

*Newsletter Article
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Project Update for Sodom and Shearer Dams

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The project to remove Sodom and Shearer Dams and provide channel restoration is on schedule for implementation Summer 2011. The project engineering firm, River Design Group, has completed the project's 90% designs and Biological Assessment (BA), key components to the project's permitting phase. These documents are available to download from the Council's webpage at: <http://www.calapooia.org/projects/sodom-dam-fish-passage-improvement-and-flow-management/preferred-alternative-design/>

There will not be any additional Technical Team meetings. There will be one additional landowner meeting to discuss the project's construction schedule with those who will be impacted by on-the-ground actions. This meeting will be on Wednesday, December 15th at 7:00 pm at the Brownsville City Hall (meeting room upstairs). This meeting will be an opportunity to hear about the construction schedule and for property owners affected by the project to review landowner access agreements with the Council. The project footprint has been designed to minimize the impacts to adjacent landowners and the construction sequence has been developed to impact as few landowners as possible. Project Manager Denise Hoffert-Hay will be contacting affected landowners individually to invite them to this meeting. If you have questions, please contact her at: (541) 619-5896 or email: hofferthay@peak.org.

Over the next few months, the project will move forward with the permitting phase. The permitting for a dam removal project involves county, state and federal agencies assessing the projects' potential and anticipated impacts to: cultural and historic resources, water quality, water delivery, flooding, low flow conditions, aquatic species, and terrestrial species. The project components that are completed and in draft form for agency review include: Cultural Resources Study (available to download from the Council's webpage by the end of December), Environmental Assessment (available to download at: http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/RULES/docs/TMills_surrender/TMills_Exhibit_E.pdf), FERC application to Surrender License (available to download at: http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/RULES/TMills_hydro.shtml), 90% designs (see above) and Biological Assessment (see above).

In December, the 90% designs and permit applications will be submitted to Oregon Division of State Lands and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally, the designs and BA will be submitted to the federal agency, NOAA Fisheries, for their review and to assist in their preparation of a Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the project. The Council and engineering firm will meet with officials from Linn County to review the project's hydraulic modeling to secure a no-rise in the floodplain certification. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will also participate in review of the project. If there are no major concerns or revisions, we expect to receive permits no later than March 2011. At that time, the project will solicit bids from contractors to implement the design. We anticipate staging project materials beginning in spring and that construction will commence by July 18th and that all project work will be completed by October 15th (and potentially much earlier than

that). This project has been several years in development and has involved dozens of landowners, agency staff, and funding partners. Project implementation will be funded by grants already secured from American Rivers, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (funded by the Oregon Lottery), and NOAA Fisheries through the Open Rivers Initiative. The Council appreciates the time and energy that everyone has put toward this project and to understanding the complexity of issues surrounding water management in this basin. Project Manager Denise Hoffert-Hay is available by phone or email to discuss questions or concerns on the project: hofferthay@peak.org or (541) 619-5896.