

Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council Injury Assessment Plan

**River and Plateau Committee
Hanford Advisory Board**

**Larry Goldstein
October 9, 2012**



Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (HNRTC)

Who We Are

State of Oregon

State of Washington

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of Commerce (NOAA)

U.S. Department of Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service)

Nez Perce Tribe

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation



What is a natural resource trustee?

Trustees are governments, defined by CERCLA, who act to:

Protect the public interest and to “make the public whole” for injuries to natural resources, caused by the release of hazardous substances.

Brief History of the HNRTC

- Formed in 1993.
- Organized by Memorandum of Agreement, operate by consensus.
- Until 2007, activity was limited to technical advice to the Department of Energy on response actions.
- NRDA process started 2007.
- Funding for NRDA included in Department of Energy Richland Operations Office base budget request, starting Fiscal Year 2010.

HNRTC Objectives

- Ensure that natural resources are considered in decision-making.
- Integrate natural resource restoration into cleanup actions and minimize additional injury.
- Encourage site-wide natural resource planning.
 - Mitigation
 - Restoration
 - Long-term stewardship

HNRTC Objectives

- **Describe The Injury, Begin Restoration**
 - **Approve The Injury Assessment Plan**
 - **Conduct the Injury Assessment**
 - **Conduct Restoration – Early Restoration**



What are natural resources?

CERCLA definition: “land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, ground water, drinking water supplies and other such resources.”





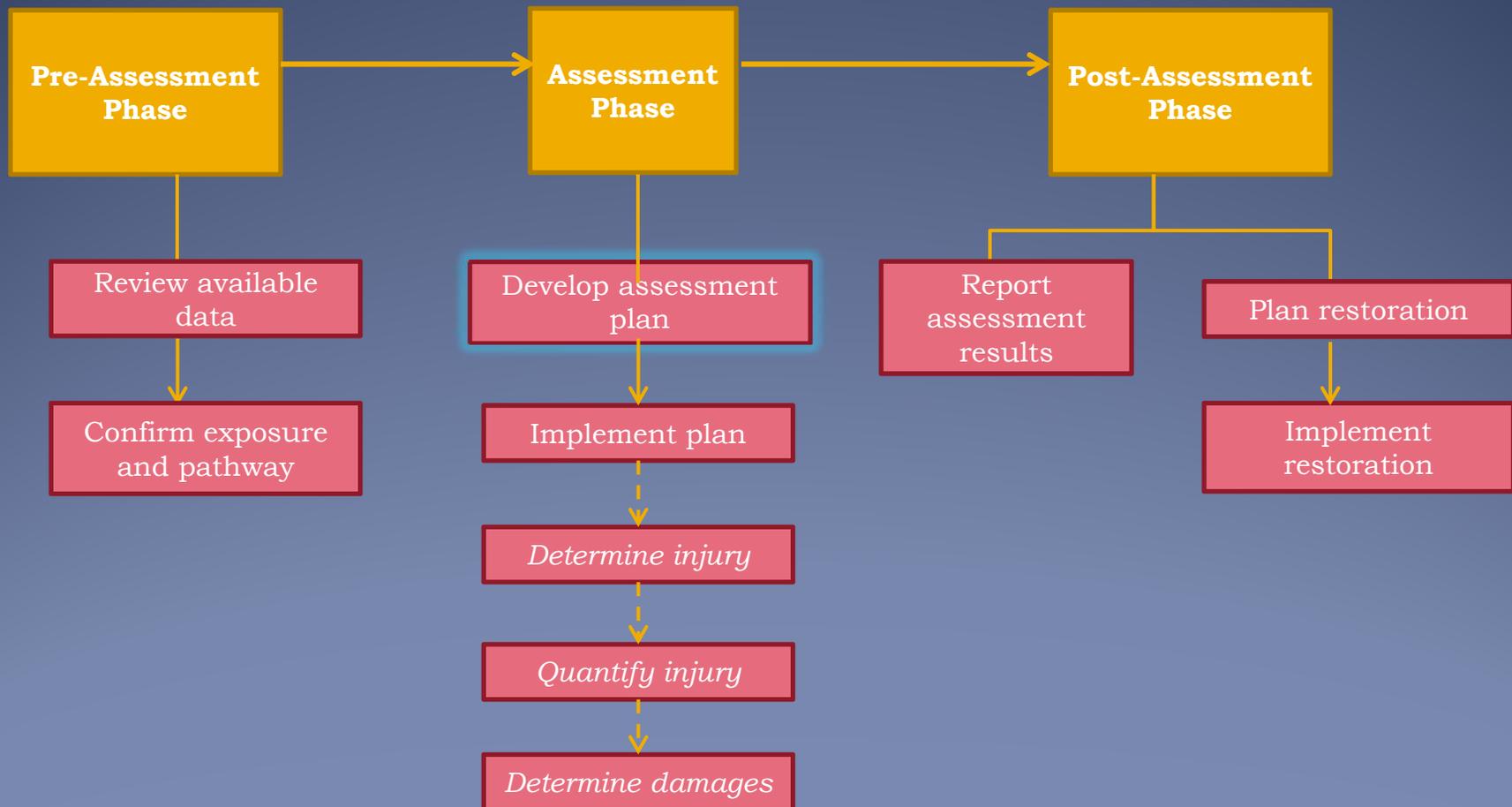
Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

CERCLA provides that natural resource trustees may recover damages for injury to natural resources resulting from a release of hazardous substances.

NRDA – What is it?

NRDA is a procedure established for the purpose of restoring natural resources injured as a result of the release of hazardous substances.

The NRDA Process



What is an Injury Assessment Plan?

- Plan is intended to ensure the NRDA is conducted in a planned, systematic manner at reasonable cost.
- Plan describes ongoing and anticipated studies.
 - Studies designed to evaluate past, current, and future natural resource injury and losses of resources services.

What is an Injury Assessment Plan?

- **Plan implementation will inform scope and scale of restoration activities.**
- **Restoration broadly defined to include restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent.**

Public Involvement

What does the Council want from RAP and HAB?

**Advice to DOE, Ecology and EPA supporting the Hanford
Natural Resource Injury Assessment,
and support for restoration**

Public Involvement

DOI regulations provide that an assessment plan be available for public comment.

HNRTC wants to hear from the Hanford communities. Is the Plan:

- Of interest?
- Understandable?
- Sufficiently comprehensive?
- And does the Plan address community values?

Public Involvement

- **Public comment will begin November 16th and lasts 45 days.**
- **A public meeting will be held in Richland the evening of December 12.**
- **Written comments may be submitted to:**

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Meet Groucho



Questions?