



Making Tracks

Highlights of Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

MAY 2007

In This Issue

- Board of the Friends Decision

Web Pages of Interest
Friends of the Refuge

Tualatin River NWR

U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, Pacific Region

Contact Us

Friends of the Refuge
PO Box 1306
Sherwood, OR 97140
www.friendsoftherefuge.org
503-972-7714

Friends Board Decision

The Board of the Friends was recently made aware of a Measure 37 waiver application, that if approved, had significant potential of polluting the Tualatin River upstream from the Refuge. The Board authorized the President to send the following letter to Washington County for inclusion in the record of the hearing held on the waiver request April 17. A decision was not made at that hearing and was deferred to a second hearing May 22.

The Friends Board also voted to inform the membership of its effort to protect the refuge and the river from this threat to the future quality of the river. For more information please contact Liz Thoresen (503) 628-2490. Liz and her husband, Friends members, are neighbors to the subject landfill and brought this situation to the board's attention.

A copy of the letter is provided below. You can also read about the issue in the Oregonian, Metro Section, Southwest Edition, May 14th, 2007. Look for reporter Rick Bella's commentary.

Norman Penner
President,
Friends of the Refuge
(503) 579-5822

April 16, 2007

Mr. Tom Harry, Senior Planner
Measure 37 Claim – File #: 37CLO726
Washington County DLUT
155 N. 1st Avenue, #350-13
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Dear Mr. Harry:

The Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is a community-based, non-profit, volunteer organization of 400 members. Our mission is to protect and restore the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge for the benefit of fish and wildlife, and for public education and

recreation. One of our important roles is that of advocate—to take action when there are threats to this valuable regional resource.

It has come to our attention that the Lakeside Landfill owned by Howard Grabhorn may be the source of toxins and pollutants going into the Tualatin River. This landfill borders the Tualatin River, is within the Tualatin Greenway, and is upstream of the TRNWR. The purpose of the Refuge is to provide healthy wetland habitat for migrating waterfowl and birds. Great effort has gone into creating this wildlife refuge along the Tualatin River. Refuge neighbors and the cities of Washington County have been very supportive of the development of the Refuge. It is an asset to everyone.

We would request that the county take the appropriate action to ensure that pollution does not enter the Tualatin River in violation of county, state or federal regulations. We would also ask that the Metro Recycling and Solid Waste disposal regulations be enforced. Thank you for your time, and we look forward to a response to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Norman Penner
President

Copies to:

Washington County Board of Commissioners
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Metro Solid Waste Recycling
The Honorable David Wu
