

Restoring Portland Harbor

**Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium
March 2, 2021**



Lauren Senkyr, NOAA Restoration Center

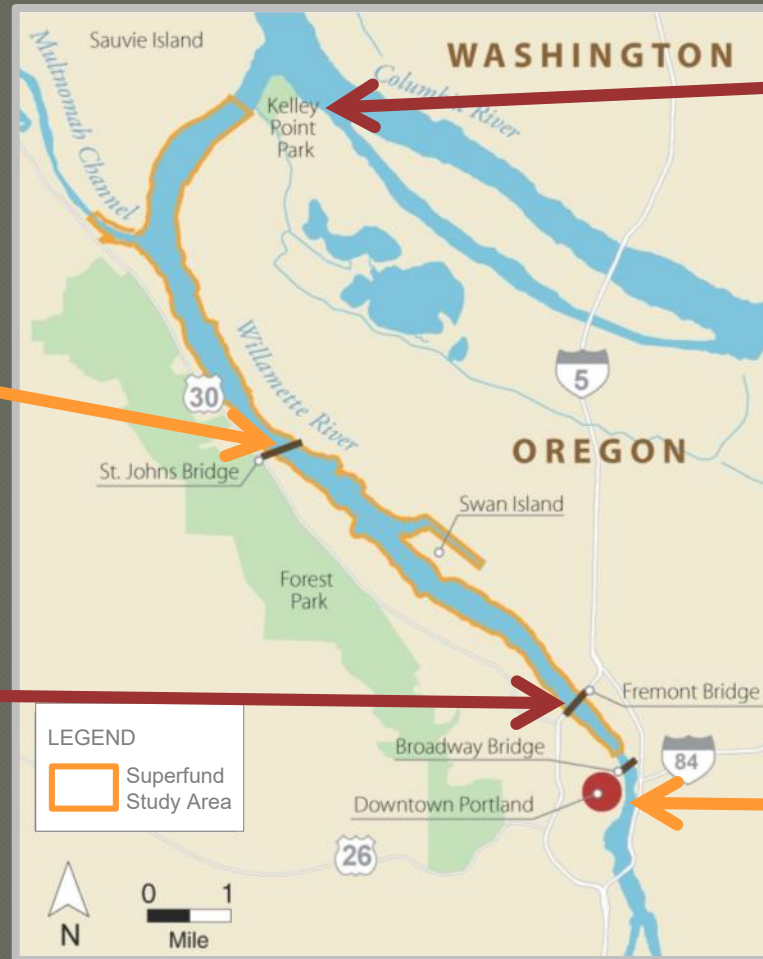
Where is Portland Harbor?



St. Johns Bridge/
Cathedral Park



Columbia Slough/ Kelley Point Park



Fremont Bridge



Downtown
Portland



*Photo credit:s: NOAA

History of Portland Harbor

- The confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers has long been central to the lives, traditions and economies of the people who live here
 - Fresh water
 - Abundant natural resources
 - Transportation corridor
 - Trading center
 - Several Tribes have used natural resources in this area for millenia

