
PORTLAND HARBOR
Natural Resource Trustee Council



Restoration Partners' Meeting
April 29, 2010

Agenda

- Introduction/site overview
- Role of Trustee Council
- Restoration planning overview
- Role of restoration partners
- Schedule and next steps
- Breakout groups discuss projects

Portland Harbor Overview

- Declared a Superfund site in 2000
- EPA and Potentially Responsible Parties investigating contamination and its effects
- Decision about clean-up expected in 2012
- Oregon DEQ working to reduce contamination entering the water from the land

Portland Harbor Overview

- Trustee Council formed in 2002 to coordinate natural resource damage assessment
- Evaluate how natural resources and services were harmed by contamination
- Develop a plan to compensate for losses (“make the public whole”)

Portland Harbor Overview

• Trustee Council responsibilities:

- Assess natural resource injuries caused by contaminants
- Quantify those injuries
- Seek compensation from the parties responsible for contamination
- Develop a plan to restore, rehabilitate, and/or replace injured natural resources

Natural Resource Trustee Council

- Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, Siletz, Grand Ronde Tribes
- Department of the Interior
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Overview: Site Background

● Study area: RM 1.9-11.8

- Since early 1900s, industries along Lower Willamette have released contaminants into river
- Contaminants of concern include PCBs, PAHs, metals, pesticides (DDT), dioxins, furans, others



Overview: Site Background

- Transported by surface water, sediment, and biota over time and space (pathways)
- Potentially exposed natural resources
 - Surface water and sediment
 - Groundwater
 - Geologic resources (soil)
 - Biological resources (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, plants, habitats)

Overview: Site Background

- The public values many potentially injured natural resources and services
 - Ecological: habitat, food, hydrologic system valued for beneficial use, inherent value
 - Tribal: unique services, uses and values for many tribal members
 - Recreational: fishing, boating, hiking, wildlife observation, etc.

Overview: Site Background

- Trust resources in Portland Harbor include:

- Fish (salmon, lamprey, sturgeon, other fish with recreation value/consumption advisories)
- Birds (bald eagle, osprey, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, belted kingfisher, merganser, cliff swallow, spotted sandpiper)
- Mammals (mink, river otter)
- Amphibians (Northern red-legged frog, Pacific tree frog)

Overview: Site Background

- Natural resource services in Portland Harbor include:
 - Habitat for trust resources
 - Commercial resource use
 - Recreational resource use (like fishing and swimming)
 - Non-consumptive uses (like wildlife viewing)
 - Existence value
 - Tribal uses and values

Restoration Planning

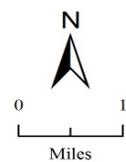
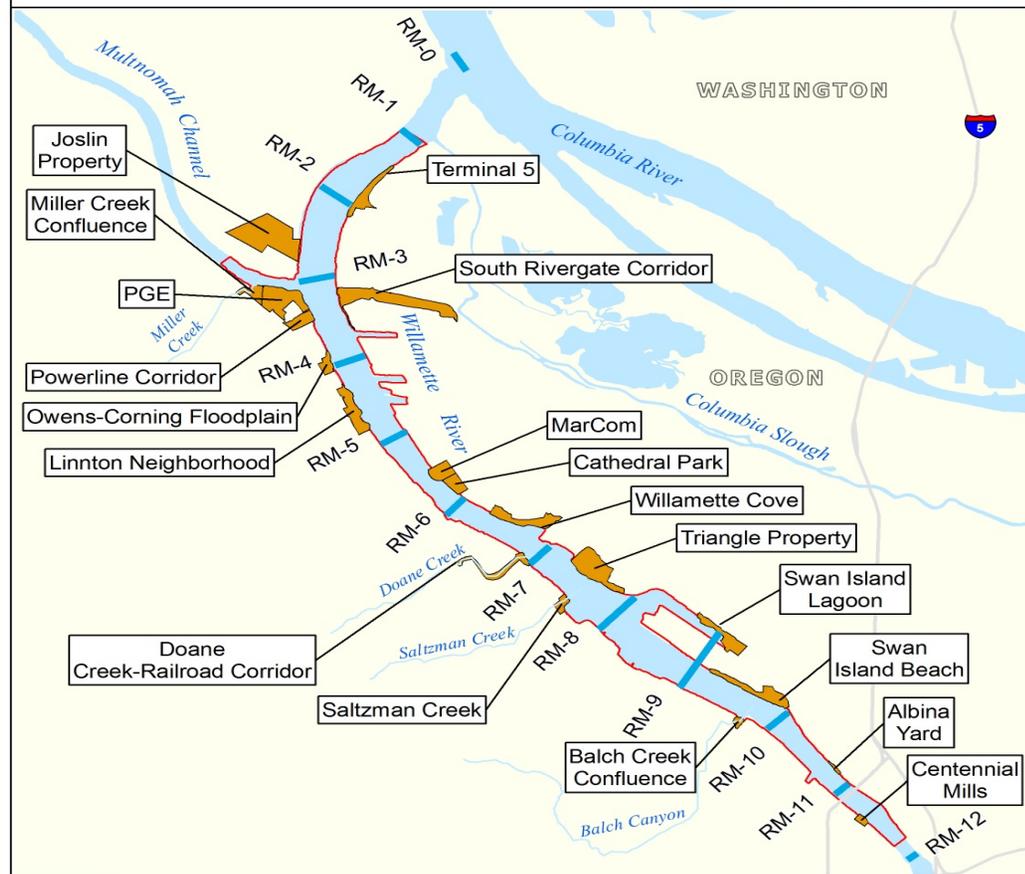
- NRDA Restoration planning underway since 2007
- Restoration planning goals:
 - Identify, evaluate and preserve high value restoration opportunities
 - Identify partners to help implement, monitor and maintain restoration sites
 - Solicit community input on potential restoration opportunities
 - Meet NEPA and other compliance requirements for restoration (Programmatic EIS)

