Geographic Response Plans:
Comparison and Recommendations

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Background: Use and Development of GRPs

What is a GRP?

A GRP is a site-specific strategy for the initial response to a spill of oil or oil products on water

What is the purpose of a GRP?

A GRP provides initial guidelines for responders in the event of spill, greatly reducing the time needed to make decisions about how to respond.

Why create GRPs?

A GRP gives responders the information they need to ensure that response to a spill is fast and effective while protecting sensitive resources threatened by the spill.

Development: Creation of GRPs

How are GRPs developed?

A GRP is the result of a planning process. Representatives from various levels of government, response groups, resource specialists, and industry work together to identify the best ways to minimize damage to sensitive natural, cultural, and economic resources.

Where are they developed?

Locations are identified based on the Presence of sensitive resources that could be adversely affected in places where the risk of a spill is significant. Natural conditions of the location affect choices, as well.

Development: Criteria

What resources are considered?

- Sensitive species and habitat
- Water intakes
- Culturally significant sites and landmarks
- Economic resources, such as marinas, fisheries, or parks
- Potential spill sources

What conditions are considered?

- River conditions
- Seasonal weather changes
- Accessibility of site
- Responder safety
- Shoreline sensitivity to oil

Comparison
of Existing GRPs

Purpose of comparison

Many agencies and states have developed GRPs. Various approaches have been developed to present similar information. Comparing the various approaches is an effort to define 'minimum components' for GRP development. This comparison considers only inland response, coastal strategies are not included.

Comparing these approaches has shown that many elements are common to all, and could form the basis of a more uniform approach. This could provide a framework upon which existing GRPs can be shared, and could facilitate further strategy development.

USCG Western Lake Superior

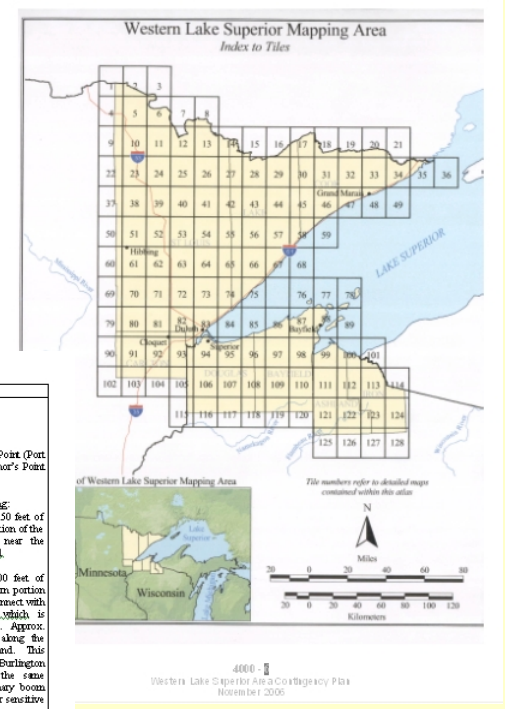
General

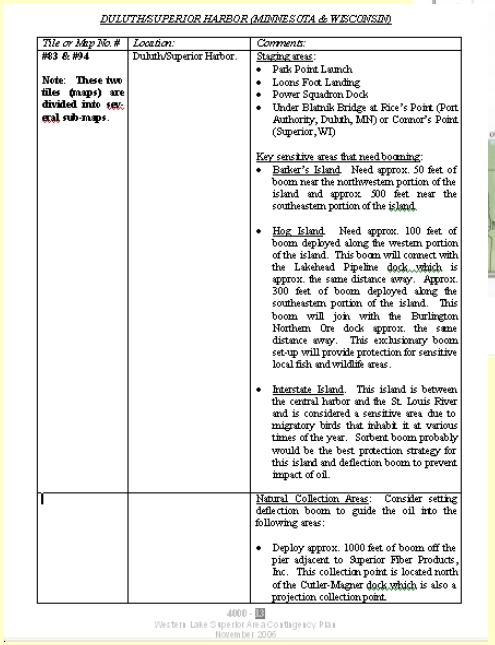
Strategies in a narrative format.

Additional useful information is included in other sections of the Area Contingency Plan.