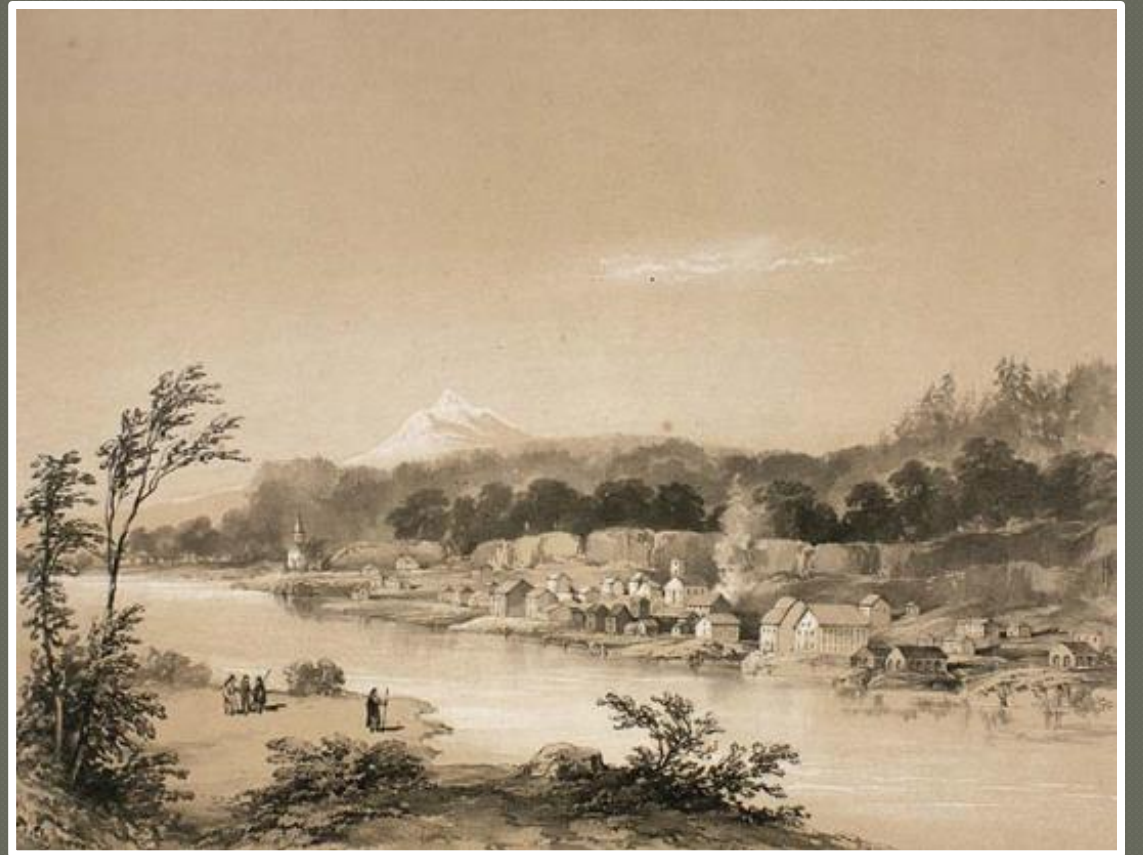


Photo credit: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Reservation

History of Portland Harbor

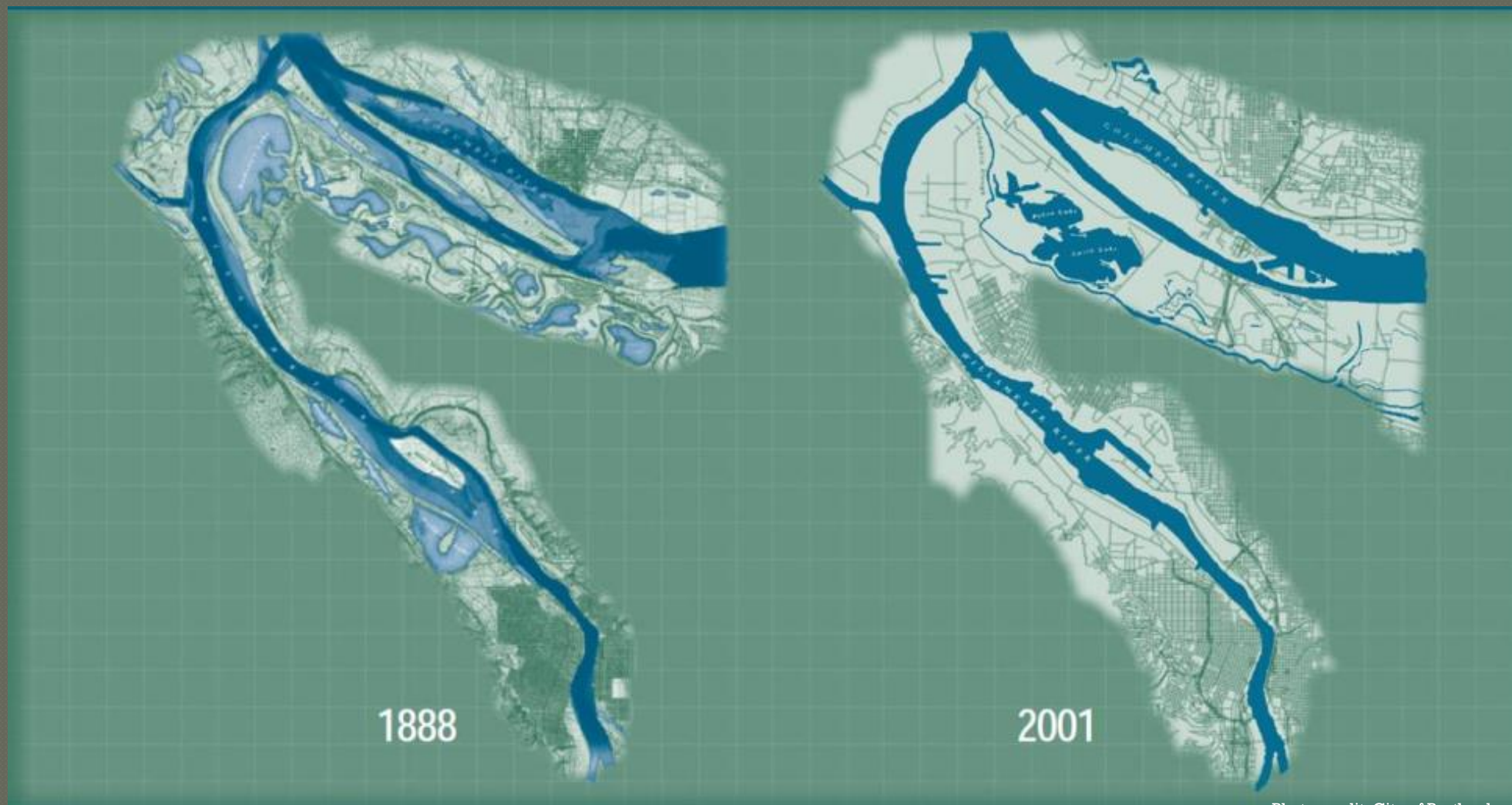


Photo credit: City of Portland

History of Portland Harbor

- 2000- Declared a Superfund site by Environmental Protection Agency due to threats to human health and the environment caused by contamination
- 2002- Trustee Council formed



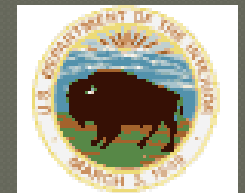
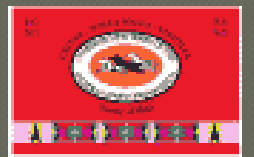
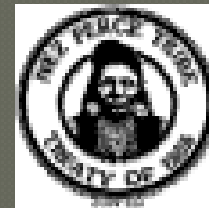
Portland Harbor Trustee Council

- Trustee Council members include:

- 5 Tribes
 - Grand Ronde
 - Nez Perce
 - Siletz
 - Umatilla
 - Warm Springs

- NOAA
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- US Department of the Interior

