

The NRDA Bird Team and FWS Law Enforcement (OLE) Work Together to address impacts to Migratory Birds in an Oil Spill in the Pacific Northwest.

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Objectives of NRDA

- Assessing injury to natural resources (migratory birds) with a focus on returning natural resources to pre-spill conditions.



Objectives of OLE

Collection of evidence when a criminal charge for violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or the Endangered Species Act may be filed.

Shared Interests: Data/Evidence along with its documentation must be collected and handled in a legally defensible manner.

A chain of custody is REQUIRED for all "evidence".

The NRDA and OLE both need Elements of Proof that :

1. A Migratory Bird was impacted.
2. The cause of injury was from oil contamination (NRDA must also prove their was a "pathway" to expose the injured bird to the released oil).
3. The oil on the bird must be chemically fingerprinted to the oil spilled by the Responsible Party.





Spills Happen

**Natural Resource
Damage
Assessment and
Restoration
(NRDAR)**

**Oil Spill Response
Incident Command
System**

**Law Enforcement
Investigations**

Liasion(s)

When NRDA and OLE are both involved in a spill response in Washington, they plan to coordinate on data/evidence collection and share Evidence Custodian duties.

Shared Interests - NRDA & OLE



Document Impacts to Trust Species in a Legally Defensible Manner



The General Public Are Encouraged To Report BUT NOT Collect Impacted Wildlife.



Only Trained And Properly Equipped "Volunteers" Authorized To Collect Wildlife.