



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

Office of the Director

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August 23, 2019

Tim Greseth  
Executive Director  
Oregon Wildlife Foundation  
901 SE Oak St, Suite 103  
Portland, OR 97214



Dear <sup>Tim</sup> Mr. Greseth,

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is pleased to share that we are formally designating the constructed channel of Dairy Creek that flows through the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area and underneath the newly constructed bridge at Reeder Road as "Bill's Crossing" in honor of William "Bill" Wessinger.

Sauvie Island is the largest island in the Columbia River and one of the largest river islands in North America. The Sauvie Island Wildlife Area includes over 11,000 acres and supports a biologically diverse association of wildlife, including at least 275 species of birds, 37 species of mammals, 12 species of reptiles and amphibians, and numerous species of fish and plants. Further, Sauvie Island's Sturgeon Lake is the largest lake on a river island anywhere in the United States. This unique habitat is a key stopover and critical link in the Pacific flyway for thousands of migratory birds and a winter refuge for juvenile salmon.

Bill's Crossing is a significant feature of the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project since the constructed channel provides hydrological connectivity from the Columbia River to Sturgeon Lake. The Project is the culmination of several decades of effort involving many governmental and non-governmental partners to stem the sedimentation of Sturgeon Lake by reconnecting the Lake with the Columbia River. This reconnection provides additional access to the lake for rearing juvenile salmon, as well as other ecological benefits for the numerous fish and wildlife species that use this area.

This designation as Bill's Crossing reflects the generous contributions by the Wessinger family including the strong support of William Wessinger. Mr. Wessinger spent his twilight years bicycling and birding on the Wildlife Area, and the surviving family has continued support for the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project reflects his connection to and fondness of the area.

ODFW will proceed with using Bill's Crossing as the place name for this location on the Wildlife Area, and will include this formal name on Sauvie Island Wildlife Area maps that we produce. We are a proud partner in this project, and appreciate the contributions of the Wessinger family that made the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project, and its many ecological benefits, possible.

Sincerely,

Curtis E. Melcher  
Director

cc: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors  
State legislators – Betsy Johnson and Brad Witt