

New Culvert to Restore Fish Passage

Project 20 years in the making to see completion this summer

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC) is excited to announce the Oak Ranch Creek restoration project will begin this August. The new culvert installation, under Apiary Road near mile marker 16, will correct damage done by the flood of 1996 and restore natural stream functions.

The existing undersized cul-

vert blocks nearly all fish migration upstream, and does not meet state or federal fish passage standards. The new open bottom arch precast concrete structure is expected to restore passage to 100% and make accessible 10 miles of productive aquatic habitat to several fish species including trout, steelhead, and the endangered Northern Coastal Coho Salmon.

Funding is provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife, and Columbia County Road Department. Crossing design was developed by Lower Columbia Engineering. CONTECH will manufacture the structure. Columbia County will release the project for public bid in early June.

UNWC and partners made every effort to develop a cost effective project that could be installed in a timely manner to reduce time of road closure. The project is scheduled to be implemented August 27 through September 27 2018.

For more information about the UNWC or this project go to their Facebook page, call (503) 396-2046, or stop by the UNWC office at 1201 Texas Ave, Vernonia.

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council works to foster better stewardship and understanding of the watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health, functions, and uses.

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health care, and expanded career technology programs, among other suggestions. Nevertheless, these schools are showing us what can be done, even with limited resources.

I had a great visit with professional Occupational Therapists who live and practice in our district and learned more about their work. The mission of the Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon (OTAO) is to support our members and strengthen the occupational therapy profession through advocacy, education, and networking. They came by to educate me on 2017's HB 3263: Instructing the Department of Education to Adopt Standards for School-Based Caseloads of OTs and HB 2751: Inclusion of OTs in State Student-Loan Repayment Program. Work on both of these important concepts is continuing. I so appreciate people taking time out of their busy schedules to come to Salem and engage directly!

Finally, our Legislative Office of Economic Analysis released the June

Revenue Forecast which attempts to predict the economic future into the 2019-2021 biennium. Instead of an anticipated deficit, the forecast shows that Oregon's economy is strong and relatively stable, and it may in fact trigger a kicker. This forecast also shows the unpredictability of Oregon's budget system. What is badly needed is a comprehensive strategy on growth, competitiveness, and workforce preparation. It's also time to find a way to stabilize funding for all of the services that benefit our children, including schools, foster care, health care, and other critical services. This means devising a tax system that is both fair and adequate and that allows us to escape the "boom and bust" revenue cycle that so often plagues our state.

I am honored to represent you in the Oregon House of Representatives. Thank you for your support in last month's primary. I hope to see you as I travel the district!

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