PORTLAND WATER BUREAU
FROM FOREST TO FAUCET

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Terry Black
Sandy River Basin Community Information
(503) 823-8978

Logs flown in to restore salmon habitat in Gordon and Trout creeks

The Portland Water Bureau will conduct a salmon habitat restoration project in Gordon and Trout creeks, tributaries of the Sandy River, the last two weeks of September 2012. The project will require the use of a heavy-lift Vertol helicopter to fly in and place 520 logs along the creeks. Columbia Helicopters has been contracted to do the work. The restoration work will occur on Monday through Fridays between 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, and it is projected to start September 17. Residents should be aware that helicopters will be moving trees in these areas and SE Gordon Creek Rd. will be flagged at times for safety reasons.

Chinook salmon spawning occurs in the lower portions of Gordon and Trout creeks. The logs will be placed at 60 sites along Gordon and Trout creeks and then will replace large trees that would normally fall into the streams and provide habitat suitable for native salmon species. Large and small woody debris accumulations benefit fish by slowing stream velocity, creating resting areas, scouring deep pools, providing cover for fish, collecting gravel for spawning beds and providing nutrients and homes for aquatic insects eaten by the fish.

"These locations on Gordon and Trout creeks were identified as high potential areas for fish recovery and protection", says Steve Kucas, Environmental Compliance Manager for the Portland Water Bureau, who is directing the project.

The logs to be used have been sustainably harvested. Some were buried deep in the mud of the Columbia River while others were cleared from the Portland Zoo to make room for the new animal hospital. Many logs originated from the Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge near Dallas Oregon, where they were removed to return the harvested area to a historic oak woodland state.

The project sites are on Metro Regional Government and Longview Timberlands LLC owned land. A local Christmas tree farm has allowed Columbia Helicopter to stage a refueling site on their property. The helicopter may make as many as 10 passes over the area each day.

The Portland Water Bureau is implementing a comprehensive set of fish habitat protection and restoration activities to improve conditions in the Bull Run watershed and throughout the Sandy River basin. The fifty-year goal is to recreate habitat conditions that will improve runs of fall and spring Chinook salmon, winter steelhead, coho salmon, and cutthroat trout populations.

For more information, contact Terry Black at the Portland Water Bureau, at (503) 823-8978.

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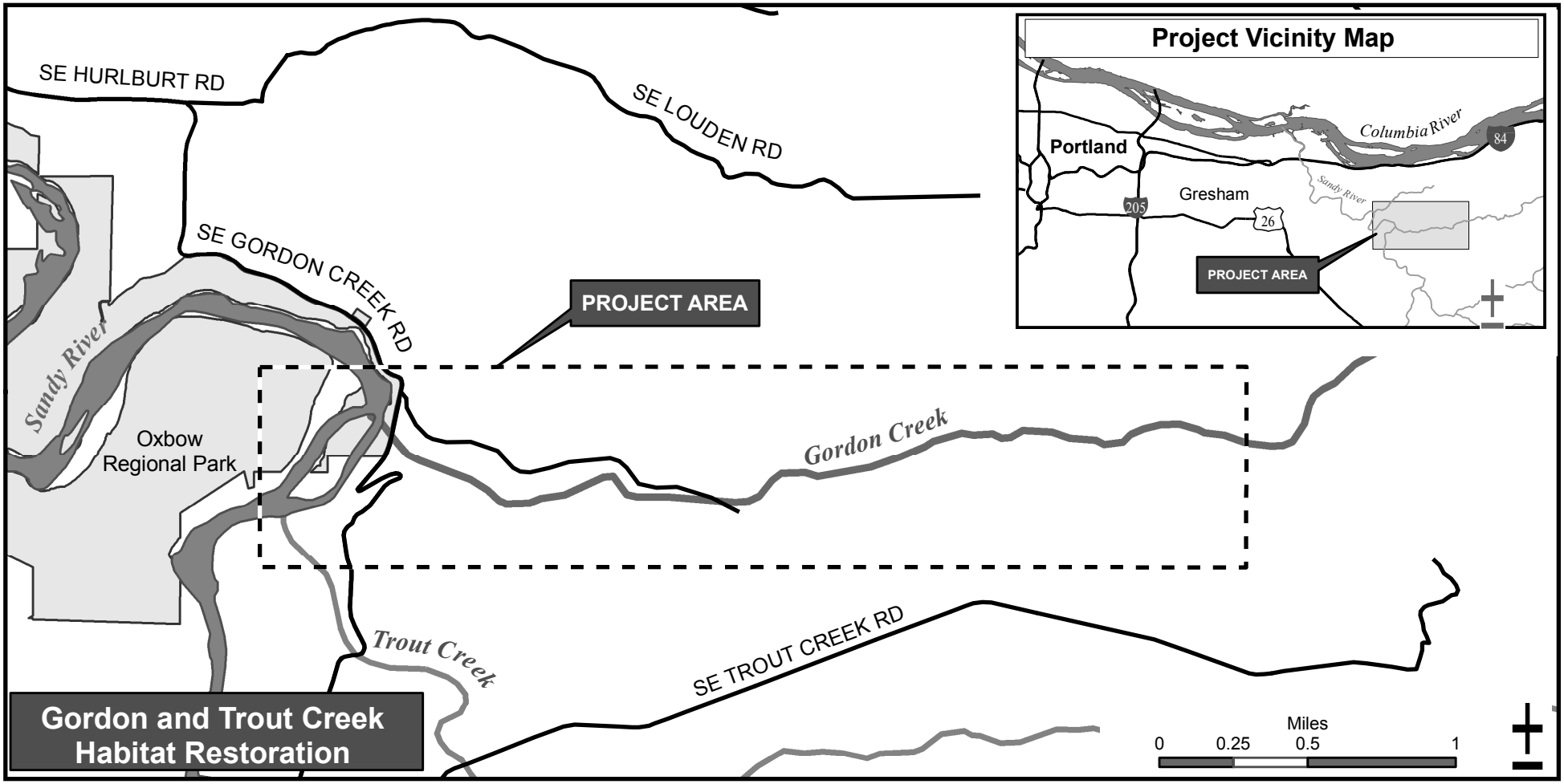
The City of Portland will make reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities. Please notify us no later than five (5) business days prior to the event by phone 503-823-7404, by the City's TTY at 503-823-6868, or by the Oregon Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900.


Project Vicinity Map
Portland
Columbia River
84
Gresham
Sandy River
205
26
PROJECT AREA
SE HURLBURT RD
SE LOUDEN RD
SE GORDON CREEK RD
PROJECT AREA
Sandy River
Oxbow
Regional Park
Gordon Creek
Trout Creek
SE TROUT CREEK RD
Miles
0
0.25
0.5
1
Gordon and Trout Creek
Habitat Restoration