

**Anniston PCB Site
Natural Resource Damage
Assessment & Restoration (NRDAR)**

Status and Public Participation

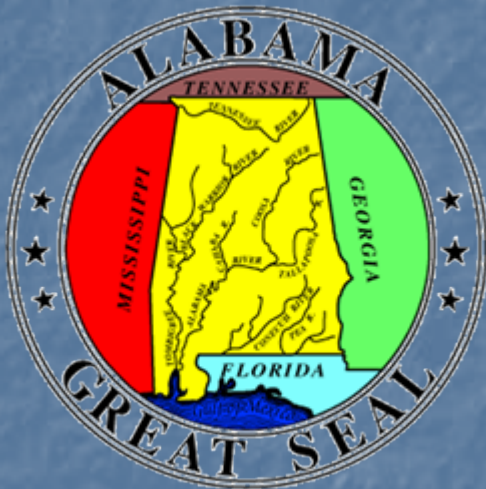
Citizens Advisory Group Meeting
August 21, 2006
Anniston, Alabama

Presentation Outline

- ADCNR, GSA and USFWS Roles
- Difference between CERCLA & NRDAR
- Overview of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) Process
- Status of NRDAR activities at the Site
- How you can Participate in NRDAR process
- Summary
- Questions?

The Natural Resource Trustee Rep. Anniston PCB Site NRDAR

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Conservation and Natural Resources

For this Site: 2 State Agencies and
1 Federal (USFWS is the Lead Administrative Trustee)

Role of Trustees at Anniston Site

- Basically 2 Roles
- **First Role** : Provide technical assistance to EPA to ensure that the cleanups being carried out under CERCLA protect natural resources (ex. birds, fish, water, mammals and their supporting habitat).
- **Second Role**: Conduct a Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR).

