

# PORTLAND HARBOR

*Natural Resource Trustee Council*



Artist's rendering depicting what the Alder Creek site will look like after restoration.

## Alder Creek Restoration Project

### **Creating habitat for fish and wildlife injured by contamination in the Portland Harbor Superfund site**

The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council is excited to announce the first habitat restoration project to address injuries related to contamination from the Portland Harbor Superfund site. During summer 2014 the habitat development company Wildlands will begin construction at the Alder Creek site to provide habitat for salmon, lamprey, mink, bald eagle, osprey, and other native fish and wildlife living in the area. The Alder Creek project will restore habitat that was once abundant but is now rare in this stretch of the highly industrialized Willamette River. The restoration project will include:

- Removing buildings, infrastructure, and fill from the floodplain
- Reshaping the riverbanks
- Planting trees, shrubs, and grasses
- Creating shallow water habitat
- Restoring beaches and wetlands

The aquatic habitats created will provide resting and feeding areas for young salmon and lamprey, as well as forage areas for birds. Along the shore, improved beaches, wetlands, and riparian habitat will provide access to food and water for mink. The forests will provide shelter and nesting opportunities for native birds and other wildlife.

## Site Background

The Alder Creek project is located on the southern tip of Sauvie Island in Portland, Oregon. The site was formerly occupied by a lumber mill. In 2012, a habitat development company called Wildlands purchased the property and began planning to restore habitat at the site. Wildlands intends to sell natural resource “credits” from the project to potentially responsible parties to help those parties meet their obligations for environmental damages resulting from contamination in the Superfund site.

Portland Harbor was designated as a national Superfund site in 2000. The Portland Harbor Superfund site is located in the Willamette River and along its shores, from the Broadway Bridge to Columbia Slough. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality are working with potentially responsible parties to clean up contaminated sediment and control sources of additional contamination. Cleaning up Portland Harbor is vitally important, but it doesn't cover everything. It does not completely restore natural resources or compensate the public for its inability to fully use those resources in the past. That's the purpose of restoration.

The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council (Trustee Council) is leading restoration in Portland Harbor. In 2002, the Trustee Council formed to develop and coordinate natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) activities at Portland Harbor and to plan restoration of injured natural resources. The NRDA process is separate from the EPA clean-up activities. Under NRDA, the Trustee Council is evaluating how natural resources - such as salmon, lamprey, mink, and bald eagle- were harmed by contamination over time, and is planning restoration to compensate the public for those losses.

As part of their restoration planning efforts, the Trustee Council identified numerous projects that could restore or replace natural resources that were injured at Portland Harbor. Alder Creek is one of those projects. The Trustee Council worked closely with Wildlands on the planning and design for the Alder Creek project to make sure that the benefits to Portland Harbor's injured resources are maximized.

## For more information

To learn more about the Alder Creek Restoration Project, restoration planning, and the Portland Harbor Superfund site, please visit the following websites:

- Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council  
<http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/contaminants/portlandharbor/>
- Wildlands <http://www.wildlandsinc.com/>
- Environmental Protection Agency's Portland Harbor website  
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/ph/Portland+Harbor+Superfund+Site>



Map showing Alder project within the Superfund Study Area.



Aerial photo of Alder Creek site prior to habitat restoration.



Chinook salmon, one of several potentially injured fish and wildlife species that will benefit from the Alder project.