



Portland Harbor Draft 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 has developed a Supplemental Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (SRP) 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.

Alternative Evaluation and Selection

In the Programmatic Restoration Plan, the Trustee Council described the following three ways that a potentially responsible party (PRP) could provide restoration to resolve its liability for natural resource damages at Portland Harbor:

- Trustee-Led Project Alternative- The Trustee Council would use settlement funds provided by a PRP to design and construct a restoration project.
- Partnering Project Alternative – The Trustee Council would provide settlement funds provided by a PRP to a third-party entity to develop and implement a restoration project.
- Restoration Bank Credit Alternative – The PRP would purchase ecological benefits, in the form of credits, from a restoration bank or provide funds to the Trustee Council to do the same.

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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 larger projects that offer more integrated and self-sustaining restoration and reduced overall costs through economies of scale.



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.



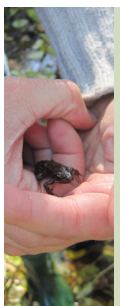
Harborton Habitat Development Project

This project will restore 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 is restoring 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 will 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.

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

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

After evaluating the projects submitted in response to the RFP, the Trustee Council has identified the Restoration Bank Credit Alternative as the Preferred Alternative, but still reserves the option of revisiting restoration conclusions in later phases of the case. The Trustee Council also found that the Preferred Alternative is unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on the environment. Five restoration bank projects were determined to be eligible under the Preferred Alternative.

We Want Your Feedback

Comments on the SRP are welcome via email. A comment form, the full document, and information on how to participate in a virtual public meeting can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/portlandharbor>.

Comments due by September 14, 2020.

Please send comments to portlandharbor.nrda@gmail.com

PORTLAND HARBOR
Natural Resource Trustee Council

