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PORTLAND HARBOR  
*Natural Resource Trustee Council*

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Public Scoping Meeting  
March 3, 2010

# Agenda

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- Introduction/site overview
- Role of Trustee Council
- Restoration planning overview
- Schedule and next steps
- Question/comment stations

# Portland Harbor Overview

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- ◉ Declared a Superfund site in 2000
- ◉ EPA and Potentially Responsible Parties investigating contamination and its effects
- ◉ Decision about clean-up expected in 2012
- ◉ Oregon DEQ working to reduce contamination entering the water from the land

# Portland Harbor Overview

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- Trustee Council formed in 2002 to coordinate natural resource damage assessment
- Evaluate how natural resources and services were harmed by contamination
- Develop a plan to compensate for losses (“make the public whole”)

# Portland Harbor Overview

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## ● Trustee Council responsibilities:

- Assess natural resource injuries caused by contaminants
- Quantify those injuries
- Seek compensation from the parties responsible for contamination
- Develop a plan to restore, rehabilitate, and/or replace injured natural resources

# Natural Resource Trustee Council

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- ◉ Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, Siletz, Grand Ronde Tribes
- ◉ Department of the Interior
- ◉ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- ◉ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

# Overview: Site Background

- Study area: RM 1.9-11.8
  - Since early 1900s, industries along Lower Willamette have released contaminants into river
  - Contaminants of concern include PCBs, PAHs, metals, pesticides (DDT), dioxins, furans, others



# Overview: Site Background

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- Transported by surface water, sediment, and biota over time and space (pathways)
- Potentially exposed natural resources
  - Surface water and sediment
  - Groundwater
  - Geologic resources (soil)
  - Biological resources (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, plants, habitats)

# Overview: Site Background

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- The public values many potentially injured natural resources and services
  - Ecological: habitat, food, hydrologic system valued for beneficial use, inherent value
  - Tribal: unique services, uses and values for many tribal members
  - Recreational: fishing, boating, hiking, wildlife observation, etc.

# Overview: Site Background

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- Trust resources in Portland Harbor include:
  - Fish (salmon, lamprey, sturgeon, other fish with recreation value/consumption advisories)
  - Birds (bald eagle, osprey, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, belted kingfisher, merganser, cliff swallow, spotted sandpiper)
  - Mammals (mink, river otter)
  - Amphibians (Northern red-legged frog, Pacific tree frog)

# Overview: Site Background

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## ○ Natural resource services in Portland Harbor include:

- Habitat for trust resources
- Commercial resource use
- Recreational resource use (like fishing and swimming)
- Non-consumptive uses (like wildlife viewing)
- Existence value
- Tribal uses and values

# Restoration Planning

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- NRDA Restoration planning underway since 2007
- Restoration planning goals:
  - Identify, evaluate and preserve high value restoration opportunities
  - Identify partners to help implement, monitor and maintain restoration sites
  - Solicit community input on potential restoration opportunities
  - Meet NEPA and other compliance requirements for restoration (Programmatic EIS)

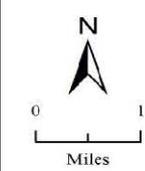
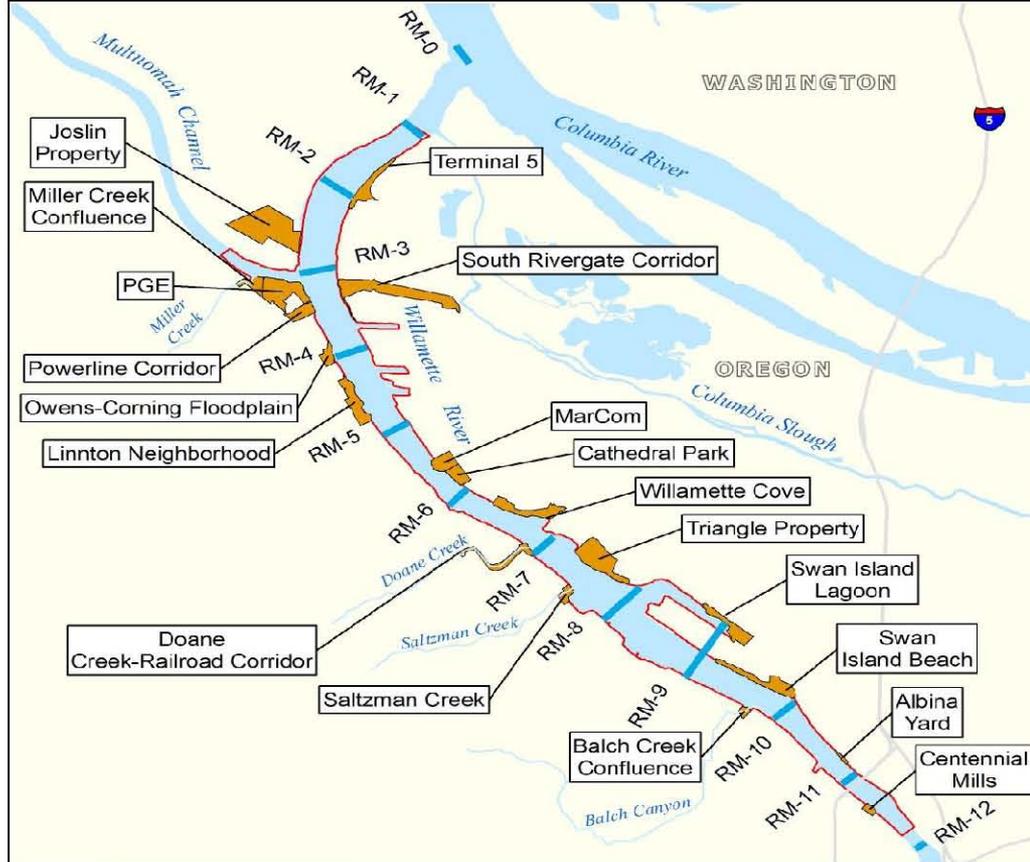
# Accomplishments

