

# Update on Willamette Cove Upland Cleanup Oregon DEQ

March 11, 2020

Portland Harbor Community Forum

# Takeaways from our update

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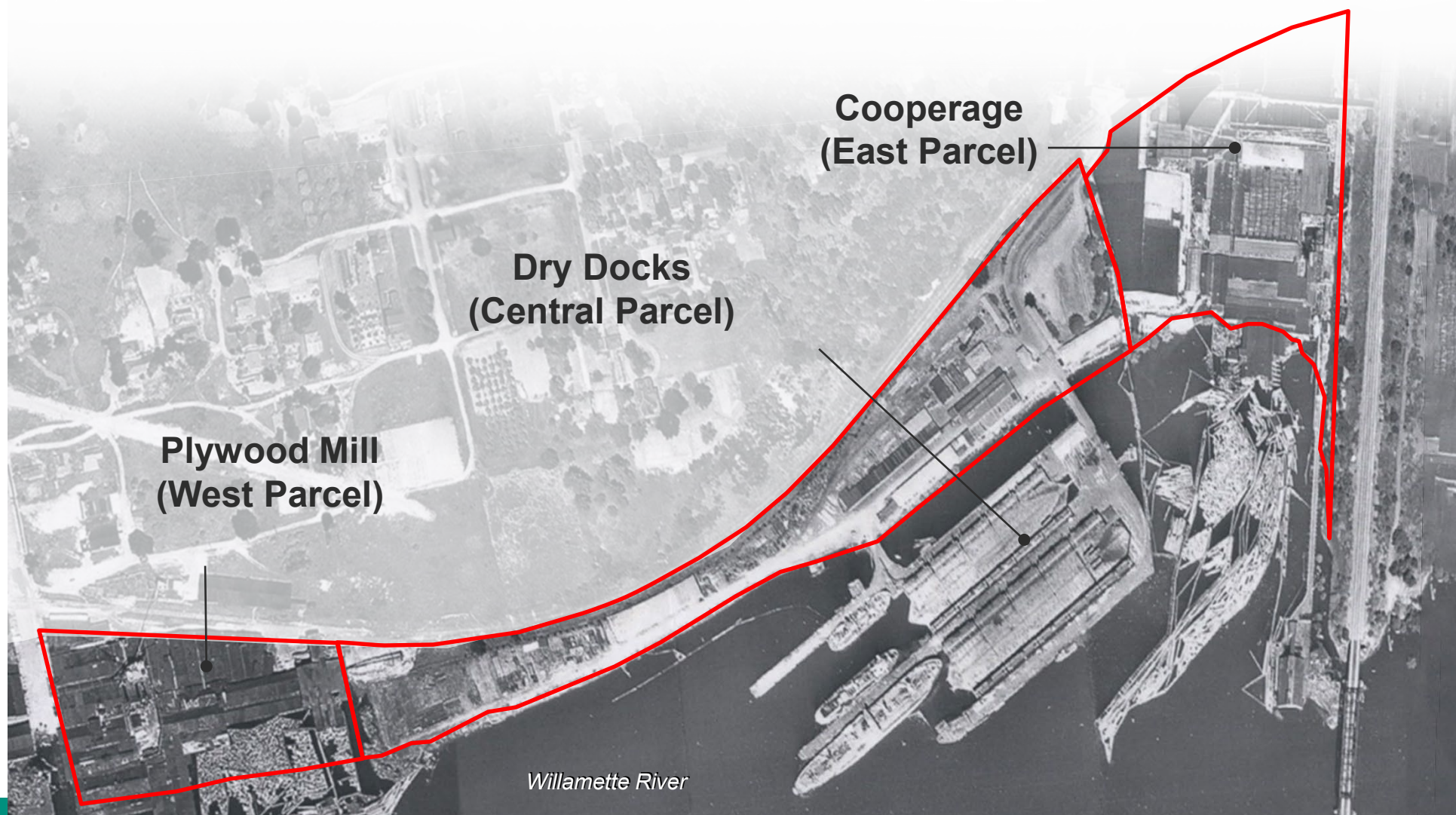
- DEQ has proposed a cleanup plan for the upland portion of the Willamette Cove site.
- This action is separate from in-water work overseen by EPA under Superfund.
- We are currently accepting comments on the plan, through the end of April.
- Comments can be submitted multiple ways.

