|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Plan Example: (WAC 173-182-540) Planning standards for wildlife response |

# Purpose of these Instructions

This sample plan language is intended to assist plan holders with meeting the requirements of WAC 173-182-535. This sample plan can be used in two ways:

1. As an outline to compare and update your existing plan.
2. As a template to develop a new plan to send to the state.

### How to Use this Document

 Your plan does not need to match this sample to be approved. However, your plan must contain the necessary details and narrative which describes your capability in meeting the planning standard this sample was created for.

Your plan is a tool that should be useful to you. The suggested terminology in this boilerplate may differ from your company specific terminology. When you encounter language not typically used by your company, please substitute it with the terms you use. We are not trying to prescribe terminology in the template/boilerplate. We encourage the use of forms, tables, diagrams and checklists in your plan. In addition, pages and sections need to be replaceable when updates occur.

### The following is a color coded key of additional instruction:

|  |
| --- |
| **Non-highlighted text:** The intent of non-highlighted text is to provide you with general language suggestions for your response plan. It is presented as an example of the type of information that should be included in your response plan. You can use this text as written or make changes to the text, so that it accurately describes your response capabilities and response posture. |
| **Yellow highlighted text:** Provide us your company-specific information. Where you see yellow highlights you will need to replace the text with language specific to your company. |
| **Green highlighted text:** Green highlights are used to note instructions and areas where Ecology is explaining what you need to put in your plan. This text should be deleted before you finalize your document. |

## When Ready to Send Ecology Your Plan:

* Remember to delete color coded text and highlights.
* Delete the instructional pages.
* Check footnotes in the document and ensure accuracy of the date and version of the plan you are submitting.
* Number your pages – your plan must have page numbers in it and they should match the page/section numbers of the rest of your plan.
* Check the table of contents carefully to ensure all pages are correctly identified.
* Complete the cross-reference table and make sure the referenced sections agree with the information location in your plan.
* Insert page breaks so that when printed you can organize the plan in a binder, separated into tabbed sections. This will also make page replacement easier when the plan is updated.
* Send us a hard copy and an electronic version. The electronic version can be sent via email to your company’s Oil Spill Preparedness Planner at Ecology. Send the hard copy to:

Ecology Spill Prevention, Preparedness & Response

PO Box 47600

Olympia, WA 98504-7600

**This ends the instruction pages. The next page is the start of the sample plan.**

# Wildlife Response Plan

Wildlife Response Contacts

|  |
| --- |
| Wildlife Response Service Provider |
| WRSP company name |  | 24 hour contact number |
| Additional responder contacts  | Position/location | Phone number |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Primary Response Contractor |
| PRC company name |  | 24 hour contact number |
| Additional responder contacts | Position/location | Phone number |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Marine Mammal Monitoring and Deterrence |
| NOAA | Lynn Barre | 206-718-3807 |
| WDFW | Oil Spill Team | 360-534-8233 |
| IOSA | Patrick Kirby | 360-378-7454 |
| Trustee Agency Resources |
| Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Oil Spill Team | Duty Officer pager | 360-534-8233 |
| Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, State Veterinarian | Kristin Mansfield, Kristin.mansfield@dfw.wa.gov  | 509-998-2023 |
| Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, State Veterinarian | Colin Gillin, Colin.m.gillin@state.or.us  | 541-757-5232 |
| US Fish and Wildlife Service Permit Biologist | Leslie Henry | 503-872-2715 |
| NOAA West Coast Regional Stranding Coordinator | Kristin Wilkinson, Kristin.wilkinson@noaa.gov  | 206-526-4747 |
| NOAA National Stranding and Emergency Response Coordinator | Sarah Wilkin, sarah.wilkin@noaa.gov  | 301-427-8402 |

# Section 1: Wildlife Response Purpose and Organization

## 1.1 Introduction

The primary goals of theWildlife Response Plan are to ensure that oiled wildlife response:

* Is conducted in a safe and effective manner for responders, animals, and the public.
* Is fully integrated into the overall spill response and ICS structure.
* Provides resources in a timely manner to minimize the impacts of an oil spill to wildlife.
* Provides best achievable capture and care for spill impacted wildlife based on the specific objectives of the Unified Command for the incident.