Basic Differences B/W CERCLA & NRDAR

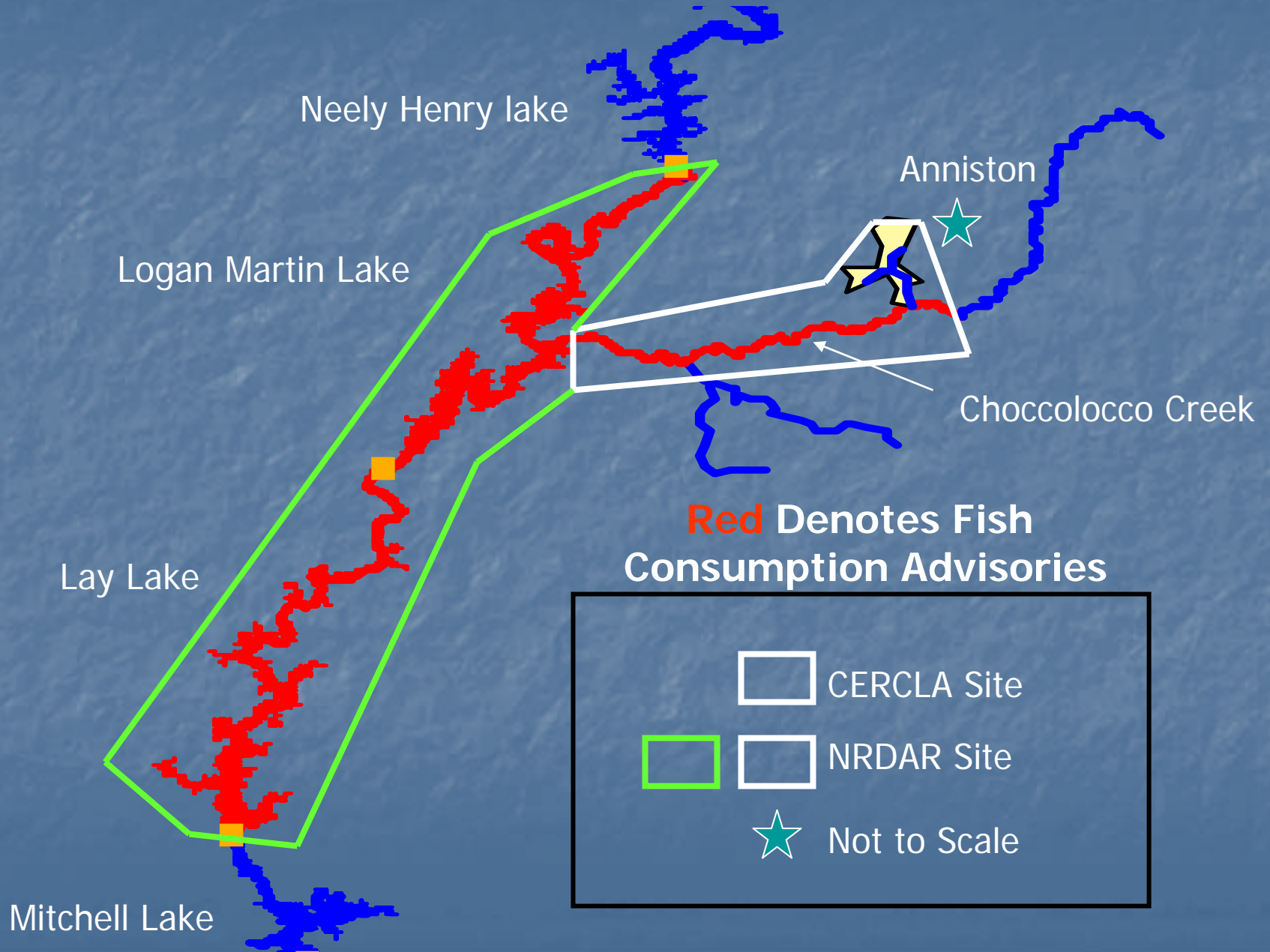
CERCLA Process

- EPA led
- Goals are the Overall Protection of Human Health and the Env.
- Reduction of toxicity, mobility or volume through treatment (Removing the PCBs)

NRDAR Process


- Natural Resource Trustee Led – ADCNR, GSA & USFWS
- Goals are to Make the Public WHOLE for injury to their resources. (Conducting Restoration)

1 Difference B/W CERCLA & NRDAR



Misconceptions B/W CERCLA & NRDAR

The Trustees (ADCNR, GSA, and USFWS) are **NOT** part of the Partial Consent Decree with EPA and Solutia/Pharmacia!!



Although somewhat similar in nature, and appear to overlap at times, CERCLA & NRDAR are entirely 2 different processes!

What is Natural Resource Damage Assessment?



It is the Process used by natural resource trustees to determine the nature and extent of injury to trust **resources** caused by an oil spill or release of a hazardous substance (PCBs).

Examples of Potential Natural Resources & Services at this Site

- Surface water
- Ground water
- Soils
- Sediment
- Benthos
- Mollusks
- Fish
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Birds
- Mammals
- T&E Plants
- T&E Mollusks
- T&E RCW
- T&E Gray Bat
- T&E Blue Shiner
- T&E Bald Eagle
- Water: Consumptive Use
- Water: Non-Consumptive Us
- Recreational Fishing
- Others?

The NRDAR Process – What we do!

- Basically, the Trustees assess the past, current and future PCB injuries to **resources** and identify and plan restoration actions to address these injuries.
- The money recovered from the responsible party is used to restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of the injured **resource**. (eye for an eye!)
- BASIC GOAL: Reimburse the public for the injuries as a result of the incident if the incident had never occurred through restoration.

Major Concepts in NRDAR

- Damages (usually \$) are for compensation to injuries to natural **resources** or/and response actions
- Damages (\$) are to be used for Restoration
- This is NOT a punitive process (not a fine)!!
- The Public and the PRPs are involved in the process

Where are we Now?

- Pre-assessment Screen – May 2005
- June 2005 Solutia/Pharmacia sent an invitation letter from the Trustees to participate in a cooperative NRDA.
- July 2005 Solutia/Pharmacia responded with a willingness to meet with the Trustees to discuss NRDA issues/concerns.
- 1st NRDA Meeting April 2006
- 2nd NRDA Meeting was Today
- Trustees to release Assessment Plan this year!

What is a NRDAR Assessment Plan (overview)

- Describes the Anniston Site and the **resources**
- Describes the approach and methods
- Uses existing data to develop preliminary conclusions regarding injury to **resources**
- Contains some preliminary restoration alternatives (**But we need your help!!**)
- Provides for a planned and systematic course of action
- Provides for a 30 – Day Public Comment Period
- There will be Public Meetings for the Plan (required by law)
 - We will work with the CAG

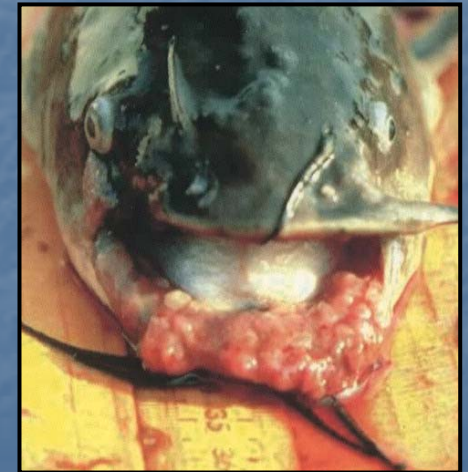
What Are Natural Resource Injuries?



Injuries to Fish and Wildlife



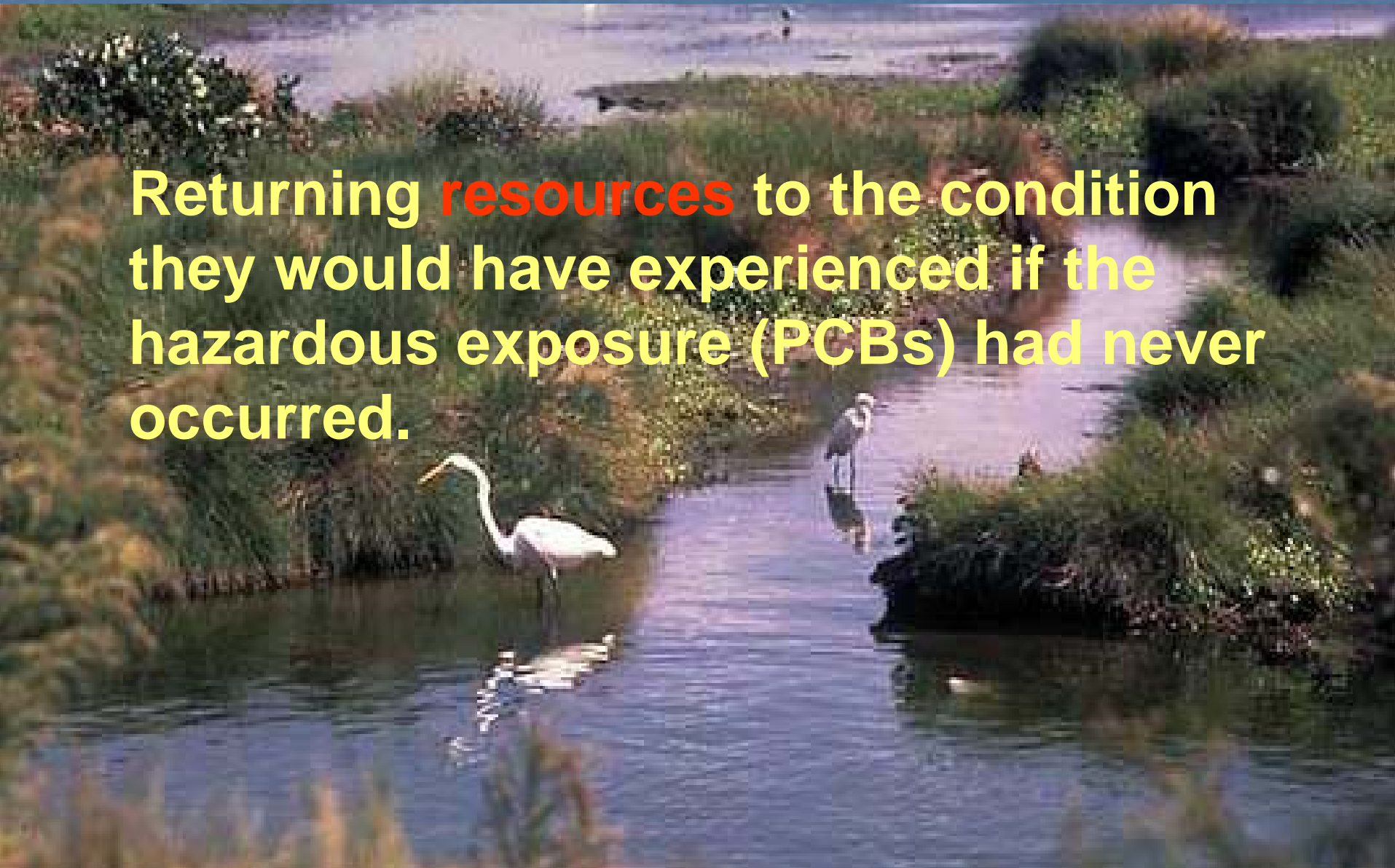
- ❖ Death
- ❖ Disease
- ❖ Cancer
- ❖ Genetic Mutations
- ❖ Physical Deformities
- ❖ Behavioral Abnormalities



So What Is Restoration?



Returning **resources** to the condition they would have experienced if the hazardous exposure (PCBs) had never occurred.



Types of Restoration



- ❖ Enhance or restore quality of existing habitat
(ex. Planting trees in a bare area, stream restoration)
- ❖ Increase populations through reintroduction or restocking
(ex. Fish)
- ❖ Purchase quality habitat for management by States, Tribes, or non-profit organizations
(ex. wildlife management areas/parks)
- ❖ Public access and education

Restoration Involves Everyone



In Summary



- ❖ The Trustees (ADCNR, GSA, and USFWS) are **not** part of the Partial Consent Decree with EPA and Solutia/Pharmacia!!
- ❖ The Public and Responsible Parties **are** involved in the NRDAR process.
- ❖ The NRDAR process is **not** punitive.
- ❖ Restoration of injured **resources** is the **primary** objective of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) process.
- ❖ Start thinking about restoration projects or types that you would like to see in your community (**handouts**).

Questions/Contact Info.

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- USFWS Anniston PCB NRDAR Webpage
<http://www.fws.gov/daphne/Contaminants/index-AnnistonNRDA.html>

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