

KLAMATH WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

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Press Release

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Ground Breaking for Barkley Springs Habitat Enhancement Project

Klamath Falls, OR – Tuesday, November 4, 2010 – After many years of planning and development of the Barkley Springs Habitat Enhancement project, the project is ready to begin and the Klamath Watershed Partnership will hold a ground breaking ceremony on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 11:30 am.

The Barkley Springs Habitat Enhancement project will contribute toward the long term recovery objectives for two endemic fish species – short-nose sucker (*Chasmistes brevirostris*) and Lost River sucker (*Deltistes luxatus*) identified as endangered species in Upper Klamath Lake. Barkley Springs are an artesian water source that flows into small interconnected ponds in Hagelstein Park, a Klamath County public park located along the eastern shoreline of Upper Klamath Lake (UKL), about ten miles north of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Historically, these freshwater springs flowed through a much larger area of aquatic and emergent vegetation along the fringes of the UKL that provided vital habitat for native fishes during critical life-cycle stages. This extensive, diverse, spring-fed habitat was highly modified by the railroad, highway, and park construction. Today, the springs flow in defined ponds within the park, then through a long, wide constructed channel that carries the spring flows under State Highway 97 and the railroad tracks before entering the lake.

“The proposed actions will restore the system to a more natural state to restore habitat for the Lost River and short-nose sucker,” said Nathan Jackson, Interim Executive Director, Klamath Watershed Partnership. “This project is a great example of many different partners coming together to improve the fish habitat in the Upper Klamath Lake.”

Knife River has been awarded the contract to do the restoration work on the project and is scheduled to break ground the first week of November.

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The mission of the Klamath Watershed Partnership is to conserve, enhance and restore the natural resources of the Klamath Basin, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the regional economy and local communities