



NEWS

For Immediate Release 5/5/05

GOVERNOR DESIGNATES CARDWELL HILL RESTORATION AS OREGON SOLUTIONS PROJECT

Contacts:

Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo, (541) 766.6800

Sandra Coveny, Marys River Watershed Council (541)-758-7597

Josh Cerra, Project Manager (503)-499-0375

Governor Ted Kulongoski has designated the Cardwell Hill Restoration Effort, a project of the Marys River Watershed Council, as an Oregon Solutions project with statewide significance and appointed Benton County Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo as project convener.

“In my view, the Cardwell Hill Restoration Project has great potential to serve as a model for public engagement and voluntary land management in other areas in Oregon,” said the governor. “Encouraging greater stewardship through local efforts provides numerous environmental benefits and builds a healthy community. The Oregon Solutions process will elevate the visibility of the project, bring effective partners to the table and accelerate the pace of the project.”

The brainchild of the Marys River Watershed Council, the Cardwell Hill Restoration Effort engages private landowners in a voluntary restoration project that will benefit many sensitive species including Fenders blue butterfly, Kincaid’s lupine, western pond turtle, Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly, historic salmonid runs including cutthroat trout, and rare prairie and oak habitats. The Marys River Watershed Council coordinator, Sandra Coveny, developed a strategic approach to whole watershed restoration – rather than simply work with one landowner at a time, the strategy is about connecting landowners to other efforts, and other resources, then linking these restoration efforts to each other within the context of the entire watershed.

“This project has the potential to develop into a model that can be used by other areas in the county where landowners wish to engage in preserving and enhancing natural features, instead of having measures imposed by regulatory agencies,” said Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo. “The end result of the new project will be restored water and fish passage, reclaimed wetlands, restored off-channel refuge for salmon, restored savannah and prairie, public trails and open space, and community-level stewardship and participation.”

Potential project partners may include landowners, Marys River Watershed Council, Benton County Parks and Natural Areas Department, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Benton Soil & Water Conservation District, Greenbelt Land Trust, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, For the Sake of Salmon, Bonneville Power, and David Evans and Associates, Inc.

Oregon Solutions grew out of the State of Oregon's Sustainability Act of 2001. First inside the executive branch of state government, then since January of 2002 as a program of the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State University, Oregon Solutions has

promoted a new style of community governance, one based on the principles of collaboration, integration, and sustainability.###

Making Benton County a better place to live