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- Developed restoration project screening criteria for salmon, lamprey, sturgeon, osprey, bald eagle, spotted sandpiper and mink
- Applied screening criteria and identified 20+ potential restoration projects inside study area
- Developed conceptual designs for restoration
- Convened “expert panel” to inform restoration planning for juvenile Chinook (may convene additional experts for other species)

# Potential Restoration Site Map

Map prepared for Portland Harbor  
Natural Resource Trustees



- Restoration Site
- River Mile Marker
- Portland Harbor Superfund Study Area

This map represents conceptual fish and wildlife habitat restoration opportunities which have been screened against criteria developed by the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustees. Further analysis of this site will occur to determine the feasibility, cost, and habitat value of the restoration concepts on a finer scale. This map was prepared using a geospatial database provided by the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services.

# Efforts Underway

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- Identify/evaluate ecological restoration opportunities
  - In addition to 20+ sites inside study area
- Identify/evaluate recreational restoration opportunities
  - Linked to the river and its natural resources (such as public access)
- Identify/evaluate tribal resource restoration opportunities
  - Key resources and services, distinct from general recreational use

# Expert Panel

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- Panel met on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2009
- Purposes
  - identify relevant scientific literature and technical resources to guide restoration planning;
  - understand primary habitat requirements and limiting factors for juvenile Chinook in the Lower Willamette River; and
  - identify types, characteristics and geographic locations of habitat restoration actions that would provide greatest benefit for juvenile Chinook

# Expert Panel

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## ● Expert Panelists:

- Tom Friesen, Fish Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Corvallis Research Lab
- Stan Gregory, PhD, Professor of Fisheries, Oregon State University
- Nancy Munn, PhD, Aquatic Ecologist and Policy Analyst, National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Division
- Chris Prescott, Watershed Ecologist, City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services

# Expert Panel

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Juvenile Chinook salmon utilize the Lower Willamette River for feeding and rearing before entering the Columbia River Estuary to a greater extent than previously believed. Chinook salmon are present almost year-round in the Lower Willamette.

# Expert Panel

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- **Most important areas for juvenile Chinook:**
  - **From Willamette Falls to the mouth of the Willamette (inclusive of immediate confluences of major tributaries)**
  - **Lower Columbia from Sandy River confluence to Multnomah Channel outlet**
  - **Multnomah Channel**

## Restoration Focus Area



# Expert Panel

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The extreme scarcity of key habitat types within the Portland Harbor study area makes it the expert panel's highest priority for restoration actions.

# Geographic Priority

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- Trustee Council has adopted a policy on compensatory restoration for settling parties:
  - At least one half of restoration must be provided inside the Portland Harbor study area.
  - Remaining restoration can be provided outside the study area but within the broader focus area (including mainstem up to Willamette Falls, Multnomah Channel, Oregon side of Lower Columbia between Sandy River and Multnomah Channel outlet).

# NEPA Schedule

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- Notice of Intent published in Federal Register on February 1, 2010
- Scoping meeting scheduled for March 3, 2010
- Written comments due March 15, 2010
- Draft Restoration Plan/PEIS by June 2011
- Final Restoration Plan/PEIS by June 2012
- Record of Decision by October 2012

# Scoping

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## ○ Purpose of scoping meeting:

- “An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.”
- Gather public input on potential restoration options (project types and locations) to compensate for injuries to natural resources and services.

# Scoping

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## ○ Examples of restoration projects:

- Improve/restore off-channel habitats
- Improve/restore floodplain connections
- Restore/enhance shorelines
- Restore/enhance upland habitats for wildlife
- Acquire land for habitat protection
- Develop/improve public access to the river for recreation
- Develop/enhance wildlife viewing areas

# Scoping

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## ◉ Restoration planning constraints:

- Restoration must be closely related to natural resource injuries/losses to the public
- As Trustees will learn more about the nature and extent of injury, restoration preferences may change

# Scoping

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- What natural resources and services in the Portland Harbor area are most important to you? How do you use these resources?

# Scoping

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- ① How do you think the restoration program could compensate for lost or injured resources you use and enjoy?

# Scoping

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- What do you see when you visit Portland Harbor? What types of fish, birds, mammals particularly interest you? How would you like restoration actions focused to restore natural resources in Portland Harbor?

# Question/Comment Stations

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- ◉ Ecological
- ◉ Recreational
- ◉ Tribal
- ◉ Contamination/Clean-up

# Contact

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Send comments by March 15:

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