

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager  
SUBJECT: Friday Update  
DATE: April 29, 2016

**2015 Outstanding Oregon Tourism Volunteer**

The Oregon Tourism Commission announced their 2015 Travel and Tourism Industry Achievement Awards at the 2016 Oregon Governor’s Conference on Tourism in Pendleton last week. The awards recognize people or organizations from across the state that go the extra mile to enhance tourism in Oregon. Marie Longfellow from Cottage Grove was awarded the Outstanding Oregon Tourism Volunteer Award because of her work in leading the GRRT in Cottage Grove. GRRT is the Graffiti Rapid Response Team and they help the City by removing or painting over graffiti that appears throughout the community. They not only perform work on public spaces but also work with property owners to expedite the elimination of the graffiti on private spaces. The elimination of the graffiti was recognized for the positive impact that it has on tourism. Congratulations Marie!



**It’s Live**

The City’s new webpage is live. It went live on Tuesday with only a few issues. The new webpage brings all of the City’s webpages, (City, Police, Library and Golf Course) together into one system with a consistent appearance. We are continuing to adjust and edit information on the web page. The rule with the new webpage is that “it will never be done”. It is designed to easily be edited and modified so it will always be a work in progress. Please check out the new webpage and the features on the page. The old webpage had a huge amount of information and migrating the old information over to the new page is mostly complete. There is still some information that will be brought over. We have also explored the page and found some information that migrated into difficult to locate places. We will continue to make the information easier to access. Please, take a moment and explore the new webpage – it is still located at [www.cottagegrove.org](http://www.cottagegrove.org).

The new website also has the ability to manage subscriptions. The distribution of the Friday Update will be done by subscription. If you received the Friday Update you have been subscribed. Anyone can subscribe or unsubscribe to the Update now from following the link on the website.

### **Yard of the Week**

Next week begins the 19<sup>th</sup> season of the Yard of the Week. If you see a yard that deserves recognition for the work that they put into beautifying the community, be sure to submit their address to City Hall or to the Chamber of Commerce.

### **State Scenic Bikeway Committee**

The City Manager attended a meeting of the State Scenic Bikeway Committee in Salem on Thursday. The committee reviewed the strategic plan for the Scenic Bikeway Committee as well as discussed the status of existing and proposed scenic bikeways. The Oregon Scenic Bikeways program continues to be recognized around the country.

### **Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway Promotion**

Help promote the Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway by wearing an attractive t-shirt highlighting the bikeway. In an effort to promote the trail and help support maintenance efforts of the trail, downtown businesses are selling Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway t-shirts. A portion of every sale goes to help fund maintenance or improvements on the trail. The shirts will be on sale in a variety of shops downtown or you can contact the Main Street Coordinator, Shauna Neigh at (541)767-4119 to purchase a shirt.



### **Gran Fondo**

The cyclists are coming. The 2016 Gran Fondo, the first event of the Oregon Triple Crown series, is coming to Cottage Grove on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Over 400 cyclists are expected to start in downtown Cottage Grove at 8:00 am for both the Gran and Medio routes. The Gran route is 117 miles and the Medio is 71 miles. The first riders for the Gran would be expected about noon while the faster Medio riders might begin returning about 11:00 am. By definition, a Gran Fondo is not a race, but rather a mass start event designed to draw the community together and give everyone a chance to enjoy the fun of riding a bike on the same course as the pros. It is truly a ride for everyone! At The Oregon Gran Fondo, teams and individuals, who want to race, will typically do that on the 117-mile Gran route, but both routes are open to anyone willing to accept the challenge.

Those not interested in facing the challenge of the ride are encouraged to come downtown and experience the mass start at 8:00 am or watch the riders come back in before noon. Please make plans to come and share the excitement of Oregon's largest Gran Fondo.

