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**Draft News Release**

3 messages

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Tim Greseth <tim@owhf.org>  
To: Jim Chambers <jchambers@co.lincoln.or.us>

Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 1:35 PM

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

## Oregon Wildlife is Helping Lincoln County Acquire Alsea River Frontage for Future Boat Launch

PORTLAND, Ore. – Oregon Wildlife is helping Lincoln County Parks acquire river frontage on the Alsea River for future development as a public boat launch.

Oregon Wildlife (formerly Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation) is raising private funding as match for grants from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State Marine Board that Lincoln County Parks will use to purchase an 10 acre parcel of frontage in the Tidewater reach of the Alsea River.

“We know there is a real need for public access in this reach of the Alsea River and we’re pleased to help Lincoln County Parks acquire the property needed for development of a public boat launch facility” said Tim Greseth, Executive Director of Oregon Wildlife.

Tentative plans for the property include a boat launch, 30 stall boat and trailer parking lot with additional parking stalls, restroom facilities, and an improve dock.

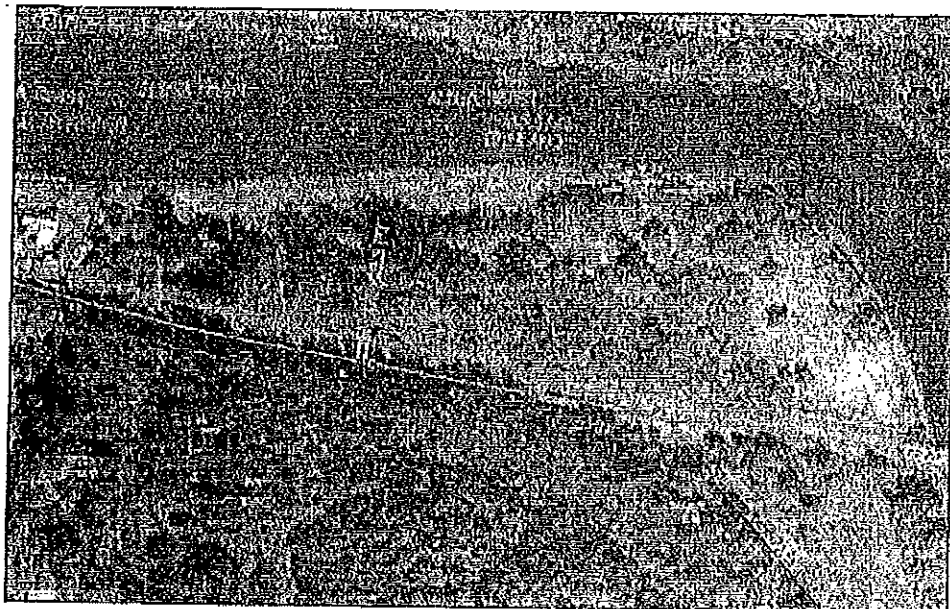
Oregon Wildlife has established a fund for the Alsea River Boat Launch project and is asking the public to join them in supporting this project. “If you value public access to the Alsea River, please join us in supporting this project with your charitable donation” said Greseth.

Tax-deductible donations can be made securely through Oregon Wildlife’s website at [www.owhf.org/support-project-or-program](http://www.owhf.org/support-project-or-program) or by mail to Alsea River Boat Launch Project c/o Oregon Wildlife, P. O. Box 30406, Portland, Oregon 97294-3406

Oregon Wildlife empowers the lasting conservation of fish and wildlife and the enjoyment of our natural resources.

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Tim Greseth  
Executive Director



A proposed park and boat launch on this property located about seven miles east of Waldport would provide fishermen easy, year-around access to a favorite stretch of the Alsea River that is often filled with drift boats during salmon season. (Courtesy photos)

## Multiple partners working together to create new county park on Alsea River

By Dennis Anstine  
For the News-Times

NEWPORT — A resolution passed by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners Wednesday seemed simple enough, but the details reveal a financial puzzle involving four public entities and a nonprofit agency. It read:

"Authorizing the Parks Division ... to apply to the Oregon State Marine Board for grant funds to assist in the purchase of property on the Alsea River to develop a park and boat ramp."

An offer on the proposed 10-acre development located about seven miles up the river won't be officially made until July, when the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) hopes to close the \$330,000 purchase of the property from its current owner.

While ODFW will be the official owner of the property and Lincoln County will manage the park when it's completed in a couple of years, others involved in the project included the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB), the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation (OWHF) and the Port of Alsea.

