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Local Trail Users Appreciate New Trail Fish Ladder Improvements Construction Begins

The Bureau of Reclamation today announced the enhancement of Eulalona Trail on the along the Northeast corner of Klamath Falls. The new trail, which will be named in collaboration with the Klamath Tribes, will be open by June 1, 2004.

The Bureau of Reclamation is installing a new fish ladder to improve access to Upper Klamath Lake habitat for the endangered suckers and other native fish species. The trail development will allow hikers access to the ridgeline above the Link River Nature Trail as an alternative during the time the new ladder is installed on the Link River Dam. The northern portion of the Link River Nature Trail above the Dam will be closed the duration of construction of the ladder.

The improvements, including a parking lot and completion of the new trail will begin in May and take about six days to complete. The bid process to select a contractor will begin shortly. The cost is expected to be approximately \$18,000, which will be provided to the city of Klamath Falls Parks and Recreation Department to complete the trail.

Valerie Lantz, Klamath Falls Parks and Recreation Director, noted that the Moore Park trail system is enjoyed by birders, hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts. "We have longed to improve the area to increase the safety and enjoyment of all of the trail users. This trail expansion will allow people in one hike to go from riparian corridor to high desert grasslands to a conifer forest."

The southern portion of the Link River Nature Trail will remain open during the construction, subject to temporary closures for brief construction delays. Hikers are cautioned to carefully follow the temporary information signs, posted along the trails.

Jim Carpenter, of Carpenter Design, pointed out "there will be a lasting benefit as a result of this temporary inconvenience, as a net result, the trail system will be expanded."

In addition, a new parking area will permanently improve the park system, noted Bud Cook, Project Engineer, of the Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau of Reclamation is installing the fish ladder to improve access to Upper Klamath Lake habitat for the endangered suckers and other native fish species.