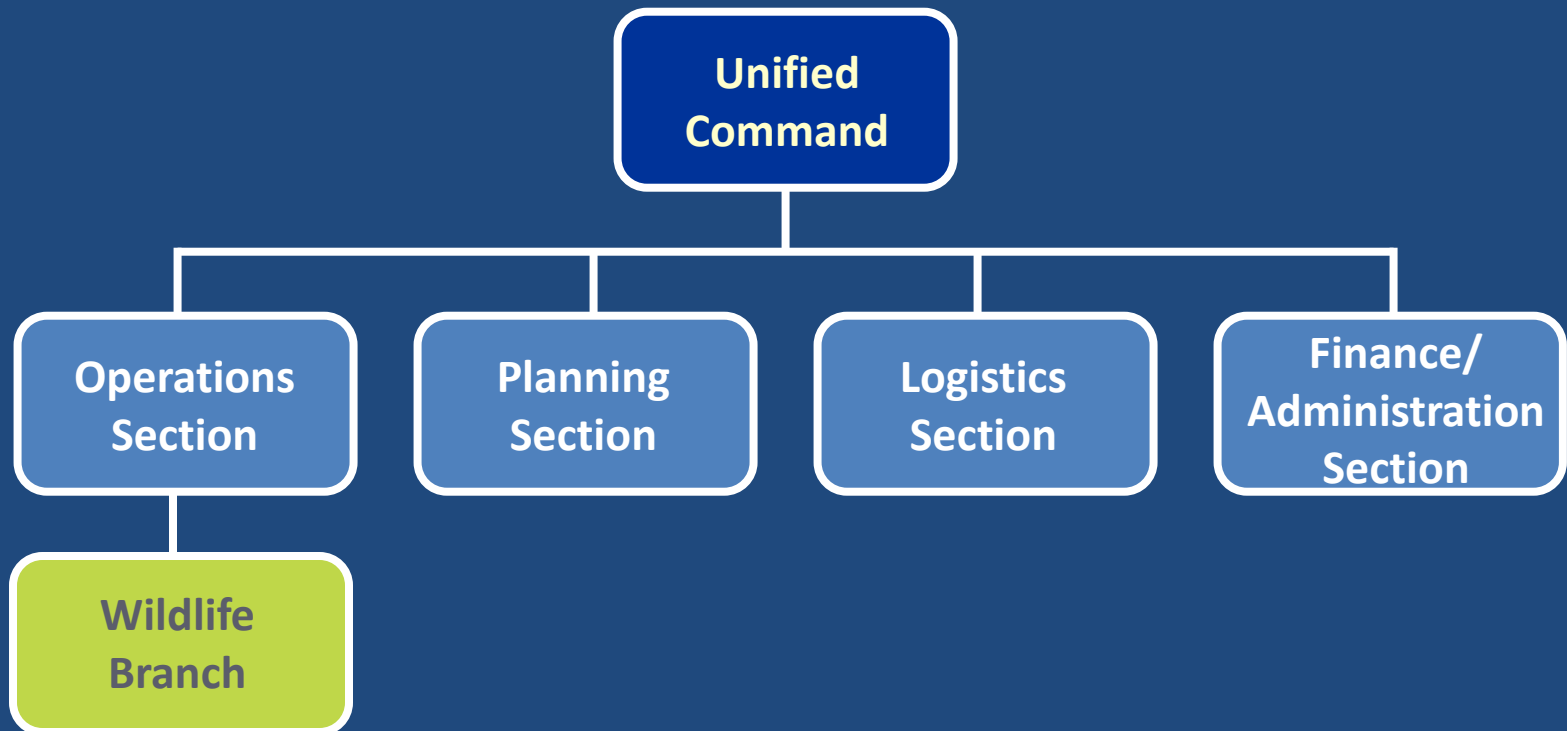
Western/Clark's Grebe

- Build floating nests on lakes
- ~500,000 in N.A.; ~10,000 in CA
- In winter, common in nearshore ocean/bays



