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North Umpqua Highway Newsletter

Progress Report

The contractor is continuing to work downhill from the top of project between Mile Post 67.1 and Fish Creek Bridge (MP 55.9). The work consists of grading work on the slopes, ditches, and shoulders to prepare for widening of the road throughout this area. Between Watson Falls (MP 61.3) and Whitehorse Falls (MP 66.1), sections of asphalt/base repair will be in progress. **Expect patches of gravel** within this section and increasing during the next few weeks. Flaggers and two pilot cars will continue to provide alternating one-way traffic through multiple work zones to facilitate public traffic during work hours. Please observe the “Wait for Pilot Car” signs that are posted on all of the side roads along the work zone. The average delay to traffic is expected to be 10 minutes with a few occasional closures up to 20 minutes. The contractor will be working Monday thru Thursday. Next week, the contractor will be switching traffic at Fish Creek Bridge from the east bound lane to the west bound lane to begin work on the east bound lane installing upgraded curbs and bridge rail that will effectively widen the travel lanes on the bridge. A temporary traffic signal will be operating at the Fish Creek Bridge to allow alternating one-way traffic through the work zone.

Heavy Truck traffic on Forest Road 37 (Fish Creek Rd/Watson Falls) will continue throughout most of the summer. The trucks will be travelling on the 14-mile stretch of Forest Road 37 that runs north/south between Boundary Pit and Hwy 138. Please exercise caution and drive carefully if you plan travel on Forest Road 37. Additionally, heavy truck traffic will also be on the first 2.4 miles of Forest Road 28 (Copeland Creek Rd). Dump trucks will be hauling excavated material from Highway 138 to stockpile at the Foster Quarry site off of Forest Road 2801. Please exercise caution and drive carefully if you plan to travel on Forest Road 28 (Copeland Creek Rd). We will provide notice of any work hours change in future newsletters.

Project Background

The North Umpqua Highway project is located entirely within the Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County, in southwestern Oregon. The project begins above Dry Creek at MP 52.8 along State Highway 138 east of Roseburg and ends at MP 67.2 near Stump Lake. It is an east-west, two-lane rural state-owned arterial roadway, providing principle access to over half of the Umpqua National Forest. This is also known as Forest Highway 47 (FH 47). Much of the highway parallels the North Umpqua River, which is designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River and also a State Scenic Waterway. The total project length is approximately 14.4 miles. The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is planning to complete the construction by Fall of 2012. The proposed improvements consist of upgrading the existing North Umpqua Highway to a safe, two-lane roadway consistent with AASHTO and ODOT design and safety standards. The proposed work will generally be along the existing road, although minor horizontal and vertical alignment changes may be necessary to provide a more uniform driving experience and safe travel speeds. This roadway section is located between two improved, widened sections and proposed improvements should be consistent with the adjoining sections of highway.

Go online for more information and to read newsletters at <http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or>



Contractor's Work Schedule

Monday thru Thursday: Hours: 6am – 6pm

Traffic Delay Information

Expect 10 minute delays with occasional delays up to 20 minutes

