Date of Incident: January 13, 2021
Potential Liable Party: United States Army Corps of Engineers
Product Spilled: Hydraulic Oil
Spill Source: Power Generation Utility
Oil Spill Size Estimate: 25 Gallons
Water Body Affected: Columbia River
Ecology Region: CRO
County: Multnomah
Nearest City: Dalles
Location of Spill: John Day Dam
Cause: Mechanical Failure
Ecology Responder: Kelli Bezold
Incident Summary: On January 13, 2021, the United States Army Corps of Engineers reported a turbine failure at the John Day Dam resulting in an estimated 25 gallons of oil released to the Columbia River. The spill resulted in a 15' by 20' oil sheen downstream of the dam, and initially the volume spilled was unknown. Dam staff shut down the turbine and collected spilled oil within the dam using sorbents. On January 14, 2021, Army Corps staff notified Ecology that the estimated volume of turbine oil spilled is 25 gallons. The Army Corps has not provided an estimate for the volume of oil recovered within the first 24 hours of the spill.