PORTLAND HARBOR
Natural Resource Trustee Council



Natural Resource Damage Assessment

The Trustee Council formed in 2002 to:

- Assess how natural resources and services were injured by contamination over time
- Develop a plan to restore, rehabilitate, and/or replace injured natural resources
- Seek compensation from the parties responsible for contamination



Photo credit: USFWS

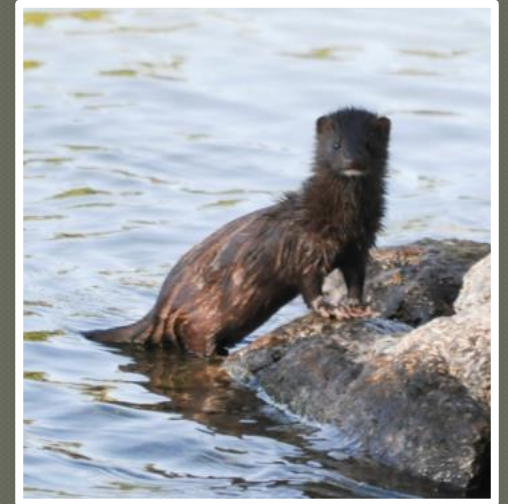


Photo credit: Roy W. Lowe, USFWS



Photo credit: ODFW



Photo credit: USFWS

Cleanup and Restoration

- The Environmental Protection Agency and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality oversee the cleanup of Portland Harbor
- The Trustee Council oversees restoration.



