

BNSF Oiled Wildlife Preparedness in EPA Region 5



Curt Clumpner, OWCN

History of OWCN-BNSF Relationship

- ▶ OWCN invited Union Pacific and BNSF representatives to an annual internal full deployment drill in Plumas County, California in March 2017
- ▶ BNSF then contacted OWCN indicating they would be setting up contracts with wildlife response organizations and and invited a proposal from OWCN
- ▶ 2017 - OWCN proposed a scope of work
- ▶ Dec 2018 - Contract signed
- ▶ 2019 –Work begins with Washington State plan



BNSF Goals for Wildlife Planning

- ▶ A comprehensive oiled wildlife readiness and response plan for its North American operations
- ▶ Meet any state or province specific requirements as well as area contingency plans



BNSF track coverage map

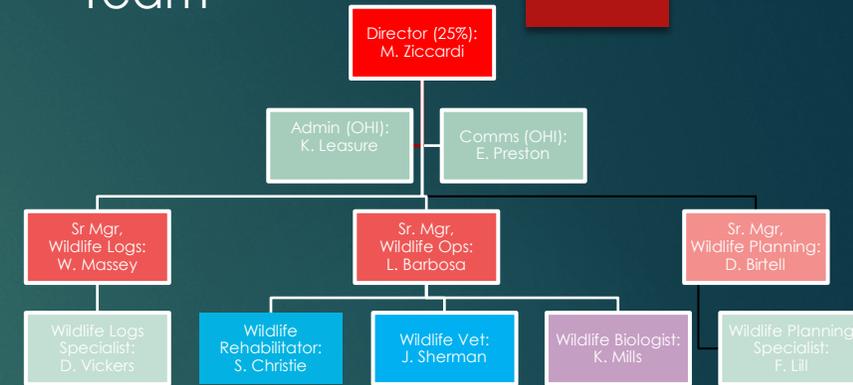
Our Interpretation of the Goals

- ▶ Cover all areas of BNSF operation
- ▶ Consistent response across widely differing risk, regulation and existing preparedness
- ▶ Regionally based but conscious of state differences
- ▶ Build collaborative regional capacity
- ▶ Flexibility to meet incident specific circumstances

Who or what is OWCN?

- ▶ Oiled Wildlife Care Network
- ▶ Mission: best achievable care for oiled wildlife
- ▶ Started in 1994 as part of California's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response in collaboration with wildlife responders in California
- ▶ In 1997 OSPR – UC-Davis Vet School's Wildlife Health Center
- ▶ Currently 44 Members within California
- ▶ Primary Funding is from California Oil Spill Response Trust Fund
- ▶ Primary Responsibility – Oiled Wildlife in California

Management Team



OWCN Proposal Four Phases

1. Provide access to professional wildlife responders to initiate and supervise a wildlife response
2. Develop a national oiled wildlife readiness and response plan that ensures corporate values and priorities are emphasized and that allows regional planning efforts to be internally aligned
3. Enact regional response plans identifying resources at risk, available response resources, asset gaps and ways to address them, all in a cost and resource efficient manner
4. Ensure ongoing maintenance and improvement by incorporation of lessons learned in exercises, responses and others experience

Why OWCN?

- ▶ Provide both preparedness and response
- ▶ Relatively Large full time staff with strong, stable leadership
- ▶ Strong collaborative relationships with trustees
- ▶ Dedicated personnel with wide experience both inside and outside of California
- ▶ Experience working with a diverse set organizations
 - ▶ Zoos aquariums, conservation organizations, academic institutions, wildlife rehabilitators, state and federal trustees
- ▶ Science based protocols and innovation

Planning Parameters

- ▶ Best Achievable Care
- ▶ Consistent with BNSF Oil Spill Response Plans Across Regions
- ▶ Consistent with National, Regional and State Regulations and Best Practices
- ▶ Inclusive - Incorporate Regional, State and Local Resources including Tribes
- ▶ Build Regional and State Capacity
- ▶ Provide Building Blocks and Necessary information for Incident Specific Response Plans
- ▶ User Friendly with Proven Tools and Flexibility to Adapt

Region 5 Wildlife Plan Foundational Pieces

- ▶ Appendix VIII Fish and Wildlife Annex to the US EPA Region 5 Regional /Area Contingency Plan
- ▶ Regional Historical Experience
 - ▶ Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment for the July 25-26, 2010 Enbridge 6B oil Discharges near Marshall MI. 2015
 - ▶ US FWS/US DOI - Wildlife Response Activities for the July 25-26, 2010 Enbridge Line 6B Oil Discharges near Marshall, Michigan
- ▶ CDFW Wildlife Response Plan for Oil Spills in California
- ▶ Northwest Area Contingency Plan Appendices 9310 - 9314 (Wildlife Plan)

