

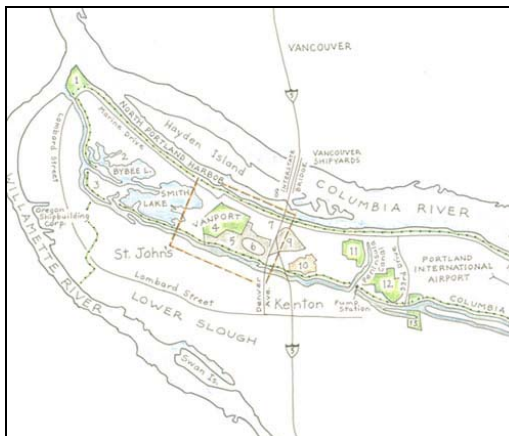
Columbia Slough Sediment Project

In a model effort of cross-program and intergovernmental cooperation, Northwest Region's Site Assessment, Cleanup, Hazardous Waste and Water Quality Programs have been working together on a watershed-focused, joint DEQ/City of Portland project to evaluate and cleanup, as necessary, contaminated sediments in the Columbia Slough. The project has identified numerous potential cleanup project sites and ways to reduce sources of contamination to the slough.

The Columbia Slough, an 18 mile long waterway that runs through the north and northeast sections of Portland, is a recreational resource that provides fishing and boating activities, includes numerous wetland areas, and provides habitat for several state and federally listed threatened and endangered species, including salmon.

The Columbia Slough is listed on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for several heavy metals, organic compounds, bacteria and temperature. Sediment measurements in the Columbia Slough show concentrations of organic and inorganic contaminants that are well above levels considered safe for fish and wildlife. Levels of contaminants in sediment and in fish tissue pose a risk to humans through fish consumption.

DEQ and the City of Portland entered into a Consent Order in 1993 to address cleanup of the Columbia Slough sediment. In cooperation with the City of Portland, the DEQ Cleanup Program initiated the Columbia Slough Area-Wide Discovery Project to uncover and develop methods for discovering properties that may be a source of historic or ongoing contamination in the Columbia Slough. As of July 2003, the Discovery Project identified 37 sites of interest, 31 of which are new. The project also developed several new site discovery tools that could be used in other DEQ projects.



The Site Assessment program continues to identify potential contaminated sites in the Slough Watershed and refer them to the DEQ cleanup program as necessary. The DEQ web page has a list of currently identified sites and their status and a map of the Slough with these sites at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/cs.htm>

The Hazardous Waste Program is [offering free hazardous waste technical assistance to businesses in the Columbia Slough Watershed](#) to reduce sources of contamination to the slough by ensuring that hazardous wastes are being managed appropriately.

Coordination between the DEQ Cleanup and Water Quality programs will ensure the reduction of contaminants entering the slough via municipal or private outfalls. DEQ has developed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water quality report and management plan for the Columbia Slough watershed that define pollutant limits and steps needed to meet water quality standards and protect watershed health.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) provided key information to the Discovery project by sharing their knowledge of existing sediment and water quality data, stormwater conveyance systems and local historical knowledge in several areas of the Columbia Slough. DEQ and BES worked together to determine ongoing and historic sources that may have contributed to sediment contamination and will continue to do so in the future.



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