Portland Harbor Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

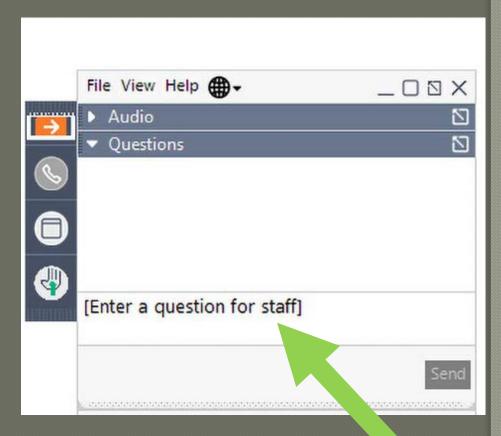
PORTLAND HARBOR Natural Resource Trustee Council



Webinar Participation

- If using a phone, please turn off your computer microphone & speakers.
- When Q&A starts, use the "Questions" box to type questions for the Trustee Council.
- The plan, other materials are at:

www.fws.gov/portlandharbor



Agenda

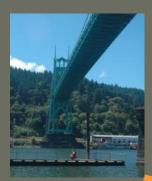
- Site History and Trustee Council
- Restoration Planning
 - Overview: SRP/EA findings
 - Overview: Restoration Bank Projects
- Question & Answer

Site History and Trustee Council



Photo credit: NOAA

Where is Portland Harbor?



St. Johns Bridge/ Cathedral Park



Fremont Bridge





Columbia Slough/ Kelley Point Park



*Photo credits: NOAA

Downtown

Portland

History of Portland Harbor

The confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers has long been central to the lives, traditions and economies of the people who live here.



- Abundant natural resources
- Transportation corridor
- Trading center



Photo credit: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Reservation

 Tribal people have used natural resources in this area for millennia

History of Portland Harbor

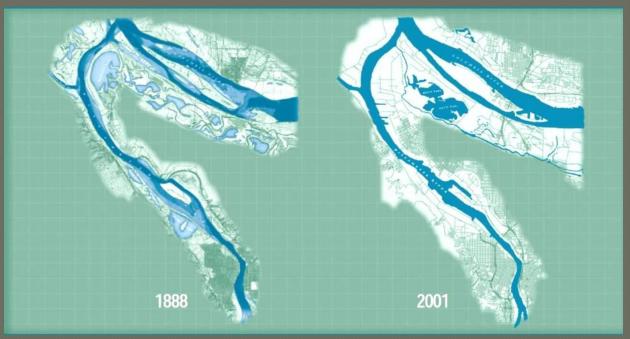


Photo credit: City of Portland

- 1851: Portland was founded
- Dramatic changes to the landscape
- Willamette River used as an open sewer for decades
- Lumber, steel, railcar, and other industries have released contaminants into the river for 100+ years

History of Portland Harbor

- 2000- Declared a Superfund site by Environmental Protection Agency due to threats to human health and the environment caused by contamination
- 2002- Trustee Council formed
- 2004- Fish consumption advisory issued by Oregon Health Authority





Trustee Council Members

- Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, Siletz, Grand Ronde Tribes
- U.S. Department of the Interior (through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- U.S. Department of Commerce (through NOAA)
- State of Oregon (through Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)



Trustee Council

- Responsibilities:
 - Assess and quantify natural resource injuries caused by contaminants
 - Seek compensation from the parties responsible for contamination
 - Develop a plan to restore, rehabilitate, and/or replace injured natural resources
- NOAA is the lead federal agency for National Environmental Policy Act analysis (NEPA).

Public natural resources
belong to everyone and are
held in trust for the public.
Responsibility for protecting
and managing these natural
resources belongs to the
Trustees, who are
representatives of state,
federal, and tribal
governments.

PORTLAND HARBOR

Natural Resource Trustee Council

Cleanup and Restoration

 The Environmental Protection Agency and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality oversee the cleanup of Portland Harbor.



· The Trustee Council oversees restoration.