Always adding BNSF Wildlife Response & Exercise Lessons Learned

Responses with active Wildlife Branch

- ▶ Doon, Iowa - 2018
- ▶ Stillwater, Montana - 2023

Exercises with significant wildlife play

- ▶ Lake Almanor California - 2017
- ▶ Minneapolis , Minnesota - 2022
- ▶ San Antonio, Texas - 2022
- ▶ The Dalles, Oregon - 2023

Example - Doon Wildlife Response

- ▶ June 25-26, 2018
- ▶ Doon, Iowa - population 577
- ▶ 70 miles from any large town/city
- ▶ No local wildlife organizations
- ▶ No existing oiled wildlife preparedness



Assessment



- ▶ Most oil contained in relatively small area
- ▶ Outside of triangle receding water leaving stranded oil
- ▶ Few birds in area
 - ▶ Mostly passerines, shorebirds
 - ▶ Herptiles in triangle and surrounding areas
 - ▶ Some mammals including deer with fawns

Response Facilities

Command Center – BNSF trailer



Wildlife Facility - Doon Firehouse



“Wildlife Facility”

- ▶ One room
- ▶ Electricity
- ▶ Water available in the facility
- ▶ Garage door access to outside



Lesson Learned

- ▶ Identification & right sizing remote facility
- ▶ Herptile Collection – Traps and stalking
- ▶ Opportunity to test/refine Herptile care protocols
 - ▶ criteria for wash
 - ▶ criteria for release
- ▶ Secondary oiling of nestlings



A Walk through The Plan

- ▶ Key Contacts
- ▶ Plan Purpose and Organization
- ▶ Wildlife Response Organization
- ▶ Initial Response Actions – Getting Started
- ▶ Post Emergency Phase Response Actions – Doing the Work
- ▶ Wildlife Response Resources – Needed Infrastructure
- ▶ Appendices



BNSF Railway Company

**Oiled Wildlife Plan for U.S. Federal Region 5
(Midwest Region)**

July 2022

Prepared By:
Oiled Wildlife Care Network
Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616



Key Contacts

- ▶ BNSF Wildlife Responders
- ▶ Trustee Agencies
- ▶ Equipment Resources

Notifications/Contacts

OWCN Activation and Wildlife Reporting Hotline	800-942-6459
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OWCN Responder Contacts		
OWCN Hotline	This 24/7 hotline can be used to reach an OWCN team member by pressing 1 or 2 at the prompt.	877-823-6926
Michael Ziccardi	Director – Davis, CA	530-979-7561
Curt Clumpner	Wildlife Response Contractor	503-896-3181

Wildlife Equipment Sources for Region 5		
BNSF does not currently have contracts for guaranteed response of wildlife equipment within Region 5. Resources listed below may have some equipment outside the region that may be activated depending on availability and trustee agency permission.		
WRRL	The WRRL includes wildlife response equipment and contacts in Western US and Canada	https://wrl.world/mi/webd/WRRL
OWCN	Curt Clumpner	503-896-3181
NRC	Tiffany Gallo tgallo@nrcc.com	206-607-3007
MSRC	Chris Stadiem stadeim@msrc.org	425-308-2904

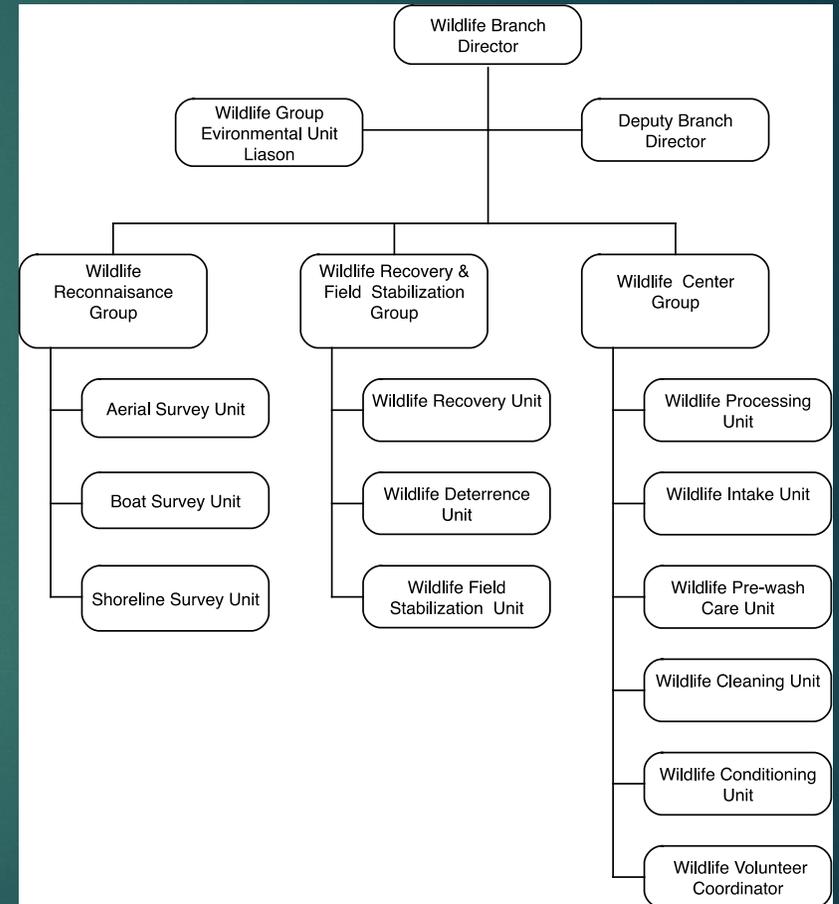
Trustee Agency Resources Region 5		
US Fish and Wildlife Service Assistant Regional Spill Response Coordinator, USFWS Region 3	Sara R. Bowman Sarah_Bowerman@fws.gov	612-816-6199
US Fish and Wildlife Service Permit Biologist Midwest Region 3	permitsR3MB@fws.gov	612-713-5436
Illinois DNR Permit Biologist	Brian Clark Brian.clark@illinois.gov	217-785-5740
Indiana DNR Licensing and Permit Supervisor	Linnea Petercheff lpetercheff@dnr.in.gov	317-233-6527

Plan Purpose and Organization

- ▶ Scope
 - ▶ All activities within wildlife branch
- ▶ Geography
 - ▶ Areas at risk from BNSF operations
- ▶ Fit within other plans
 - ▶ Compatible/coordinate with BNSF Response Plans, Area Response plans and state and local if applicable
- ▶ Resource and guide for developing incident specific action plan

Wildlife Response Organization

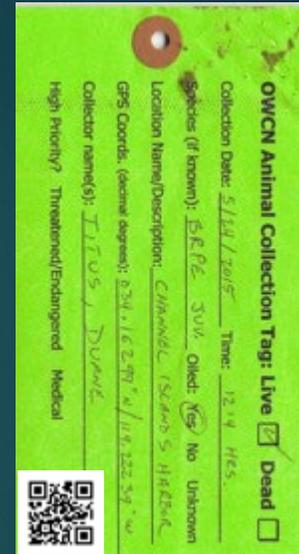
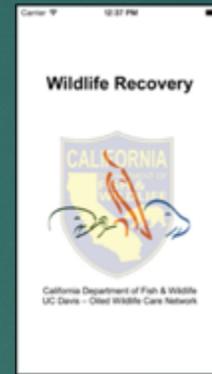
- ▶ Within the ICS and overall response plan
- ▶ Interface with local rehabilitators is needed
- ▶ Joint Information Center (JIC) and external communications
- ▶ Volunteers?



Example wildlife branch org chart under Operations Section

Initial Response Actions – Getting Started

- ▶ Activation
- ▶ Checking in with Trustee Agencies
 - ▶ Permits, Chain of Custody, Processing, Record Keeping
- ▶ Assessment
- ▶ Deterrence Options
- ▶ Draft Initial Incident Specific Wildlife Plan



Priority: Clarifying wildlife reporting requirements and expectations

Doon Incident Wildlife Branch Daily Report

Total Live Captured			
As of (date/time): 25 July 2018 1800 hrs			
	Birds	Mammals	Reptiles/ Amphibians
# Oiled in Care:	0	0	0
# Washed in Care:	0	0	0
# Died/ Euthanized:	0	1	2
# Released:	2	1	40
Totals:	2	2	42

Total Released & Recaptured:	0	0	0
T & E Species (species name, status [E, T, SSC], & #'s):	None		

Total Carcasses Collected			
As of (date/time): 25 July 2018 1800 hrs			
	Birds	Mammals	Reptiles/ Amphibians
# Visibly Oiled:	0	0	1
# Not Visibly Oiled but Oiled:	0	0	0
# Unoiled:	0	0	0
# Unassessed:	0	0	0
Totals:	0	0	1

Total Released & Recaptured:	0	0	0
T & E Species (species name, status [E, T, SSC], & #'s):	None		