Additionally, the plan is designed to:

* Meet all requirements of (pick one: WAC 173-82-540 or WAC 173-186-370), and WAC 220-450-100 Planning standards for wildlife response and WDFW rehabilitation requirements.
* Provide clear details on the primary response contractor and wildlife response service provider resources required - including personnel, equipment and facilities - under contract to *insert company name* that will be available to carry out the incident specific plan that is developed by the Wildlife Branch and approved by the Unified Command.
* Outline tactical options that the plan holder’s contractors are skilled in executing and that can be used in developing the incident specific plan.

## 1.2 Plan Organization

The Plan is organized to be consistent with both the *insert company name* Contingency Plan and the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) in general, and the sections applying to wildlife specifically. These include Sections 9310 - Northwest Wildlife Response Plan, 9311 NW Area Wildlife Deterrence Resources, 9312 Oil Spill Marine Mammal Resources, 9313 Wildlife Branch Position Descriptions, and 9314 Potential Mobile Bird Rehabilitation Unit Deployment Locations in Coastal Counties.

# Section 2: Wildlife Response Organization

This plan is designed to be easily integrated into and consistent with the NWACP and utilizes the same organizational structure for Wildlife Response as laid out in Section 9310 v.21. It is not meant to duplicate or provide detailed information on all aspects of oiled wildlife response in an incident. It is intended to provide a high-level overview and refer to existing documents recognized and utilized by NW Area Committee and response community for more detailed information. The Wildlife Branch operates within the Operations Section with close cooperation and communication with the Environmental Unit within the Planning Section. Wildlife Response is divided into three groups under the direction of and reporting to the Wildlife Branch Director. As shown in the Wildlife Branch Organizational Chart below (following the NW Wildlife Response Plan) the groups are: 1. Wildlife Reconnaissance, 2. Bird Recovery and Rehabilitation, and 3. Marine Mammal Recovery and Rehabilitation. Each of these groups have a number of responsibilities and may be broken into a number of units to address the unique needs of each response.



The Wildlife Branch will work utilizing oiled wildlife response protocols that are recognized as best practice and have been utilized and improved in hundreds of responses throughout the world over the last 30 years. These protocols are consistent with the NWACP and are repeatedly referenced within it. They are also consistent with the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council’s Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation (4th edition 2012). They include NOAA’s Pinniped and Cetacean Oil Spill Response Guidelines (2015), Oil Spill Emergency Response Killer Whale – Hazing Implementation Plan (2014) and Supporting Information for the Killer Whale Section of the Northwest Wildlife, and *your contracted WRSP* Protocols for the Care of Oil Impacted Wildlife.

# Section 3: Initial Response Actions

## 3.1 Activation of the Wildlife Branch

Under the NWACP, the Wildlife Branch is activated when an oil spill is in the vicinity of wildlife resources or has a trajectory that puts them at risk. Initial activation may be only a Wildlife Branch Director if the risk is thought to be low at the outset. The policy of the NW Area Committee is that USFWS will fill the role of Director and Deputy Director of the Wildlife Branch unless they delegate those roles to other parties. As stated in the NW Area Wildlife Plan, “unless otherwise indicated by USFWS, the Wildlife Branch Director position will be delegated to the WDFW for spills that occur within the legal boundaries of Washington State. *Insert WRSP name*, an authorized Wildlife Response Service Provider (WRSP) recognized by Washington Department of Ecology can provide staff experienced as Director and Deputy Director of the Wildlife Branch. Based on the staffing policy of the NWACP, WRSP personnel could take the role of deputy Wildlife Branch Director working alongside a branch director from WDFW. Once a Wildlife Branch Director is in place, they will determine the specific immediate priorities. The following actions are typical initial priorities in oiled wildlife response.

## 3.2 Assessment of Potential Impacts and Initial Mitigation Strategies

### 3.2.1 Determine Current Known Impacts to Wildlife

Initial data collation efforts will include actively collecting and evaluating any current reports of oiled wildlife. In some incidents the initial responders, members of the public, or local agencies may see or even collect some oiled wildlife before the Wildlife Branch is activated. An initial decision will be made on how to respond to both reports and animals in hand. The state of Washington has an oiled wildlife hotline 800-22-BIRDS tied to a voice mail system. Plan holders may also notify the Washington Emergency Management Division prior to an ICP being established at 800 258-5990 for generic reporting of oiled wildlife. *If your contracted WRSP has a pre-established oiled wildlife reporting phone number insert here.* Once activated, this can be quickly supported by live personnel to provide near real time reports of oiled animals to wildlife field personnel.

