



**9/15/2010 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT RESTORING JACKSON BOTTOM WETLAND HABITAT**

*Join project partners and Farmington View Elementary children on September 15 at 1 pm to get an up-close look at the progress on this wetland restoration project, and learn about the ground-breaking wetland mitigation banking partnerships that will benefit the community and environment into the future!*

**Hillsboro, OR** – Nearly 13 acres of fallow and ineffective flood plain is being restored into a functional and healthy wetland at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve (JBWP) as a result of a public agency partnership wetland mitigation project.

Located just off of Highway 219 in southwest Hillsboro, the 12.76 acre Bobcat Marsh Wetland Mitigation Project is the result of a partnership between the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Port of Portland, Clean Water Services, the City of Hillsboro and the JBWP non-profit organization. The project includes both restoration and enhancement of wetland and riparian ecosystems and is part of an environmental “banking” system, funded by ODOT and the Port of Portland and overseen by the City of Hillsboro. State and local partners whose work touches sensitive natural areas can record environmental impacts and contribute to reclamation projects elsewhere in the county as part of an effort to maintain vital natural habitat.

“ODOT’s road projects in Washington County create jobs and are critical for future economic growth,” said Region Manager Jason Tell, “but we realize that this necessary work sometimes impacts environmentally sensitive areas. This innovative approach allows us to collaborate with other agencies and focus our remediation dollars where they will have a tremendous positive impact.”

“It’s noteworthy that as partners in this project, we have achieved greater benefit to wildlife and the community than we could have realized in any individual approach,” said Steve Schreiber, Port of Portland Aviation Director. “This innovative approach provides a win for wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts alike, and helps us continue improving Hillsboro Airport to meet the continuing aviation and business needs of the community.”

“Our ability to accommodate wetland mitigation projects provides an opportunity to work closely with a variety of partners to restore many acres of wetland at Jackson Bottom and maintain this important natural resource for enjoyment by the public into the future,” said Ted Vacek, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Board President. (continued...)

Another special partner in this effort is Hillsboro's Farmington View Elementary School, located just a few miles from the site. Bobcat Marsh is named in honor of the school's mascot, recognizing the contribution of school children who helped plant native trees on the first half-acre of the site earlier this year.

Ground was officially broken on the Bobcat Marsh project during the first week of August. The excavated area has undergone various stages of invasive plant removal, earth moving, shaping and grading. Over the next year the Jackson Slough, currently a ditch, will be re-shaped in to a more natural stream, and native trees and vegetation will be planted before project completion in fall 2011.

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve is a 725-acre wildlife preserve located within the city limits of Hillsboro. JBWP is owned by the City of Hillsboro (City) and Clean Water Services (CWS) and is managed by the JBWP non-profit organization. JBWP's mission is to "Connect Water, Wildlife and People," and a main goal is to preserve and restore the regionally significant Jackson Bottom Wetland area for education of the public and for preserving the functions and values performed by the wetland.

For more information about Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve visit [www.jacksonbottom.org](http://www.jacksonbottom.org).

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