

Thursday, August 19, 2010

## Status Report

486 personnel are actively engaged in the response, working to protect wildlife and their habitats, including 36 national wildlife refuges. They are also assessing the damage from the oil spill in preparation for the work that will be needed to restore the Gulf of Mexico.

State and federal wildlife teams have captured alive 1,941 visibly oiled birds. Of those, 849 have been rehabilitated and released. In addition, 4,432 visibly oiled birds have been collected dead.

343 sea turtle hatchlings were released on Florida's East Coast Wednesday from nests that had been relocated from the northern Gulf of Mexico.

In Louisiana, oiled and displaced boom continue to pose problems. Birds were surveyed perching on oiled booms at numerous locations. At South Pass beach, evidence of shorebird foraging – including that of the threatened piping plover -- was found in an area with tar balls.

In Alabama, new oil sheen was observed at the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge's Perdue Unit, with the heaviest oil on the east boundary at Mobile Street boardwalk to Ivan cut. Also this week, the Sensitive Lands Group met with the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and BP to finalize guidance on hand operations and mechanized equipment use to clean oil off Bon Secour.