



September 2015

Overview of the completed channels.

## Alder Creek Restoration Project

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

The Alder Creek restoration project was developed and constructed by Wildlands in 2014 and 2015 to provide habitat in an area of the lower Willamette River that has been highly impacted by industrialization. The project provides habitat for native fish and wildlife species in the area including salmon, lamprey, mink, and bald eagle. The project includes:

- A side channel that provide resting and feeding areas for young salmon and lamprey
- Nearly 9 acres of improved beaches, mudflats, and marsh that provide access to food and water for mink, as well as forage areas for birds, and habitat for salmon during high river levels
- 27 acres of riparian habitat planted with thousands of native plants
- 13 acres of oak woodland including large snags where bald eagle, osprey, and other birds can perch and hunt

## 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. The Alder Creek project generates natural resource “credits” which Wildlands can sell 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. Cleanup does not completely restore natural resources or compensate the public for their inability to fully use those resources in the past; that's the purpose of restoration.

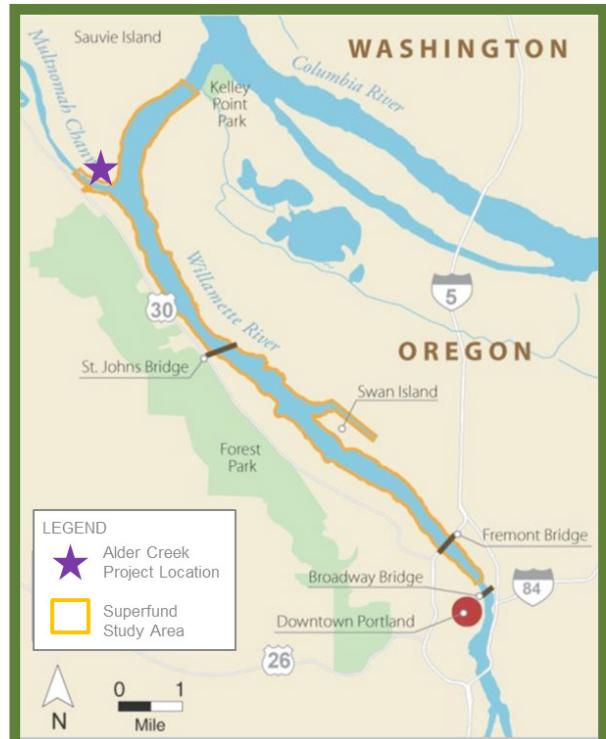
The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council (Trustee Council) is leading restoration in Portland Harbor. In 2002, the Trustee Council formed to develop and coordinate natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) activities at Portland Harbor and to plan restoration of injured natural resources. The NRDA process is separate from the EPA clean-up activities. 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 developed a list of projects that could restore 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  
[www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/contaminants/portlandharbor/](http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/contaminants/portlandharbor/)
- Wildlands  
[www.wildlandsinc.com/](http://www.wildlandsinc.com/)
- Environmental Protection Agency's Portland Harbor website  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor)



Map showing Alder Creek project location 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 Creek project.