# Update topics

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- What is the problem?
- DEQ versus EPA responsibilities
- Status of upland work
- Upland cleanup proposal
- How to comment, get more info
- What's next

# Willamette Cove - Past



1934 aerial

Peak industrial operations



# Willamette Cove - Today



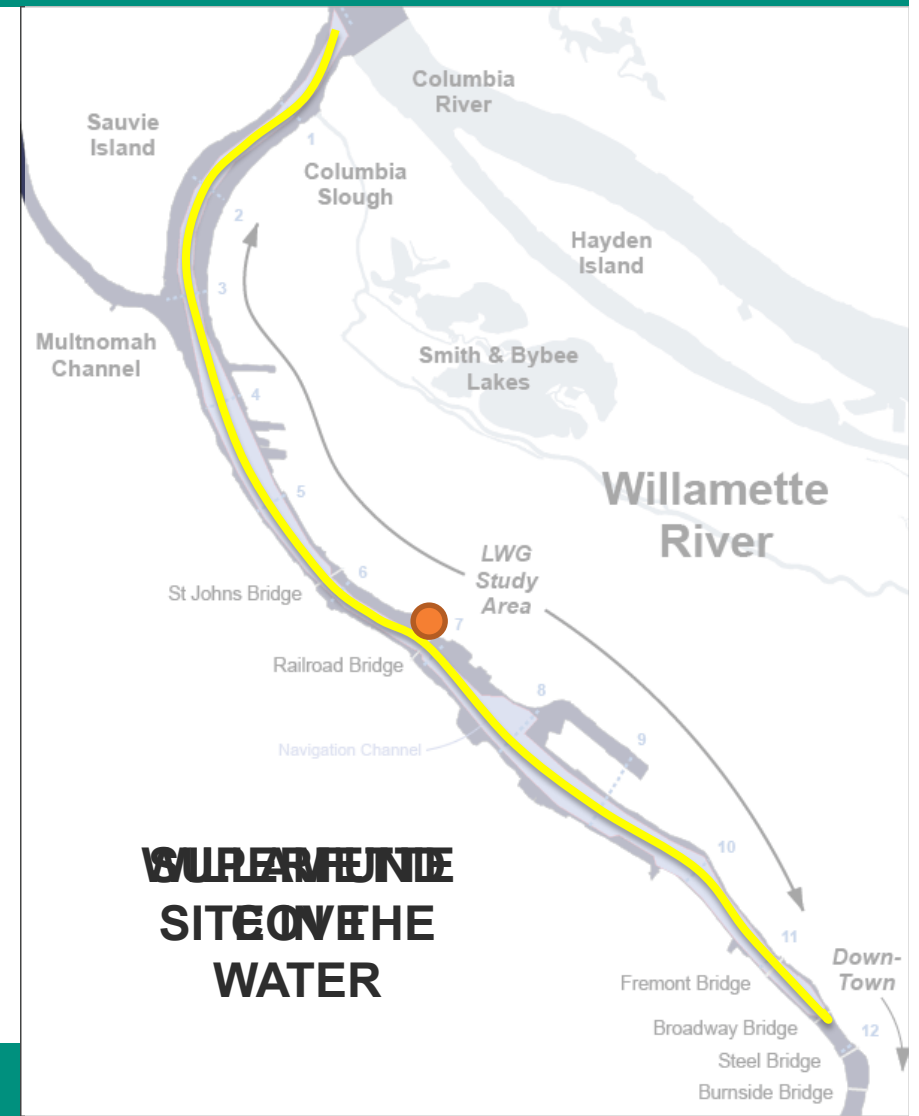
# Problem is...

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- Extensive upland, riverbank, and in-water contamination
- Contaminants including dioxins, metals, and PCBs
- Location of the site on the Willamette River within the Portland Harbor Superfund Site