Strategy contents:

- Boom length
- Sensitive resources present
- Site priority
- Accessibility, Staging
- Field visit details





DULUTH/SUPERIOR HARBOR (MINNESOTA & WISCONSIN)

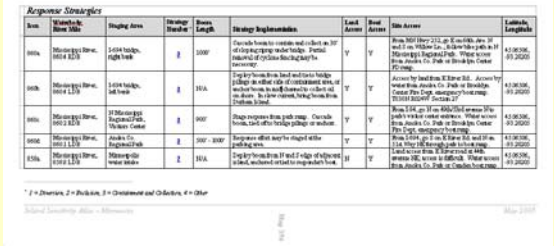
Tile or Map No. #	Location:	Comments:
#83 & #94 Note: These two tiles (maps) are divided into several sub-maps.	Duluth/Superior Harbor.	Staging areas: • Park Point Launch • Loons Foot Landing • Power Squadron Dock • Under Blatnik Bridge at Rice's Point (Port Authority, Duluth, MN) or Connor's Point (Superior, WI) Key sensitive areas that need booming: • Barker's Island. Need approx. 50 feet of boom near the northwestern portion of the island and approx. 500 feet near the southeastern portion of the island. • Hog Island. Need approx. 100 feet of boom deployed along the western portion of the island. This boom will connect with the Lakehead Pipeline dock, which is approx. the same distance away. Approx. 300 feet of boom deployed along the southeastern portion of the island. This boom will join with the Burlington Northern Ore dock approx. the same distance away. This exclusionary boom set-up will provide protection for sensitive local fish and wildlife areas. • Interstate Island. This island is between the central harbor and the St. Louis River and is considered a sensitive area due to migratory birds that inhabit it at various times of the year. Sorbent boom probably would be the best protection strategy for this island and deflection boom to prevent impact of oil.
		Natural Collection Areas: Consider setting deflection boom to guide the oil into the following areas: • Deploy approx. 1000 feet of boom off the pier adjacent to Superior Fiber Products, Inc. This collection point is located north of the Cutler-Magner dock which is also a projection collection point.

4000 - 3
Western Lake Superior Area Contingency Plan
November 2006

US EPA Region 5

General

Strategies in a tabular and database format.
Supplement Sub-Area Contingency Plans
Developed in tandem with Inland Sensitivity Atlas.
Some developed as a stand-alone product.



Strategy contents:

- Boom length
- Sensitive resources present
- Latitude/Longitude
- Accessibility, Staging
- Emergency contacts
- Field visit details
- Link to general approaches
- Photos (some areas)

US EPA Region 9

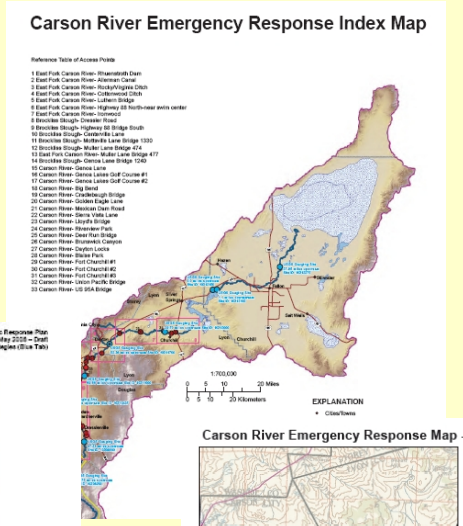
General

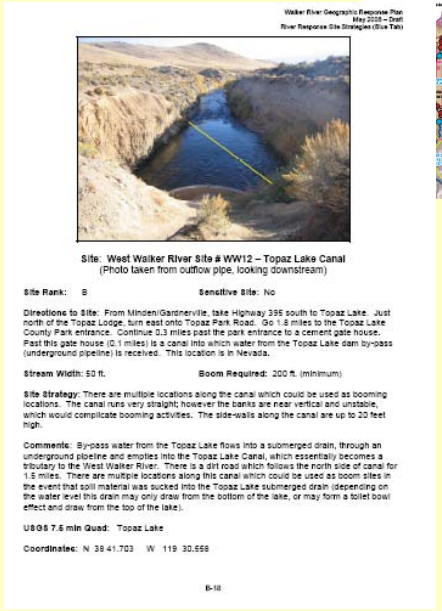
Strategies in a narrative format.

