

Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council Injury Assessment Plan

Hanford Advisory Board

**Larry Goldstein
November 1, 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.**
- **Encourage site-wide natural resource planning.**
 - **Mitigation**
 - **Restoration**
 - **Long-term stewardship**

HNRTC Guiding Principles

- **Achieve cleanup sufficient to avoid or minimize residual injury.**
- **Achieve cost-effective restoration that compensates for natural resource service losses**
- **Post-cleanup land use decisions should not constrain effective restoration.**

HNRTC Near Term Priorities

- **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.”





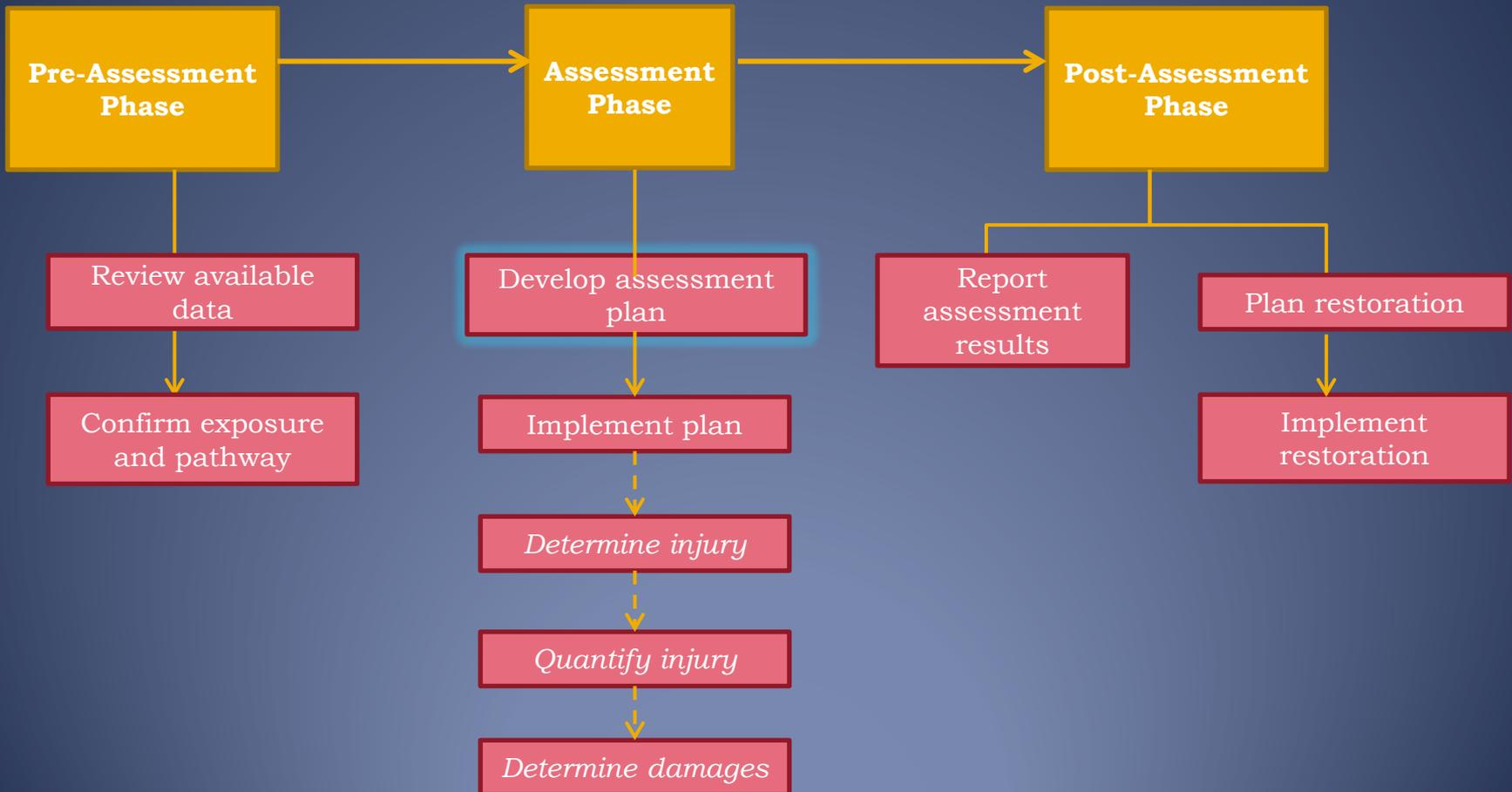
Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

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.**

Results of 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.**

Hanford Injury Assessment Plan

Contents

- Habitats, Natural Resources, Ecological Services
- Natural Resource Human Use Services
- Confirmation of Exposure and Assessment Process
- Definition of Injury

Hanford Injury Assessment Plan

Contents

- Contaminants of Potential Concern
- Resources of Concern
- Human Uses of Natural Resources
- Proposed Studies

Hanford Injury Assessment Plan

Proposed Studies

1. Use existing data to identify potential injury
2. Collect new data to determine injury to site resources
3. Use existing or new data to identify exposure pathways
4. Quantify injury to site resources and services

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?
- Does the Plan reflect end states and long-term stewardship objectives?

Public Involvement

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

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Public Involvement

Injury Assessment Plan Distribution

- Hanfordnrda.org
- Hanford DOE website – www.hanford.gov/
- Hard copies at public meeting

Meet Groucho



Questions?