Volunteering with the Oiled Wildlife Care Network

Oiled Wildlife Care Network
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UC Davis
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Overview

- What is the Oiled Wildlife Care Network
- OWCN program
- Volunteer program
- Volunteer use in spills
Oiled Wildlife Care Network

- Created in 1994
  - “Wildlife response arm” of CDGF-OSPR
  - 1994-1997 OSPR; 1997 on WHC at UC Davis
OWCN

- **Mission**
  - Best achievable capture and care of oiled wildlife
- **Four “R’s”**
  - Research
  - Reaching Out
  - Readiness
  - Response
Research: Grants

- **Purpose**
  - Better understand effects
  - How best to care for wildlife
  - Post-release survival

- **$250,000**

- **Success**
  - Over 140 projects funded since 1996
  - Three post-release projects since 1997
Research: In house

- Soft sided pens
- Nutrition & fluids
- Effects of being housed in fresh water
- Infrared cameras to monitor waterproofing
- Testing satellite transmitters

Picture by Hannah Nevins
Reaching Out
Reaching Out

- Seminars, presentation
- Public Outreach
  - Website, newsletters, blog
- National/International Assistance
  - Response planning, spill assistance, facility development
Readiness: Partners

- **Participants**
  - 30+ orgs represented
  - Rehab orgs, universities, NGOs

- **Agreements**
  - Them: Provide rapid cooperative response
  - Us: Equip, supply & train
Readiness: Facilities

- **Types**
  - Primary care: 12 facilities
  - Stabilization: 11 facilities

- **Multi-Use**
  - Reduces spill startup time
  - Cost-effective maintenance
  - Non-spill use
    - Rehabilitation
    - Education
    - Research
Response

>75 spills in CA, nationally, and internationally, and almost 8,000 oiled birds and mammal

Cosco Busan 2007
Dubai Star 2009
Deepwater Horizon 2010
Rena 2011
Volunteers

- 18 years old
- Sign CDFG’s Oath of Allegiance and Volunteer Service Agreement
- 4-hr HAZCOM
Spontaneous Volunteers
Spontaneous Volunteers

- Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR)
  - Non-wildlife volunteer activities
  - Wildlife volunteer activities
Spontaneous Volunteers

- Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR)
- Non-wildlife volunteer activities
Spontaneous Volunteers

I can see no way in which this carefully laid plan could ever fail.
Spontaneous Volunteers
Pre-Trained Volunteers

- Pre-Trained Volunteers
  - Basic
    - “Webinar”, animal care overviews
  - Conference/Labs
  - More advanced techniques

Volunteers Are Important!!!
Pre-trained Volunteers

Photos by Gayle Uyehara
Pre-trained Volunteers
Volunteer Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spill</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th># Volunteers</th>
<th>Volunteer Hours</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kure</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>8200</td>
<td>90% spontaneous 10% pre-trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuyvesant</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>9600</td>
<td>90% spontaneous 10% pre-trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luckenbach</td>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>65% spontaneous 35% pre-trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventura Oiled Bird Incident</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>80% spontaneous 20% pre-trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosco Busan</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>50% spontaneous 50% pre-trained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Cosco Busan = 13,000 volunteer hours
Volunteers in Response

Recovery & Transport

Processing & Intake

Pre-wash care

Release

Conditioning

Cleaning
Volunteering: R&T

- Searching for oiled animals
- Capture/collection
- Field stabilization
- Transportation

- Additional training needed for R&T jobs
  - 24 hr HAZWOPER
  - R&T Levels 1-3
Volunteering: Processing & Intake

- Evidence collection area
- Recording information
- Initial health exam
Pre-wash Care

- Holding/restraining
- Tubing
- Examinations
  - Bleeding
  - Temps
  - Evaluations
Cleaning
Pre-Release Conditioning

- Feeding
- Pool Cleaning
- Waterproof Checks
- Observations
Other Volunteer Jobs

- Facilities Jobs
  - Running pumps
  - Repairs
  - Electrical
  - Plumbing
  - Construction
  - Maintenance
Other Volunteer Jobs

- Administrative
  - Answering phones
  - Clerical services
  - Data entry
  - Volunteer coordination
Other Volunteer Jobs

- Miscellaneous
  - Food preparation
  - Laundry
  - Cage cleaning
  - Lab duties
Summary

- Spontaneous and pre-trained volunteers
- Volunteers are important!
- Volunteers are seen in every aspect of the response
- Wide range of duties