### 3.2.2 Development of Initial Wildlife Reconnaissance and Monitoring Plan

An early priority will be acquiring real time information on species and number of animals in the response area. This should include species activities such as feeding, breeding, nesting and daily movements throughout the area if possible, but the highest priority will be to quickly gain a broad overview to help in the planning and prioritization of initial deterrence and recovery efforts. Aerial surveys will provide a good general picture - especially if the observer is experienced in identifying wildlife from the air are considered best practice. If dedicated aerial wildlife resources are not available, a seat on an overflight conducting spill trajectory observations may be. Insert a reference to your contracted air support services and provider that could be utilized.

### 3.2.3 Evaluations of Wildlife Deterrence Options

In many responses, there may be opportunities to keep wildlife from becoming oiled. Keeping animals away from oil is always a better alternative than recovery and rehabilitation. A number of factors will determine the likely success of deterrence including species, species’ activities, topography, places of refuge, and availability of equipment and personnel. While the Wildlife Deterrence Units as defined in the NW Wildlife Response Plan will probably not be immediately up and running, much of this information can be gathered and prioritized during initial assessment/reconnaissance and can be evaluated quickly by the Wildlife Branch Director or Trustee Agency personnel in the Environmental Unit. Even if it is determined that there are no viable deterrence strategies initially available, there should be continuous evaluation throughout the response to ensure opportunities to prevent oiling are not missed. Details on avian deterrence techniques can be found in Bird Hazing Manual: Techniques and Strategies for Dispersing Birds from Spill Sites, Gorenzel and Salmon, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 21638. A link to the downloadable pdf can be found at <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/21638.pdf>. The contracted WRSP (insert name) and PRC (insert name) maintains wildlife deterrence resources such as flags, effigies, and canons. Staging locations and equipment details can be found on the WRRL and in the state approved applications.

### 3.2.4 Evaluation of the Use of Preemptive Capture Options

Preemptive capture is another method for keeping animals from becoming oiled. It involves capture and either holding animals in captivity or translocated outside of the projected response area until the risk of oiling is gone. As described in the NW Wildlife Response Plan, preemptive capture may be considered in cases where there are very high priority species that can be safely captured and maintained in captivity or if translocated will not immediately return to the site of the response

### 3.2.5 Evaluate Potential for Impacts Across State Borders

If the possibility of impacts to wildlife across state borders (including wildlife oiled on one side that then travels to the other side) a contact should be implemented to determine how best to ensure an efficient response while meeting expectation of both the trustee agencies of both states. Selected contacts for the Oregon Depart of Wildlife are shown in the contact table. If there is a recognized threat, there may already be representatives present in the Environmental Unit.

## 3.3 Draft Initial Wildlife Response Plan for Submission to Planning Section

An initial response plan will most likely be drafted by the Wildlife Branch Director based on initial information from the callout or notification if animals have already been reported to be oiled or in the area. Ideally this person will be familiar with the NWACP - specifically Section 9310 which provides a wealth of information to assist in development of the initial plan.

This initial plan should include resources needed for the initial assessment, deterrence, recovery of oiled wildlife, transport, field stabilization and primary care based on the current needs and, if possible, the anticipated needs of the first 24-72 hours. It should include all wildlife taxa and species for all Wildlife Branch activities and should be based on a real-time assessment of needed and available resources. Specifically, it should:

* Identify site(s) for staging of Deterrence, Recovery, Transport and if appropriate Field Stabilization.
* Provide for activation of initial personnel and equipment resources.
* Gather initial resources at risk information through the Environmental Unit, ICS form 232 or directly from Chapter 6 of the appropriate Geographic Response Plan (GRP). Links to specific Washington Department of Ecology GRPs can be found at <https://www.oilspills101.wa.gov>.
* Identify site(s) for Wildlife Rehabilitation Facilities.
* List initial prioritized tasks expected to be carried out in the operating period.
* Provide a Wildlife Branch Organization Chart (ICS 203).
* Include a Wildlife Branch-specific safety plan.
* The Wildlife Response plan must be evaluated on a regular basis and updated throughout the response to reflect the changing information, circumstances and priorities as the response evolves.

