



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Date posted: April 30, 2025

## DEQ Requests Comments on an Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives for the Former Western States Plywood Cooperative Mill near Port Orford

### HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

**Facility/property:** Former Western States Plywood Cooperative Mill

**Project location:** 93600 block of Elk River Road, Port Orford, Curry County

**Comments due by:** May 31, 2025 at 5pm

#### Submit written comments:

**By mail:** Send comments to Anthony Chavez, DEQ Project Manager, 165 E. Seventh Ave., Suite 100, Eugene, OR 97401

**By email:** [anthony.chavez@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:anthony.chavez@deq.oregon.gov)

### Proposal highlights

Using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Cleanup funding, an Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) report for contaminants found at the Former Western States Plywood Cooperative Mill (the Site) was prepared to evaluate remedial options for restoring natural fish and wildlife habitat on the Site. The restoration plan includes reconnecting Bagley Creek to Elk River for the purpose of reintroducing Coho salmon, a federally listed threatened species, to their historical spawning grounds of the Creek. The ABCA focuses on the remediation of dioxin/furan-impacted soil and sediments, which were identified as posing an unacceptable risk to ecological receptors. A preferred cleanup alternative was selected in the ABCA, which recommends a combination of contaminated material being removed from the Site and capping of other contaminated materials on the Site. This request for public comment satisfies requirements of the EPA Brownfield Cleanup Program.

### Background

The Site is located near the 93600 block of Elk River Road, approximately 1.5-miles northwest of Port Orford. It occupies Curry County tax lots 104, 900, and 901 in Section 27 of Township 32 south, Range 15 west of the Willamette Meridian. The Site is currently vacant and is covered with vegetation and disturbed ground from former plywood mill operations. A former log pond and former fire suppression pond are present on the Site. Bagley Creek crosses the Site in a southwest-to-northeast direction, through both ponds. The Site was formerly developed and operated as a plywood mill owned by Western States Plywood Cooperative. The mill operated from the 1950s until 1975. A concrete dam, an earthen dam, and seasonal beaver dams constrain the flow of Bagley Creek to the two ponds. The presence of the ponds and dams through Bagley Creek has prevented fish access to upstream portions of Bagley Creek from Elk River. Beginning in 2017, various environmental investigations have been completed at the Site including, Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments, an EPA completed Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA), and an Ecological Risk Assessment. Based on findings, unacceptable risks to ecological receptors, including Coho salmon under the proposed and restored fish passage, are present in soils and sediments on the Site.

### For more information

Detailed information, including the ABCA and TBA reports are located at <https://ordeq.org/ECSI0556>. If you do not have web access and want to review project files, contact the DEQ project manager, Anthony Chavez at 541-687-7348.

### Translation or other formats

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800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us)

**The next step**

DEQ will address comments received after the end of the comment period and prior to finalizing the ABCA.

**Non-discrimination statement**

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