



# News

## **NEWS RELEASE – for immediate release**

### Media Contacts:

Ali Ryan Hansen, Communications Director, 503-510-6860, [ali.r.hansen@dsl.oregon.gov](mailto:ali.r.hansen@dsl.oregon.gov)

Josh Mulhollem, Waterways Stewardship Manager, 971-600-8935

December 5, 2024

## **Abandoned Hazardous Barge Removed from the Columbia River**

*Another maritime disaster averted by the state's new ADV Program*

PORTLAND, Ore. – A 100-foot vessel of peeling paint and rusting metal will now be dismantled instead of threatening the Columbia River. The Dredge Herb Anderson, once employed to remove Mount St. Helens ash from Oregon rivers, has been declining outside the community of Rainier for more than twenty years.

“I was losing sleep over the state of the Dredge Anderson,” local dock owner and owner of Columbia River Launch Service Brett Bybee explained, “The spud, a long steel shaft keeping the vessel in place, had lost integrity and the Dredge was just one big storm away from cutting loose and floating into the main navigation channel of the Columbia River.”

The estimated \$1.1 million cleanup was prioritized due to the threat of a significant incident and environmental cleanup on the Columbia River if the state did not intervene to remove the Dredge Anderson.

“People are often amazed by how many toxic substances may be on these vessels and the many precautions we must take in proper disposal,” said Scott Smith, Spill Contingency Planner for Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. “Oil, PCBs, and lead can all seriously harm our waterways.”

On November 20, after divers reinforced the hull for the journey, the Dredge was lashed to a 160-foot crane barge and pushed by tugboat from Rainier to a dismantling facility in North Portland. The vessel will undergo toxic material testing and abatement before it is cut into pieces for recycling.

“Taking these hazardous vessels off our waterways before disaster strikes is one way the state's new Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) Program protects waterways,” said Josh Mulhollem, Waterways Stewardship Manager at Oregon Department of State Lands. “But we

are also concerned with proactively preventing these situations so the state doesn't need to intervene."

The state is pursuing legal options for recovering costs of removal and dismantling from the owner of the Dredge.

###

Video (includes vessel being pushed by tugboat, interior vessel shots, and b-roll of Rainier and the dock site) and still photos are [available for download here](#).

[www.oregon.gov/dsl](http://www.oregon.gov/dsl)