

**Train – Inland River**

As a result of a long period of wet weather in the Kalama, WA area, a series of landslides has begun occurring in the steeper areas along the banks of the Columbia River. A unit train consisting of 120 cars each carrying 600 barrels of undiluted bitumen was transiting a rail line that runs adjacent to the river, when it was derailed by a landslide. Three tank cars are off the tracks at river mile 79 (45.963121, -122.811828). At least one is known to be compromised and leaking oil into the Columbia River. Initial reports estimate at least 600 barrels are in the water. Based on volume observed, it is likely that the other two derailed cars are leaking as well. The river is flowing at 200,000 cubic feet per second (flowing toward Kalama) and is approximately 50ft. deep in this area. Notifications were made and unified command was formed.



April 16-17, 2013

Resource Concerns

The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest region. The river rises in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia, Canada. It flows northwest and then south into the US state of Washington, then turns west to form most of the border between Washington and the state of Oregon before emptying into the Pacific Ocean. The river is 1,243 miles (2,000 km) long. Its drainage basin is roughly the size of France and extends into seven U.S. states and a Canadian province.



*This picture (looking north) shows the rail corridor which runs immediately adjacent to the river.*

In the vicinity of Kalama: Numerous streams and tributaries feed into the Columbia River immediately downstream of the derailment site. These streams contain resident and migratory bull trout [FT/SC]\*, Coho salmon [FT], Chinook salmon [FT/SC], sturgeon, and steelhead trout [FT/SC]. Sand rollers have also been observed in the immediate vicinity of the spill site. Fish in the Kalama area are not only natural resources, but they also stimulate the local economy through recreational fishing.

Bald eagles [FCo/SS] and great blue herons are nesting residents and may be found year-round throughout the region. Resident and migratory songbirds heavily utilize riparian habitats year-round and are susceptible to oiling if riparian vegetation and shorelines become contaminated. There are also several osprey nests nearby.

Mammals common to the region include beaver, river otter, mink and raccoon. Because of their habitat preferences, all of these species are vulnerable to contact with spilled oil.

Many different Native American groups have a historical and continuing presence on the Columbia River. It is highly likely there numerous subsistence, cultural and economic resources throughout the area on both sides of the river.

Washington State is one of the most trade-dependent states in the nation. There are seven deep-draft ports on Puget Sound, one coastal port and three on the Columbia River. A major oil spill in this area would disrupt shipping and commerce. The Port of Longview is down river from the spill location.

**\*Sensitive species include the following federal and state designations:** Federal Endangered (FE), Federal Threatened (FT), Federal Candidate (FC), Federal Species of Concern (FCo), State Endangered (SE), State Threatened (ST), State Candidate (SC), State Sensitive (SS).