Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

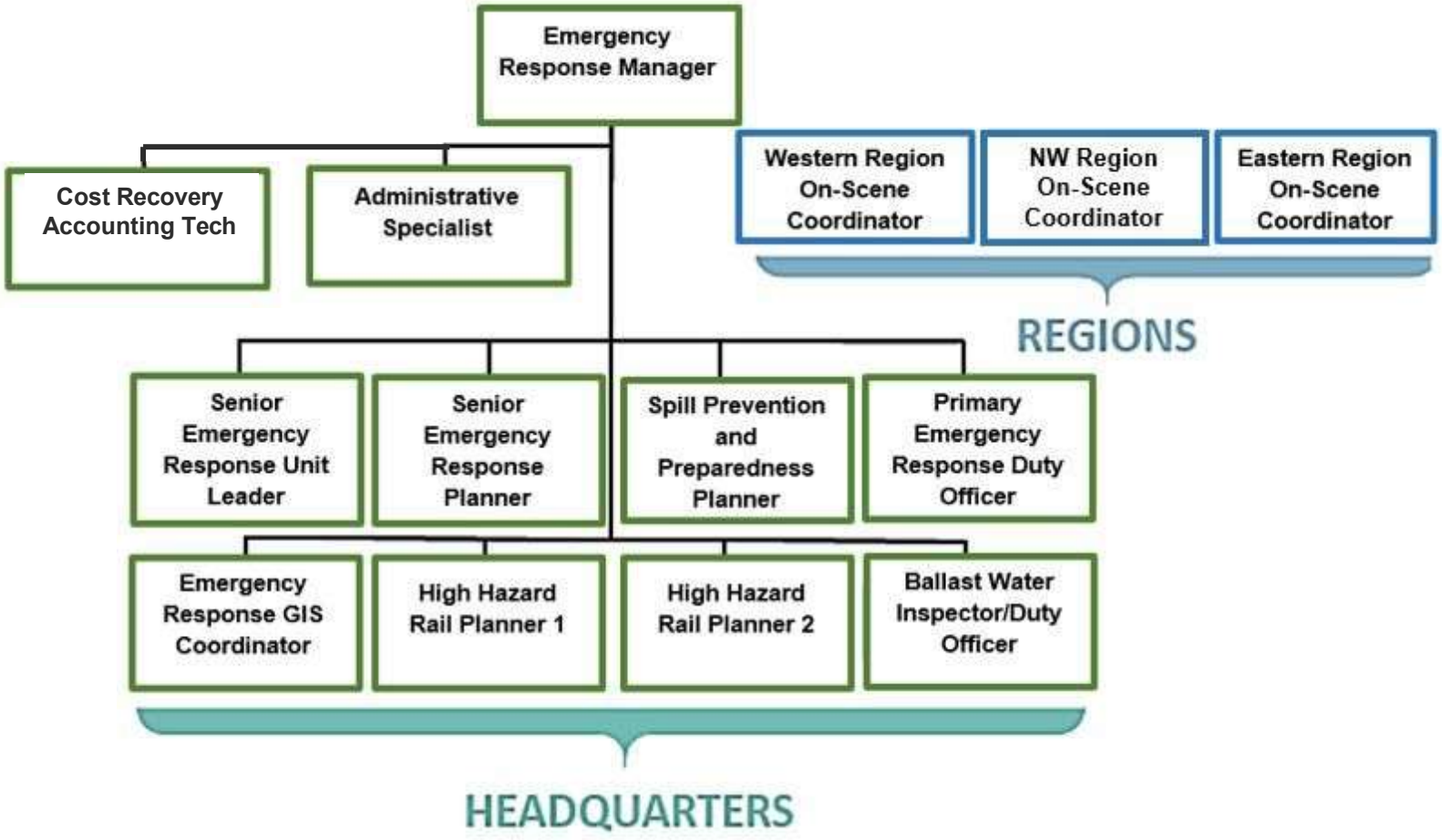
Emergency Response

October 7, 2026
Presented by:
Kimberlee Van Patten
Sr. Emergency Response Coordinator

DEQ's Mission

DEQ is committed to advancing environmental protection and justice for all communities and ecosystems in Oregon, now and for future generations.