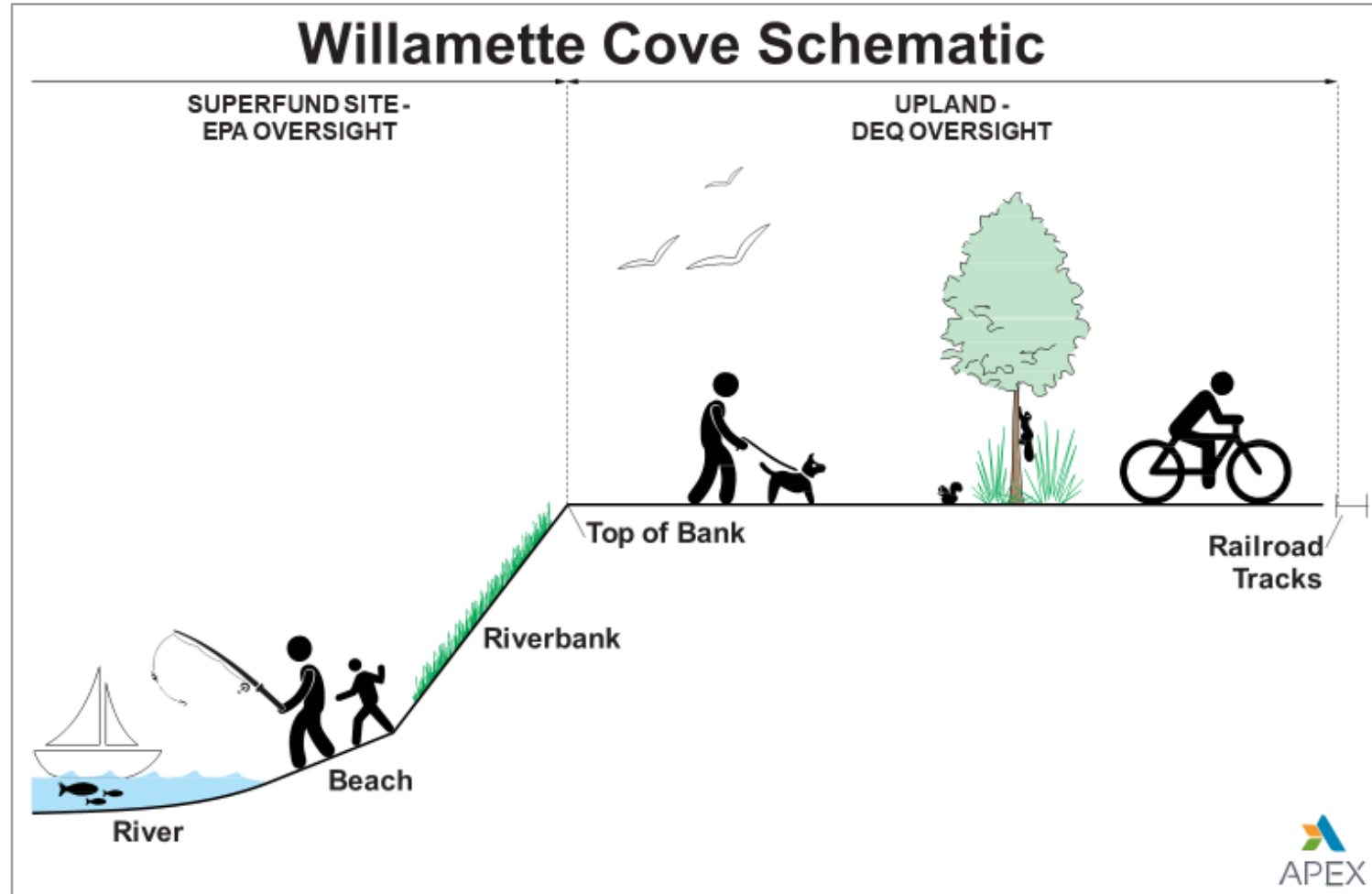
# Regulatory oversight

- Site is located in the heart of Portland Harbor
- EPA is in charge of in-water and riverbank cleanup
- **DEQ responsible for upland cleanup**





# EPA vs. DEQ responsibilities



# Participating Parties

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- DEQ is working with Metro (site owner) and the Port of Portland on upland cleanup.



# Upland work so far...

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- ✓ Characterized environmental contamination
- ✓ Evaluated risk to humans and animals/plants, based on future use identified by site owner
- ✓ Partial (hot spot) cleanup in 2015/2016
- ✓ Proposed cleanup plan

# How did DEQ get to a cleanup plan?

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- Approval of Port/Metro Feasibility Study
- Consideration of many remedial technologies, both traditional and non-traditional

# Cleanup options considered:

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- Traditional methods
  - Excavation and off-site disposal
  - Capping with or without consolidation
- Other options
  - Chemical treatment
  - Bioremediation
  - Thermal remediation

