

PORTLAND HARBOR

Natural Resource Trustee Council



SUMMER 2012

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Sundown at Ecotrust

July 5, 2012

5:30-8:30 PM

721 NW 9th Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Portland Harbor Field Day

July 8, 2012 12:00-3:00 PM

Cathedral Park
Portland, Oregon

Trustee Council Public Meetings on the Draft Restoration Plan and EIS

July 17, 2012

5:30-7:30 PM

St. John's Community Center
8427 N Central Street
Portland, Oregon

August 2, 2012

4:30-6:30 PM

Portland State University
Smith Memorial Student
Union
Room 238
1719 SW 10th Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Dear NOAA,

Welcome to the first edition of the Trustee Council's newsletter! In this quarterly newsletter you will find information about our restoration planning efforts, updates on our work to assess the impacts of Superfund site pollution on natural resources and the services those resources provide, as well as articles about specific plants and animals that are important to the Lower Willamette River ecosystem. We appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

Lauren Senkyr

Outreach Coordinator

Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council

We'd Like Your Input on our Draft Plan!

In early July the Trustee Council will release a draft version of a restoration plan and programmatic environmental impact statement for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. The purpose of the plan is to outline restoration options and guide how specific restoration projects will be chosen.

What's in the Plan?

The plan proposes an integrated habitat restoration approach which focuses on habitat restoration projects that benefit a suite of fish and wildlife species. The plan also highlights types of projects that could be implemented to restore lost recreational opportunities. The plan identifies restoration priorities, a geographic focus area, restoration project opportunities, and how projects would be managed and implemented to ensure that the public is compensated for the losses that have occurred because of contamination in Portland Harbor.

How Can You Get Involved?

The Trustee Council is seeking public comment on the plan. We will host public meetings on July 17th and August 2nd to present the plan and gather public input. Meeting details can be found in the "Upcoming Events" tab to the left.

The public comment period on the draft plan will be open through October 7, 2012. You can submit your comments via email to portlandharbor.restoration@noaa.gov. The plan and other materials can be found on the Trustee Council's website.

SeaPort Celebration

August 18, 2012
10:00AM-4:00 PM
Port of Portland
Terminal 4
11040 N Lombard Street
Portland, Oregon

RiverFest

September 21-23, 2012
Portland, Oregon
more details [here](#)

Community Advisory Group Meetings

July 11, 2012
August 8, 2012
September 12, 2012
(ongoing, the 2nd
Wednesday
of every month)
6:00-8:00 PM
City of Portland's Water
Pollution Control Testing Lab
6543 N Burlington Avenue
Portland, Oregon
more details [here](#)

Portland Harbor in the News

"Take me to the river:

Portraits of the Willamette."

Willamette Week
May 2, 2012

"Clean up starts on highly polluted Arkema site in Northwest Portland."

The Oregonian
May 1, 2012

"Willamette River Superfund Site."

Think Out Loud, OPB
April 4, 2012

"Tribal interests being ignored as groups try to influence Portland Harbor cleanup decision."

Smoke Signals
March 14, 2012

Species Spotlight- The American Mink



Photo Credit: Roy W. Lowe

Mink are small, carnivorous (meat-eating), mammals. They are nearly always found close to water, and are considered semi-aquatic. They rely on habitats like streams, rivers, wetlands, ponds and riparian areas for all that they need to survive.

Mink are very secretive creatures. They prefer to stay hidden by rocks, wood, and vegetation while they move around looking for prey to eat. They are highly active at night and thus are rarely spotted. Rather than having one den, mink will move to a new den and intensely forage in the area surrounding it for anywhere from a few days to a few weeks before moving on. Mink rely on 5 to 16 dens within their core territory. Dens can be made of old beaver dens, wood jams, root wads, and rocks. They often have more than one opening so that if a predator invades the den, a quick escape is possible.

Mink eat a wide variety of animals including fish, amphibians, small mammals, reptiles, crustaceans (like crayfish), and are quick enough to catch birds. Mink often use large woody debris in the water because it is a good structure to fish from and also provides cover while eating the day's catch.

Female mink give birth to live young and have 2-5 kits (babies) per litter. Because many chemicals have been released into the lower Willamette River from industry and other sources, fish have become contaminated. Studies show that female mink eating contaminated fish have trouble successfully giving birth to and raising young. It is unknown to what extent these chemicals have impacted mink populations in the Portland Harbor Superfund site, but researchers estimate that toxins and habitat loss have played a significant role in reducing mink populations in the area.

The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council is responsible for restoring natural resources that have been impacted by contamination in the Portland Harbor Superfund site. The purpose of this newsletter is to share information about the Trustee Council's work with those who are interested in our assessment and restoration efforts.