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JACKSON BOTTOM AWARDED \$129K METRO GRANT FOR WETLAND RESTORATION

Hillsboro, OR – Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve (JBWP) has been awarded a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant for approximately \$129,200 to help fund important wetland restoration at JBWP's 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 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.

"This project shows the region's commitment to protect and restore important natural areas," said Metro Councilor Harrington. "By tackling the challenge today, future generations will be able to come to the wetlands and experience the beauty, connect with nature and see native species thrive in a much better and healthier environment."

Currently, most of the Wapato Marsh area is a solid stand of invasive reed canary grass which is useless to both visitors and wildlife. 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 will get 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 approximately \$1,000,000. Ducks Unlimited is leading the project and will provide more than half of the funding. They will also conduct permitting and project design. Clean Water Services will provide technical assistance with project design and 30,000 native plants. The Metro grant will specifically cover the costs for native plant material and interpretive signs.

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 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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