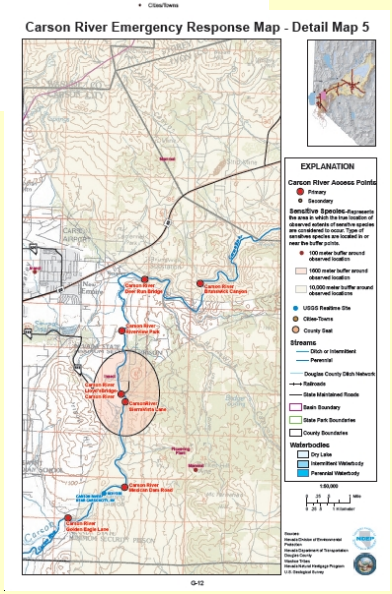
Additional useful information is included in other sections of the document.

Strategy contents:

- Boom length
- Sensitive resources present
- Site priority
- Accessibility
- USGS Quadrangle
- Field visit comments
- Photos (some areas)







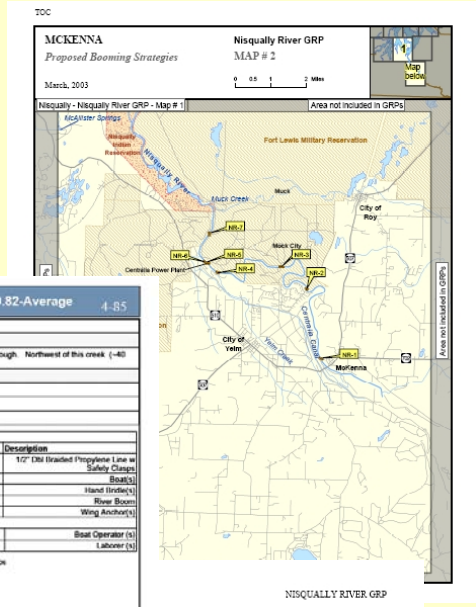
US EPA Region 10 and Washington State

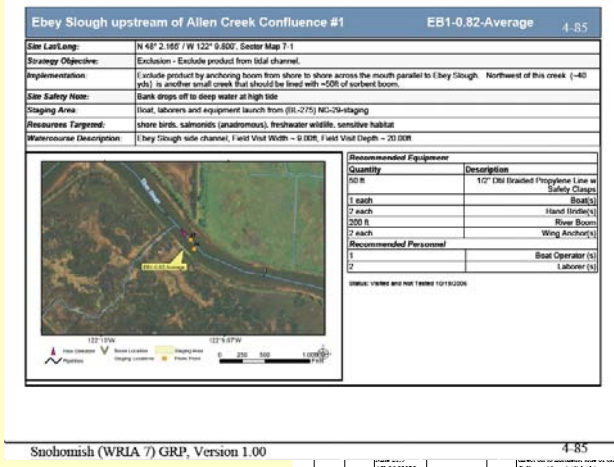
General

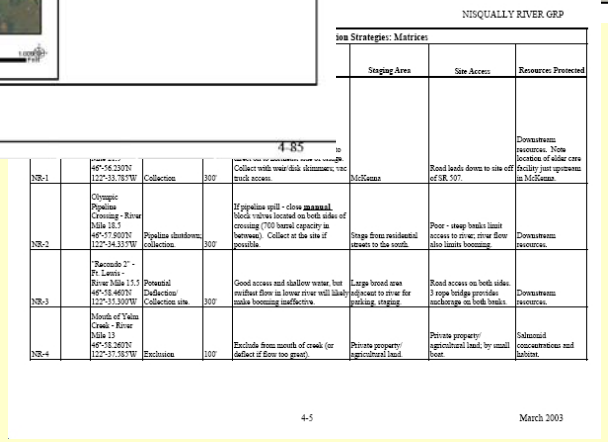
Strategies in tabular and database format.

Custom software interface.

Additional useful information is included in the GRP for that basin.







