



Portland General Electric (PGE) Harborton Restoration Project



November 2021 aerial photo of the PGE Harborton restoration project. Photo courtesy of PGE.

Creating habitat for fish and wildlife injured by hazardous releases in the Portland Harbor Superfund site

The PGE Harborton restoration project will provide high quality habitat for salmon, lamprey, mink, bald eagle, osprey, amphibians, and other native fish and wildlife. PGE began restoration activities in 2020 and completed the project in 2021.

The restoration included:

- Excavation of a stream channel to provide rearing habitat for out-migrating juvenile salmonids (listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act) and Pacific lamprey.
- Creation of nearly 500 habitat structures including instream wood structures to provide cover for fish, snags where bald eagle and osprey can perch, and rock piles to provide shelter for mink.
- Preserving wetlands that serve as breeding and rearing habitat for northern red-legged frogs.
- Restoring and enhancing the floodplain with thousands of native plants and removing invasive plant species like reed canary grass.



Juvenile Chinook salmon present in recently created off-channel habitat at Harborton restoration project. Photo courtesy of PGE.

(continued on back)

(continued from front)

Site Background

The PGE Harborton restoration project is located on the west bank of the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon at the confluence of the Willamette River and the Multnomah Channel. PGE has owned the property for more than 80 years, and the 74 acre site includes both wetland areas and a PGE electrical substation. The site sits between Forest Park and the Willamette River and is home to one of the largest known breeding areas for northern red-legged frogs which are listed as “sensitive” at the state level and a “species of concern” at the federal level. Restoration activities restored 53.4 acres of the site. PGE will monitor and maintain the area for a 10 year period before donating the site to a nonprofit for permanent protection. PGE 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 hazardous releases in the Superfund site.

Portland Harbor was designated as a national Superfund site in 2000. 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 and going forward into the future; that's the purpose of restoration.

The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council (Trustee Council) is leading restoration efforts 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 identified numerous projects that could restore natural resources that were injured at Portland Harbor. The PGE Harborton restoration project is one of those projects. The Trustee Council worked closely with PGE on the planning and design for the restoration project to make sure that the benefits to Portland Harbor's injured resources are maximized.



Map showing PGE Harborton restoration project location within the Superfund Study Area.

For More Information

To learn more about the PGE Harborton 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
- PGE Harborton
<https://portlandgeneral.com/about/rec-fish/willamette-river/harborton-habitat-restoration>
- Environmental Protection Agency's Portland Harbor website
www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor