



Portland Harbor Draft Restoration Plan and EIS

Introduction

The Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), released on July 9, 2012, describes an approach to identifying restoration actions that would compensate for public losses caused by contamination in the Portland Harbor Superfund Study Area (SSA). Under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process, the Trustee Council's overall goal is to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and their services that have been injured by the contamination.

Integrated Habitat Restoration

Because there are several species that may have been injured by contamination at Portland Harbor, primarily Pacific salmon, bald eagle, and mink, the Trustee Council is proposing an approach to restoration that will provide benefits to all of the potentially injured species and help them recover. This integrated habitat restoration approach focuses on the habitat needs shared by these species, with a particular focus on juvenile Chinook salmon. The resulting integrated restoration likely will benefit other natural resources in Portland Harbor (see Trust Resources list). To ensure that restoration is strongly linked to the injury and that it will benefit potentially injured species, the Restoration Plan establishes a geographic boundary to guide the location of restoration projects (see Focus Area map).

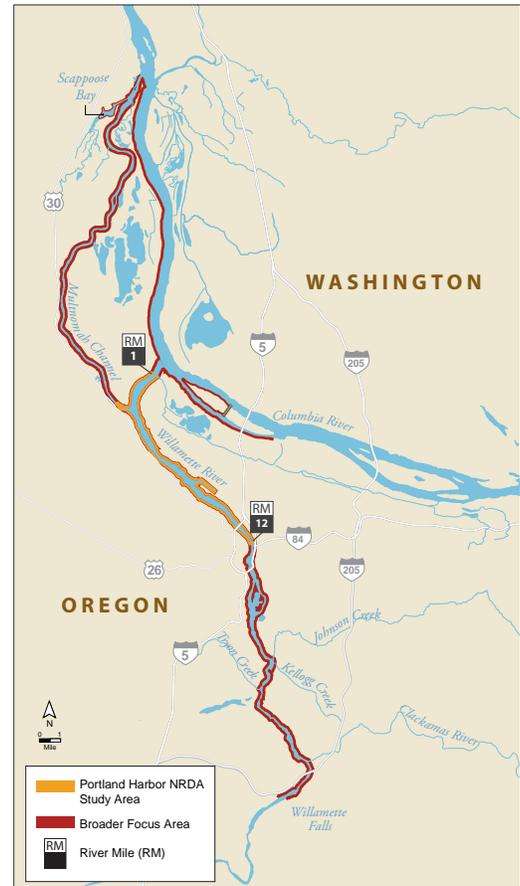
With the integrated habitat restoration approach, the Trustee Council seeks projects that do the following:

- Move toward more natural hydrology for the river
- Restore floodplain function
- Reestablish floodplain and riparian plant communities
- Improve aquatic and riparian habitat conditions
- Increase habitat complexity
- Restore habitat that provides ecological value in the landscape context (connectivity, patch size, shape and distance between different patches of habitat)
- Restore recreational services along the river while avoiding negative impacts to ecological restoration



Juvenile Chinook Salmon

Focus Area for Ecological Restoration



Trust Resources in Portland Harbor

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Pacific salmon | • Mergansers |
| • Pacific lamprey | • Cliff swallow |
| • White sturgeon | • Spotted sandpiper |
| • Bald eagle | • Mink |
| • Osprey | • River otter |
| • Double-crested cormorant | • Northern red-legged frog |
| • Great blue heron | • Pacific treefrog |
| • Belted kingfisher | |



Spotted Sandpiper



Pacific Lamprey



Bald Eagle



Roy W. Lowe

Mink



White Sturgeon

Restoration Priorities

The Trustee Council determined that restoration within Portland Harbor itself is the highest priority for restoration under NRDA. This determination was informed by the work of a panel of experts, convened by the Trustee Council in 2009. The Trustee Council's charge to the expert panel was to develop a scientific foundation for restoration planning based on the habitat needs of juvenile Chinook salmon. The Trustee Council's primary objectives for restoration in Portland Harbor include:

- Implement restoration that addresses natural resource injuries caused by hazardous substances and oil in Portland Harbor
- Provide a functioning and sustainable ecosystem for injured fish and wildlife
- Increase habitat function beyond existing conditions
- Integrate restoration strategies to increase the likelihood of success
- Coordinate NRDA restoration with other planning and restoration efforts to maximize benefits
- Involve the public in restoration planning and implementation

Project Planning, Implementation and Stewardship

The specific projects that will be implemented through settlements with potentially responsible parties are not yet known. Therefore, the Restoration Plan describes the process and approach for working with settling parties to move projects from conceptual design to successful implementation. Implementation of restoration projects may begin shortly after settlements are concluded, and may continue for several years as projects reach final design and all permitting requirements are completed. Active monitoring and maintenance activities are anticipated to continue for 10 years after project implementation. Long-term stewardship is expected to continue in perpetuity.

Project stewardship is a critical component of a restoration project's long-term success. Establishing performance criteria, monitoring plans and adaptive management strategies will allow the Trustee Council to determine if project goals and objectives are met. By requiring long-term stewardship at each restoration project, the Trustee Council will ensure that each restoration project continues to benefit injured resources long after the project is constructed.

We Want Your Feedback

Comments on the Draft Restoration Plan and EIS are welcome via mail or email. A comment form and the full Draft Restoration Plan and EIS are available at: www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Contaminants/PortlandHarbor.

Comments Due by 10/8/2012

Please send comments to:
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