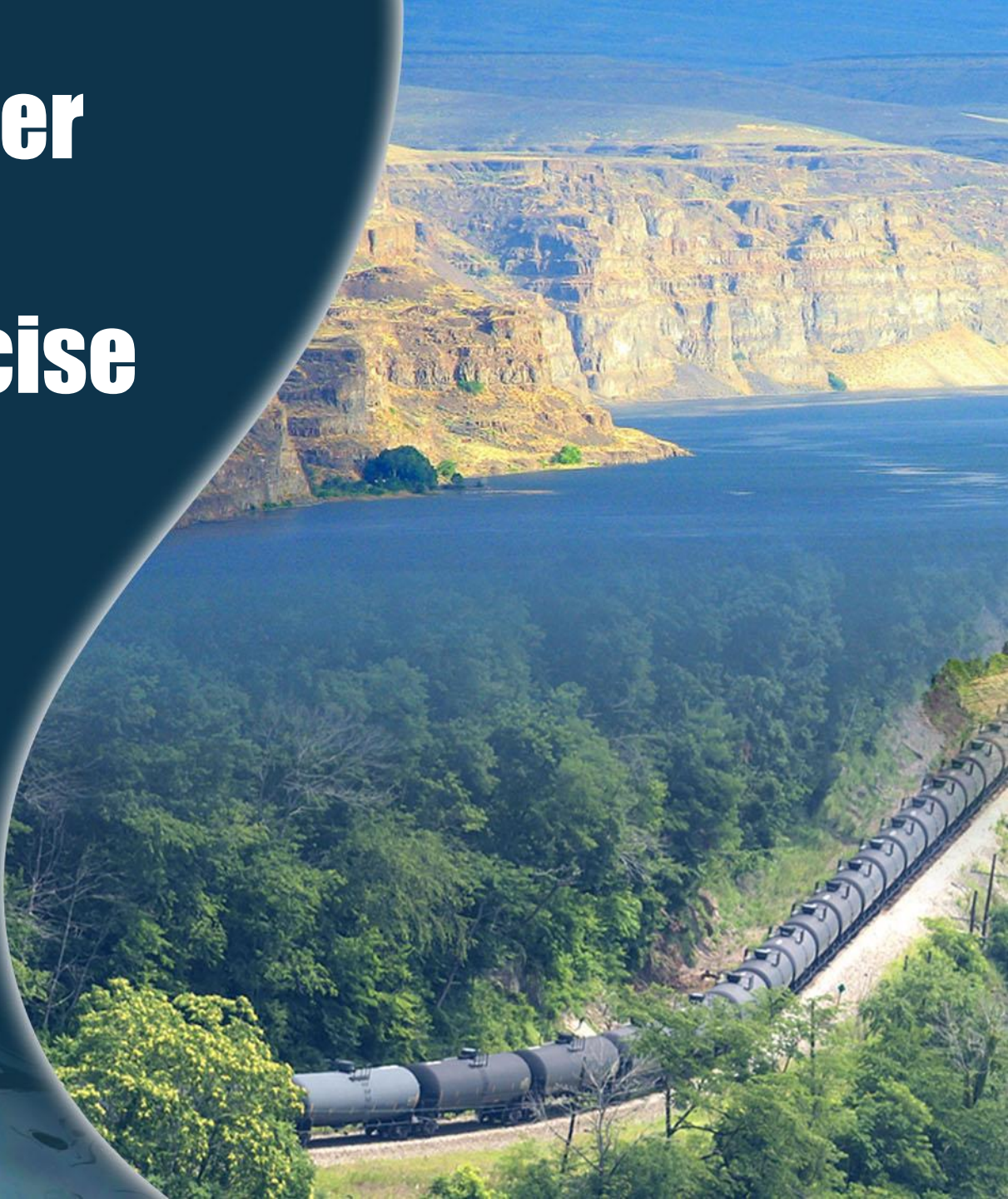


Columbia River Gorge Inland Oil Spill Exercise



SONS Overview

- Spill of National Significance (SONS) defined as “a spill that, due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on the public health and welfare or the environment, or the necessary response effort, is so complex that it requires extraordinary coordination of federal, state, local, and responsible party resources to contain and clean up the discharge.” (40 CFR 300.5)

Planning Team

- DOI-led planning team to select scenario
- 4 scenarios considered
 - Upper Miss. River
 - North Dakota Oil Fields
 - Great Salt Lake
 - **Columbia River**
- EPA would lead the drill (inland)



Approvals!