- Boom length
- Sensitive resources present
- Site priority
- Accessibility, Staging
- Watercourse details
- Equipment recommendations
- Field visit details
- Latitude/Longitude

Recommendations
for Minimum GRP Content

Purpose of Recommendations

An opportunity exists to pursue more consistency in how GRPs are presented and what information they convey. Recommending common approaches to developing and presenting response strategy information can provide a framework upon which further GRPs can be developed and shared.

The comparison of various approaches has revealed numerous elements shared by all. These provide the core information upon which to build a standard format for presenting GRPs. This 'minimum content' framework can be used to facilitate sharing of information as well as guide the development of new GRPs.

Recommended Basic Elements to Include in a Standard Format

Orientation:

- Overview map
- Map tiles

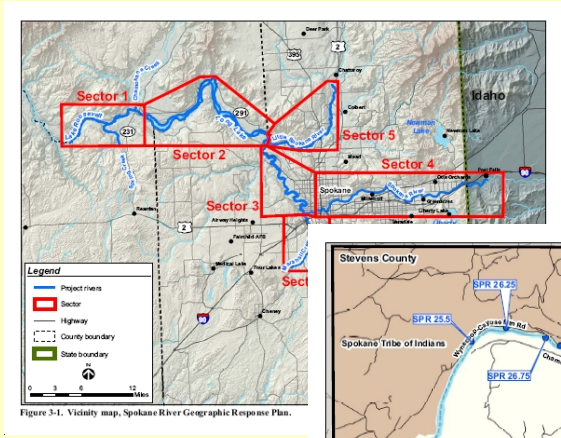


Figure 3-1. Vicinity map, Spokane River Geographic Response Plan.

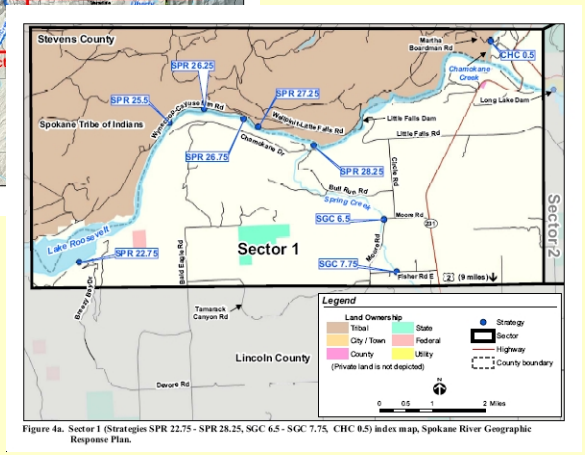


Figure 4a. Sector 1 (Strategies SPR 22.75 - SPR 28.25, SGC 6.5 - SGC 7.75, CHC 0.5) index map, Spokane River Geographic Response Plan.

Response Strategy:

- Detailed strategy description
- Directions and Location Description
- Boom requirements
- Resources to protect or consider
- Resource manager or trustee contact information

Recommended Optional Elements to Include in a Standard Format

Orientation:

- Hyperlinks from Overview map to map tiles
- Hyperlinks from map tiles to strategies
- Display of sensitive resources and aerial imagery

Response Strategy:

- USGS quadrangle or reference map
- Nearest equipment cache
- Nearest staging area
- River or stream width and flow data
- Photographs of the site
- Relative site priority
- River miles

Further Developments

Data Structure

The recommendations for the content of GRPs are still a work in progress. One area that needs to be addressed is defining the structure of the data. While GRPs are developed with many common elements, it may prove difficult to prescribe an optimal data structure. Different agencies will have different priorities, and may have varied ideas about what or how much should be included in any particular element. Because of this, data definitions will need to be flexible. To be useful for new GRP developers, it will be beneficial to provide context to help users understand why certain data have been defined the way they are.

Conclusions

Content

There are enough common elements within the various GRPs to develop a standardized list of contents. The recommended format provides those developing GRPs with a framework to guide their efforts. Crucial, core information must be included for a strategy to be viable. Additional information that is useful, but that may not be available for all areas, should also be included.

Presentation

Individual agencies should decide how to best present the information to their users. At base, content must be provided so that key information is easily read. A balance should be found between the amount of information shown and how succinctly it is presented.

Questions / Comments

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