



# Refugio Response Joint Information Center

## Natural Resource Damage Assessment

### What is Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)?

Agencies responsible for the protection and restoration of natural resources collect the data needed to determine injuries to the natural environment.

### What do NRDA teams do?

- Begin immediate gathering of information to determine the extent of the damage to impacted natural resources.
- Gather time-critical data on injury to fish, wildlife, and habitats, and impacts to visitors including for beach use and shoreline recreation.
  - Exposure may include:
    - Kelp beds/seagrasses, rocky intertidal habitat, and sandy beaches
    - Birds, crustaceans, fish, invertebrates, mussels and marine mammals
    - Lost recreational use at public beaches and State Parks
  - This time-critical data is important to determine what natural resources have been exposed to oil from the Refugio spill, or may be impacted by clean-up activities.

The NRDA ultimate goal is to restore damaged resources and to compensate all impacts to public resources.

### The Agencies conducting Natural Resource Damage Assessment at the Plains Pipeline, L.P. spill include:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife -Office of Spill Prevention and Response
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management

### Assessment steps:

- Collect time-critical data
  - Over 100 environmental samples have been collected
  - Focus on documenting information about degree of oiling in important habitats and to observe dead and oiled wildlife and other impacts
- Partner with other scientists and experts from the University of California, California State University, and elsewhere to assist in assessment
- Work with Plains Pipeline, L.P. on funding to implement restoration projects
- Trustees will seek public input to help guide development of a restoration plan with the goal of making the public whole for the losses of natural resources and their services due to the Refugio spill.

For more information contact:

Joint Information Center

(805) 770-3682

[www.refugioresponse.com](http://www.refugioresponse.com)

[reply@refugioresponse.com](mailto:reply@refugioresponse.com)