

Environmental Quality Commission

Willamette River Toxics Reduction Partnership

Item J

Sept. 18, 2020

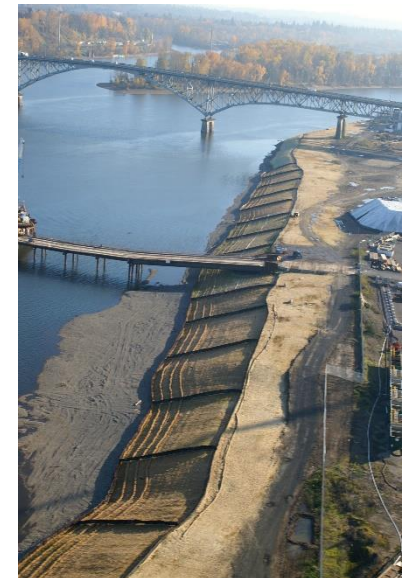
Origin of Willamette Toxics Reduction Partnership

- Record of Decision for Portland Harbor Cleanup
 - Recognition that Harbor could be re-contaminated from upstream toxics
 - Partnership formed and convened in May 2017 to assess watershed and develop a plan
 - EPA and DEQ co-lead efforts



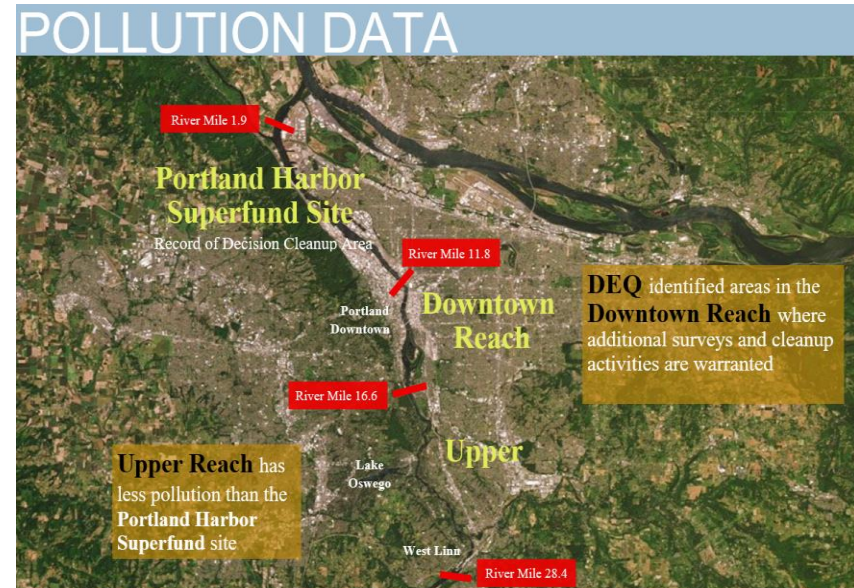
Original Goals of Partnership

- Compile contamination data and identify data gaps
- Describe existing efforts and evaluate the efficacy
- Investigate potential upstream sources of contamination to the Portland Harbor Superfund site
- Identify new strategies to reduce contaminant loading



Upriver Reach Sediment Assessment

- EPA helped fund DEQ sediment assessment
- Results summary:
 - Upriver Reach is much less contaminated than Harbor
 - Most contaminants not detected or below Harbor cleanup levels
 - Areas of contamination appear localized
 - Contamination not expected to impact Portland Harbor Superfund Site



Between Sellwood Bridge to Willamette Falls

Engaging Partners in Willamette Toxics Reduction Efforts

- In 2017 work began on the watershed toxics reduction plan
- In 2018 the Partnership group changed course to develop a web-based story map
- EPA obtained Urban Waters Program funds to create an on-line story map



Engaging Partners in Willamette Toxics Reduction Efforts

REDUCING POLLUTANTS THROUGH COLLABORATION



Next Meeting: Nov. 18, 2020

Columbia River Basin Restoration Program: 2020 Grant Announcement

- EPA awarded 14 grants to increase toxics assessment, reduction, pollution prevention and education/outreach projects
 - Columbia River Basin Restoration Act (Section 123 of the CWA)
 - FY2019 and 2020
 - \$2 million in grants to local govts, state govts, tribal govts, community groups and NGOs

Columbia River Basin Restoration Program: 2020 Grant Announcement – OR Grants

- Increase Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships
- Expand OR EcoBiz and Safer Chemicals Alternatives Training programs
- Develop stormwater raingardens to reduce toxics in the Lower Columbia estuary
- Increase stormwater green infrastructure in Upper Willamette
- Develop comprehensive monitoring plan on mainstem from Pacific to Canadian border
- Monitor contaminants of emerging concern in Lower Columbia
- Develop bi-lingual outreach materials to reduce residential herbicide and insecticide use
- Educate the public on pollution prevention with focus on Latino community

Willamette Toxics Reduction Partnership Story Map Main Webpage

Willamette River Toxics Reduction Partnership

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Partnership

*EPA Urban Waters Project Story Map and Site
Prepared through EPA Contract EPW 14020 by QW Consulting, LLC*

River Overview

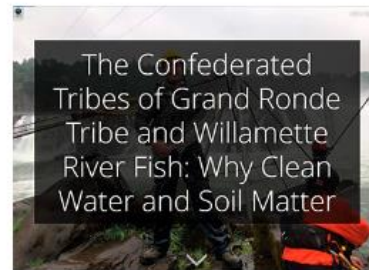
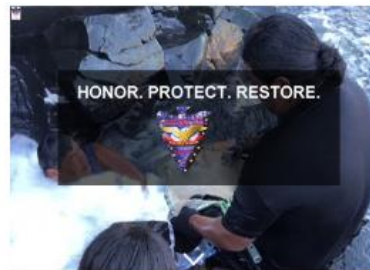
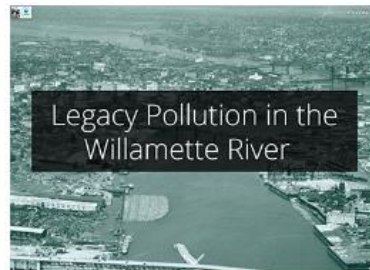
River Stories

About the Partnership

Willamette Toxics Reduction Partnership River Stories

River Stories

> River Stories



Blueprint Foundation's Grounding Waters Program River Story



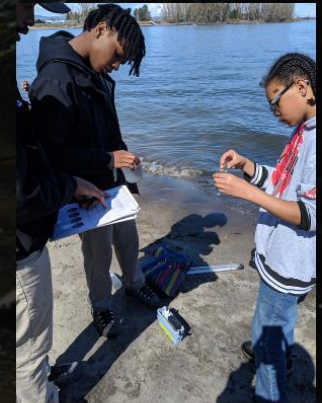
Grounding Waters: An Environmental Science Mentoring Program for Youth of Color

A Story Map

ABOUT THE GROUNDING WATERS PROGRAM



Offered through the nonprofit Blueprint Foundation, the Program connects Portland's youth of color to nature and encourages them to become advocates for the environment.



Students and their mentor conduct water quality analyses.

Yakama Nation River Story

 HONOR. PROTECT. RESTORE.

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL

The relationship of the Yakama People, the Salmon, and the Columbia River has been based on an understanding that all life is interdependent.



The oral history of the Yakamas tells of the sacrifices provided by the Salmon that unselfishly gave of itself for the physical and spiritual subsistence of human beings. In return for these sacrifices, the Yakamas have an obligation to honor, protect, and give thanks to the Salmon.



Today, the Salmon symbolizes a time-honored agreement, fighting to survive, fighting to maintain their natural life cycle, fighting to honor that agreement with the Creator and the Yakamas.

The sacred relationship with the Yakama people, the Salmon, and the Columbia River was established in ancient time.

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde River Story



The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribe and Willamette River Fish: Why Clean Water and Soil M...

A CULTURAL REVITALIZATION: THE NEED FOR A CLEAN RIVER AND HEALTHY FISH

RETURNING TO THE FALLS TO FISH

In 2016, the Tribe returned to the Falls to ceremonially dipnet for salmon.



Grand Ronde Tribal member dipnetting for salmon below Willamette Falls in 2016.