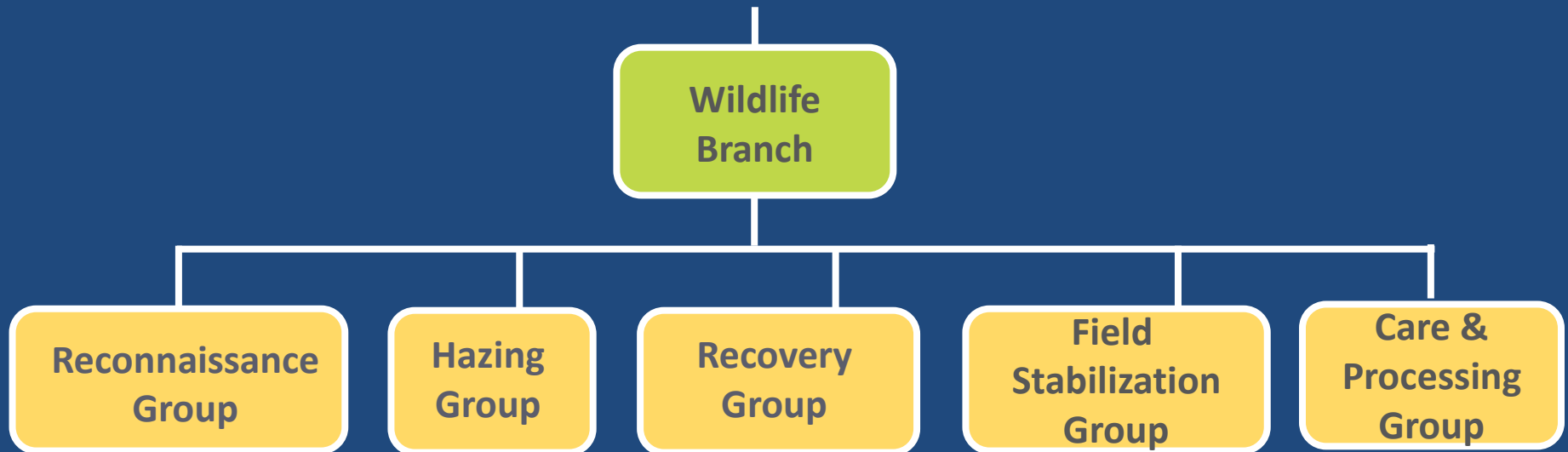
Wildlife Branch

- In Operations Section
- Close coordination with Planning Section
 - Resources at Risk
 - Minimization of collateral damage



Wildlife Branch

- In California, five Groups
- Expanded beyond the federal Wildlife Branch structure



Safety Requirements

- ▶ 24-hr HAZWOPER plus OWCN training
 - Conduct wildlife recovery under the direction of the Group Supervisor, after site characterization
- ▶ 4-hr “Hazcom” training plus OWCN training
 - Can assist in hot zones, but cannot capture wildlife
 - Hazcom can only be used in emergency once
- ▶ No Hazwoper or Hazcom
 - Can assist outside of hot zones



Wildlife Branch Director

- Safety, Supervision and Coordination



Natural Resource Trustees with Diverse Missions



To protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests...

To conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats...



To understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment...



To defend our nation against all foreign and domestic enemies...



To manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, plant resources...

To provide for the health, inspiration and education...



To preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources...

To teach, research and public service...



To manage the water resources of California in cooperation...

One Team

One Incident
Command Structure

Wildlife Branch



One
Mission

One Unit

One Common Goal

Interaction with other Agencies

What the WB can provide:

- Provide cooperating agencies with up-to-date information (as available)

What others can provide for the WB:

Reconnaissance

- Provide local knowledge and expertise (e.g. Refuge personnel)
- Potentially assist with staffing wildlife reporting hotline

Recovery, Transportation

- Assist with beach closures and access
- Provide a staging area for the Stabilization Trailer
- Assist with transportation of wildlife
- If trained, assist with wildlife capture

Special Protocols

WILDLIFE RESPONSE PLAN

- Guidelines to:
 - Minimize incidental impacts to Snowy Plovers, Least Terns, Clapper Rails
 - Respond on the Farallon and Channel Islands
 - Respond with Sea Otters



