

TUESDAY, April 18, 1989

A rescuer's diary from Alaska

'It's a downhill slide, but you don't give up'

Cindy Westra, who nurses injured animals at her Seminole County home, left for Alaska April 7 to help wildlife injured when the tanker Exxon Valdez spilled 240,000 barrels of oil into Prince William Sound March 24. This is the second installment of her diary she kept at the otter rescue center in Valdez.

By Cindy Westra

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

4-14, Friday, 1:08 a.m. I am working the 4 p.m. to 12 a.m. shift but finding myself there all the time. Those poor little guys need us so much.

Never before have I seen a group of people like there is here. I've seen grown men cry. I've cried again tonight as I lost another otter. I've been working with No. 109 for the past four days that he's been here. I didn't dare name him, like I did Sweet Pea, a juvenile female doing well. He was heavily oiled when he came in and had ingested a lot.

I see the different stages of toxin poisoning here. Same as Orlando. Only difference is we've dealt with it for the past few years. Our waterways are so pol-

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