## 3.4 Killer Whale Reconnaissance, Monitoring, and Deterrence

(This section is required by WAC 173-182-540. It is not required by WAC 173-186)

Southern Resident killer whales are listed as endangered both by the state and the federal government. Minimizing any impacts from an oil spill is an extremely high priority. The WAC 173-182-540 (2) b-d regulations list specific requirements for a plan covering area of potential impacts of whales which may include Southern Resident killer whales. It requires the ability to provide reconnaissance and monitoring of whales outside of the immediate spill area, which has been defined by NOAA as within 20-30 miles relative to the spill or spill trajectory. Identification of whales to the level needed to effectively respond requires specialized personnel and the proper equipment. Both boat and air surveys should be anticipated. Section 9310.10.2.4 of the NW Wildlife Plan provides guidance on killer whale response and links to further guidance documents provided by NOAA to the NW Area Committee that detail appropriate personnel and methods. These include Supporting Information for the Killer Whale section of the Northwest Wildlife Response Plan, which provides contact details for organizations able to identify killer whales to ecotype, pod and individual as well as contact details for deterrence equipment stored at NOAA offices in Seattle, and Oil Spill Emergency Killer Whale Hazing Implementation Plan, which provides guidance on methods for deterrence including pre-approved methods in situations where immediate action is necessary. Such pre-approved methods include helicopters, Oikomi pipes and underwater firecrackers (seal bombs). Information on resourcing this equipment is provided in Section 5.1.1 Specialized Equipment Resources Killer Whale Reconnaissance, Monitoring and Deterrence.

# Section 4: Post Emergency Phase Response Actions

Much of an oiled wildlife response occurs in what can be considered the post emergency phase once the initial plan has been approved, resources are in place, and the range of Wildlife Branch activities appropriate to the incident are taking place. These activities include:

## 4.1 Reconnaissance

Daily reconnaissance activities should be done to identify oiled and unoiled wildlife in the spill response area as well as surrounding areas to identify opportunities for deterrence of unoiled wildlife and recovery of oiled wildlife and document impacts of the oil spill and the response on animals in the region. In addition to normal reconnaissance activities, in some areas there will be the need for monitoring of whales, including Southern Resident killer whales well beyond the immediate operational area of the response. Whale deterrence beyond the area of normal operations may be required to minimize impacts and to increase chances of desired outcomes.

## 4.2 Preventing Secondary Oiling Impacts

Preventing secondary oiling impacts should always be done where possible through deterrence and collection of oiled carcasses that may attract predators and/or scavengers. This should include consistent evaluation of opportunities to keep animals from becoming oiled and effectively execute incident specific appropriate techniques keeping unimpacted animals out of the impacted area.

## 4.3 Documenting Impacts

Wildlife impacts must be documented through reconnaissance and collection and processing of oiled carcasses and of live oiled animals. Wildlife recovery teams should be supervised and deployed in an effective and efficient manner utilizing all available information on wildlife movements and activities and matching that information with appropriate techniques, personnel and equipment. Safety and effectiveness of alternative techniques should be continually evaluated, such as on water capture, night operations and trapping.

## 4.4 Field Stabilization

Decisions on whether to institute stabilization care in the field followed by transport to designated rehabilitation facilities, or simply have recovery personnel transport animals directly, must be made and enacted. Early field stabilization begins to reverse the effects of oiling as quickly as possible. Whenever transport is undertaken, appropriate vehicles to safely transport oiled wildlife to the primary care facility must be used (e.g., climate-controlled enclosed vehicles for oiled birds). The PRC has a stabilization trailer to support this function. Trailer details and staging information can be found in the WRRL.

## 4.5 Rehabilitation Care

Details on taxa-specific rehabilitation techniques are documented in other protocols, but all must accomplish the following:

* Document oil impacts and evaluate physical condition for each individual animal.
* Provide stabilization care to ensure fitness for removing oil.
* Remove oil, all cleaning solution residue, and dry plumage or pelage.
* Restore the condition of oiled animals to promote survival and normal behavior in the wild.
* Evaluate fitness for release, in consultation with trustee agencies determine site of release and place permanent marking as appropriate and permitted.
* Transport to release site and release.