Potentially Injured Natural Resource Services



Ecological

- Habitat
- Food
- Hydrologic system
- Existence value



Tribal

- Cultural resources
- Traditions
- Unique relationships



Recreational

- Boating
- Fishing
- Wildlife observation

Ecological Restoration Goals

- Integrated habitat restoration- benefit a suite of potentially injured species (including salmon, lamprey, mink, bald eagle, osprey, and more)
- Move towards normative hydrology
- Restore floodplain function
- Reestablish floodplain and riparian plant communities
- Improve aquatic and riparian habitat conditions
- Improve river margin habitat
- Restore habitat that provides ecological value in the landscape perspective

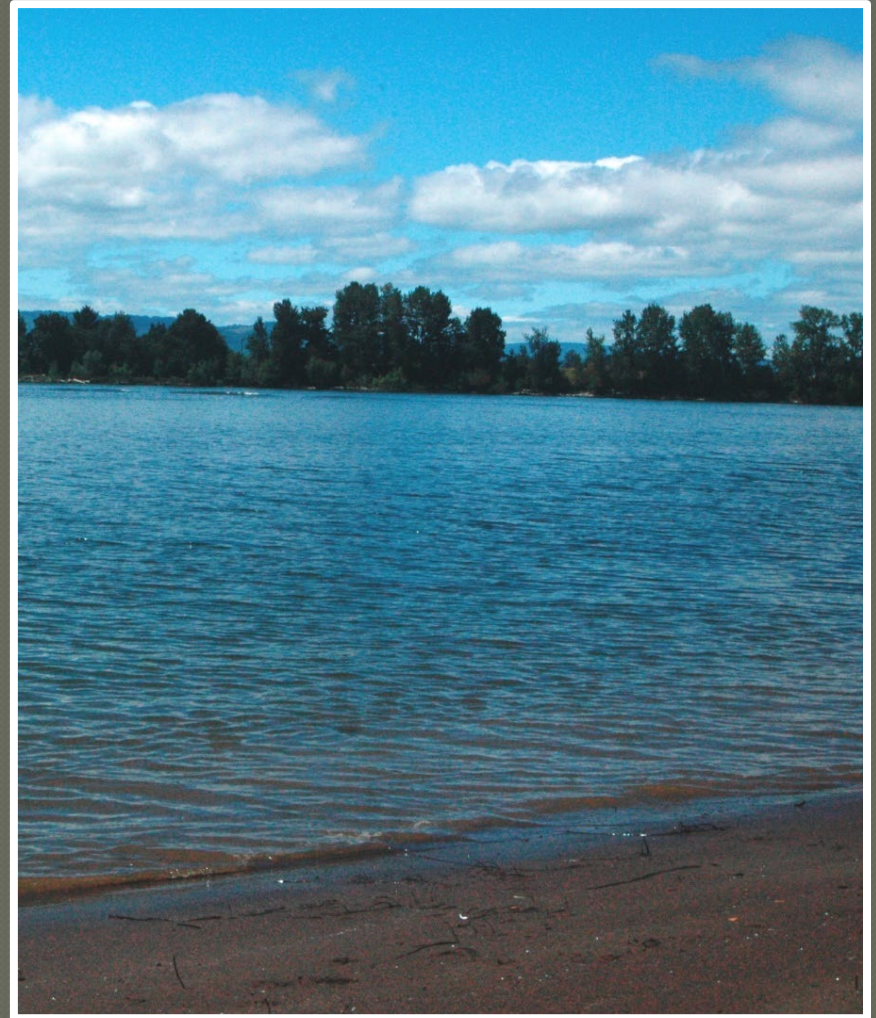


Photo credit: NOAA

Ecological Restoration Progress

Restoration Banks-

Generally large-scale restoration projects developed with the intent of generating restoration credits for sale.

- Alder Creek
- Linnton Plywood Mill
- PGE Harborton
- Rinearson Creek



Alder Creek

- 52 acre former sawmill on Sauvie Island
- Project implementer: Wildlands
- Construction 2014-2016



Photo credit: Wildlands



Linnton Plywood Mill

- 26 acre former plywood mill
- Project implementer: RestorCap
- Construction 2017-2018



Photo credit: RestorCap



PGE Harborton

- 53 acre restoration project
- Project implementer: Portland General Electric (PGE)
- Construction 2020



Rinearson Creek

- 33 acre project site located within Meldrum Bar Park
- Project implementer: Columbia Restoration Group
- Construction 2017-2018