- EPA/USCG co-chairs July 2014
- DOT/PHMSA August 2014
- SONS Exec. Steering Comm. August 2014
- Full NRT September 14
- And again, SONS ESC November 14
- NRT planning team established

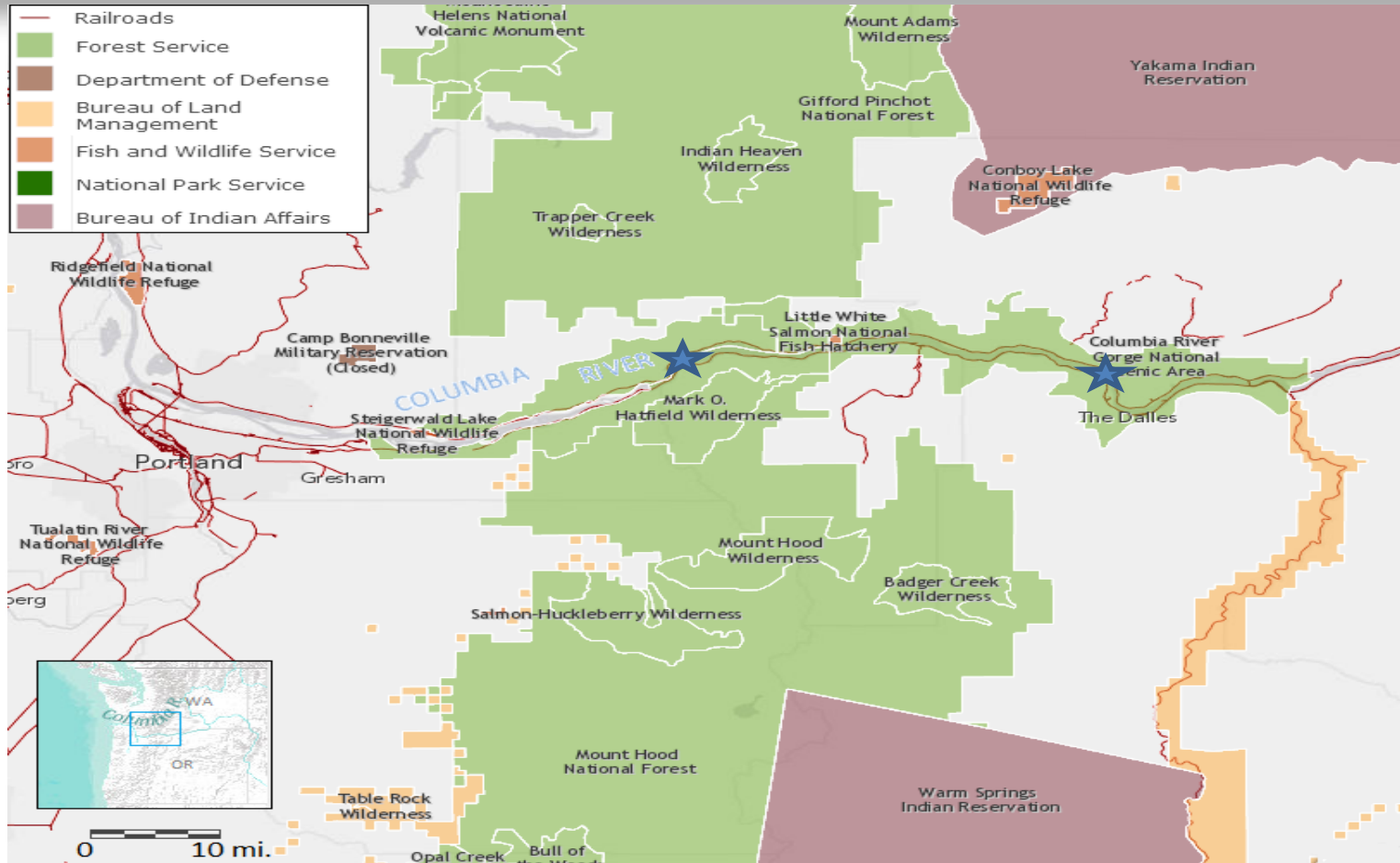
Objectives

- **Familiarize agencies with**
 - National Response System (NRS),
 - National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP),
 - National Response Framework (NRF),
 - Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF),
 - **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE),**
 - **Tribal consultation and coordination,**
 - **Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA).**
- **Functions of the National Response Team and Principals during a SONS.**
- **Effectiveness of resolving policy issues sent to/from the White House.**
- **Effectiveness of interagency & private sector coordination and messaging.**

