Cooperation and Collaboration in the Service of Natural Resource Protection During Pollution Response:
Agencies Working Together in Region IX

Submitted by the Department of the Interior
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Oakland
Presented by Patricia Port, Regional Environmental Officer
Protecting our Resources

- Funding & personnel time very limited due to shrinking budgets & expanded mandates

- Collaboration Improves Quality and Efficiency
  - Federal
  - State
  - Local Communities
Resource Trustees

- Preparedness planning is aligned with Department of the Interior’s (DOI) mission
- As resource trustees, the Bureaus within DOI have information & special training to contribute to contingency planning
- The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) provides coordination between the bureaus within DOI
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Region IX

- Protecting resources & providing environmental policy guidance in the public’s interest
- Coordinates between diverse bureaus to provide clear & consistent resource information & priorities to contingency planners
US Bureau of Reclamation

protect water and related resources in an environmentally
and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public

- Waterways can carry a spill & increase damages if not contained quickly

- BOR can provide information about water flows, reservoirs, & possible equipment
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Region IX

working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people

- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Migratory Bird Flyways
- Knowledge, Experience, Priorities
US Bureau of Indian Affairs, Region IX
fulfill its trust responsibilities and promote self-determination on behalf of Tribal Governments, American Indians and Alaska Natives

- BIA can supply information about land ownership, populations at risk in the case of a spill, & provide coordination between tribes & US government

- BIA ensures that tribes have a voice in the planning process
Case Study Region IX: Truckee River Geographic Response Plan

- Recently completed by EPA
- Developed through collaborative workshops
- Identify resources that require protection
- Develop operational strategies
- Pinpoint logistical support
Case Study Region IX: Lower Colorado Area Contingency Plan

- Early coordination between bureaus in DOI
- List of bureau contacts
- Participated in planning activities
Case Study Region IX: Upper Sacramento Area Contingency Plan

- Upper Sacramento River is a priority for DOI – high number of spills increases vulnerability of resources in area
- Transportation routes near or over rivers increases risk of spill impacting public resources
- Cantara Loop, one of 107 crossings of the Sacramento River has a history of spills
A Need for Updates

- Many Area Contingency Plans in Region IX are 10+ years old

- Updating provides changes in information such as:
  - Changes in land status
  - Improvements in technology
  - Changes in agency roles or staff
  - Up-to-date information on equipment & resource priorities
US Bureau of Land Management
sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands
for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations

- A Need for Updates: Changes in Land Status
- National Monuments: management plans
US Geological Survey

providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand
the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters;
manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance
and to protect our quality of life

- A Need for Updates:
  Technological Advances
- USGS utilizes new
  mapping technology &
data collection techniques
  that will improve
  contingency planning
documents
Collaboration, Cooperation, Success

- Spill Response Preparedness aligns with all agency goals:
  - DOI
  - All DOI bureaus
  - OEPC
- Coordination and sharing of information
- Continued revision and updates
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Regional Environmental Officers

**Albuquerque**
REO Stephen Spencer
(505) 766-3565

**Anchorage**
REO Pamela Bergmann
(907) 271-5011

**Atlanta**
REO Gregory L. Hogue
(404) 331-4524

**Boston**
REO Andrew L. Raddant
(617) 223-8565

**Headquarters**
Director Willie Taylor
(202) 208-3891

**Denver**
Robert F. Stewart
(303) 445-2500

**Philadelphia**
Michael Chezik
(215) 597-9845

**Portland**
REO Preston Sleeger
(503) 231-6157
Cooperation and Collaboration in the Service of Natural Resource Protection During Pollution Response:
Agencies Working Together in Region IX

Patricia Port,
Regional Environmental Officer, Region IX
(510) 817-1477
OEPCSFN@aol.com

Thank you for your time