Emergency Response

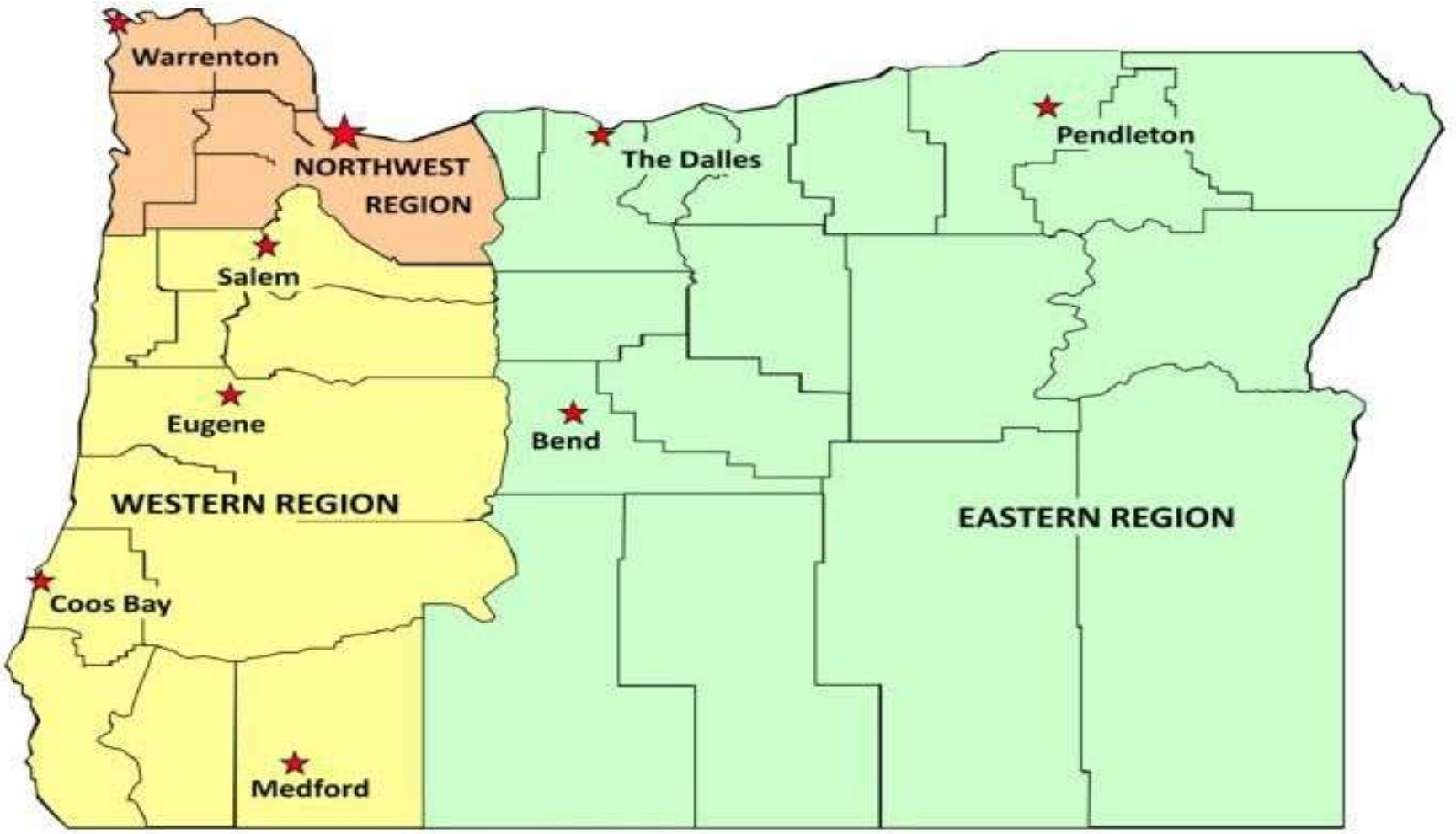


Emergency Response

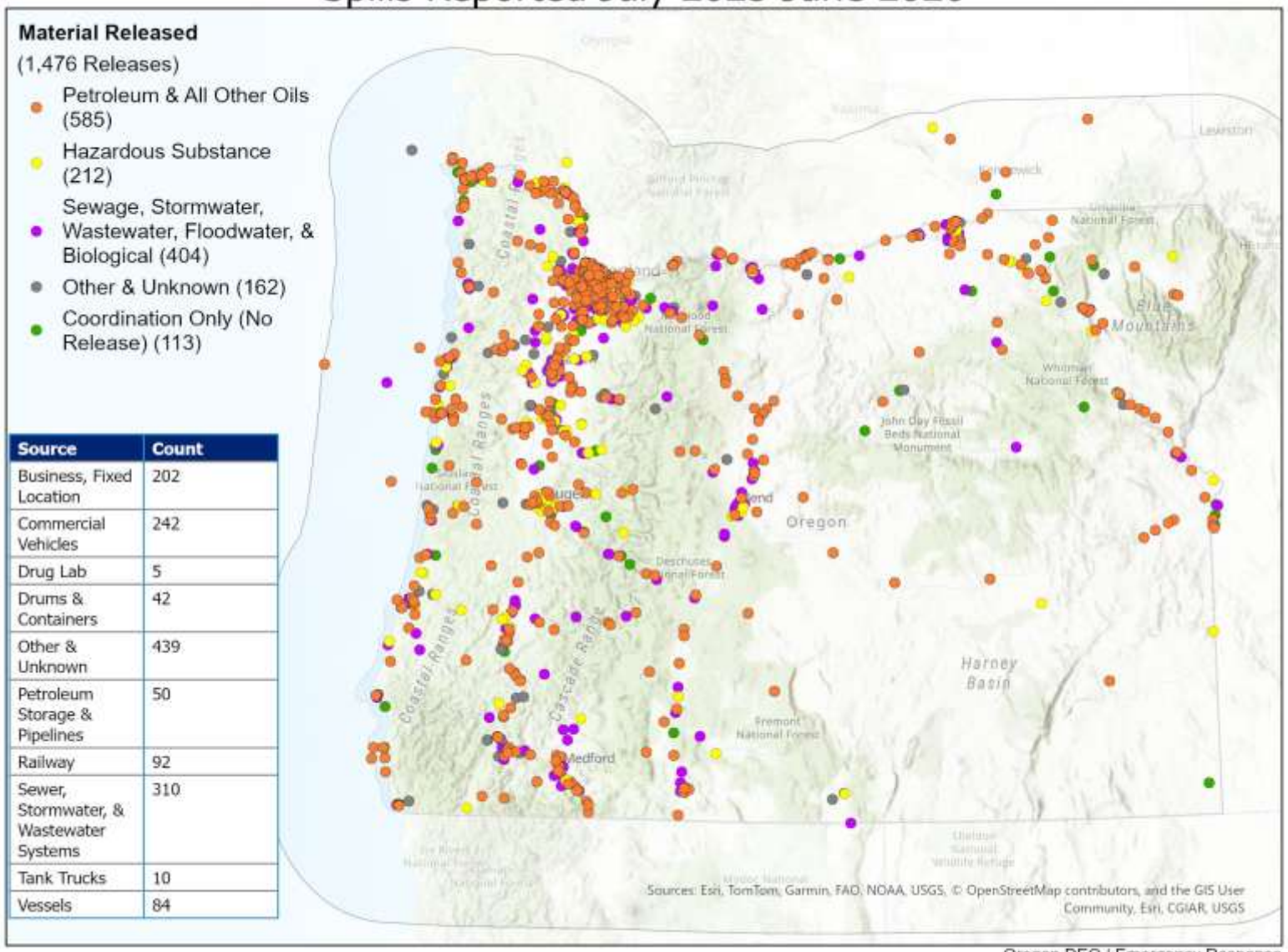
DEQ Office Locations:

- Bend
- Coos Bay
- Eugene
- Hillsboro (Lab)
- Klamath Falls
- Medford
- Pendleton
- Portland
- Salem
- The Dalles

