



WEST MULTNOMAH
Soil & Water Conservation District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Construction has begun on Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project!

Construction work has started this week on NW Reeder Road on Sauvie Island at Dairy Creek to build a by-pass road, remove two failing culverts in Dairy Creek and construct a permanent bridge. Beginning the week of July 9th, the work will delay traffic through the construction area, and will be particularly felt during peak traffic times on summer weekends as visitors head to Sauvie Island beaches, due to the use of a temporary, paved bypass road around the bridge construction site. This is a major phase of the project that will last through the busy Labor Day weekend. Construction, which will also include deepening and clearing out the Dairy Creek channel, is expected to be completed in the fall.

During construction, media contacts for up-to-date information are:

Traffic and transportation issues: Mike Pullen, Multnomah County, 503.209.4111, mike.j.pullen@multco.us. For road information, visit www.multco.us/roads or follow the County on Twitter @MultCoRoads.

Construction Project information online at www.wmswcd.org/sturgeonlake and questions can be sent to sturgeonlake@wmswcd.org,

To alert island residents and visitors to traffic delays during bridge construction through the summer and early fall, signs have been posted at the site and on island bulletin boards. A reduced speed limit will be in effect in the project area. The bypass road is two-lane and will accommodate pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles. Construction flaggers will be on hand to direct motorists through the construction zone during work activities.

Sturgeon Lake is connected to the Columbia River by Dairy Creek. However, the creek has been plugged by sand and debris, causing the lake to fill with silt. This project is designed to open up the debris and sand-plugged creek, and restore flushing tidal flow to the lake from the Columbia River. Sturgeon Lake is one of the premier natural and biologically significant aquatic and wildlife habitats in the state. It is an important link in the Pacific Flyway for waterfowl and a wide variety of bird species, offering winter habitat to 200,000 geese alone. In addition, juvenile salmon will leave the main river and seek refuge from high flows within the lake and sloughs. Sturgeon Lake is the largest tidally-influenced freshwater lake in the United States.