### **NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region Releases "Critical Habitat Biological Opinion"**

Last Thursday NOAA Fisheries issued a 400 page Biological Opinion for the State of Oregon as a result of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) consulting with NOAA Fisheries under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The consultation was a result of a settlement by FEMA with The Audubon Society of Portland, National Wildlife Federation, Northwest Environmental Defense Center and the Association of Northwest Steelheaders who argued that federal flood insurance program was encouraging development detrimental to the

survival of listed species. Throughout the state, 15 salmon and steelhead species are listed under the ESA, and each of these species depends on healthy, functioning floodplain habitat. Development in floodplains can disconnect this important area from river channels and destroy natural riparian and wetland vegetation. Altering the natural processes that allow habitat to form and recover from disturbances, such as floods, can affect multiple stages of the salmon life cycle and impede their survival and long-term recovery.

### **What is the National Flood Insurance Program?**

The National Flood Insurance Act (NFIP) of 1968 created the National Flood Insurance Program. It is a federal benefits program, administered by FEMA, and has three components—it: 1. identifies flood risks and maps them; 2. sets building and development standards for those flood risk areas; and 3. provides subsidized insurance for communities that adopt those standards. It is a voluntary program except in Oregon where our Statewide Planning Goals require participation. Oregon has 258 cities and counties that are subject to flooding, and all participate in the NFIP thereby making flood insurance available to their residents and businesses. In order to be eligible for federal flood-related assistance communities must participate in the NFIP.

### **What role does NOAA Fisheries play in administering the National Flood Insurance Program?**

NOAA Fisheries does not administer FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. Rather, NOAA Fisheries reviewed the effects of program implementation in Oregon to ensure it does not limit the survival of threatened and endangered species protected under the ESA, nor adversely modify their critical habitats. This is known as an ESA Section 7 Consultation. It is a legally required process for all federal activities that may impact plants and animals that are listed as threatened or endangered. At the end of the consultation process, NOAA Fisheries released a biological opinion with its findings. NOAA Fisheries found that implementation of the NFIP in Oregon reduces the quantity and quality of floodplain and in-channel habitat, which will jeopardize the continued existence of 17 marine and anadromous species, and adversely modify critical habitat for the 16 of these species.

### **What is recommended in the biological opinion's reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA)?**

Key elements of the RPA include:

1. Updating floodplain maps to more accurately identify where flood risks are and where they are expected under future conditions. This information is critical to avoiding floods and preserving those areas needed to support salmon survival.
2. Limiting the types of development allowed in floodways and channel migration zones to flood-compatible uses, since these high risk areas also have the highest habitat values.
3. Tracking floodplain development and require mitigation of the impacts of development to ensure that floodplain features are not lost that are critical to supporting the survival and recovery of listed species.

In addition, the RPA also recommends:

*Interim Measures for Immediate Implementation* – The RPA provides provisions that should be implemented in a timely fashion, with local governments showing progress within six months, and full implementation within two years. These provisions specify that development in floodplains must mitigate for the loss of flood storage, reduction in vegetation, and placement of impervious surface.

*Data Collection and Reporting* – Locally issued permits for development in special hazard areas need to be reported to FEMA, and reports need to include: how much flood displacement by fill or structures; how much new impervious surface added; how much vegetation removed; whether floodplain is disconnected or reconnected; and location of development actions and mitigation for floodplain impacts.

*Compliance and Enforcement*—It will take FEMA a number of years to fully implement the RPA. The RPA increases the Community Rating System for early compliance; requires audits/Community Assistance Visits for communities that fall behind schedule in implementation; and sets probation and expulsion requirements for persistent non-compliance.

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) has created a webpage on this issue and provided notice to local governments titled: “**Oregon Seeks Common-Sense Approach to New Floodplain Development Expectations**”. A copy is attached.