AFTER CONSTRUCTION

Photo credit: Falling Springs



Tribal Resource Restoration

- For the current phase of the Portland Harbor NRDA, the Five Tribes identified resources of special interest that have been exposed to Site-related contamination, including
 - Salmon
 - Sturgeon
 - Lamprey
 - Native plants
- Tribal members use and/or desire to use these resources for sustenance, medicine, traditional/cultural activities, and teaching opportunities



Photo credit: "James Wilson Fishing out of a Dugout Canoe"
Nez Perce National Historical Park, NEPE-HI-0783

Tribal Resource Restoration

- Species of importance to the Tribes would also benefit from ecological restoration
- Habitat restoration projects are required to include planting native vegetation based on a list of species identified by the Tribes as native to the Willamette Valley and having cultural significance to one or more of the Tribes
- Tribal representatives developed a supplemental compensatory restoration claim for losses related to Tribal use of lamprey



Photo credit: NOAA

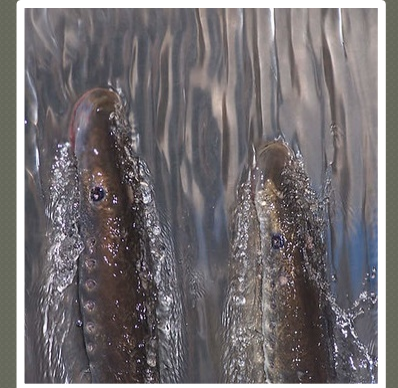


Photo credit: "Pacific Lamprey" by USFWS Pacific is licensed under CC BY 2.0:

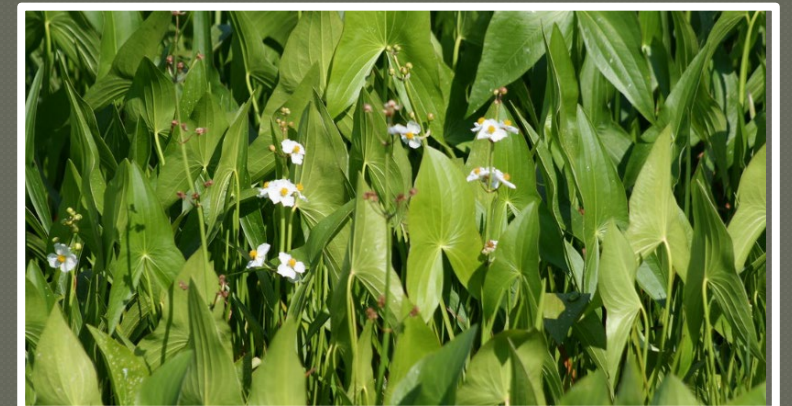


Photo credit: "Wapato is in Bloom" by born1945 is licensed under CC BY 2.0:

Resources for More Information

www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/contaminants/portlandharbor/



The screenshot shows the website for the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council. The header includes the organization's logo and name, a search bar, and a navigation menu with items: ABOUT US, DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, RESTORATION PLANNING, LIBRARY, NEWS, and CONTACT. The 'LIBRARY' dropdown menu is open, listing: Administrative Record, Project Timeline, Site Maps, Fact Sheets (highlighted with a blue arrow), Newsletters, and Useful Links. Below the navigation, the 'RESOURCES' section is visible, with a filter for 'Resource Type' set to 'Fact Sheets' and an 'Apply' button. A featured resource card is titled 'Cultural Impacts of Contamination Fact Sheet - Nez Perce Tribe' and includes a small thumbnail image and a paragraph of text.

PORTLAND HARBOR
Natural Resource Trustee Council

Search

ABOUT US DAMAGE ASSESSMENT RESTORATION PLANNING **LIBRARY** NEWS CONTACT

RESOURCES

To view other types of resources, select from the menu below.

Resource Type Fact Sheets Apply

Cultural Impacts of Contamination Fact Sheet - Nez Perce Tribe

The five Tribal members of the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council (Five Tribes) have developed fact sheets to help interested members of the public more fully understand and appreciate each of the Five Tribe's relationships with natural resources in and around the Portland Harbor Superfund Site and how these relationships have changed as a result of contamination in the lower Willamette River. Traditionally, tribal peoples spent substantial amounts of time in and around Portland Harbor and the lower Willamette River, forming unique bonds with the river's natural resources.

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