Reported by: Scott Buhl, OWCN

Post Emergency Phase Response Actions

Recovery and transport



Processing and Intake



Pre-Wash Care



Release



Conditioning



Cleaning



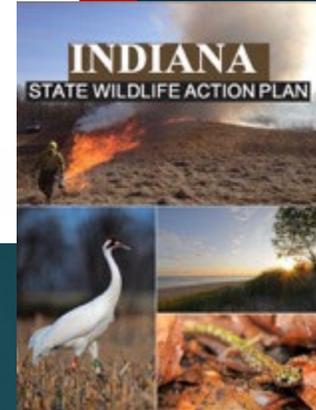
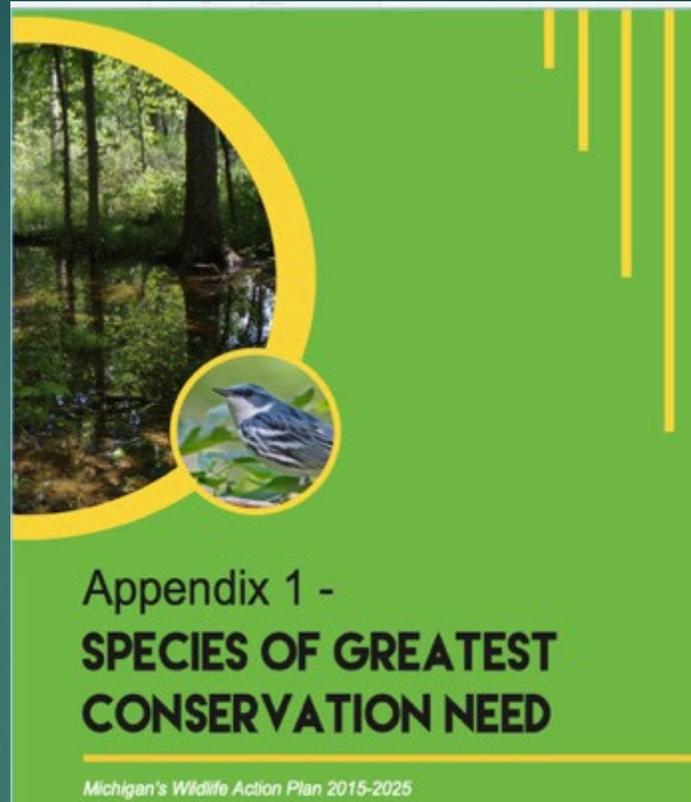
Wildlife Response Resources – Critical Infrastructure

- ▶ Personnel
 - ▶ Management Team
 - ▶ Trustees?
 - ▶ Wildlife Response Staff
 - ▶ Local Permitted Rehabilitators
 - ▶ Volunteers
- ▶ Equipment/Supplies
 - ▶ Local resources?
 - ▶ OSRO Resources
 - ▶ OWCN Resources
- ▶ Facilities
 - ▶ Buildings of opportunity
 - ▶ Mobile equipment



Appendices

- ▶ Forms, Tools and Templates
 - ▶ Animal collection, care, reporting forms
- ▶ Priority Natural Resources Requiring Protection
 - ▶ State listed species and state wildlife action plan lists



Used during BNSF 2022 Northtown Drill

- ▶ Used Draft Region 5 plan to build incident specific plan
- ▶ Identified potential rehabilitation facility site
 - ▶ Trio Supply Company warehouse (45 N. Stacks Dr., Friendly, MN)
- ▶ Scouted stabilization and staging sites
- ▶ Met with Wildlife Care Center of Minnesota about initial 48 hrs. of stabilization

2022 BNSF Northtown WCD
Minneapolis, MN

WILDLIFE RESPONSE PLAN
Version 1.0
20 July 2022

Prepared by:
Oiled Wildlife Care Network, UC Davis

On Behalf of:
BNSF

Status	Position/Name	Signature	Date Signed
Prepared By:	Michael Ziccardi, Wildlife Branch Director		
Approved By:			

Stillwater Response June 2023

- ▶ Train derailment into Yellowstone River
- ▶ Asphalt "non-floating" product that moved in water column
- ▶ End of July material observed 110 miles downstream
- ▶ Clean-up ongoing as of October



Conclusion - Lessons Learned & Still Work to be Done

- ▶ Identify and Train Interested Regional Personnel to Augment & Support OWCN Personnel
- ▶ Identify More “Local” Initial Response Options
- ▶ Identify Potential Facility Sites in Each State
- ▶ Build Wildlife First Responder Equipment Cache(s)
- ▶ Analyze Non-wildlife Responses to Broaden Readiness

Questions?



More information

- ▶ Curt Clumpner – cjclumpner@ucdavis.edu. OWCN - <https://owcn.vetmed.ucdavis.edu>