* Does not include the vehicle inspection stations



Spills Reported July 2025-June 2026



Source	Count
Business, Fixed Location	202
Commercial Vehicles	242
Drug Lab	5
Drums & Containers	42
Other & Unknown	439
Petroleum Storage & Pipelines	50
Railway	92
Sewer, Stormwater, & Wastewater Systems	310
Tank Trucks	10
Vessels	84

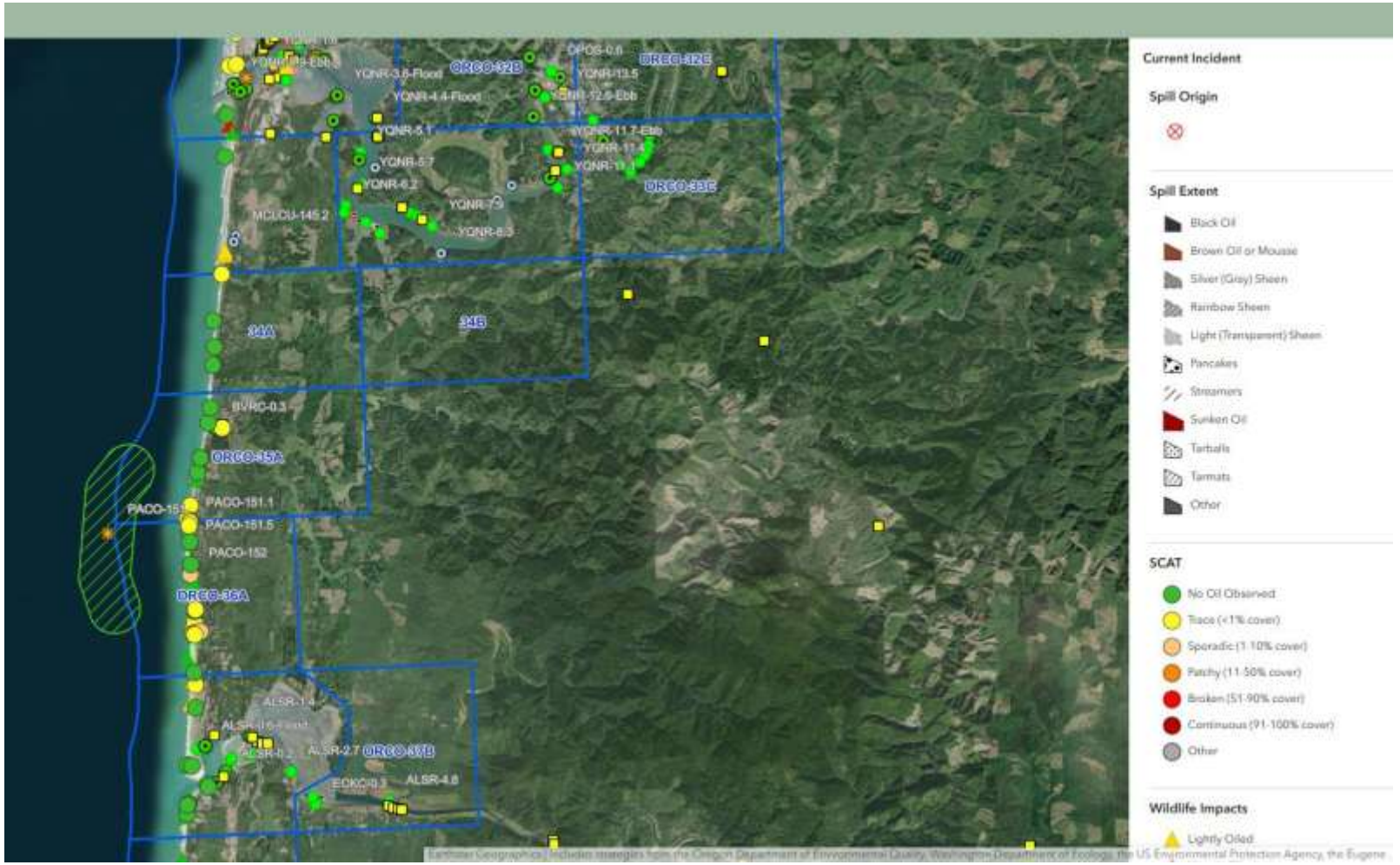
Oregon DEQ | Emergency Response

On-Water Response

Common Operating Picture

DEQ has a suite of mobile app-based data collection forms for use during incidents that feed data directly into the COP:

