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Governor selects Applegate Sustainable Aggregate for Oregon Solutions project

BY KIM TRAVIS

Governor Kulongoski recently designated the Applegate Sustainable Aggregate effort as a new Oregon Solutions project. The project involves participation from both Jackson and Josephine Counties, along with the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and a variety of other interested stakeholder groups. Each of these entities shares a common interest in the health of the watershed, the community and the local economy.

An Oregon Solutions team will review the current conditions and available data, and identify the conditions and studies needed for sustainable gravel extraction in the Applegate Watershed, while considering natural resource needs and local economic realities in the community.

"There is a critical need to determine how much gravel can be mined from our rivers without detriment to fish habitat and the river system. A team of state, federal, and local governments, along with private and civic partners will address the economic, environmental, and community needs for sustainable aggregate mining in the Applegate River watershed," says Governor Kulongoski about this Oregon Solutions project.

Josephine County Commissioner Dwight Ellis and Jackson County Commissioner C.W. Smith have been named by the Governor as Co-conveners of the Oregon Solutions project team. More than 18 entities will be participating as Oregon Solutions team members over the next six months. The project team hopes to find a solution that embraces and educates the community, incorporates

their concerns, addresses environmental concerns, and helps secure additional resources to provide needed data.

Oregon Solutions is a program of the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State University which assists in bringing government, business, and civic organizations together to address community problems or opportunities in Oregon. The Governor is chair of the program's steering committee. Typically, an Oregon Solutions collaborative process culminates in a "Declaration of Cooperation" signed by each of

the participating organizations. This declaration becomes the blueprint for moving the project toward completion.

Commissioner C.W. Smith stated, "We have a strong history of working together in the Applegate to find solutions. I feel confident that we will be able to find common ground with this project."

Commissioner Dwight Ellis added, "This is an important issue that has impacts beyond the Applegate. Our work can benefit other communities that are struggling with similar natural resource management challenges."

More information about this project can be found on the web at: <http://www.orsolutions.org/southwest/applegate.htm>

Requests for additional information can be emailed to Oregon Solutions project manager Joan Resnick at joan@trltg.com or the Applegate River Watershed Council at staff@arwc.org.

Kim Travis • 503-725-9092
 Oregon Solutions Network Manager
ktravis@pdx.edu

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We meet every Monday night from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm the Applegate Community Church, just off Highway 238 in Applegate, turn on North Applegate Road, first driveway on your right turn and follow the driveway up the hill to the church. Rehearsals began on January 5 and will last until March 23. We will have a program for the community on Sunday, March 29, at the Applegate Ranch House in the afternoon. For more information call Marvin Rosenberg at 541-899-7861, or Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988