

A photograph of a male and female Mute Swan perched on a weathered log. The male is in the foreground, facing left, with its characteristic red bill and white neck patch. The female is behind it, also facing left. The background is a body of water with greenish-blue ripples.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment Update: Restoration Criteria

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Attorney General
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

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Major Topics

- n Brief review of NRDA
- n Assessment progress
- n Restoration Criteria
- n Next steps



What is NRDA?



- n Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration
- n Created by Congress in addition to the processes for cleanup of hazardous substances (both state and federal laws)
- n Government agencies act on behalf of the public to restore natural resources for public use and enjoyment

Goals of NRDA

- n Restore injured natural resources and the services they provide
- n For NRDA, restore means: restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of injured natural resources and services

Assessment Progress

- n Coordinating with cleanup process
 - Comments on SOWs, Work Plans
 - Sharing data
- n Provided input on removal actions
 - Reduce injuries
 - Speed restoration
- n Technical Work Groups with Dow
 - Human Services; Ecological Injuries; Restoration
 - Assembling data, information for NRDA
 - Planning studies
 - n Focus on information needed to determine amount and types of restoration
 - Memorandum of Agreement

Restoration Criteria

- n Developed by Trustees for this case
- n Based on criteria in federal regulations at 43 C.F.R. § 11.82
- n Purpose:
 - guiding collection of restoration ideas
 - selecting projects to address injuries

Categories of Criteria

- n Eligibility
- n Focus
- n Implementability
- n Benefits

Eligibility Criteria

- n Complies with applicable/relevant federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations
- n Benefits natural resources injured by hazardous substances
- n Is technically feasible

Focus Criteria

- n Restores, rehabilitates, replaces, or acquires the equivalent of injured natural resources
- n Addresses natural resources that are trustee priorities
- n Targets resources or services that will require a long time to recover naturally

Implementability Criteria

- n Cost effective
- n Benefits can be measured
- n Uses methods known to be successful
- n Takes into account completed or anticipated response actions
- n If the project involves source control, it reduces exposure of natural resources
- n Is consistent with regional planning

Benefits Criteria

- n Provides the greatest scope of benefits to the largest area or population
- n Provides benefits not being provided by other programs
- n Aims to achieve environmental equity and justice
- n Maximizes the time over which benefits accrue

Restoration Database

- n Trustees and Dow are compiling:
- n Restoration concepts
 - e.g. coastal wetland restoration, fish passage, habitat continuity
- n Specific projects
 - e.g. fish passage at Dow dam, purchase of property adjacent to public land

Restoration Idea Sources

- n Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)
- n Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative
- n Saginaw River/Bay RAP Update
- n Ducks Unlimited
- n The Nature Conservancy
- n Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy
- n Township Supervisors
- n MDNR, MDEQ and USFWS plans
- n Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

How do EPA's actions affect NRDA?

- n The Trustees' authorities and responsibilities do not change
- n We are continuing with the NRDA and want to coordinate efforts with EPA
- n We need to assess how removal actions impact natural resources
 - Reduce exposure
 - Physical alterations to habitat

Next steps?

- n Continue to collect and develop ideas for potential restoration projects in the area with input from organizations and the general public
- n Coordinate with response activities, as practical
- n Provide public with overall assessment plan and specific study proposals

Summary



- n The goal of NRDA is to restore: return to baseline and compensate for losses over time.
- n NRDA is a complementary, parallel, yet distinct process from the cleanup activities.
- n NRDA restoration must be
 - focused on natural resources
 - address injuries that resulted from the release of contaminants

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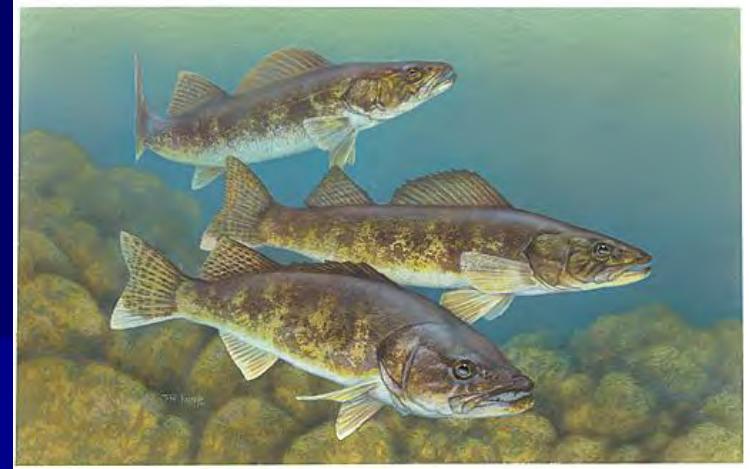
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NRDA Website:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/TittabawasseeRiverNRDA>