Potentially Injured Natural Resources

- Fish
 - Salmon
 - Lamprey
 - Sturgeon
- Birds
 - Bald eagle
 - Osprey
- Mammals
 - Mink
- Water



Photo credit: ODFW



Photo credit: Roy W. Lowe, USFWS

- Sediments
- Soils
- Invertebrates



Photo credit: USFWS

Potentially Injured Services



Ecological

-Habitat

-Food

-Hydrologic system

-Existence value



Tribal

-Cultural resources

-Traditions

-Unique services



Recreational

-Boating

-Fishing

-Wildlife observation

Natural Resource Damage Assessment Status

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Purpose:

 Identify and quantify injuries caused by releases of hazardous substances and discharges of oil



Phased Approach:

- Phase 1 Develop Assessment
 Plan
- Phase 2 Conduct Expedited,
 Settlement-Oriented Damage
 Assessment
- Phase 3 Complete Full Assessment
- Phase 4 Recovery of Damages (from Non-Settling Parties)

Natural Resource Damage Assessment Status

Phase 2 Nearing Completion:

 The Trustee Council quantified or qualitatively characterized natural resource injuries and lost services through an simplified, expedited cooperative assessment process with participating PRPs, aimed at facilitating settlements.

Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan:

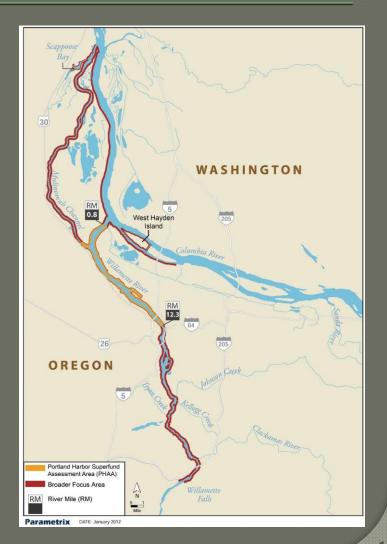
 Will guide how the Trustee Council manages settlement compensation for ecological injuries as a result of Phase 2 of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Process.

Restoration Planning



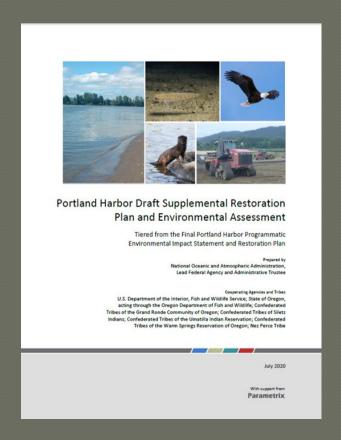
2017 Portland Harbor Programmatic EIS and Restoration Plan

- Identified an overall restoration approach: integrated habitat restoration planning.
- Laid out a comprehensive framework for implementing integrated habitat restoration.
- Provided a broad analysis of the environmental impacts associated with the types of restoration described throughout the document.



Supplemental Restoration Plan Overview

- Picks up where the 2017 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Restoration Plan left off.
- Determines Restoration Bank Credit
 Alternative as Preferred Alternative.
- Describes status of the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Damage Assessment process and the five eligible restoration bank projects.
- Assesses environmental impacts of the Preferred Alternative.



Trustee Council Goals for Ecological Restoration

- Meet statutory objectives of restoring, replacing, rehabilitating, or acquiring the equivalent of natural resources and services potentially injured or destroyed as a result of releases of hazardous substances and discharges of oil.
- Compensate the public for injuries or losses to their natural resources and services they provide.
- Provide diverse sustainable habitat types within the project area to enhance fish and wildlife resources.



Supplemental Restoration Plan Alternatives

Restoration Alternatives:

- Trustee-Led Project Alternative The Trustee Council would use settlement funds to design and construct a restoration project.
- Partnering Project Alternative The Trustee Council would provide settlement funds to a third-party entity to develop and implement a restoration project.
- Restoration Bank Credit Alternative The Trustee
 Council or a Potentially Responsible Party would
 purchase ecological benefits, in the form of credits,
 from a restoration bank.
- No-Action Alternative



Photo credit: NOAA

Restoration Bank Benefits

- Restoration banks are generally large-scale restoration projects developed with the intent of generating restoration credits, often for sale.
- A bank may be designed to provide credit for a single or multiple purposes, including NRDA restoration credit ESA

NRDA restoration credit, ESA conservation credit, CWA mitigation credit, etc.



Photo credit: Wildlands

 Restoration banking supports larger restoration projects, resulting in more integrated and self-sustaining habitats.

Restoration Bank Benefits

- Rigorous monitoring and adaptive management for 10 year performance period.
- Meaningful financial assurances for construction, monitoring, management, and other essential project functions.
- Long-term stewardship budgeted in perpetuity.
- Credit release schedules help motivate project performance and ongoing management.
- Mix of high priority habitat types restored to address needs of multiple injured species.

Baseline Monitoring

(Pre-Construction)

- -Existing habitat conditions
 - -Reference conditions

Implementation Monitoring

(Year 0)

- -As-built surveys
 -Performance
- criteria established

Effectiveness Monitoring

(Year 1 - 10)

- -Annual monitoring requirements
 - -Adaptive management

Long-term Stewardship

(Year 11 - ∞)

-Site visits

-Annual maintenance plans

-Continued effectiveness monitoring

-Adaptive management

Discounted Service Acre Years: Our NRDA Currency

- Discounted Service Acre Years, are abbreviated as DSAYs.
- Injuries to contaminated habitats are measured in DSAYs.
- Benefits from restoration projects are measured in DSAYs.
- "Scaling" is the process of matching the amount of restoration to the amount of injury.
- Each "credit" from a restoration bank provides a specific number of DSAYs.



Project Status

- Part of the restoration banking process is a defined "credit release schedule" that authorizes developers to sell certain amounts of credit when they reach various milestones.
- The preferred alternative includes projects in various stages of planning and/or development. Some are nearly completed; others have yet to begin construction.
- Some of these projects have been included based on planned activities but will only be eligible at the time of purchase to the extent that they have "released" credits.
- Any Trustee Council decision regarding which specific credits to purchase will be made when settlement funds become available. Trustees will identify which banks have released credits for sale at that time.

Alternatives Considered But Not Further Analyzed

- Partnering Project Alternative
- Trustee-Led Project Alternative
- Combined Alternative

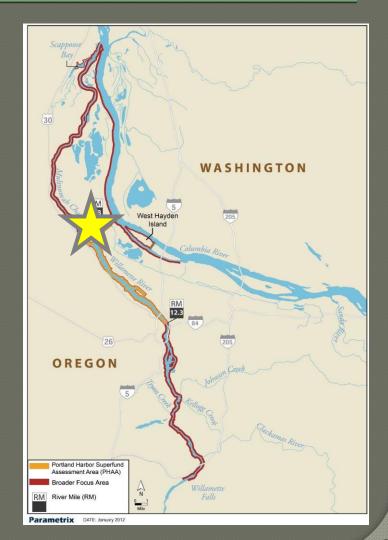
Overview: Restoration Bank Credit Alternative Projects

- The Trustee Council issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in January 2020 and received the following proposals:
 - Alder Creek Restoration Project
 - Harborton Habitat Development
 Project
 - Linnton Mill Restoration Site
 - Miller Creek Restoration Project
 - Rinearson Natural Area

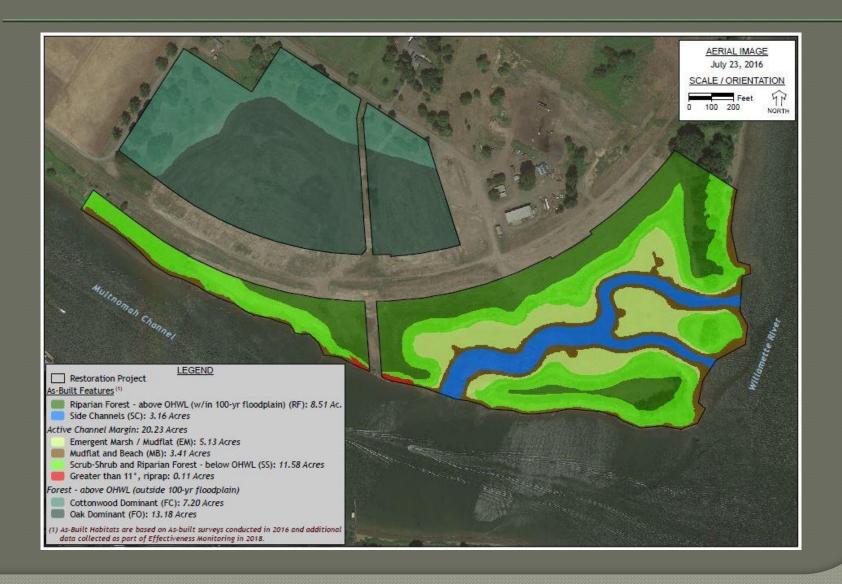


Alder Creek Restoration Project

- Wildlands, Inc. restored and enhanced 52.3 acres.
- The Alder Creek Project was constructed in 2014 and 2015 at the site of a former sawmill, and plantings occurred in 2015 and 2016.
- The Alder Creek Project is already generating ecological benefits as demonstrated by the presence of juvenile Coho salmon, bald eagle, and other wildlife documented during annual monitoring.



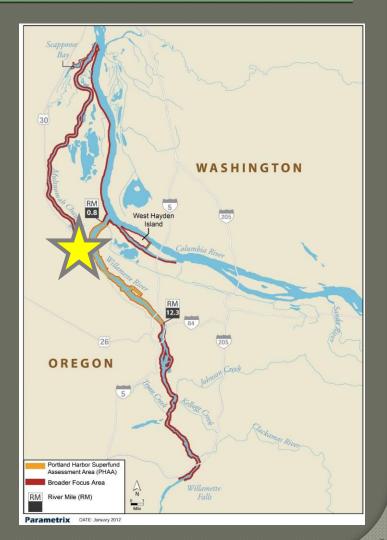
Alder Creek Restoration Project



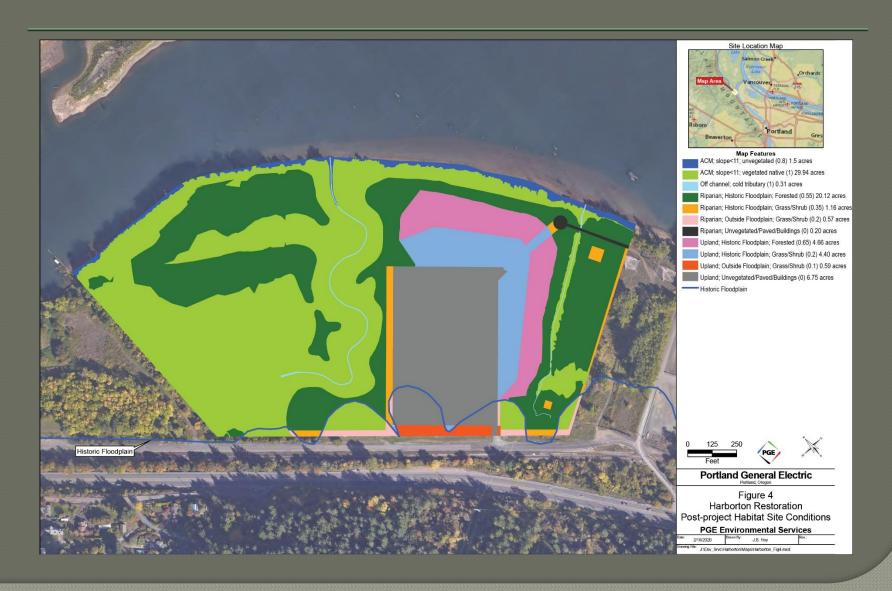
Harborton Habitat Development Project

Portland General Electric (PGE)
 would restore tributary and off channel habitat within 54.66
 acres at the Harborton Substation
 Property.

 Project implementation is underway Summer-Fall 2020.

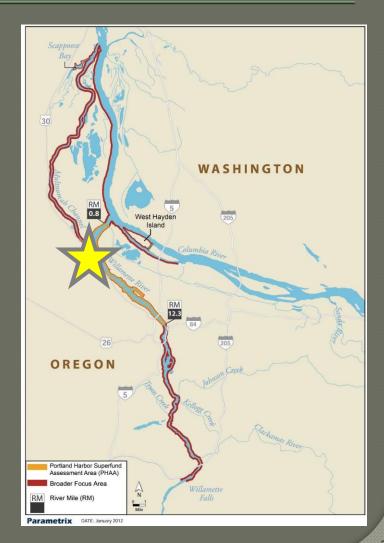


Harborton Habitat Development Project

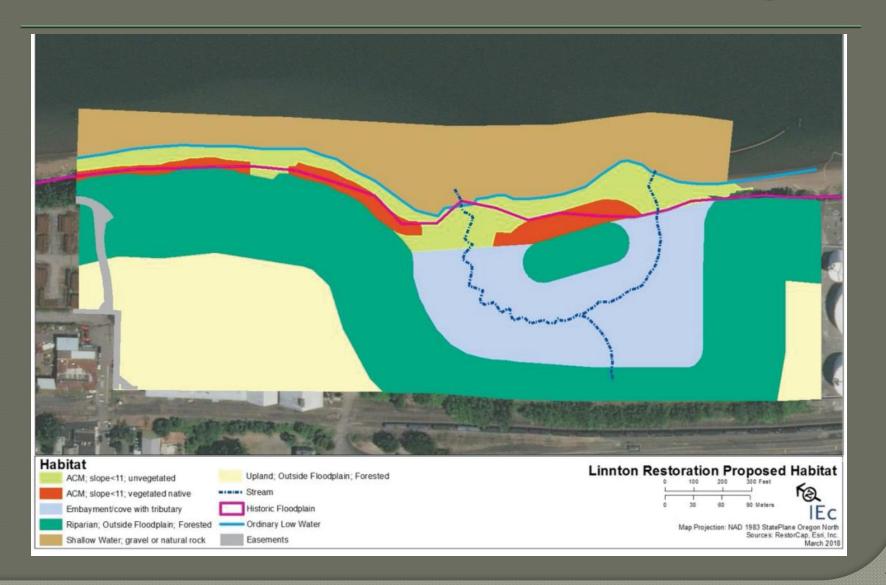


Linnton Mill Restoration Project

- Linnton Water Credits restored 26.67 acres of an industrial site along the Willamette River.
- The Linnton Project is already generating ecological benefits.
- Project construction was completed in October 2019 with planting finished in February 2020.

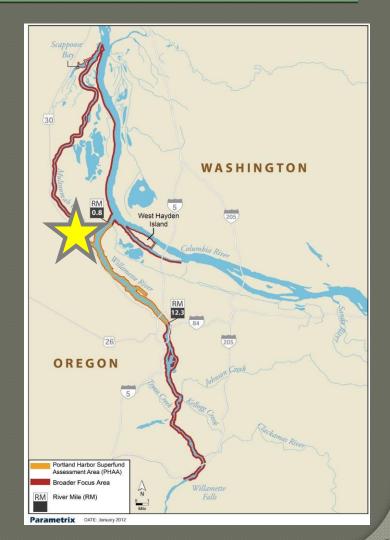


Linnton Mill Restoration Project



Miller Creek Restoration Project

- Proposed by Wildlands, Inc.,
 this site is intended to enhance
 13.17 acres of habitat.
- Project implementation could begin as early as 2022.

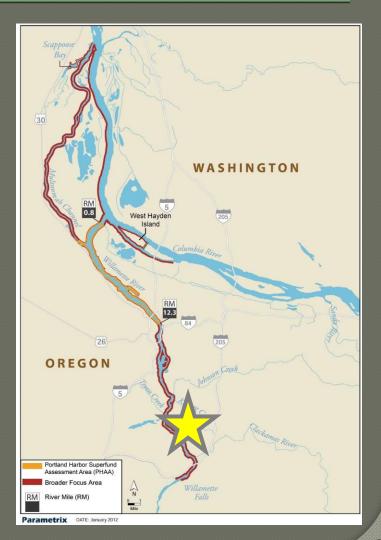


Miller Creek Restoration Project

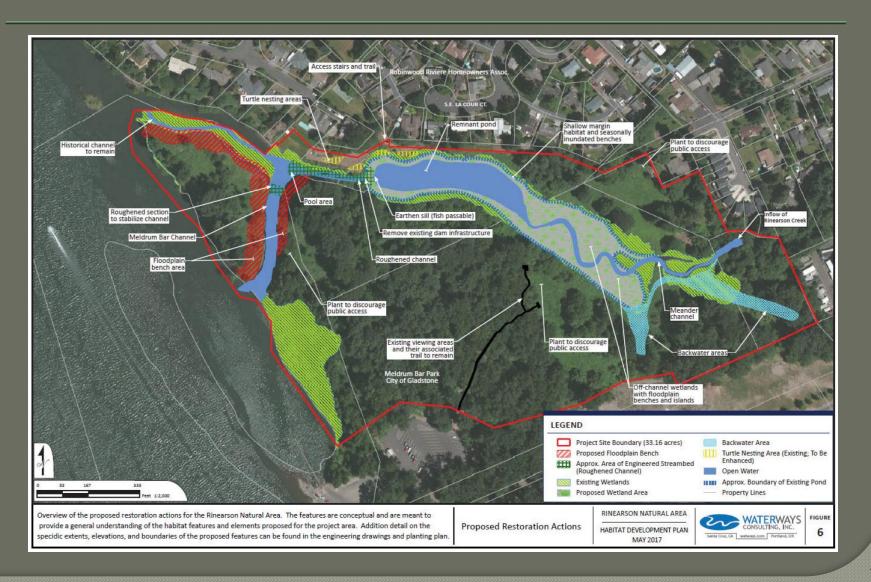


Rinearson Natural Area

- Columbia Restoration Group restored this 33-acre site.
- The Rinearson Natural Area site is already generating ecological benefits as demonstrated by the presence of hundreds of Coho smolts after dam removal.
- Habitat construction was completed in 2017 and 2018.



Rinearson Natural Area



Preferred Alternative Environmental Impacts

- Not anticipated to have significant adverse impacts
- Limited short-term construction impacts
- Long-term beneficial impacts for fish and wildlife

Resource Area	Term	No-Action	Restoration Bank Credits
Land Use	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor (-) and (+)
Shoreline Use	Short	None	Minor to moderate (-)
	Long	None	Minor to moderate (+)
Aesthetics	Short	None	Minor to moderate (-)
	Long	None	Minor to moderate (+)
Socioeconomics	Short	None	None to minor (-) and (+)
	Long	None	None to moderate (-) and (+)
Cultural and Historic Resources	Short	None	None
	Long	None	Minor to moderate (-)and (+)
Energy	Short	None	None
	Long	None	None
Geologic and Soil Resources	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor (+)
Recreation	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor to moderate (-) and (+
Transportation, Utilities, and	Short	None	Minor (-)
Public Services	Long	None	None
Wetlands	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor to moderate (+)
Biological Resources (including	Short	None	Minor (-)
federally listed species)	Long	None	Major (+)
Air Quality	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor (+)
Climate	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor (+)
Environmental Health and Noise	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor (+)
Floodplain and Flood Control	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor (+)
Water Quality	Short	None	Minor (-)
	Long	None	Minor to moderate (+)

Next Steps

- 30-Day Comment Period for Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment.
- Final document will respond to comments and update information as needed.
- If the Restoration Bank Credit Alternative remains the Preferred Alternative, the Trustee Council may:
 - 1. Accept restoration credits purchased by Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) directly from a restoration bank and/or
 - 2. Purchase restoration credits with settlement funds paid by PRPs to the Trustee Council
- Public notice will be provided when credit purchases occur.
- The Supplemental Restoration Plan guides management of settlement funds from Phase 2. If additional settlements occur in the future, the Trustee Council may continue to rely on the Supplemental Restoration Plan, may issue a new RFP, or may consider other restoration alternatives.

Public Comment

Comment through September 14, 2020

- Comments on the SRP are welcome via email. A comment form, the full document, and more information can be found at www.fws.gov/portlandharbor
- Please send your comment form to portlandharbor.nrda@gmail.com
- If you are unable to email your form, please mail it to:

Lauren Senkyr, NOAA Restoration Center C/O Parametrix 700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1000 Portland, OR 97232

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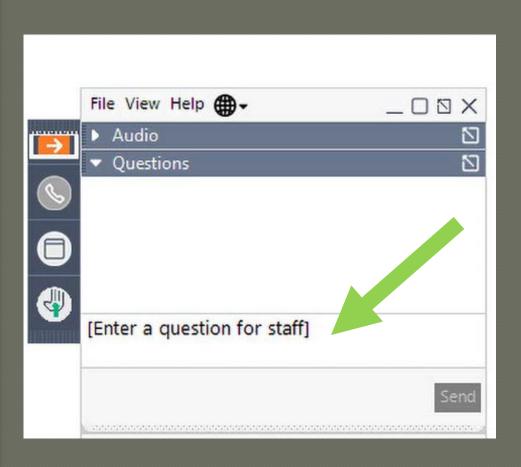
Question and Answer Period

PORTLAND HARBOR

Natural Resource Trustee Council



Send Us Your Questions



- Please type in your questions to the "Questions" box
- We may not get to them all
- Please note: formal public comments will not be accepted during the webinar.
 Please only enter questions at this time.

For More Information Visit:

www.fws.gov/portlandharbor

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Natural Resource Trustee Council