



PORTLAND HARBOR

Natural Resource Trustee Council



The public natural resources of the Portland Harbor Superfund site – the water, fish, birds and wildlife – are not owned by any individual but are held in trust for the public. Responsibility for protecting the natural resources is shared among Federal and State agencies and Tribes who own, manage or have an interest in the resources and who are named as Trustees of the resources on behalf of the public.

When natural resources are injured by releases of hazardous substances or oil, laws such as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Oil Pollution Act empower the Trustees to obtain compensation for harm to trust resources and to plan and carry out actions to restore injured resources through a process called natural resource damage assessment.

To coordinate their damage assessment and restoration planning actions, the Trustees for Portland Harbor natural resources formed the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council in 2002. The Trustee Council currently consists of representatives of eight Trustees:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, acting on behalf of U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, acting on behalf of U.S. Department of the Interior
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, acting on behalf of State of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- Nez Perce Tribe

The Trustee Council members possess a broad spectrum of legal authority for natural resource damage assessment activities at the Portland Harbor site derived from a wide variety of federal and state statutes and regulations, tribal treaties, agreements and regulations, and land ownership. By exercising their authorities jointly through the Trustee Council, the Trustees are able to more efficiently and effectively fulfill their public trust responsibilities.