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September 3, 2010

North Bank Lane Newsletter

Progress Report

The Fahys Creek structural plate culvert is installed and North Bank Lane was re-opened to the public on the afternoon of Tuesday August 31st. On Wednesday September 1, some slippery conditions, due to moderate rain, were experienced by some on the temporary dirt roadway east of Fahys Creek. Randolph Road can continue to serve as a detour to Rocky Point Boat Ramp and further access east on North Bank Lane if you prefer to drive entirely on pavement. Please reference the attached map. Next week, Tidewater will be placing streambed material inside the new culvert at Fahys Creek, and subsequently, under a separate contract, Knife River Construction will re-direct Fahys Creek into the new culvert and streambed material. Tidewater will continue placing embankment material near Fahys Creek to raise the road grade elevation in that area. Tidewater applied a soil tackifier emulsion to the exposed dirt slopes on August 26th to prevent erosion until permanent slope treatment can be accomplished later this fall. There will not be any construction activity on North Bank Lane from Friday September 3 through Monday September 6th. Work will resume, with minimal traffic delays, on Tuesday September 7, 2010.

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

Tuesday – Friday: Hours: 7am – 7pm

Traffic Delay Information

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