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NOAA and Partners Seek Comment on Plan to Restore Lower Duwamish River

NOAA is seeking public comment on a draft restoration plan for the Lower Duwamish River, located in Washington state, on behalf of the river's natural resource trustees.

Large quantities of hazardous substances were released into the Lower Duwamish River throughout the 20th century from nearby industrial facilities, including manufacturing plants, chemical and solid waste recycling companies, and ship repair yards. The release of these hazardous substances resulted in injuries to the natural resources of the Duwamish River including the now-threatened salmon species as well as birds, other wildlife, and plants.

The draft restoration plan identifies priorities for the location and types of restoration projects desired to enhance, repair, improve and/or replace natural resources along the shoreline, and create habitats in or near the river. Restoration efforts will directly benefit the natural resources that have been injured by the release of pollutants into the river, compensating the public for their loss. The restored habitat will also provide important green spaces for this heavily industrial, but also residential, portion of Seattle.

The natural resource trustees for the Lower Duwamish River include NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Suquamish Tribe and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

Electronic copies of the draft restoration plan and programmatic environmental impact statement (RP/PEIS) can be downloaded at:
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/northwest/lowerduwamishriver/restore.html>.

Copies of the draft RP/PEIS will also be on file at three branches of the Seattle Public Library including Central Library, 1000 Fourth Avenue; Delridge Branch, 5423 Delridge Way SW; and South Park Branch, 8604 Eighth Avenue S.

Written comments on the draft RP/PEIS should be sent to Rebecca Hoff, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 or e-mailed to DuwamishPEIS.DARRP@noaa.gov. Written comments must be submitted on or before July 28, 2009.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

On the Internet:

NOAA Damage Assessment, Remediation and Restoration Program: <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>