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July 15, 2010

North Bank Lane Newsletter

Progress Report

To date Tidewater Contractors has begun work on construction signs, clearing, and installing erosion control devices. Early this week, they finished installing the majority of the construction signs. AA Survey and Engineering staked the Fahys Creek grade raise section for clearing early this week. Tidewater is working on the clearing and erosion control at Fahys Creek as of now. Preliminary staking is also underway at Redd Creek. Tidewater will soon be moving up to begin clearing and erosion control at Redd Creek. Road closure at Redd Creek, just west of Rocky Point Boat Ramp, will begin July 26 and is expected to last for five consecutive days. During this time the contractor will start hauling fill to Redd Creek and Fahys Creek grade raise sections and install the new 120-inch diameter pipe culvert at Redd Creek. Fahys Creek will be open to public traffic during the Redd Creek closure. A road closure at Fahys Creek is expected sometime mid August and will most likely last for up to sixteen consecutive days. Road closure, delays, and other pertinent information regarding the road construction activities will be posted in this weekly newsletter.

Project Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) is implementing the Ni-les'tun Unit of the Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge Wetland Restoration and North Bank Lane Improvement Project (Project) near the Town of Bandon, Oregon. North Bank Lane runs from US Highway 101 to US Highway 42 as shown on the attached map.

The Ni-les'tun Unit (Unit) of Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) was historically a tidal wetland. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries levees were built on the banks of the Coquille River to hold back the river's water and drain the Marsh so that it could be used for agricultural purposes. The USFWS purchased the land in order to restore over 400 acres of valuable tidal wetlands in the Unit. North Bank Lane provides access to the Unit in the Refuge. In order for the USFWS to fully implement its proposed tidal wetland restoration portion of the Project, improvements needed to be made to North Bank Lane. Currently North Bank Lane floods annually at the low elevation crossings of Fahys and Redd creeks during winter storms. Also, the culverts presently at Fahys and Redd creeks are undersized and restrict fish passage. WFLHD plans to raise North Bank Lane at the culvert locations to reduce the severity and frequency of flooding and install larger, fish-friendly culverts. In addition, WFLHD plans to improve North Bank Lane so that it is a consistent roadway width with shoulders to better accommodate the mix of motorized and non-motorized users.

Construction activities for the tidal wetland restoration portion of the project began in 2009 and will be completed in 2010. For up-to-date information about the tidal restoration activities please see the USFWS blog at <http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/bandonmarsh/restoration/index.cfm>

Go online for more information and to read old newsletters at <http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/>



Contractor's Work Schedule

Monday thru Friday - Hours: 7am – 5pm

Traffic Delay Information

There are no traffic delays anticipated between July 19 – July 23, 2010