Jim Chambers, supervisor of the county park division, said the park and boat launch would be a jewel for the county parks system.

"Our cost will be around \$40,000," he said, "but we will pay nothing of the \$400,000 it will cost to develop it. And eventually we will end up with an \$800,000 park," he said.

The property fronts the so-called Tidewater Reach on the north side of Highway 34 and stretches west-to-east where the highway crosses the river.

The plan calls for 30 parking stalls for boat trailers, six for cars, a launch ramp that will be accessible 24 hours and 365 days a year and a small park with restrooms. A large stretch of timber borders the open area to the south, and it likely will remain natural.

ODFW initiated the project because one of its highest regional priorities was to have a public facility in the lower part of the river because of a recent decrease in the number of private launches in the area.

"There are other boat launches in the lower part, some public and others private, but they're not open all the time like this one will be," said Keith Androsen, operations supervisor for county parks. "This will also be bigger than the others."

## ALSEA RIVER PARK Continued from page A1

The county has been involved in the project for a couple of years and will use 2014-15 funds to pay for its part of the project's development and will seek future grants to fund operational costs.

"This will help fulfill the needs of fishermen by giving them an important access point at an area where there's numerous drift boats running below and above it during the salmon season," said Andresen.

The property owners originally listed the 10 acres for sale at \$350,000, which was a problem for ODFW because its "yellow book" appraisal on the property came in at \$295,000.

ODFW will be using federal funds provided by the Sportfish Restoration program to pay

for 75 percent of the appraised value for the property, an offer that the property owners turned down.

However, Oregon Wildlife committed \$35,000 toward the purchase and the prop-

erty owners agreed to sell the land for \$330,000. Lincoln County's financial involvement includes a 25 percent match, which will come in the form of an OSMB grant worth \$73,750.

### **Purchase and early development costs for Alsea River park/boat launch project**

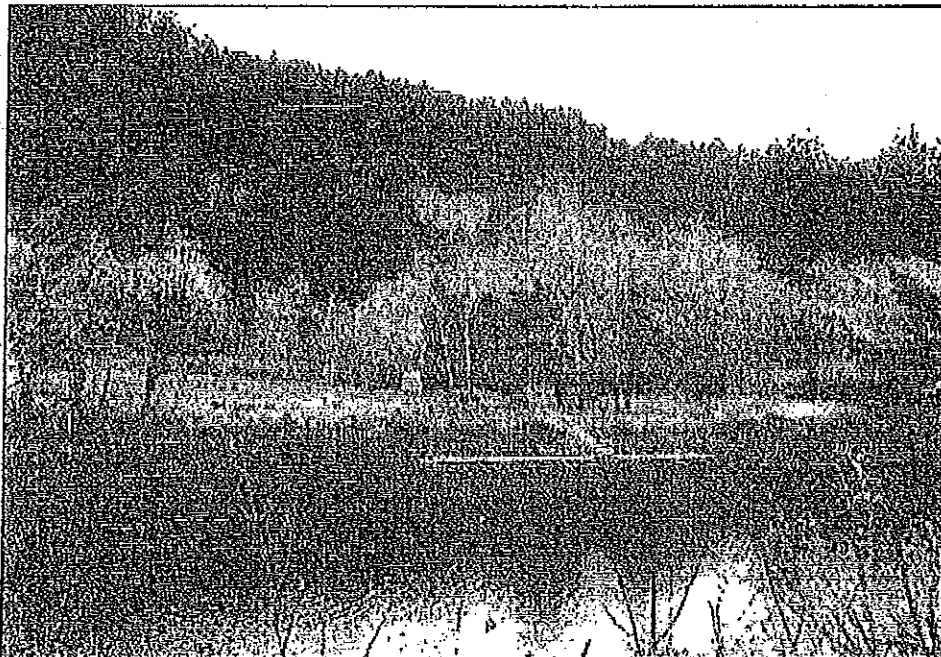
ODFW: \$221,250 in federal funds provided by the Sportfish Restoration Program.

OSMB grant: \$73,750 in matching funds to Lincoln County.

OWAP: \$35,000 fund raising contribution.

Lincoln County: \$40,000 for various long-term lease development, buildup and maintenance requirements.

Port of Alsea: Received \$1,000 from county for easement across tax lot it owns between the parcel and the river.



Looking south across the Alsea River, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife wants to buy this 10-acre piece of private property and turn it into a county park and boat launch. The plan is to close the property deal in July and then develop the property during the next few years.



