



Marine project proposed for Port Orford

Written by [Valliant Corley](#), Pilot staff writer May 30, 2009 09:28 am

PORT ORFORD – A marine interpretive center, live fish processing plant and scientific research facility are included in a proposed \$10 million project that may be built in Port Orford using federal stimulus money.

“This is going to be huge,” said Curry County Economic Development Director Susan Brown. “The marine reserve start-up will be a huge resource for Curry County. It’s going to have a ripple effect throughout the county.”

The Port Orford Marine Economic Development Project, a joint project by the Port Orford Ocean Research Team and the Port of Port Orford, was approved this week by Oregon Way, the governor’s stimulus project advisory group, said Brown.

“The next step is identifying the specific source of money,” Brown said.

The immediate job creation estimate of 225 jobs are for construction. There are an estimated 225 construction related jobs for the tear down and reconstruction of the project facilities, with 144 in the direct field of construction, including engineers, contractors, plumbers and electricians. The construction jobs would carry an annual average salary of \$40,000.

Another 27 jobs represent indirect jobs related to suppliers that would provide materials for the construction, which would have an average salary of \$31,600. Another 54 jobs are anticipated to be created due to the influx of dollars into Port Orford and surrounding communities and carry an average salary of \$30,200.

The project estimates creation of 23 long-term jobs after completion of the structures. Completion of the Marine Field Station and Marine Reserve Interpretive Center would attract three professional and technical level positions with salaries of \$60,000. Three new support staff positions are expected with an average salary of \$18,000 a year. New port facilities would create 17 jobs, including port staff, fishery workers and hospitality jobs, with an average annual salary of \$21,000.

Additionally, there would be opportunities from visiting scientists and grad students to work in the marine field station with salary ranges from \$24,000-\$110,000 per year.

The project estimates it would retain 117 jobs in the fishing industry at salary ranges from \$10,000 to \$120,000 per year.

The Oregon Way Advisory Group met Thursday to consider specific projects. At that meeting, the group recommended one project – the Port Orford Marine Economic Recovery Plan.

“The project we have put forward to the governor today is a prime example of where the Oregon Way Advisory Group can help to elevate projects and highlight the exciting work that is occurring in Oregon communities,” said Dick Pedersen, co-chair of the Oregon Way Advisory Group.

“This project will have a profound effect on a rural community where new jobs are desperately needed.”

The advisory group sent to Gov. Ted Kulongoski for his support the project which “illustrates the type of ‘signature projects’ that the Oregon Way Advisory Group champions and ultimately will use to showcase Oregon’s leadership in sustainability and green development,” the group said.

The Port of Port Orford, the Port Orford Ocean Resource Team (POORT), and the City of Port Orford have joined in the project to make Port Orford a center for sustainable fisheries and a showcase on the South Coast for both

Oregon's first marine reserve and for green technologies that enhance the local economy and create jobs.

The project envisions facilities designed and constructed using the LEED green building rating system, dedicated to ocean sustainability and the local fishing and live-fish industries that include:

- State-of-the-art facility for a high-value live fish processing center;
- Marine research field station with dormitory and work space for visiting scientists;
- “Green” Port complex including a working waterfront and retail space;
- Marine interpretive center for Oregon's first designated marine reserve.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed in February by President Obama, is a \$787 billion national economic recovery initiative. It will provide \$2.4 billion to Oregon over the next three years, in addition to making \$37 billion in competitive grants available to all states.

“Oregon is well positioned to compete for significant competitive Recovery Act dollars,” said Wally Van Valkenburg, co-chair of the Oregon Way Advisory Group “If we have a collaborative and comprehensive strategy for going after federal funding opportunities and we highlight the state's competitive advantages in sustainability, we can increase the likelihood of winning significant dollars from the Recovery Act.”

Brown said she has been working with the Port Orford groups on the proposal since the beginning of April.

“They had the project meetings this morning in Port Orford,” Brown said Thursday. “They decided then and there that this will be recommended for funding.”

The estimated federal funding request for the Port Orford project totals \$9,872,323, with the total project cost at \$10,720,226.

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