## 4.6 Post-release Studies

In collaboration with trustee agencies, post release study opportunities and priorities, such as radio telemetry or color marking, should be discussed as early in the response as feasible. Even where active post-released studies are ruled out, permanent marking of released wildlife should be done following USFWS and NOAA guidelines.

## 4.7 Demobilization

A plan for demobilization or downscaling of the Wildlife Branch should be begun midway through the response. Due to the nature of the impacts of oiling on different species the Wildlife Branch may last longer than most other areas of the response, continuing until all wildlife has been released from the rehabilitation facility or determined to be un-releasable and transferred to permanent care or euthanized. There should be regular evaluation to ensure that the Wildlife Branch is right sized to meet the current objectives of the Unified Command for the Wildlife Branch.

# Section 5: Wildlife Response Resources

## 5.1 Personnel Resources for Wildlife Response

Describe your contracts with applicable wildlife response service providers to provide oiled wildlife planning and response services. Include their ability to provide qualified personnel to staff positions within the Wildlife Branch. Reference their applications for more information.

Finally, Section 9312 of the NWACP - Marine Mammal Resources lists organizations and personnel that have significant experience and expertise in marine mammal capture, handling, deterrence, transport and husbandry.

### 5.1.1 Specialized Personnel Resources for Killer Whale Reconnaissance, Monitoring, and Deterrence

Sections 9311 and 9312 of the Northwest Area Plan list a number of resources to provide marine mammal specialist personnel to be utilized in killer whale Reconnaissance, Monitoring and Deterrence. Cascadia Research Collective located centrally in Olympia; Washington can be reached at 360-943-7325. Cascadia Research Collective has extensive experience to provide capable personnel in this area.

## 5.2 Wildlife Equipment and Facilities Resources

Some of the equipment and facility resources needed in oiled wildlife response are very specific to wildlife and some (such as boats and aircraft) are utilized in many areas of the response. Contracts with primary response contractors provide access to a wide range of equipment and supplies including boats, aircraft and personal protection equipment (PPE) that can be utilized for oiled wildlife response. *Insert company name* contracts with *insert name(s) of applicable primary response contractors* include the use of their wildlife response equipment. These wildlife equipment stockpiles include specialized equipment for use in recovery and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife. While the equipment has been selected to meet initial needs for birds it can be utilized for a variety of species. A detailed equipment list can be accessed via the Worldwide Response Resource List (WRRL) at [www.wrrl.world](http://www.wrrl.world).

### 5.2.1 Field Stabilization

Field Stabilization is generally the first step in reversing the effects of oiling and requires space and equipment to evaluate wildlife, provide first aid such as supplemental heat and fluids and hold them safely prior to transport to the wildlife rehabilitation facility. Describe the field stabilization equipment you have access to through your primary response contractor.

### 5.2.2 Mobile Rehabilitation Units (MRU)

Describe your contracted access to mobile rehabilitation units and the overall capacity. Include requirements for operational environment. You can include a reference to NWACP Section 9314- Potential Mobile Bird Rehabilitation Unit Deployment Locations in Coastal Counties and identify your preferred option.

### 5.2.3 Specialized Equipment for Killer Whale Reconnaissance, Monitoring, and Deterrence

*Insert company name* contract with *insert appropriate primary response contractor name* provides air support that could be used for Wildlife Monitoring and Deterrence. The WRRL also lists Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Partenavia P68C/TC, a model which is regularly used by a number of trustees for wildlife surveys.

Deterrence equipment - The three methods for killer whale deterrence that have been pre-approved by NOAA Fisheries in certain circumstances are herding/hazing by helicopter, Oikomi pipes, and underwater firecrackers. A set of Oikomi pipes owned by NOAA are stored at IOSA in Friday Harbor. IOSA’s can be contacted through Patrick Kirby 360 378-7454. WDFW has additional pipes stored in Olympia. NOAA has underwater firecrackers and other marine mammal deterrence equipment in Seattle and can be contacted through Lynne Barre at 206-718-3807.