- SCAT (shoreline cleanup and assessment technique) data
- Wildlife impacts
- Sampling locations (all media)
- Safety hazards and responder injury/illness reporting (in development



Earthstar Geographics | Includes materials from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Washington Department of Ecology, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Eugene

Response Authorities & Federal Nexus

- CERCLA
  - Release or Threat of Release
    - Hazardous Substances
    - Pollutants and Contaminants
  - "Imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment"
- Oil Pollution Act-Clean Water Act
  - Oil impacts or threatens to impact waters of the United States
- NCP / ESF 10 and Others

- ORS 465 Removal/Remedial Action
- ORS 466 Spill Response/Hazardous Materials
- ORS 468B.300-500 Oil Spill Planning/Preparedness

- Oregon Emergency Management Plan
- Northwest Area Contingency Plan (under revision)
- ESF 10 Primary, Supporting Agency

Four new Area Contingency Plans are being developed to replace the existing Northwest Area Contingency Plan:

- Sector Columbia River Area Contingency Plan
- Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan
- Northwest Inland Area Contingency Plan (NWIACP)
- Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP)

State and Federal Partnerships

- Governor's Office (DEQ Regional Solutions)
- Office of Emergency Management
- State Police and State Fire Marshal Offices
  - HAZMAT Teams
  - OERS (Oregon Emergency Response System)
    - 800-452-0311
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- State Parks and Recreation (State Historic Preservation Office)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Health Authority
- Department of Energy
- Department of State Lands
- Oregon State Marine Board

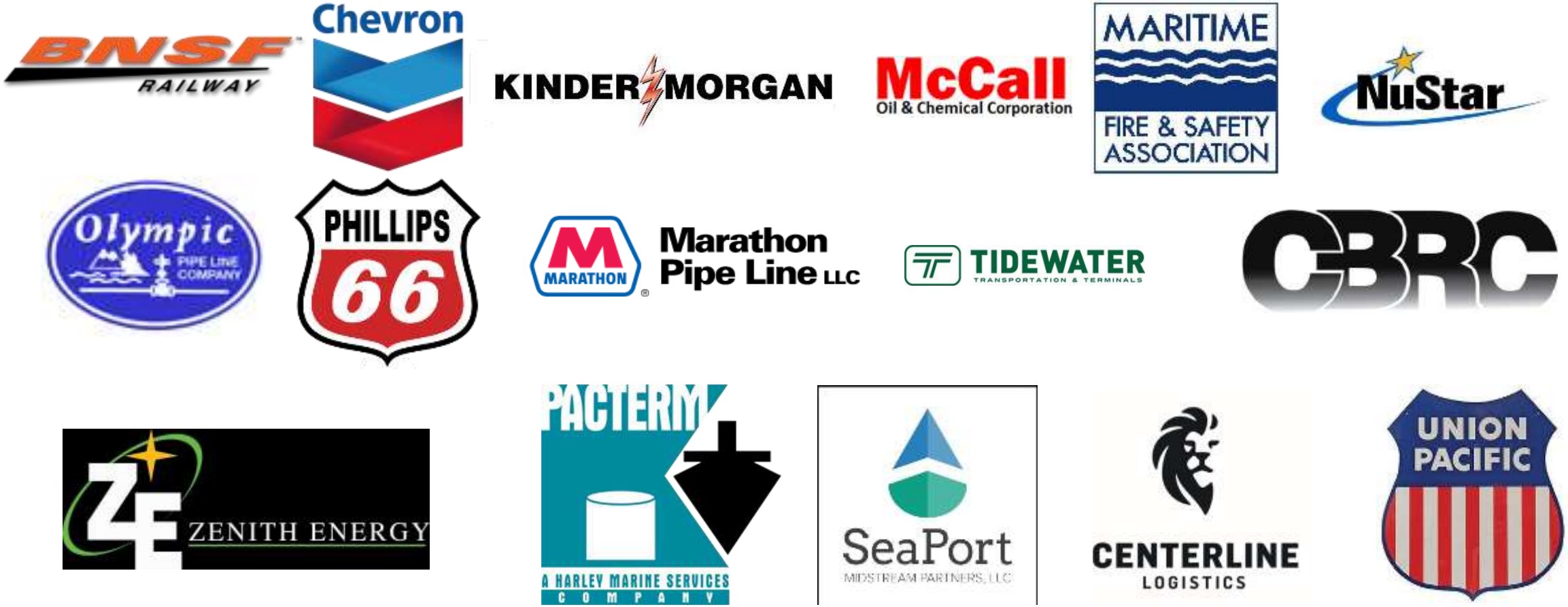
- US EPA
- US Coast Guard
- NOAA
- DOI
  - US Fish and Wildlife
- FEMA
- Army Corps of Engineers