Further information on this issue can be found at NOAA:

Full Biological Opinion:

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/habitat/2016\\_04-14\\_fema\\_nfip\\_nwr-2011-3197.pdf](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/habitat/2016_04-14_fema_nfip_nwr-2011-3197.pdf)

Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA)Only:

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/habitat/2016\\_04-14\\_fema\\_nfip\\_rpaonly\\_nwr-2011-3197.pdf](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/habitat/2016_04-14_fema_nfip_rpaonly_nwr-2011-3197.pdf)

Frequently Asked Questions On Biological Opinion:

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/habitat/2016\\_04-14\\_fema\\_nfip\\_rpaonly\\_nwr-2011-3197.pdf](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/habitat/2016_04-14_fema_nfip_rpaonly_nwr-2011-3197.pdf)

Further information can be obtained from the Community Development Department.

### **Floodplain Managers Attend Advanced Training**

Certified Floodplain Managers Howard Schesser and Amanda Ferguson recently attended “Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts” at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This advanced floodplain management course was a dynamic and interactive course covering National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Rules and Regulations in Depth, Local Floodplain Manager Roles and Responsibilities, Letters of Map Change and Preparing for Post-Disaster Responsibilities. One of the instructors was the Region

X ESA & NFIP Coordinator for Oregon which provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the Biological Opinion which was released by FEMA during our course.

### **New Permit Tracking Program**

The City was one of the original 14 cities/counties that implemented the D-14 Accela permit tracking for building permits in 2011. The program since that time has grown and a “standard model” has been developed which includes more features and planning application tracking. Cottage Grove will switch over to the standard model this weekend and go live with the new program on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Staff is excited about this opportunity and the ability to directly link building, planning and engineering applications in one program. The program is also more robust in the number and type of reports that can be produced. The program is paid for by the State through the state surcharge on all building permits.

### **Bilingual Story Time at the Library**

Families with young readers are encouraged to join us for bilingual story time at the Cottage Grove Public Library each Monday evening at 6:30 pm. Join us for fun family activities, songs, crafts, and stories in English and Spanish.

### **Lego Club Next Week**

Families with children ages 4-12 are encouraged to join us for our monthly "Lego Club" at the Cottage Grove Public Library. Lego Club happens on the first Wednesday of each month from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in the "Blue" room at the Library. Come join us for some creative fun with Legos. Bring your friends and create, build, share and display your amazing Lego creations at the Cottage Grove Public Library.

### **OBON Exhibit at the Library**

The WWII themed OBON Society Exhibit at the Cottage Grove Public Library will be at the Library until Wednesday May 11, 2016. On May 11<sup>th</sup> at noon, the Directors of the OBON Society will be here at the Library to meet with the public and to receive items from World War II that people would like returned to families in Japan. Please stop by the Library between now and May 11<sup>th</sup> to see the inspiring exhibit of WWII artifacts from Japan that are presently on display. A special "Thank You" is extended to the OBON Society for sharing this powerful exhibit and project with the Cottage Grove Community. And a sincere "Thank You" is extended to Donna Shepherd and to Casey Woodard for helping to make this exhibit possible at the Cottage Grove Public Library.

### **Librarians Attend Oregon Library Association Annual Conference**

The Oregon Library Association (OLA) Annual Conference was held in Bend last week. Library staff, Angela Arena, Valarie Johns, Colleen Shaw and Pete Barrell attended this annual educational event. The group was able to attend a great diversity of sessions and meetings, and presented as a team, a session where they shared information about our amazing Outdoor Environmental Education Programs for Teens and Kids. Librarians from across the state were inspired to hear how we weave together literature, environmental education, ecology, biology, geography, geology, botany and much more in our outdoor programming for Kids and Teens here in Cottage Grove.

### **Governor's Conference on Tourism Pendleton Oregon**

Community Coordinator Teresa Cowan attended the Governor's Conference on Tourism April 24<sup>th</sup> through April 26<sup>th</sup> in Pendleton Oregon. Over 450 government, civic representatives, travel and tourism attendees from all over the state and nation gathered to educate, share and develop new ways to create the best Oregon experience possible for our visitors. Workshops included topics on marketing rural communities, agriculture-tourism and emergency preparedness.

#### *Quote of the Week*

*"We were all born with a certain degree of power. The key to success is discovering this innate power and using it daily to deal with whatever challenges come our way."*

*~ Les Brown~*