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## Progress toward a new boat ramp on the Alsea River

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Site of new boat ramp and parking area on Alsea River, milepost 8

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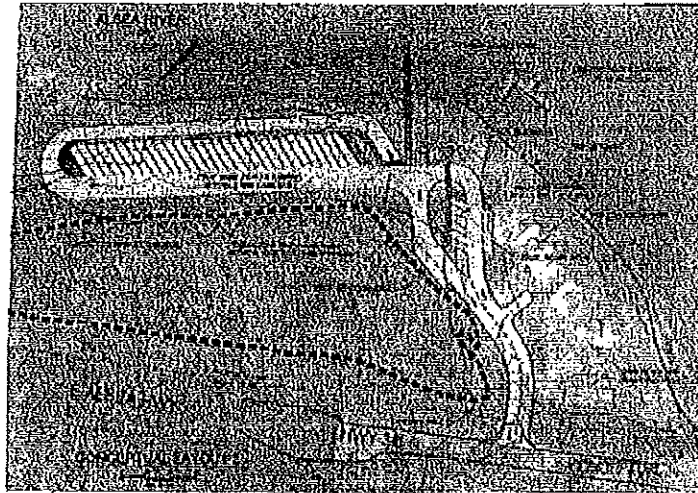
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Drawing of the proposed facility on Alsea River

Putting a much needed new boat ramp and parking facility upriver on the Alsea is getting closer. A group of state and private agencies are teaming up to raise the money to buy property on the Alsea at milepost 8.

When constructed there will be a boat ramp and full sized parking for vehicles and boats – 30 full size spaces for boat and vehicle and another 7 spaces just for vehicles.

Owner of the property wants \$330,00 for the property and that sent federal, state and county officials, and a non-profit scrambling for the cash they'll need to buy it. Through a cooperative agreement they think they can raise the money within the next year, coming from a number of state and local sources.

Once the money is secured they'll acquire the property, begin the boat ramp and parking area design, and perhaps have it built by 2017.

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IDEAL STORAGE

Wednesday, 15 January 2014 17:56

## Port of Alsea Approves Water Easement for Proposed Alsea River Park



(/media/k2/items/cache/875b9c501fe72cf7127348b31b9df979\_XL.jpg)

The Port of Alsea agreed to grant an easement for a boat launch on a proposed 10-acre park on the south side of the Alsea River across from Taylor's Landing. The port easement is for the narrow tide overflow area bordering the property and extending several feet into the waterway. (Photo by Larry Coonrod)

**By Larry Coonrod**

**WALDPOR—Port of Alsea Commissioners last week voted to grant an easement to Lincoln County and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for a proposed 10-acre public park and boat launch on the lower Alsea River.**

### **Park Not a Done Deal**

The property is located near mile marker 7 on the east side of the Highway 20 bridge across from Taylor's Landing. The port easement is for the narrow tide overflow area bordering the property and extending several feet into the waterway.

Lincoln County Parks Director Jim Chambers in an email said the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife would be the property owner and enter into a long-term lease with the county. Chambers cautioned that it is too early to tell if the project will come to fruition.

"I don't want to tell the public we are going to do this park and then have it fall through," he said.

Funding availability will not be known until the end of January, Chambers said.

Port of Alsea Manager Maggie Rivers said the county offered the port \$1,000 for the easement and the possibility of

\$3,500 a year for maintenance of the facility.

The easement would be necessary for ODFW and the county to construct a boat launch.

## Stipulations

Commissioners voted 5-0 to approve the easement with the stipulation that it reserves the right to renegotiate the agreement should the park ever become a fee use area.

"My concern is making sure the site is always available to the public at no charge," said Commissioner Chuck Pavlik.

Pavlik added the park would provide bank anglers with more access to the lower river.

The port's attorney, Dennis Bartoldus, assured the commission that it would not be giving up control over its property.

"You're giving them a right to do something on the land, but you still have the fee title," he said.

Negotiations on what, if any maintenance work the port would provide will take place as the project is further developed.

## Early Access for Non-Motorized Boaters

Commissioner Jan Bishop suggested that if ODFW does acquire the property that the port seek access for paddle type watercraft such as canoes and kayaks while the park is under development.

"It would be a boon to the community. There's not a lot of access upriver," she said.

Contact Larry Coonrod by email at [editor@lincolncountydispatch.com](mailto:editor@lincolncountydispatch.com) (<mailto:editor@lincolncountydispatch.com>).

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