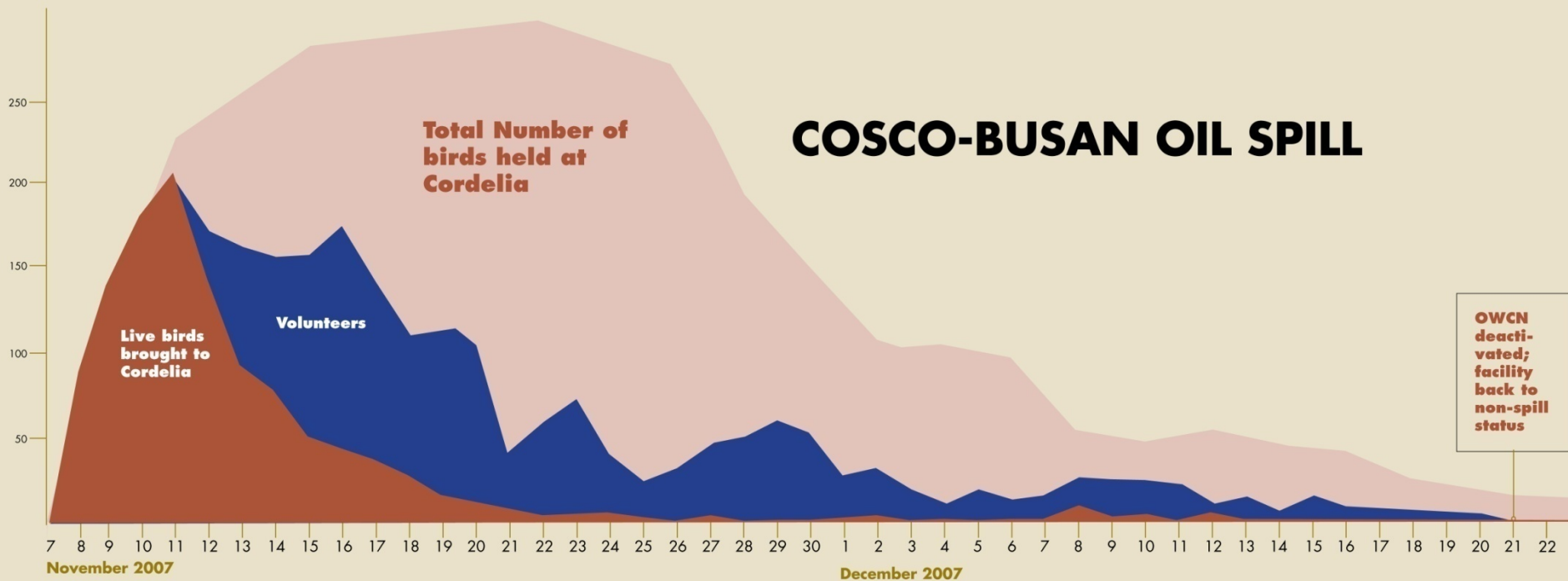
Equipment & Personnel Resources

Tiered Response Levels



- Level 1 - Projected impacts for dozens of marine birds or mammals
- Level 2 - ...for up to low hundreds of marine birds or mammals
- Level 3 - ...for high hundreds or thousands of marine birds or mammals

Peak impact usually days 2-10



(Graphics: Alison Kent)



Wildlife Reconnaissance Group

- Aerial Survey Team
- Boat Survey Team
- Shoreline Survey Team

Evaluate numbers, species, and locations of wildlife that could be/are impacted by oil

Other Resources: Wildlife/Technical Experts



- Agency Biologists
- University Biologists
- Private Contractors
- GIS Mapping/Database

Wildlife Reconnaissance Group

OILED WILDLIFE HOTLINE
(to report oiled wildlife)

1-877-UCD-OWCN
(1-877-823-6926)

Wildlife Hazing Group



- ▶ Deter wildlife from entering contaminated areas



Wildlife Recovery Group



- Capture and collection of live and dead animals





Wildlife Field Stabilization Group



Wildlife Care & Processing Group



- Ensures that wildlife exposed to petroleum products receive the best achievable care by providing access to veterinary services
- Processes live & dead animals

Demobilization



- Wildlife Operation activities are typically the last to demobilize

SUMMARY

- The Wildlife Branch is in the Operations Section of the UC
- Five groups in the Branch:
 - Reconnaissance
 - Hazing
 - Recovery
 - Field Stabilization
 - Care and Processing
- The OWCN fills most roles other than Reconnaissance

QUESTIONS?



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