

# ELC, Highway Department to build fish ladder

by Jim Titus  
Editor-in-Chief

The John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center, in cooperation with the Oregon Highway Division, is planning to build a unique fish ladder near the intersection of the Oregon City Bypass and Beaver Creek Road.

According to ELC Director Jerry Herrmann, the ladder would assist salmon in returning to spawn at the headwaters of Newell Creek, located at the ELC site.

"We are trying to reestablish the link for salmon to come clear back to the college," Herrmann explained.

The present site of Clackamas Community College was dramatically different before the campus was constructed. The area was a large wetland, filled with cattails and reeds. Historically, spawning salmon and steelhead travelled as far as what is now the campus. Richard Menconi, who owns a home near the site of the proposed ladder, said he used to see salmon and steelhead in the

pond on his property.

The need for the ladder arose out of the construction of the bypass. While constructing the road, the Highway Division drained Menconi's pond and moved Newell Creek without required permits from state fish and wildlife authorities. Such permits are required under federal laws that protect wetland habitats. Herrmann explained that, since the time of Lewis and Clark, about 70 percent of Oregon's wetlands have disappeared due to farming, construction, and other human endeavors.

The Highway Division was given three options to restore the fish habitat: clean the gravel and silt that had destroyed spawning areas in a three-mile stretch of the creek, create new spawning habitat, or bypass the stream while it cleaned itself. The division opted for the bypass, and the ELC suggested the fish ladder. When completed, the ladder will be the first such project built on an urban stream.

"We're trying to, where we can, simulate the characteristics of this watershed the way it used to be in order to mitigate the loss of habitat," stated Herrmann.

The proposed route for the fish would pass through a culvert, into a large concrete collection box, through a 70-foot fish ladder (called a "Denil Fishway"), and on to the ELC. The fish ladder is two feet wide, two feet deep, and 70 feet long, built in ten-foot sections.

The ladder is designed to produce turbulence in the water to help the fish move upstream under their own power. The only other fish ladder of this type is located in Alaska, near Frazier Lake.

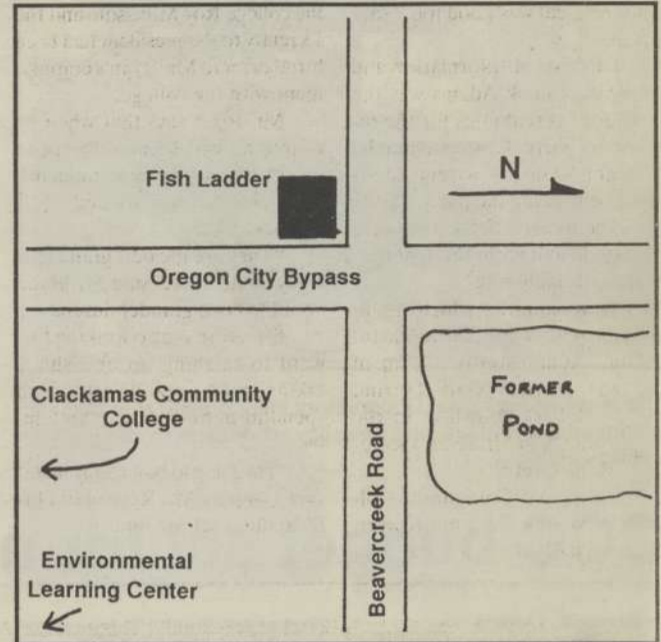
The site would also include a parking area for viewing, and a hiking trail leading down into Newell Creek canyon. The ELC has received a \$10,000 federal grant through the state Highway Division to complete the project, but is relying heavily on donated materials.

"We're trying to get as much material donated as we can--steel and other materials. We would really appreciate any support at this point from people willing to help," said Herrmann. "We're looking for people who might be interested in helping complete the fish ladder."

The McLoughlin chapter of

the Northwest Steelheaders have assisted with the project by helping improve the habitat and providing labor.

The ELC has a vigorous fish-rearing program and has raised and released over 200,000 fish over the last four years. The ladder would help these fish return to the ELC to spawn.



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## Inaugurations scheduled

The Associated Student Government inaugurations are tomorrow in CC 101 at 12:30 p.m.

At that time, Garrett Lytle will be sworn in as ASG president, concluding the term of Faith Taylor, current ASG president. Lytle will take the oath of office, and consequently preside of the regular ASG meeting. Tim Jones will take the oath of vice president, replacing Leslie Barton.

In addition to Lytle and Jones, Entertainment Senator Kelli Bowman will be returning to ASG next year. She is optimistic about Lytle and next year's ASG.

"Garrett has a lot of good ideas," said Bowman. "He's working on issues like financial aid, so people can concentrate on their studies--instead of their tuition." She sees "more entertainment, more often" by ASG next year.

## Faculty passes smoking, visiting groups resolution

The Clackamas Community College faculty, in their last meeting of the year May 25, passed two resolutions concerning the use of tobacco products and the restriction of religious and political groups visiting campus.

After about ten minutes of discussion, the faculty voted to ban all indoor use of tobacco products on campus 38-1. The resolution originally only addressed smoking, but was amended by the group after several members raised concern over the use of chewing tobacco.

The faculty also passed a reso-

lution that religious and political groups visiting campus be confined to the community center 46-5. The vote was in response to a recent campus visit of Gideon International, a religious group that handed out small bibles at various locations around campus. Faculty members felt that such groups restrict traffic flow in the halls between classes.

The two resolutions will be sent to the next meeting of the President's Council, where they will be used to help decide what sort of policies should be implemented concerning the two issues.

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