Portland's Working Waterfront

Columbia River Shipping

- Largest ships that can enter the Columbia River are Panamax Class ships
- Container, Ro-Ro, Bulk Carriers, Tank Ships, Tank Barges, and Cruise Ships frequent the Columbia River
- Bulk Carrier Fuel Capacity is about 1.5 to 2 million gallons
- Panamax Tank Ships can carry 14 million gallons of oil

Oil Spill Contingency Planholders



Oregon's Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub (CEI)

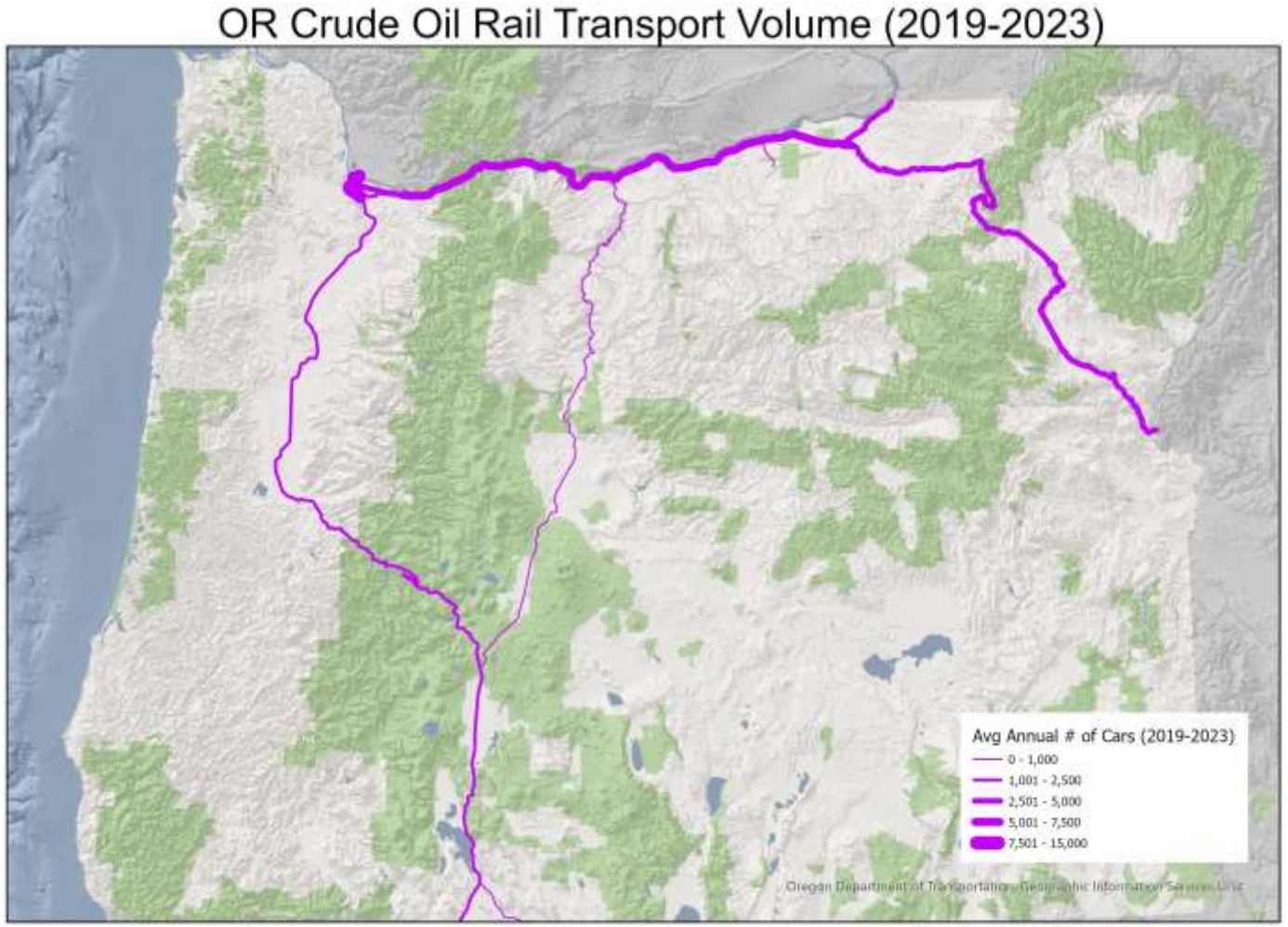
- 12 Petroleum Facilities
- 3 Petroleum Pipelines
- 1 Natural Gas Facility
- Daily average 35 million gallons of petroleum stored
- Cascadia Subduction Earthquake would be an estimated magnitude 9
- Portland West Hills Earthquake will be estimated magnitude 6.8
- It is estimated that the Cascadia Subduction Spill could rival spill volumes of the Deepwater Horizon

