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EARTH IS MOVING AT JACKSON BOTTOM FOR WETLAND RESTORATION

Hillsboro, OR – Earth moving equipment and bare dirt that can be seen in the NE portion of Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve (JBWP) just south of downtown Hillsboro are part of an important 120-acre wetland restoration project in the Wapato Marsh area.

The preserve already serves as a popular destination for hiking, bird watching and environmental education in Hillsboro, but it will get even better as these 120 acres of degraded wetlands are returned to a healthy ecosystem. The Wapato Marsh Restoration Project, an effort by multiple partners including the City of Hillsboro, Ducks Unlimited, Clean Water Services and Metro, will provide improved habitat for many native species, including sensitive Northern red-legged frogs.

Prior to the recent earth moving/clearing, most of the Wapato Marsh area was a solid stand of invasive reed canary grass which is useless to both visitors and wildlife. Over the next few months, the project will remove the invasive species and restore the natural hydrology of JBWP, allowing the creation of a variety of wetland habitats including 60 acres of marsh, 20 acres of wet meadow and 40 acres of lowland hardwood forest. These habitats will be extensively planted with native species and managed for several years to establish a strong ecosystem and prevent invasive non-native plants from returning.

While the project has recently been awarded a capital grant of \$129,200 funded by Metro's natural areas bond measure approved by voters in 2006, the estimated total project cost for restoring the 120 acres at Wapato Marsh will be around \$650,000. Ducks Unlimited is leading the project and will provide more than half of the funding as well as coordination of permitting and project design. Clean Water Services will provide technical assistance with project design and 30,000 native plants.

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve (JBWP) is a 725-acre wildlife preserve located within the city limits of Hillsboro. JBWP is owned by the City of Hillsboro and Clean Water Services and is managed by the city with support from 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 call 503-681-6206 or visit www.jacksonbottom.org.

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