



**WEST MULTNOMAH**  
Soil & Water Conservation District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Preparation for Massive Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project**

Bridge construction will begin summer of 2018 on the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project on Sauvie Island, specifically where Reeder Road crosses the Dairy Creek channel. Preparatory vegetation work is underway now. The project calls for a full spanning bridge at the Dairy Creek crossing, which fully allows the high spring flows from the Columbia River to enter and flush out upper Sturgeon Lake, the largest lake on Sauvie Island. Such hydrological connectivity between upper Sturgeon Lake and the Columbia River will restore important juvenile salmon migration and rearing habitat.

While most of the project activities will occur in 2018, we want to let folks know about the construction so they can plan their activities in advance. Sauvie Island visitors and recreationalists (particularly those visiting the beaches) should be aware of possible slow traffic on Reeder Road while the construction is underway during the 2018 summer months. A bypass road is planned around the construction area (Reeder Road at Dairy Creek), but slow traffic will be likely during peak travel times of 2018 summer weekends.

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District are clearing the site this summer (2017) in anticipation of revegetation work along Dairy Creek. Eventually the District will restore about 7 acres of riparian habitat along the creek. Crews will begin to remove thickets of non-native blackberry and false indigo bush on the creek banks. Native trees and shrubs will be replanted in the winter of 2018-2019.

Finally, on June 29th WMSWCD staff conducted a survey of the shoreline of Sturgeon Lake looking for potential invasive plants. While little of significance was found, valuable baseline information was needed before the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project reestablishes a tidal link between Dairy Creek and the Columbia River. Once the creek is reopened, new weed seeds will be able to float into the lake, so keeping a vigilant eye out for new invaders will help keep the lake pristine and maximize its value to fish and wildlife.

Due to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funding a more significant portion of the project costs, management of the project has been transferred from the US Army Corps of Engineers to BPA. In turn, BPA partners with WMSWCD and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce to oversee the final design and construction of the project.

Stay tuned to the website for future updates (<https://wmswcd.org/sturgeonlake>) and direct questions to [sturgeonlake@wmswcd.org](mailto:sturgeonlake@wmswcd.org).

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