Implementation Rules OAR 340-300-0000 to 0007

High Hazard Rail

Over 380 million gallons of oil come into Oregon each year by rail, posing a risk to the environments and communities it travels through.

DEQ requires certain railroads to prepare plans in case of a spill, so they respond quickly and effectively.



Resources at Risk

- Native Americans have relied on the Columbia River for 15,000 years and continue to do so today
- Oregon has 9 federally recognized tribes
  - Burns Paiute Tribe
  - Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw
  - Coquille Indian Tribe
  - Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
  - Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians
  - Klamath Tribes
  - Confederated Tribes of Siletz
  - Confederated Tribes of Umpqua
  - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Healthy, naturally functioning ecosystems provide services worth an estimated $198.8 billion

So, a healthy ecosystem is vital to Oregon's interests

Resources at Risk

Significant Oregon Spills

- 1978 Toyota Maru (Columbia River) 30,000 Gallons
- 1983 Blue Magpie (Yaquina Bay) 80,000 Gallons
- 1984 Mobil Oil (Columbia River) 200,000 Gallons
- 1991 Tenyo Maru (North Coast) 15 Miles of tar balls
- 1991 Tai Chung (Willamette River) 11,000 Gallons
- 1993 Southern Pacific (Yoncalla Creek) 5,000 Gallons
- 1993 MV Central (Columbia River) 3,000 Gallons
- 1994 An Ping 6 (Columbia River) 3,000 Gallons
- 1999 MV New Carissa (South Coast) 70,000 Gallons
- 2010 Davy Crocket (Columbia River) 30,000 Gallons
- 2019 F/V Ann Kathleen (South Coast) 3,000 Gallons
- 2024 OR/WA Mystery Oiling Event (Western Coast) Tar balls from Washington to California border

Common Murres impacted during OR/WA Mystery Oiling event.

Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

ADVs continue to plague Oregon waterways

Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

The Tiffany is the first ADV removal using new funds from the Oregon Department of State Lands in 2023.