Scenario

- 100 tank car unit train derails, 30 cars leak & discharge to river
- Cars are on fire; 450,000 gal crude released
- Cargo is Bakken crude oil and diluted Bitumen (Dilbit)
- Sensitive ecosystem, disruption to commerce & tourism, impact to tribal treaty rights, medial interest, White House interest, multiple federal, state and tribal jurisdiction
- EPA Administrator declares a SONS

Spill Location



Federal/State Resources

- DOI Little White Salmon Nat'l Fish Hatchery, 3 NWR's
- Forest Service Columbia R.Gorge Nat'l Scenic Area
- Washington Doug's Beach State Park
- Oregon Mayer, Memaloose, Koberg Beach
- Listed species Chinook, Coho, Sockeye, Steelhead, Bull Trout
- Critical habitat
- Migratory waterfowl
- Water quality
- Wetlands



Little White Salmon Fish Hatchery
FWS Facility

Tribal Resources

- Nez Perce Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Tribal Treaty Rights
 - **The four tribes each reserved the right to harvest fish within their respective reservations and at “*all usual and accustomed fishing places*” outside the reservations and ceded areas.**
- Education, medical, hunting and fishing

Recreational/Human Use

- Recreational activities disrupted and curtailed including
 - Boating
 - Fishing
 - Windsurfing
- Tourism
- Sightseeing



Drano Lake
Recreation Area

Potential Trustees (12)

- **Washington**
 - **Department of Ecology**
- **Oregon**
 - **Department of Fish and Wildlife**
- **Tribes**
 - **Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation**
 - **Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon**
 - **Nez Perce**
 - **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla**
- **Department of the Interior**
 - **Fish and Wildlife Service**
 - **Bureau of Indian Affairs**
 - **National Park Service**
- **Department of Agriculture**
 - **Forest Service**
- **Department of Commerce**
 - **NOAA**
- **Department of Defense**
 - **Army Corps of Engineers**



Exercise Format

- 3 levels of training
 - Regional
 - National
 - Executive
- Note: overlapped with FEMA Operation Safe Delivery Exercises
 - Great Falls, MT (Blackfoot Nation)
 - Jersey City, NJ (urban)
 - LaCrosse, WI (rural)



First Exercise – Field/Region Level

- September 22, 2015 – Portland, OR
- 75 participants
- Overview of Complex Issues
 - Hydropower Dams and Oil Spills
 - Waterway Management
 - BNSF Rail Role
 - Tribal Treaty Rights
 - Columbia River Gorge Natural Resources
- Group Discussions
 - *Critical Infrastructure*
 - *Public Perception and Water Use*
 - *Roles and Coordination*
 - *Regional Economic Impacts*



Chinook salmon –
Listed Species

Second Exercise – National Level

- October 28, 2015 – St. Louis, MO
- Discussion of roles and Communications
- How dams considered in terms of operational planning which could have an impact on power generation, water use, tribal treaty rights and marine/land based transportation
- Define how Principals interact with the NRT during this type of incident
- Tribal consultation during the incident (response)
- Ensure senior officials understand NRDA issues well enough to gage the impact of response operations

Third Exercise – Principle Level

- Washington, DC - January 13, 2016
- Objective 1 - Familiarize agency heads and policy makers:
 - Response
 - NRDAR
 - OSLTF
 - USACOE Role
 - Tribal Role
- Objective 2 – Functions of NRT/Principles
- Objective 3 – Resolve policy issues to/from White House
- Objective 4 – Coordination/communication

Next Steps

- After action report
- Draft circulating within the committee
- Focus on key issues
 - Communication (internal and external)
 - Coordination
 - Clarification of roles

Questions