Accomplishments

- Developed restoration project screening criteria for salmon, lamprey, sturgeon, osprey, bald eagle, spotted sandpiper and mink
- Applied screening criteria and identified 20+ potential restoration projects inside study area
- Developed conceptual designs for restoration inside the study area
- Convened “expert panel” to inform restoration planning for juvenile Chinook (may convene additional experts for other species)

Potential Restoration Site Map

Map prepared for Portland Harbor
Natural Resource Trustees



- Restoration Site
- River Mile Marker
- Portland Harbor Superfund Study Area

This map represents conceptual fish and wildlife habitat restoration opportunities which have been screened against criteria developed by the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustees. Further analysis of this site will occur to determine the feasibility, cost, and habitat value of the restoration concepts on a finer scale. This map was prepared using a geospatial database provided by the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services.

Efforts Underway

- Identify/evaluate ecological restoration opportunities
 - In addition to 20+ sites inside study area
- Identify/evaluate recreational restoration opportunities
 - Linked to the river and its natural resources (such as public access)
- Identify/evaluate tribal resource restoration opportunities
 - Key resources and services, distinct from general recreational use

Expert Panel

- Panel met on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2009
- Purposes
 - identify relevant scientific literature and technical resources to guide restoration planning;
 - understand primary habitat requirements and limiting factors for juvenile Chinook in the Lower Willamette River; and
 - identify types, characteristics and geographic locations of habitat restoration actions that would provide greatest benefit for juvenile Chinook

Expert Panel

● Expert Panelists:

- Tom Friesen, Fish Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Corvallis Research Lab
- Stan Gregory, PhD, Professor of Fisheries, Oregon State University
- Nancy Munn, PhD, Aquatic Ecologist and Policy Analyst, National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Division
- Chris Prescott, Watershed Ecologist, City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services

Expert Panel

Juvenile Chinook salmon utilize the Lower Willamette River for feeding and rearing before entering the Columbia River Estuary to a greater extent than previously believed. Chinook salmon are present almost year-round in the Lower Willamette.

Expert Panel

- Most important areas for juvenile Chinook:
 - From Willamette Falls to the mouth of the Willamette (inclusive of immediate confluences of major tributaries)
 - Lower Columbia from Sandy River confluence to Multnomah Channel outlet
 - Multnomah Channel

Restoration Focus Area



Expert Panel

The extreme scarcity of key habitat types within the Portland Harbor study area makes it the expert panel's highest priority for restoration actions.

Geographic Priority

- Trustee Council has adopted a policy on compensatory restoration for settling parties:
 - At least one half of restoration must be provided inside the Portland Harbor study area.
 - Remaining restoration can be provided outside the study area but within the broader focus area (including mainstem up to Willamette Falls, Multnomah Channel, Oregon side of Lower Columbia between Sandy River and Multnomah Channel outlet).

Why are we here?

Identify potential projects in the “broader focus area” that meet restoration objectives for the Portland Harbor NRDA, and incorporate them into the Restoration Plan.

Scoping

- Examples of restoration projects:
 - Improve/restore off-channel habitats
 - Improve/restore floodplain connections
 - Restore/enhance shorelines
 - Restore/enhance upland habitats for wildlife
 - Acquire land for habitat protection
 - Develop/improve public access to the river for recreation
 - Develop/enhance wildlife viewing areas

Scoping

● Restoration planning constraints:

- Restoration must be closely related to natural resource injuries/losses to the public
- As Trustees will learn more about the nature and extent of injury, restoration preferences may change

Schedule

- Phase I: Injury assessment planning (nearly complete)
- Phase II: Injury assessment and allocation of liability (2010-2012)
- Draft Restoration Plan/PEIS by June 2011
- Final Restoration Plan/PEIS by June 2012
- Record of Decision by October 2012
- Settlement with PRPs: around the time of the ROD

Schedule

- Project development: now through mid-2012
- Settlement (around the time of the ROD, end of 2012)
- Project implementation: beginning 2013 (may be some exceptions)

Restoration Partners

● Potential roles:

- Draft Restoration Plan review
- Project identification
- Project implementation/management
- Land ownership
- Monitoring and maintenance
- Stewardship

Contact

Send project ideas by May 7th:

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