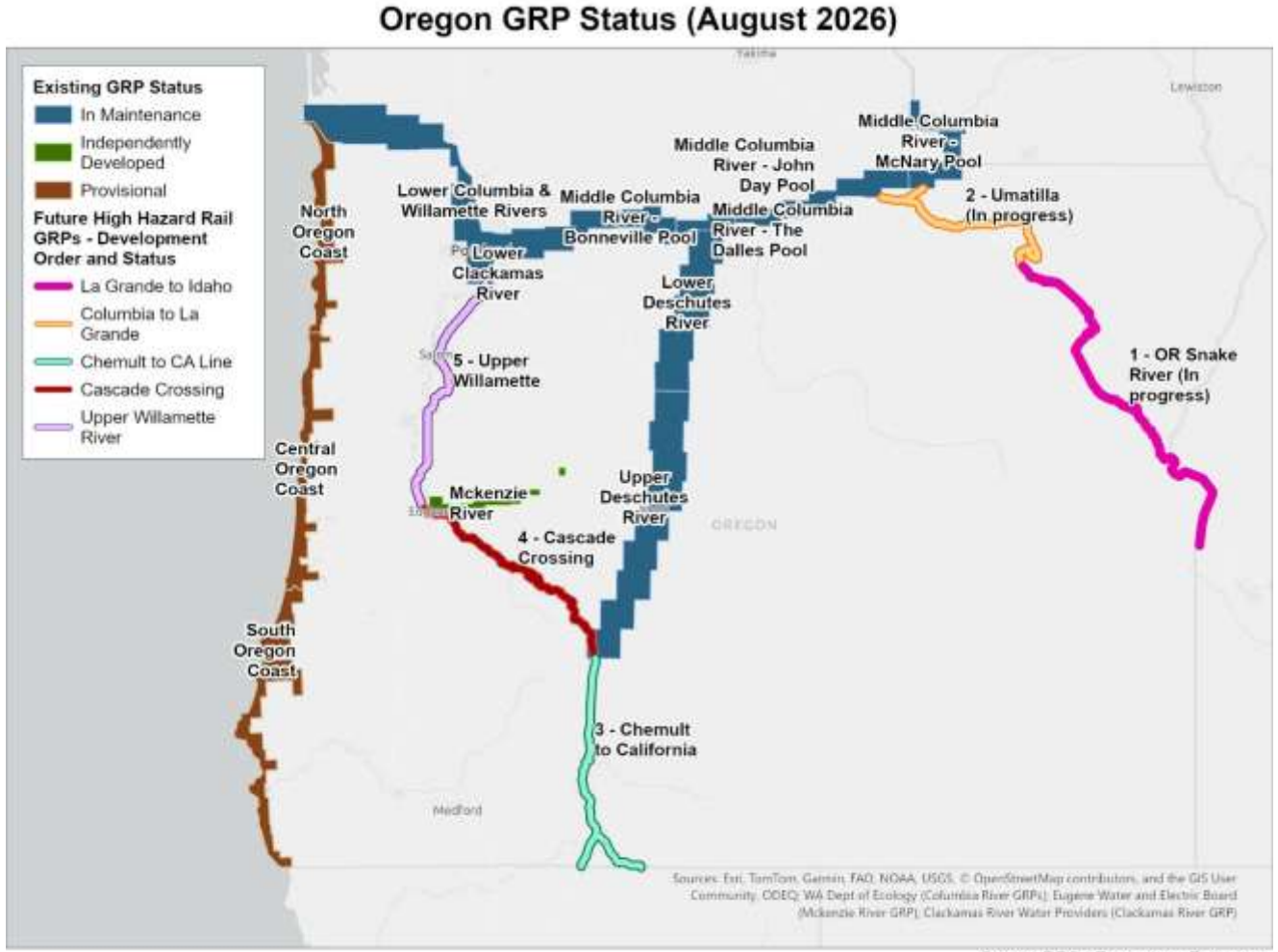
On August 19, 2025, the El Conquistador became one of the latest ADVs removed from the water by DSL.

Geographic Response Plans

Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) are plans that guide oil spill response. Each GRP is written for a specific area and includes tactical response strategies tailored to a particular shore or waterway at risk of injury from oil.

GRPs have two main objectives:

- Identify sensitive natural, cultural or significant economic resources at risk of injury from oil spills.
- Describe and prioritize response strategies to reduce injury to sensitive natural, cultural, and certain economic resources at risk from oil spills.



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How to reach DEQ Emergency Response?

The best way to reach the Emergency Response Program is:

- Call OERS 24/7 at 800-452-0311
- Ask for a call-back from the DEQ Duty Officer

Thank You

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