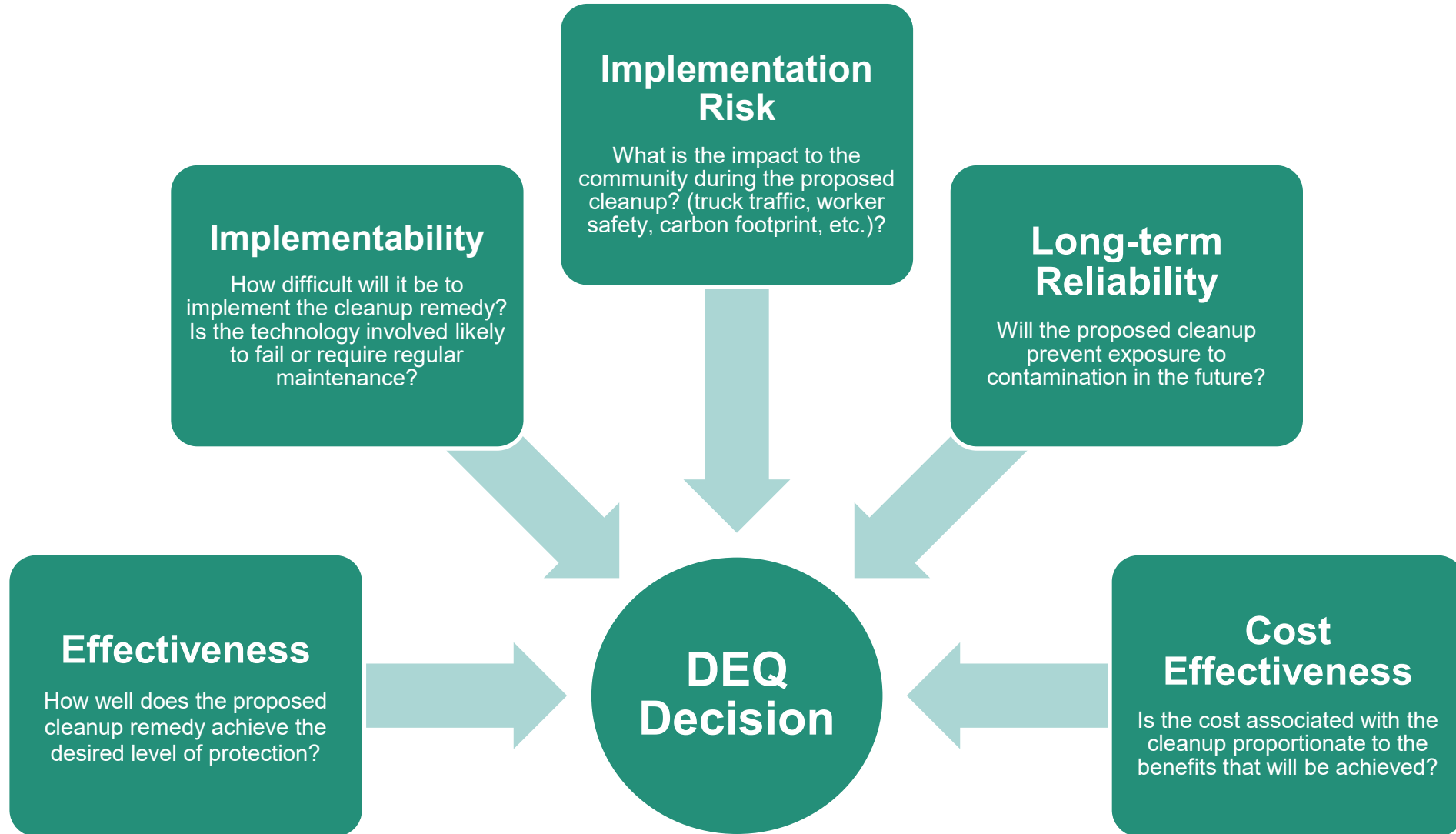
# Challenges:

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- Multiple contaminants resistant to treatment methods (dioxins, metals, PCBs)
- Very low cleanup standards, notably for dioxins (low parts per trillion range)
- Need to minimize impacts to neighborhoods and carbon footprint of cleanup to the extent possible

# Regulatory Considerations for Selecting a Cleanup

Proposed cleanups that are protective are evaluated against the following factors:





# Soil Cleanup Proposal

- **Protect** future recreational/park users, construction workers, the houseless, plants and animals by:



– *Removal* of hotspots for human health\*



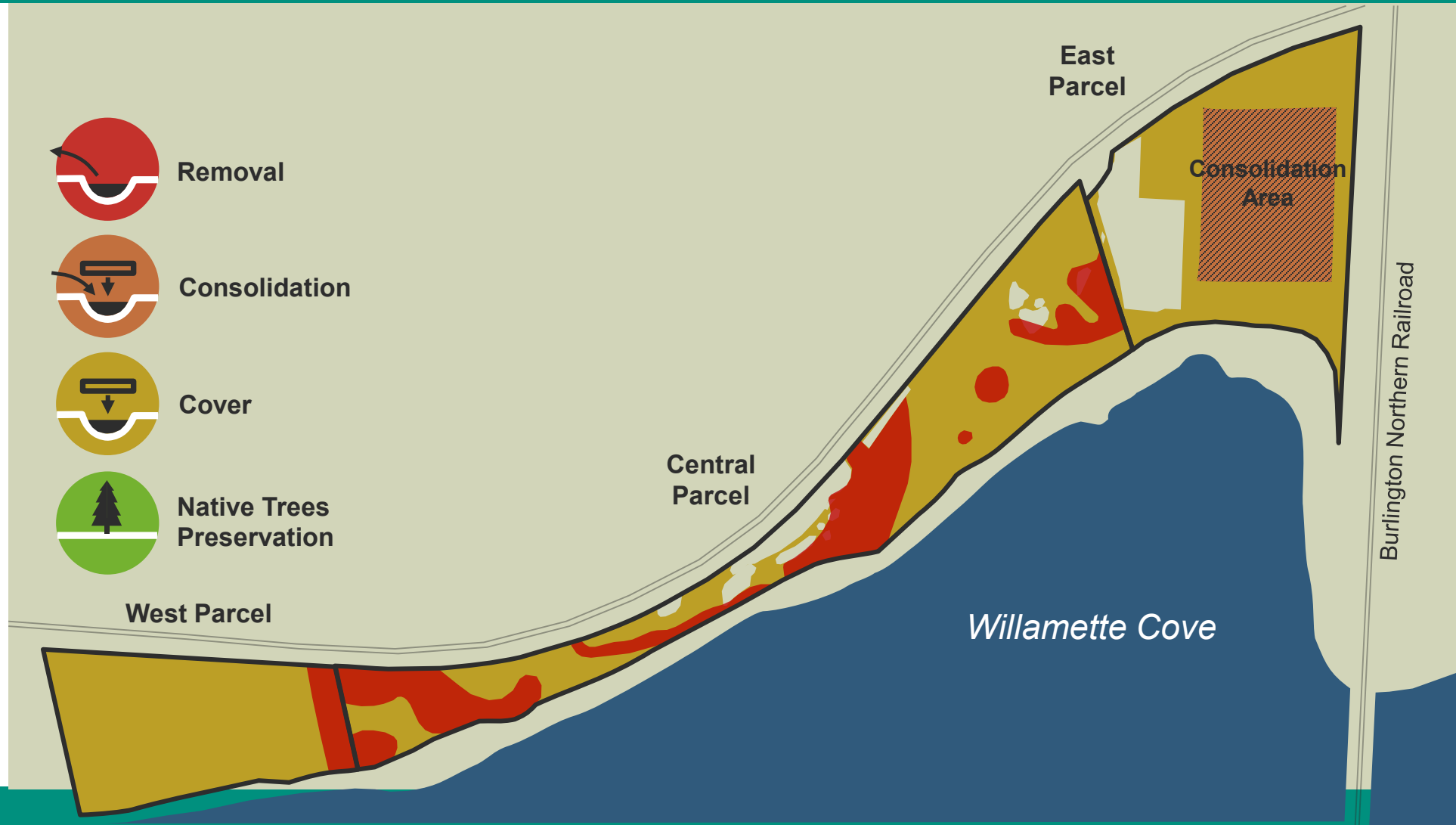
– *Consolidate and cap* most remain contaminated soil



– *Place* clean soil cover as needed

- Long-term monitoring and maintenance

# Cleanup Concept



# Get more info

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- **DEQ website:** <https://go.usa.gov/xdp9g>
  - Fact sheet, executive summary, public notice (English/Spanish/Vietnamese/Russian)
- **DEQ presentation at the Portland Harbor CAG**
  - April 8, 2020
- **Environmental Cleanup Site Information database**
  - ECSI ID: 2066
- **Contact DEQ**
  - **Erin McDonnell:** 503-229-6900 or [McDonnell.Erin@deq.state.or.us](mailto:McDonnell.Erin@deq.state.or.us)

# Public Comment

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- Public comment now through May 1
- Three ways to submit comments:
  - **Email:** [WillCoveUpland@state.or.us](mailto:WillCoveUpland@state.or.us)
  - **Mail:** Erin McDonnell, DEQ
  - **Public meetings**

More information available at back of the room. Copies of this presentation available from DEQ.

# Next steps

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- DEQ will select a final cleanup plan after consideration of all comments.
- Decision expected summer 2020.



# Questions?



State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality