



Portland Harbor Final Supplemental Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

Introduction

Since January 2007, the Portland Harbor Trustee Council (Trustee Council) has been conducting a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) to address impacts from contamination within the Portland Harbor Assessment Area (PHAA) and identify suitable activities to restore injured natural resources. In May 2017, the Trustee Council published its Final Portland Harbor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Restoration Plan (Programmatic Restoration Plan) that provides an overall restoration approach, a comprehensive framework for implementing integrated habitat restoration, and a broad analysis of the environmental impacts of the potential restoration actions. Under the NRDA process, the Trustee Council's overall goal is to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and lost resource services resulting from the contamination in the PHAA. The Trustee Council issued a Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (SRP) in August 2020 that uses the criteria identified in the Programmatic Restoration Plan to evaluate and select one of three alternatives to implement the first phase of restoration actions. The SRP also evaluates potential environmental impacts from the alternatives under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Trustee Council released the Final SRP in March 2021 after responding to comments received during a 30-day public comment period.

Preferred Alternative Selected

In the Programmatic Restoration Plan, the Trustee Council describes several ways that a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) can provide restoration to resolve its liability for damages at Portland Harbor, including PRP project implementation, PRP credit purchases, or a PRP providing funds to the Trustee Council for restoration. In the SRP, the Trustee Council evaluated three alternatives for how the Council will spend funds it receives in settlements:

- Trustee-Led Project Alternative
- Partnering Project Alternative
- Restoration Bank Credit Alternative

Of the alternatives evaluated in the SRP, the Trustee Council has selected the Restoration Bank Credit Alternative for this phase of restoration. Accordingly, PRPs could resolve their liability by purchasing restoration bank credits or providing funds to the Trustee Council to purchase restoration bank credits.

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What is a Restoration Bank?

Restoration banks are generally large-scale ecological restoration projects developed with the intent of generating restoration credits, often for sale.

Because they are not necessarily scaled to address just one PRP's liability, restoration banks can be bigger projects where many different habitat types are restored. These larger and more diverse projects can be more economical and sustainable.



Parametrix

DATE: January 2012

Restoration Service Area

Eligible Restoration Banks



Alder Creek Restoration Project

This project restored and enhanced 52 acres to improve habitat at a former industrial site at the southern end of Sauvie Island, in the PHAA.



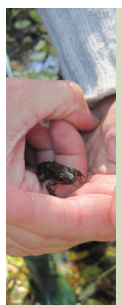
Harborton Habitat Development Project

This project restored tributary and off-channel habitat across 55 acres of the Portland General Electric Harborton Substation Property, in the PHAA.



Linnton Mill Restoration Site

This project restored 27 acres of an industrial site, in the PHAA, into a landscape with rehabilitated riparian and upland habitat, new off-channel habitat, and enhanced shallow-water and active channel margin habitats.



Miller Creek Restoration Project

This project would enhance 13 acres of habitat in the PHAA by improving tributary, active channel margin, and riparian habitats.



Rinearson Natural Area

This project in the broader focus area restored 33 acres of floodplain and channel habitat, including improving fish passage at a former dam and repopulating the riparian area with native vegetation.

(continued from front)

At the time the Programmatic Restoration Plan was published, it was premature for the Trustee Council to evaluate specific actions under the three alternatives presented in the SRP.

As a result of progress in the NRDA process, including the potential for NRD settlements in the near future, in January 2020, the Trustee Council published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for ecological restoration projects that outlined the eligibility and evaluation criteria that would be used to select specific restoration actions. Now, having received responses to the RFP, the Trustee Council is preparing to implement restoration actions as outlined in the SRP. Five restoration bank projects (detailed on the left) were determined to be eligible under the Preferred Alternative.

With the integrated habitat restoration approach, the Trustee Council seeks projects that do the following:

- Move toward more natural hydrology for riverine systems
- Restore floodplain function
- Reestablish floodplain and riparian plant communities
- Improve aquatic and riparian habitat conditions
- Increase habitat complexity
- Restore habitat that provides ecological value in the landscape context (connectivity, patch size, shape, and distance between different patches of habitat)
- Restore recreational services along the river while avoiding negative impacts to ecological restoration

Thank You for Your Feedback

The Trustee Council received comment submissions from private citizens, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies. Responses to these comments are found in Appendix C of the Final SRP.

Comments received included the following topics:

- Alternatives
- Contamination
- Coordination and Consultation
- Damage Calculation
- Geographic Scope
- Individual Restoration Sites
- Monitoring and Stewardship
- Project Planning and Implementation
- Public Participation
- Recreation

PORTLAND HARBOR
Natural Resource Trustee Council

